

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

24 May 2022

Transmitted by email

To selected National Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

You have by now received the pioneer call of the Universal House of Justice for the Nine Year Plan, conveyed in its message dated 24 May 2022 to the Bahá'ís of the world. Given the strenuous demands related to the expansion and consolidation of the Cause that are now before the Bahá'í community, the House of Justice feels that countries such as yours—that have well-established processes of growth and many believers with rich experience in the field of teaching and community building—have a special role to play in raising pioneers. In this connection, beyond the initial settlement of pioneers in clusters identified as pioneering goals, a greater degree of support will be required from you to ensure that the development of the Faith in these clusters proceeds apace. We have therefore been asked to convey the following.

Assisting countries that are at an early stage of development is, as you know, one of the important objectives of the current Plan. Much has been learned in this regard from the special initiatives that were launched throughout the last decade and a half in many parts of the world. By analysing the experience that has accrued, the International Teaching Centre has identified several elements that are crucial to facilitating the flow of pioneers and supporting their efforts. Naturally, countries requiring pioneers are at different stages of development and will need different degrees of assistance. In some cases, what will be required is simply to settle pioneers, while in others your community may need to offer additional support. Therefore, an initial step when considering sending a pioneer or a team of pioneers to a goal cluster in another country is to consult closely with the Counsellors about various aspects of this endeavour. Owing to the time it can take for the process of growth in a place to take root, it will be important that pioneers to the majority of the goal clusters are settled and begin their work as early as possible in the first phase of the Plan. You will soon be informed about the national communities that could benefit from receiving international pioneers from your country.

As you will have noted, the 24 May message mentioned above not only calls for settling international pioneers, but also anticipates a significant movement of homefront pioneers to assist with establishing programmes of growth in thousands of clusters. Experience has shown that when such programmes have become intensive in several adjoining clusters, the synergy generated among them creates conditions that foster the acceleration of Bahá'í activities in community after community with relative ease. These conditions also make it possible for efforts to be more readily extended to additional clusters nearby. When several such groups of adjoining clusters have emerged in close proximity, the evidences of the society-building power of the Faith grow by orders of magnitude within a population across a significant geographic

area. It would be greatly beneficial if, when contemplating where to settle pioneers, the development of such dynamics is kept in mind.

It is hoped that the friends who will arise to serve in the pioneering field have already gained a wealth of experience in their own clusters. Nevertheless, it is only reasonable to expect that they would all benefit from some form of orientation, and a more formal approach is required for this imperative than currently exists in most countries. Depending on the perceived needs of the pioneers, an orientation programme may include deepening on the spiritual nature of this service; study of major messages of the House of Justice that describe the features of global Plans; acquiring a deeper understanding of the content and underlying principles of the training institute; and, if required, spending a period of time in a significantly advanced cluster.

The House of Justice is confident that many devoted believers will consider offering a period of service in the pioneering field, and the institutions will generally encourage and facilitate such offers. Nevertheless, the institutions may find it necessary in certain instances to advise a believer to continue to focus his or her efforts in the cluster where the individual currently serves, in order to ensure that the growth process there is not disrupted. Such advice is never given lightly, and the institutions can help these friends appreciate that capable and dedicated souls are needed everywhere in order to meet the call of the Nine Year Plan for advances on divers and wide-ranging fronts.

The Counsellors, of course, closely follow and are involved in all matters related to the movement of pioneers, from encouraging individuals to offer a period of service in this field, to the orientation of believers, the assessment of needs, and facilitating the flow of resources. Ongoing consultation between your two institutions on every facet of this important element of the Divine Plan will be essential. In addition, the Continental Pioneer Committees stand ready to support the flow of pioneers through the provision of timely advice and resources.

Rest assured of the prayers of the House of Justice in the Holy Shrines that the wondrous favours and boundless grace of the Almighty may reinforce your devoted efforts to raise up and support all those who, both at home and in foreign fields, “with hearts afire with the love of God, forsake their all for the sake of spreading and establishing His Faith.”

With loving Bahá’í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

cc: International Teaching Centre
Boards of Counsellors
Counsellors
Continental Pioneer Committees