

**Study Guide**  
**30 December 2021 Message to the**  
**Conference of the Continental Board of Counsellors**  
**From The Universal House of Justice**

**Paragraph 1**

In what ways was the Bahá'í world transformed during the past 25 years?

When did the new series of Plans begin and what will be its duration?

**Paragraph 2**

Summarize the core message of this paragraph.

Describe the society building power of the Faith.

What are the characteristics of a vibrant, outward-looking community?

**Paragraph 3**

What is the single aim of the current series of global Plans that began at Ridván?

In what ways must the three protagonists of the Plan interact and why is the nature of that interaction important?

#### **Paragraph 4**

What are some of the characteristics of the enkindled souls who are being raised up by the processes of the Plan?

How is the power of the Cause transforming people's social existence and inner lives?

How does the process of action and reflection help in the pursuit of the Plan's central aim?

*The movement of clusters*

#### **Paragraph 5**

What is the goal of the current series of global Plans?

Describe an intensive program of growth.

#### **Paragraph 6**

What is the definition of a cluster?

#### **Paragraph 7**

Describe the first, second and third milestones in the movement of clusters along a continuum of development.

### **Paragraph 8**

What is the value of a region in having at least one cluster that has reached the third milestone?

What steps will need to be taken to ensure that every country and region has at least one cluster with this level of intensity?

### **Paragraph 9**

How is the capacity to engage in conversations on spiritual themes developed?

Share some practical steps that can be taken toward this goal.

What insights did you gain from reading this paragraph?

### **Paragraph 10**

What have you learned about effective ways of teaching the Faith?

How can you modify your approach based on different settings and circumstances?

*Learning from the most advanced clusters*

**Paragraph 11**

Summarize the description in this paragraph of a cluster that has passed the third milestone along the continuum of growth.

How can the friends widen the circle of participation in their activities?

**Paragraph 12**

Why has the work in receptive neighborhoods and villages been a special focus of attention in recent years?

In what ways can the arts help to strengthen the work undertaken in neighborhoods and villages?

**Paragraph 13**

How does the focus of the friends broaden when a significant portion of the population in an area begins to take part in community-building activities?

What changes have you noticed in the milestone 3 clusters in your region?

**Paragraph 14**

What are some of the social forces at work in the environment which Bahá'í community building efforts seek to overcome?

In what ways does the Bahá'í community become a highly visible protagonist in society?

What changes in the wider society are also noticed?

**Paragraph 15**

What is the challenge facing the friends in every cluster?

What does it mean for the friends in a cluster to read their own reality?

*Contributing to social transformation*

**Paragraph 16**

Identify some ways that a cluster helps to improve the spiritual character and social conditions of the wider community.

What is key to a population being a protagonist of its own development?

**Paragraph 17**

Explain how expansion and consolidation, social action, and contributing discourses are dimensions of a single, unified, outward-looking endeavor.

**Paragraph 18**

What conditions might need to be in place in a cluster for initial attempts at social action to occur?

What new roles for existing institutions and Bahá'í organizations might be needed over time?

**Paragraph 19**

How does involvement in institute courses help us to develop the capacity to engage in social discourse?

What new opportunities will we find for engaging in societal discourses during the Nine Year Plan?

As part of our involvement in this endeavor, how can we become more adept at helping those around us engage constructively in discourse and find consensus?

**Paragraph 20**

What opportunities are there in your cluster to support the activities of like-minded groups and organizations?

*Educational endeavours and the training institute*

**Paragraph 21**

How do the training institutes build capacity for service?

In what ways has your participation in the institute process helped you to be of service in the community?

**Paragraph 22**

What new capacities and roles is the institute process helping us to take on?

**Paragraph 23**

Are you aware of efforts to enhance the quality of the educational experience in the institute process in your area? If so, what are they?

Why are those efforts important?

**Paragraph 24**

How can you contribute to the advancement of the institute process in your cluster and region?

What is the special role that youth can play in this regard?

**Paragraph 25**

How has participation in the institute process increased understanding of education in all its forms?

In what ways have the children's class teachers, animators, and tutors in your cluster or region been thinking and responding along these lines?

**Paragraph 26**

Why is education so central to our community building efforts?

How can we encourage and support participants in the institute process to explore the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh in other settings?

**Paragraph 27**

The Universal House of Justice reminds us that the intellectual life of a community is a key component to social progress. What opportunities are available to you to answer the call to intellectual excellence in this paragraph?

*Raising capacity for administration at all levels*

**Paragraph 28**

How has the shape of Bahá'í administration developed since you became a member of the community?



**Paragraph 29**

Why should all Local Assemblies be elected on the First Day of Ridván?

What role does the Appointed Arm have in the development and functioning of Local Spiritual Assemblies?

**Paragraph 31**

Explain why the Bahá'í electoral process is a sacred aspect of community life.

What are the spiritual principles underlying Bahá'í elections?

How do the strength of an Assembly and the dynamism of community life reinforce each other?

**Paragraph 32**

What kinds of localities will see a two-stage electoral process for their Local Spiritual Assembly during the Nine Year Plan?

**Paragraph 33**

What are some of the roles and responsibilities that a Local Assembly takes on as activities intensify in its locality?

**Paragraph 36**

What are some of the countervailing forces that hold humanity back from attaining full maturity?

In what ways must the two Auxiliary Boards assist the friends to meet those challenges?

**Paragraph 37**

What is called for to maintain focus which advancing multiple lines of action?

*A historic mission*

**Paragraph 38**

In what ways is this Plan a historic mission?

What demands will be made of us as individuals, communities, and institutions?

**Paragraph 39**

What is the perspective of history that must be kept in view?

What do you feel is the overarching theme of this message?

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