

Patriarch of Antioch asks Orthodox Churches not to remain silent on Ukrainian schism



Patriarch John X of Antioch of All the East has appealed to all branches of the Eastern Orthodox Church to express their position on the issue of Ukrainian schism.

“All of the assembled [at a Church of Antioch Synod] spoke of the need to do everything for the preservation of our unity. And we would like our voice to be heard, because it is unworthy nowadays to remain silent, we must talk about it aloud,” Patriarch John said at a meeting with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow on Tuesday.

“We urged, and continue to urge, the Ecumenical patriarch and other supreme clergy to resolve existing problems, including those currently faced by our fraternal Russian Orthodox Church, through dialogue, through negotiation, through ordinary conversation,” Patriarch John said.

“We continue to consider the principle of consensus to be some sort of a cornerstone of our whole activity and the activity aimed at bringing closer all branches of the Church. We disagree with the current attempts at unilateral resolution of a number of church-related problems at the expense of the whole Orthodox world, attempts resulting in the schism of this world,” the Eastern patriarch said.

At the meeting he also thanked Patriarch Kirill and the Russian presidential for helping Syria return to peaceful life.

(Source: Interfax)