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Communiqué of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops: extension of the deadline for the first phase of the synodal process

The numerous communications we have received in these first weeks of the synodal process from the Episcopal Conferences, the dioceses and the eparchies are truly an encouraging confirmation to all those in the Church who are working to celebrate the first phase of the synodal process - the theme of which is *For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission* - consisting of consultation with the People of God. For all this we are truly grateful.

During this period, we have heard, over and over again and from various quarters, the request to extend the duration of the first phase of the synodal process in order to provide a greater opportunity for the people of God to have an authentic experience of listening and dialogue.

Aware that a synodal Church is a Church that listens, considering that this first phase is essential for this synodal path and evaluating these requests, always seeking the good of the Church, the Ordinary Council of the Synod of Bishops has decided to **extend until 15 August 2022** the deadline for the presentation of the summaries of the consultations by the Episcopal Conferences, the Oriental Catholic Churches *sui iuris* and the other ecclesial bodies.