

## Statutes of the International YCS (IYCS)

Statutes to be approved by the International YCS World Council, August 2007 Kampala

### I. GENERAL STATUS AND PURPOSE

#### Article 1: Official Name and composition of the Organisation

- 1.1 An organisation composed of national member movements under the name "International Young Catholic Students" (IYCS) is constituted.
- 1.2 At some regional and national levels, the organisation is also known as the International Young Christians Students (IYCS).
- 1.3 The International YCS abbreviated as IYCS is an association of the faithful with private juridical personality, according to the canons 298-311 and 321-329 of the Code of Canon Law.
- 1.4 The International YCS is a non profit making organisation, recognised by the United Nations and its bodies and agencies as an International non-governmental organization. It has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) and Operational Status with United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- 1.5 For all matters concerning its presence and activity in the above mentioned International Organisations, the International YCS will maintain continuous relationships with the Secretariat of State of the Holy See (cf Apostolic Constitution Pastor Bonus, art 41.2).

#### Article 2: Official Headquarters and Legal Status

The official headquarters, known as the International Secretariat of the International YCS, is in Paris, France. The International YCS is officially recognized by the French State as an official association under the law of 1901.

#### Article 3: Objectives

As an agent of evangelization in the student milieu, the main objective of the International YCS is to assist its members by promoting and fostering global solidarity, freedom, justice and peace and to work with all concerned women and men for joint reflection and action leading to a more just and equitable social order. This involves the promotion of a spirituality of action, which identifies reflection on concrete actions as the space for encountering God and bringing about positive change.

To this end, without limiting the right of each member of International YCS to speak and act in its own capacity at the national level, as long as they do not contradict these statutes and the International YCS Declaration of Identity, the specific objectives of the International YCS are as follows:

- a. to bring together secondary and university students seeking community, formation and action, in the framework of the Catholic Church, at the local, national, continental and global levels;
- b. to stimulate national YCS movements and groups to participate in the integral formation and holistic development of their student members;
- c. to study the problems arising from global issues, to reflect on their causes from the perspective of the poor and marginalized, to propose solutions in the spirit of Jesus Christ in accordance with justice and the dignity of the human person, and to encourage national movements also to undertake such study;

- d. to provide students with resources, pedagogies and methodologies to help them integrate their Christian faith in all aspects of their lives (school, university, family etc), so that they can become leading agents in building a more just society;
- e. to promote a global consciousness and solidarity by initiating and encouraging international and inter-cultural exchanges, exposures, dialogue and collaboration;
- f. to foster, with the approval of the local hierarchy, the foundation of a national movement or groups in those countries where no such organisation exists;
- g. to promote collaboration between member organisations and the coordination of their international activities and actions;
- h. to be a voice for its student members by representing them in regional and international forums;
- i. to cooperate with other international organisations as far as possible, especially with youth organisations;
- j. to organize regional/continental and sub-regional activities and formation programs to enable a maximum number of members to have an experience of internationality, and to promote and harmonize the implementation of International YCS' objectives in each region.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 4: Membership**

The International YCS includes three types of membership status: Member Movements, Collaborator Movements and Contact movements.

#### **4.1 Member Movements**

The Status of Member Movement is voted on during the World Council, and conferred on movements/organisations that fulfil the following criteria:

- a. exercise their apostolic activities in the student milieu as a whole, and place such action in a global social context;
- b. profess their faith in Jesus Christ, live in communion with the Church, actively take part in life of the local church and are recognized by their respective National Bishops' Conference;
- c. have students as the main decision makers;
- d. are present nationwide or in a significant nationwide ethnic group or throughout an autonomous region acceptable to the World Council, and are recognised by their respective Bishops Conferences;
- e. actively participate in the work of the International YCS both at the regional and world levels, especially in the World Council;
- f. accept and abide by the International YCS Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
- g. contribute financially, and with human and other resources to the life of the International YCS;
- h. that have participated for at least two years, as collaborator movements, in the work of the International YCS.

##### **4.1.1 Admission procedure**

- a. A movement requesting admission to membership of the International YCS sends its request to the International Secretariat six months prior to the World Council, along with a presentation of the life and action of the movement, a copy of its statutes (or a similar document), and a letter of recognition from its Bishops' Conference.
- b. The International Secretariat sends these documents to the members of the World Council, together with its own recommendation on the request.

- c. At the start of the World Council a vote is taken on the basis of these documents and on the recommendation from the International Team.

## **4.2 Collaborator Movements**

The Status of Collaborator Movement is reviewed and voted on during the International Committee, and conferred on movements/organisations that:

- a. are Catholic student organizations, present nationwide or throughout an autonomous region acceptable to the International Committee, which agree with the objectives of International YCS, and have the intention of fulfilling the criteria for membership;
- b. have actively participated for at least one year, in the work of the International YCS
- c. are not in conflict with International YCS Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
- d. are prepared to contribute financially and with other resources to the life of the International YCS;

### **4.2.1 Admission procedure**

A movement requesting collaborator status in the International YCS sends its request to the International Secretariat at least six months prior to the following International Committee, along with a presentation of the life and action of the movement, and a copy of its statutes (or a similar document).

## **4.3 Contact Movements**

The Status of Contact movement is decided by the International Team, and conferred on movements/organisations that:

- a. are student organisations and groups, who wish to be connected with the International YCS without any statutory bindings;
- b. desire international solidarity and wish to participate in the actions and activities of International YCS especially in the representation and advocacy role of the organisation.

## **4.4 Exclusion of Member Movements**

- a. The International Committee must do a membership review one year before the World Council, and can propose disaffiliation or temporary suspension of movements not fulfilling their membership requirements.
- b. Any reasoned request by a member of the International YCS for the disaffiliation of a member movement must be submitted to the International Secretariat at least six months before the World Council meeting. The International Secretariat is obliged to undertake a grassroots enquiry and to communicate its results to the World Council.
- c. A member movement that has not paid membership fees for four years automatically loses its status as a member movement, and reverts back to being a collaborator movement. To regain the status of a member, it must follow the procedures for admission again.
- d. A member movement that no longer fulfils the criteria for membership will revert back to being a collaborator movement, requiring a new application for membership
- e. The exclusion decision is reached at the World Council without the participation of the party concerned.

### III. OFFICIAL BODIES

The International YCS is made up of the following official bodies:

- A) Decision-making bodies:
  - the World Council;
  - the International Committee;
  - Regional Committees/Councils.
- B) Executive body:
  - the International Team.
- C) Advisory Bodies:
  - the International Advisory Board;
  - the International Commissions.

#### ***A) Decision-making bodies:***

#### **Article 5: The World Council**

The World Council is the supreme decision-making body of the International YCS. It meets in ordinary session every four (4) years at a date and venue determined by the International Team.

#### **5.1 Functions of the World Council**

- a. decides on the affiliation or disaffiliation of members movements put forward by the International Team;
- b. amends and votes the statutes and rules of procedure and the current International YCS declaration of Identity;
- c. elects the Secretary General and Program Coordinator and ratifies the Regional Coordinators appointed by the Regional Committees/Councils as members of the International Team;
- d. ratifies the election by each Regional Committee/Council of one national movement per region as a member of the International Committee;
- e. discusses and approves the activity and audited financial reports of the International Team since the last World Council;
- f. adopts a strategic framework and plan of action for the following four years, developed by the working groups at the World Council, which take into account the financial reality of the movement;
- g. fixes the level of membership fees;
- h. examines problems concerning the activities of International YCS and in particular, those which are submitted to it by Member Movements;
- i. undertakes all the other functions assigned to it by the Statues or the Rules of the Procedure.

#### **5.2 Composition of the World Council**

The World Council is made up of:

- a. at least one student representative from each of the Member movements of the International YCS;
- b. all members of the International Team;
- c. Collaborator and Contact movements of the International YCS, selected by the International Team, as observers;
- d. chaplains and adult animators/assistants, invited by the International Team, as observers;
- e. representatives of IMCS (Pax Romana), as observers.

### **5.3 Quorum**

- a. For a session to be valid there must be 51% of member movements either present or represented.
- b. If the required quorum is not achieved an extraordinary World Council will be convened with the members present, which will require all decisions made to be ratified by a simple majority of member movements through postal vote, a non response will be interpreted as approval.

### **5.4 Voting Rights**

- a. Each member movement of the International YCS shall have one vote. Collaborator and Contact movements have no right to vote.
- b. The International Team makes public, before every ordinary meeting of the World Council, the list of movements not having paid their dues since the previous ordinary meeting and thus not having the right to vote.
- c. The delegation of votes is admissible either before the Council or during its progress.
- d. A movement can delegate its voting right to another member of the World Council.
- e. If, during a session, voting members have to leave the room, they are asked to delegate their own or delegated votes to a Member movement, and to inform the Presidium of their leaving and returning.
- f. A member can receive a vote delegation from only one other member.

### **5.5 Presidium**

- a. The Presidium is chosen at the start of the World Council sessions in order to ensure the practical organization of all the meetings. The Presidium proposes the agenda for the meetings.
- b. The World Council is chaired by the Presidium composed of the Secretary General and two delegates from the national movements (member or collaborator movements). The meetings are chaired in turn by the different members of the Presidium.
- c. The Secretary General can delegate the responsibility of the role of the presidium to any lay member of the International Team when needed.
- d. The International Team may also invite an external professional moderator to assist the Presidium.

## **Article 6: The International Committee**

The International Committee is the main decision making body of the International YCS between the World Councils. It meets at least once a year (besides the year of a World Council), and more often if necessary, if the majority of its members, consulted in writing, agree.

### **6.1 Functions of the International Committee**

The functions of the International Committee are as follows:

- a. to ensure that the decisions and plan of action of the World Council are carried out;
- b. to do an evaluation of the whole movement;
- c. to monitor and decide on the roles and work of all international team members. The mandate of any International team member can be terminated by a two-thirds majority vote at the International Committee due to breach of commitment to the International YCS. This will be done only in consultation with the advisory body.
- d. to set up the commissions judged necessary for the successful working of International YCS, take decisions on their proposals and receive reports on their activities;

- e. to take all decisions necessary for the promotion of the work of International YCS;
- f. to approve the annual budget and ensure financial management;
- g. To decide on the granting of Collaborator status to those requesting it.
- h. To choose the International Chaplain after consulting all national movements, preferably 6 months prior to the World Council.
- i. The International Committee may also make decisions through written communication.

## **6.2 Composition and Voting Rights of the International Committee**

- a. The International Committee consists of:
  - 1. the International team (Secretary General, Program Coordinator, International Chaplain, all full-time regional coordinators and one coordinator from each region with only part-time or volunteer coordinators);
  - 2. The representative of one elected National movement from each region;
  - 3. According to resources available, the International Team may invite a regional chaplain on a rotation basis as well as other observers.
- b. Each member of the International Committee (except the International Chaplain and, if present, the Regional Chaplain, or any other observer) has a right to one vote.
- c. If a member of the International Committee cannot be present, each may designate a proxy to another member of the Committee. This designation must be submitted in writing to the International Committee.
- d. A National Movement representative, elected by those present, presides the sessions of the International Committee, assisted by the Secretary General.

## **Article 7: Regional Committees/Councils**

During regional formation programs that are open to all national movements in the region, and according to the needs of each region, spaces should be created for Regional Committees or Councils, in order:

- a. to determine the implementation of the International YCS Plan of Action in the region;
- b. to set up regional bodies or secretariats, where necessary, as an extension of, and in a spirit of co-responsibility with the International Secretariat of the International YCS, to assist the coordination of the work of the region;
- c. to elect the Regional Coordinators;
- d. can propose Regional Chaplains to the International Chaplain;
- e. to approve the audited regional accounts and budget submitted by the Regional Coordinators.

## ***B) Executive Body***

### **Article 8: The International Team**

The International Team has the responsibility of running the movement on a day-to-day basis. All members of the International Team are to work in a spirit of collegiality and co-responsibility.

#### **8.1 Functions of the International Team**

The functions of the International Team are:

- a. to be responsible for the efficient running of the International and Regional Secretariats and to propose the working conditions of all those working in them for approval by the international committee and operate under these conditions;
- b. to take all the decisions necessary for the promotion of the work of International YCS, according to the orientation and related decisions made by the World Council;

- c. to make decisions in an emergency on matters normally reserved to the World Council as long as these decisions are approved through postal vote (according to Art. 5.5) by member movements;
- d. to maintain close communication with all national movements;
- e. to appoint and delegate representatives of the International YCS to official bodies and other agencies;
- f. to undertake all the other functions which may be delegated to it by the International Committee;
- g. to have the main responsibility of organising the World Council and the meetings of the International Committee;
- h. to co-opt volunteers and interns for specific tasks when necessary, these volunteers and interns must be current or former students, with experience of the Student Apostolate in their country;
- i. to develop formation resources for student leaders, animators and chaplains;
- j. to undertake all other tasks attributed to it by the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure and in accordance to them, by the World Council or the Regional Committees/Councils.

## **8.2 Composition of the International Team**

The International Team is made up of:

- the Secretary General;
- the Program Coordinator;
- the International Chaplain;
- all full-time Regional Coordinators; and
- one coordinator from each region with only part-time or volunteer coordinators.

## **8.3 Location of the International Team**

The Secretary General, Program Coordinator and International Chaplain, along with the necessary personnel are based in the International Secretariat. Other members of the International Team are based in the Regional Secretariats or their places of origin.

## **8.4 The Secretary General**

The Secretary General is elected by the World Council for a mandate of four years:

- a. is the main spokesperson of the International YCS;
- b. is the main face of the movement for all internal and external relations;
- c. coordinates representation to the Holy See, United Nations bodies & agencies, and other International Organisations;
- d. presides at the sessions of the World Council;
- e. carries out the work that the World Council, International Committee and International Team might entrust to them;
- f. is a member ex-officio of all committees and commissions.

## **8.4 The Program Coordinator**

The Program Coordinator is elected by the World Council for a mandate of four years:

- a. coordinates and promote the International YCS global campaigns;
- b. oversees all programs of the International YCS with the assistance of the other members of the International Team;
- c. carries out the work that the World Council, International Committee and International Team might entrust to them;
- d. is a member ex-officio of all committees and commissions.

### **8.5 The International Chaplain**

International Chaplain also known as the General Ecclesiastical Assistant is elected by the International Committee and confirmed by the Holy See:

- a. to focus on the spiritual development of the International team;
- b. to appoint regional chaplains or chaplaincy teams to accompany the regional coordinations;
- c. to assist national movements to obtain the necessary chaplaincy services;
- d. to keep in contact with chaplains on all levels, and promotes the creation of spaces for formation and exchange among them;
- e. to produce letters/documents/resources for reflection;
- f. to advise the international team and other levels of International YCS on pastoral and theological matters;
- g. to carry out the work that the World Council, International Committee and International Team might entrust to him;
- h. to assist the International team in developing relationships with the hierarchy and other dimensions of the Church;
- i. may appoint an Assistant Chaplain, if the need is expressed by the International Team, who could be based in his home country or in the International Secretariat depending on the needs and means.

### **8.6 The Regional Coordinators**

The full-time or part-time Regional Coordinators are elected in their respective Regional Committees or Councils. They work in close cooperation with the International Secretariat and the members of the International Team in a spirit of co-responsibility for the international movement and its orientations.

The specific functions of the regional coordinators are:

- a. to make sure that the issues involved in the regional student milieu are reflected in the international orientations and programs;
- b. to undertake the representation of the International YCS in regional institutions and bodies;
- c. to regular communication with national movements, to guide and coordinate the work of the movements in the region and promote extension;
- d. to organize meetings and studies session in the region;
- e. to develop and circulate formational resources for leaders and groups in the region;
- f. to promote the vision and activities of the International YCS;
- g. to present a report on the situation, challenges and work undertaken in the region to the annual International Committee and Regional Committees/Councils.

### **8.7 Termination, Incapacity and Resignation**

In consultation with the Advisory Board, the work of each member of the International Team is reviewed during the annual International Committee. If a member is deemed to have breached commitment to the International YCS their mandate can be terminated by two-thirds majority vote at the International Committee. Similarly in case any member of the International Team is incapacitated or resigns, the International Committee, in consultation with the Advisory Board, must propose a new candidate for the vacant post.

All new elections must be decided by the International Committee.

### **C) Advisory Bodies**

#### **Article 9: International Advisory Board**

The International Advisory Board, with a mandate of 4 years, is made of 3 members of the former International Team and 3 other prominent former members or friends of the International YCS. They are nominated by the International Team and are elected at the World Council. Their term can be renewed.

The functions of the International Advisory Board are:

- I. to ensure transmission of memory, to evaluate the work of the International team and the International Commissions, and to offer other general advice;
- II. to offer suggestions to the International Committee for reflection;
- III. to assist the International Team in the process to replace an International Team member, who has resigned or whose services have been terminated;
- IV. to meet the International Team at least every second year and are in regular communication with the International Secretariat.

#### **Article 10: International Commissions**

10.1 In order to help in developing the vision and work of the International life of the movement the following International Commissions shall be established from the working groups of the World Council to carry out the work that the World Council, International Committee and International Team may entrust to them:

- i) Finance
- ii) Campaign
- iii) Resource and Publication
- iv) Extension and Promotion
- v) Theology and Chaplaincy
- vi) Advocacy and Representation

10.2 Each commission will be composed of at least 1 National movement (elected for 4 years at the World Council), 1 International Team member appointed by the International Team and an individual invitee by the commission. The national movement elected should appoint its representative for a minimum of two years.

10.3 Each commission will function through electronic communication, and must submit a report with recommendations to the International Committee each year.

### **IV. REPRESENTATION**

#### **Article 11: Representation**

11.1 The representation of the International YCS is normally ensured by the General Secretary, who can decide to entrust it to any other members of the International Team or to a leader of a member or collaborator movement.

11.2 The Secretary General can appoint ambassadors or special representatives to international organizations and for special missions. These representatives must follow the instructions of the International Secretariat.

### **V. FINANCES**

#### **Article 12: Finances**

12.1 The financing of International YCS will be assured:

- a. by the annual membership fees and contributions of the Member movements, and by registration fees of the programs;
- b. by generous contributions from partners and individuals;
- c. by the income from investments.

12.2 All accounts must be audited by a Chartered accountant before been presented at the World Council or International Committee.

12.3 The financial year runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

12.4 a) Financially speaking, the International YCS is only obligated to a third party through the signatures of the General Secretary or the Program Coordinator, and within the limits laid down by the International YCS Statutes.

b) The International YCS's commitments are solely guaranteed by its assets. Its members or its bodies bear no responsibility.

12.5 The International YCS will meet the financial commitments made by its Regional Secretariats in so far as these commitments are explicitly authorized in advance by the World Council or the International Committee.

## **VI. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

### **Article 13: Amendments to the Statutes**

The provisions of the present Statutes can be amended by the World Council provided that there is a two-thirds majority of the votes of the member movements represented there. They then need to be approved by the Pontifical Council for Laity. The Pontifical Council for Laity should therefore also be consulted before the World Council about any proposed amendments to the Statutes.

### **Article 14: Rules of Procedure**

The Statutes of the International YCS are complemented by Rules of Procedure which in order to be adopted or amended, must obtain fifty percent plus one of votes cast at the World Council.

## **VI. DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION**

### **Article 15: Dissolution and Liquidation**

15.1 The dissolution of the International YCS can be decided by a World Council especially convened for this purpose. To be valid, the dissolution must each a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the World Council.

15.2 The liquidation of the International YCS is the responsibility of the International Committee and International Team. Any remaining assets must be transferred to the member movements.

## **VII. OFFICIAL TEXT**

### **Article 16: Official Text**

The official versions of these Statues and Rules of Procedure are written in English, French and Spanish. In case of doubt the English text prevails.

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August 2007 Kampala