

Annual report IYCS-JECI *2021*



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Table of Content

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
FORWARD	4
MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CHAPLAIN.....	5
APPRECIATION	6
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	7
INTRODUCTION	8
FOCUS AREAS & PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	9
I. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND ADVOCACY	9
1. U-Report Global Partnership [UNICEF and IYCS].....	9
2. #Covidunder19 Initiative	12
3. External Engagement & Representation	13
II. CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME	20
1. IYCS Care for Our Common Home Digital Exchange.....	20
2. Laudato Si Generation Exchange.....	27
III. HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER	28
IV. YOUTH MINISTRY (Spirituality, Formation & Accompaniment)	29
1. Global Training Session	29
2. Managing Group Dynamics.....	31
3. Movement Accompaniment.....	31
4. Regional Coordination Activities.....	36
V. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	42
1. IYCS Commission Meetings - October 2021	42
2. International Team Meetings.....	43
3. International Committee Meeting 2021.....	44
4. Advisory Board Meeting	45
5. Launch of the IYCS 75th Anniversary Celebration	46
CONCLUSION.....	48
APPENDIX.....	49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) also known as the Young Christian Students (YCS) is a global movement of Young Catholic Students committed to building a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. Through the efforts of our National Movements in 87 countries around the world, IYCS has continued in its mission to educate and train students to work for solidarity, freedom, justice, peace, and a sustainable world.

This report presents **the progress made by IYCS in the year 2021** in accomplishing the organisation mission as well as extends our appreciation to the YCS Members, YCS National Movements, YCS Partners, and the Catholic Church at different levels for their support and unrelenting commitment to our evangelization work and the formation of young people, contributing to the development of the Catholic Students and young people across the world.

The IYCS International Secretariat was **mandated by the 16th World Council held in 2019 in Abuja**, Nigeria, to mobilise and empower students on the fundamental issues relating to *'Youth Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy; Care for our Common Home; Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together; Youth Ministry (Spirituality, Formation, and accompaniment); and Organisational Development*.

The International Young Catholic Students Movement works to achieve its purpose, aims, and objectives through: *Education and Formation with a Spirituality of Action and Reflection using our methodology of SEE-JUDGE-ACT*. Despite the continuous restrictions posed by COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged most parts of the world, having a significant impact on physical activities, the IYCS continued to **maximise the use of online platforms** such as Zoom, YouTube, and other social media channels to carry out its activities. Therefore, in 2021, a substantive part of our work and mission was carried out using virtual means. However, we were able to visit a few countries to offer physical support and accompaniment to our National Movements and to participate in some conferences and training.

To ensure the continuation of IYCS' formation and service delivery to Young Catholic Students, IYCS organised an online global training session held from 22 to 25 April 2021. Statutory Meetings for the International Team, International Committee, and International Advisory Board were also held virtually. Key Celebrations such as the 7th IYCS World Day 2021 and **the launch of the 75th IYCS Anniversary celebration** were held virtually on 13 November 2021, where we launched the Road Map for the celebration scheduled to **climax in November 2022**. Most of our Regional Coordinations were able to hold physical meetings and training sessions some of which were duly attended by the International Secretariat team.

As part of **global youth engagement, participation, and advocacy**, IYCS actively participated in the 2021 ECOSOC Youth Forum held virtually on 7 and 8 April 2021 and the COP26 meeting held in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021. IYCS also actively participated in platforms and forums such as the Global Caucus for Youth in Faith, International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organisations, Laudato Si Generation, *Mouvement international d'action Catholique spécialisée* (MIACS), the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the #CovidUnder19 initiative to continue amplifying the voices and contributions of Young Catholic Students towards the achievement of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

To ensure the Safeguarding and protection of our members, we disseminated and organised a training session on the **IYCS Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.

Special thanks to all our partners including: **CCFD Terre Solidaire, Fastenopfer, UNICEF, and all the National Movements and Formers Members** who extended financial support (solidarity fund) for their continuous and relentless support to the work of the IYCS Movement around the world. We also thank the volunteers who worked with us during the year especially offering translation services and technical support during the virtual and in-person trainings and sessions.

FORWARD

In the year 2021, the world adapted to a new global reality of learning how to live with the COVID-19 pandemic through digital life and experience. However due to mass vaccination in some regions, life began to return to normal albeit with some restrictions.

We thank all the health workers and frontline staff in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and for the efforts and innovations to develop and administer the vaccines. We want to recognize and thank all the governments and partners who provided resources towards the production and distribution of the vaccines across the world. We also thank the Young Catholic Students and Alumni who have continued to immensely contribute to the prevention and control of COVID-19 around the world through **awareness and sensitization campaigns**, production and distribution of facemasks, volunteering in COVID-19 hospitals and centres. Your dedication and sacrifices are most appreciated.

Despite the challenges faced in 2021, we remained resourceful and resilient by **exploring new and alternative ways to deliver our programme activities**. Thus, IYCS continued to offer a platform through which the needs of Young people can be addressed, their voices amplified, and their engagement advanced.

We recognize and express our sincere gratitude to the IYCS National Movements and Regional Coordinations that we were able to visit to offer support and follow-up as well as to those who visited us during the year 2021. We also extend our sincere **gratitude to the National and Regional Bishops Conferences that welcomed and supported our activities** as well as the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life for the technical support and accompaniment during the year.

We remain united in the spirit of global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation in our communities, upholding our values and mission in the Church and Students milieu. In 2022, we look forward to a strengthened collaboration with all National Movements, Regional Coordination, Partners, Alumni, and well-wishers to work together in solidarity to achieve our collective aspirations for meaningful youth engagement towards achieving a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.



Innocent ODONGO
IYCS Secretary General



Roy IBRAHIM
IYCS Programme Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CHAPLAIN



'The things I predicted have now come true. Now I will tell you of new things even before they begin to happen. Sing a new song to the Lord; sing his praise, all the world! Praise him, you that sail the sea; praise him, all creatures of the sea! Sing, distant lands and all who live there' **Isaiah 42: 9 – 10!**

The year 2021 has passed and another is here. Throughout our life on earth, we have experienced so much of this passing of the time between two periods of activities, just like we are experiencing today. It leaves behind **many activities that have contributed to the further growth of the International**

YCS family. Let us give thanks to God for his blessings. For the sake of continuity, we must work more so that the mandate as a whole is a real success for our mission of evangelization in the student world.

I would like to express my gratitude **to the chaplains, the animators, and to YCSers** around the world and also to **all IYCS partners** who have never stopped lending a hand to our common mission. This synergy created by each one of us has allowed the joy that we celebrate today. We are happy to have completed such a good year with you despite the challenges posed by the global health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The IYCS has demonstrated, during this past period, **a commitment and an unfailing availability to each other**. God, who knows our deepest desires, has graced us with them and each one of us has seen suitable to put them at the service of actions that transform hearts, minds and spirits. In faith, I hope that **the efforts made by each one of us honor our Creator**. They are for us the visible sign of a sincere and selfless love that has only one goal: **to spread the Gospel to all creation**. I sincerely thank you for your continuous support which has been demonstrated and proven.

So I would like to wish you all success in your daily endeavors in the mission. May God shower us with graces and blessings so that we can truly respond to his call and work for the coming of his kingdom in the world!

Rev. Fr. Achille D'ALMEIDA
IYCS International Chaplain

APPRECIATION

We express our gratitude to all the IYCS partners for their **continuous support to the work and mission of the Movement around the world**. Special thanks to CCFD Terre Solidaire, Fastenopfer, and UNICEF for the financial and technical support during the year 2021. We further extend our gratitude to all the National Episcopal and Regional Conferences who welcomed and supported our mission at different levels. Sincere gratitude also goes to all our National Movements especially KSJ Germany and the former Members of YCS UK led by Francis O'Brian for their continuous support to the International Secretariat.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

COP	Conference of the Parties
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EuF	Economy of Francesco
EYF	European Youth Forum
FJCPLP	Portuguese Speaking Countries Youth Forum
GFLAC	Grupo de Financiación del Clima para América Latina y el Caribe
GTS	Global Training Session
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICMYO	International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations
ICNGOs	International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations
IFMSA	International Federation of Medical Students
IFMSEI	International Falcon Movement Socialists-Educational-International
IMCS/ MIEC	International Movement of Catholic Students
INGYOs	International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations
IYCS	International Young Catholic Students
JEC	Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique
KSJ	Katholische Studierende Jugend (German version - Young Catholic Students)
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LSG	Laudato Si Generation
MIACS	International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse ICNGOs
RYPs	Regional Youth Platforms
SLA	Regional Secretariat of Latin America
TEJO	World Esperanto Youth Organization
UNEC	Unión Nacional de Estudiantes Católicos (National Catholic Students Union)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WOSM	World Organization of Scouts Movement

INTRODUCTION



The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) also known as the Young Christian Students (YCS) is a global movement of Young Catholic Students committed to building a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. The IYCS Movement in the late 1920s was involved in the development of several YCS National Movements which grew in the spirit of the Specialized Catholic Action Movements that were inspired by **Joseph Cardijn** (the founder of the Young Christian Workers).

The Mission of IYCS is to evangelize and transform the student milieu (both at secondary and tertiary level), through forming students and encouraging them to look at the world from the perspective of the poor, with a commitment to global solidarity, freedom, justice, and peace. Through the efforts of our National Movements in 87 countries around the world, IYCS educates and trains students to work for solidarity, freedom, justice, peace, and a sustainable world.

At a time when the world is facing multiple challenges notably the global COVID-19 pandemic, Conflicts/wars and the Climate Change emergency that require both quick and effective responses, the purpose, aims, and objectives for which the IYCS Movement was founded remain relevant and important now more than ever. These include:

1. **To evangelize** the student milieu and promote the lay apostolate among students, at both secondary and tertiary levels, by responding to their needs and by emphasising their responsibility in all aspects of their lives (school/university, family, community etc.) in the Church's mission and the world;
2. **To bring together** students seeking community, formation, and action, in the framework of the Catholic Church, at the local, national, continental, and global levels;
3. **To promote** 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 social order;
4. **To give** students resources, pedagogies, and methodologies to help them integrate their Christian faith in their lives at all levels and in their efforts to build a more just society; and
5. **To be a voice** for its student members by representing them in regional and international forums.

This 2021 annual report presents the programme activities accomplished in line with these objectives and the focus areas of our 2021 plan of action, and the current global campaign. It also includes the interim income, and the expenditure statement 2021 accounting year.

FOCUS AREAS & PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

I. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND ADVOCACY

During the year 2021, the initiatives, activities, and partnerships presented below were implemented under Youth Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy.

1. U-Report Global Partnership [UNICEF and IYCS]

On 17 September 2020, IYCS signed a **global partnership with the UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund) to establish a global youth movement for positive social change through the U-Report Global platform to enable communication, information sharing, opinion polling and evidence-based advocacy among youth globally. U-Report (www.ureport.in) is a global forum where you speak out on issues you care about and effect positive change in your communities by taking local actions to solve the issues identified.

Through the U-Report Global Partnership, Young Catholic Students around the world are joining the **global coalition of young people** who are effecting positive change in their communities by using the U-Report platform to speak out on issues that matter to them and their communities, sharing their opinions on key issues and working together with other youth and leaders in their communities to take local actions to solve the identified problems in line with the YCS Methodology of SEE-JUDGE-ACT. IYCS through this global partnership will also be able to link our National YCS Movements to UNICEF Country Offices which will create opportunities and access to UNICEF Country Programmes and Resources to support the activities of the Young Catholic Students and Movements in those countries with U-Report national platforms.

In the year 2021, **IYCS introduced U-Report to YCS members in 40 new countries** bringing the total number of countries **U-Report has been rolled out to by IYCS to 123 countries**. According to the U-Report Global Platform membership data, only 57 out of these 123 countries have National U-Report Platforms. Therefore, IYCS has introduced U-Report to its members in 66 countries without National U-Report Platforms. This has expanded U-Report and strengthened youth engagement in these countries without National U-Report Platforms. With the support of the UNICEF U-Report Global Team, IYCS intends to grow the number of IYCS U-Reporters in these 66 countries without National U-Report Platforms as a foundation to engage the respective UNICEF country offices to start National U-Report Platforms.

Furthermore, in the year 2021, IYCS also **held virtual U-Report training sessions** with National Student Leaders, Coordinators, Animators and Chaplains from 65 countries who gained a better understanding on how U-Report is providing life-saving, verified and trusted information about COVID-19 and Climate Change, opinion polling both at global and national level and the application of U-Report Data for programming, project development and

evidence-based advocacy. The virtual trainings were held at the global level in the framework of the GTS Vol. 1 and at national levels **with 6 pilot national movements namely: Kenya, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Lebanon**. IYCS also continued its work with U-Reporters to effect change through disseminating U-Report results for evidence-based advocacy at the United Nations High Level Political Forum and encouraging Young Catholic Students to participate in national advocacy, U-Report training and mobilization efforts.



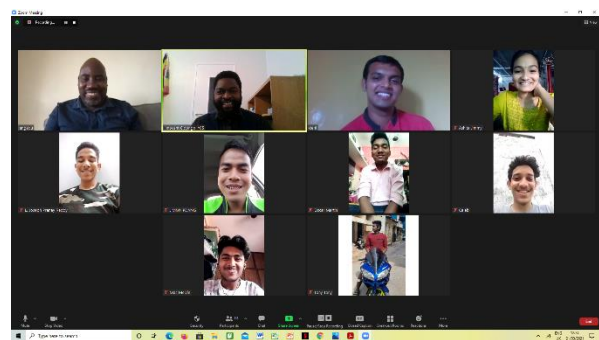
Kenya



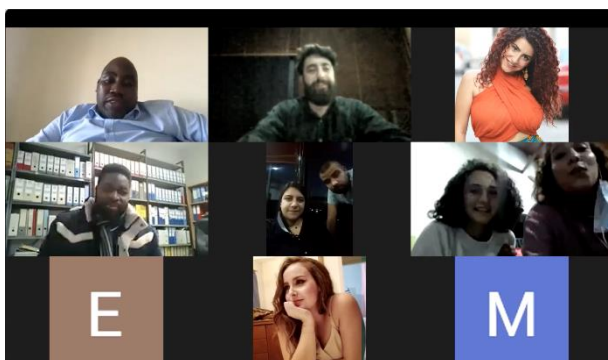
Nigeria



Indonesia



India



Roy visit to Lebanon and meeting with Moses for GCYF



The image displays three overlapping screenshots from a virtual meeting, each showing a presentation slide for U-Report Global in a different country: India, Philippines, and Indonesia. Each slide includes a flowchart of the U-Report structure and a list of activities.

Slide 1: IYCS - U-Report Global - YCS/YSM India

- Link YCS/YSM India to UNICEF India and U-Report India
- Encourage Young Catholic Students to participate in National Advocacy, U-Report trainings and mobilisation efforts and further national rollouts.
- U-REPORTERS IN INDIA: 546,743
- PARTNERING WITH 13,559,384 U-REPORTERS IN 78 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE
- Join Now: How would you like to join? (Text, Facebook, WhatsApp)

Slide 2: IYCS - U-Report Global - YCS Philippines

U-Report introduced to appropriate IYCS structures (global, regional and national) with these structures using U-Report for communication, information sharing, opinion polling and evidence based advocacy:

- International:** International Committee, International Team, International Commissions
- Regional:** Regional Committees/ Coordinators
- National:** National Teams, National Committees, National Coordinators
- Section Level:** National Sections, Diocesan Teams, Secondary School, Secondary School Sections

IN REAL TIME

Activities:

1. Training
2. Designation of Focal Points
3. Recruitment

Slide 3: IYCS - U-Report Global - YCS Indonesia

U-Report introduced to appropriate IYCS structures (global, regional and national) with these structures using U-Report for communication, information sharing, opinion polling and evidence based advocacy:

- International:** International Committee, International Team, International Commissions
- Regional:** Regional Committees/ Coordinators
- National:** National Teams, National Committees, National Coordinators
- Section Level:** National Sections, Diocesan Teams, Secondary School, Secondary School Sections

IN REAL TIME

Activities:

1. Training
2. Designation of Focal Points
3. Recruitment

IYCS invites all Young Catholic Students to join U-Report Global (<https://ureport.in/join/>) as a way of amplifying their voices and actions as well as collaborating with their peers to positively transform their communities. IYCS further urges all National YCS Movements to actively recruit their members to U-Report and encourage them to participate in national advocacy, U-Report training and mobilization efforts.

Lastly, in May 2021, IYCS at the request of the UNICEF Headquarters participated in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Assessment that is mandatory and required for all UNICEF Partners. IYCS successfully completed the PSEA assessment and was rated medium/moderate PSEA risk with a need for improvement for its PSEA organisational capacities. This assessment covers all IYCS Regional Coordination's and National YCS Movements meaning that these are now eligible to partner with UNICEF Regional and Country Offices. IYCS is committed to continue working to improve its organisational capacity on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) at all levels in line with the IYCS Policy on Protection and Safeguarding of minors (children), youth and vulnerable adults.

2. #Covidunder19 Initiative

The #CovidUnder19 initiative aims to bring together children, child rights activists, experts and other key stakeholders, including the private sector, to work together in understanding what children are experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to involve children in responding to these issues.



#CovidUnder19 seeks to create spaces for children across the globe to be meaningfully involved in the discussions about the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute towards shaping the post-Covid-19 world. The initiative seeks to gather children's views on their current experiences and how they see their role as active citizens, emphasising the positive: proactivity, solidarity, peer-to-peer support, and an empowered role for their future.

As a Founding Member of the #CovidUnder19 initiative, IYCS members around the world actively participated in the development and implementation of a **global survey/consultation for children aged 8 – 17years** conducted to understand children's experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially children who may be in particularly difficult situations.



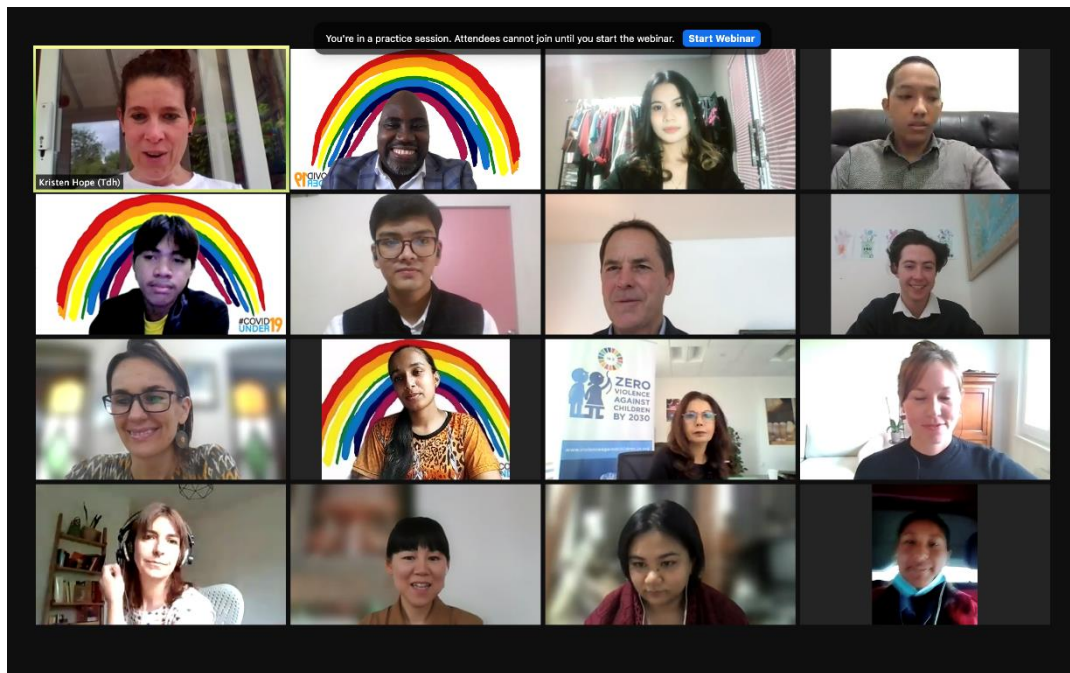
In the year 2021, as the Co-Lead of the #CovidUnder19 Advocacy Working Group, IYCS ensured that information gathered from over 30,000 children through the #CovidUnder19 global survey/consultation was used in fulfilling children's right to be heard for a participatory response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to influence the response and contribute towards

shaping the post-Covid-19 world. Thus, #CovidUnder19 advocacy and information was shared at key events and opportunities such as at the United Nations High Level Political Forum, the UN Human Rights Council, the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and at the European Commission among others. All these advocacy moments were led by Children themselves with the support of Adults.

IYCS will continue to spearhead the #CovidUnder19 Advocacy and contribute to the overall success of the initiative based on three key objectives namely:

1. Collecting and amplifying children's views and voices.
2. Promoting children's awareness of their rights and ability to claim their rights.
3. Empowering children by creating meaningful spaces for children to interact with other stakeholders in order to enable meaningful child participation in the creation of the post-Covid-19 world.

We urge National YCS Movements and Young Catholic Students to actively participate and contribute to the #CovidUnder19 initiative to achieve the above three objectives.



3. External Engagement & Representation

3.1 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - ICNGOs

Throughout the year 2021, IYCS continued to amplify the voices and contributions of Young Catholic Students at UNESCO as an NGO in Official Partnership with UNESCO and through the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. The IYCS Representative at UNESCO contributed to the two documents of strategic importance for UNESCO namely, the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5). These draft documents reaffirm the importance of our global community, and the 41 C/4 clearly states: “NGOs, with their specific knowledge and capacity to act swiftly at global, regional and local levels and to offer a platform”.

IYCS further participated in the **12th Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on "Achieving Global Citizenship"** that was held virtually on 6 and 7 December 2021.

IYCS also participated in the 1st meeting of young representatives of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO held on the 17 December 2021, where a position paper on Building towards a Sustainable Future using Synergies with, and among, Youth was launched. Meeting available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuZ_6J8JBIY

3.2. ECOSOC Youth Forum

The IYCS Leaders around the world participated in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum that took place virtually on 7 and 8 April 2021. The Forum provided a global platform for dialogue among Member States and young leaders from around the world on solutions to challenges affecting youth wellbeing. It also served as a unique space for young people to share their vision and actions as well as provide youth perspectives on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

#YOUTH2030



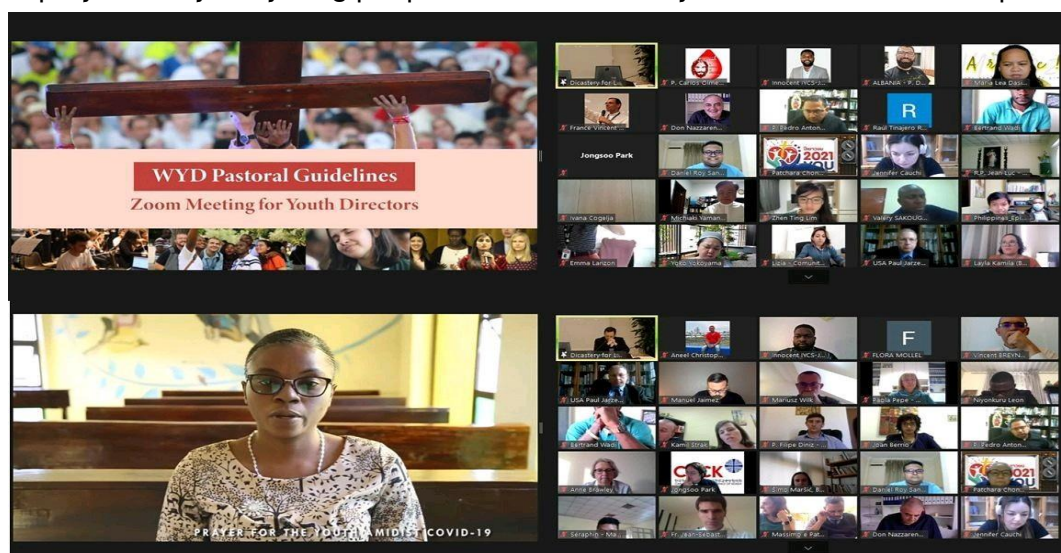
10th Anniversary

The discussions took place around the SDGs under review at the 2021 HLPF, namely, SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17. The theme of the ECOSOC Youth Forum was very essential to the IYCS Leaders as it informed the discussion and dialogue among YCS Leaders during the IYCS Global Training Session which was organised later in April 2021 around the same theme. The two-day event featured plenary sessions, interactive thematic and regional-based discussions, and provided opportunity for a rich exchange of views and ideas on innovative solutions to the issues of relevance to young people on the implementation of the SDGs under review by the High-level Political Forum in 2021. More details about the event is available on the UN website: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-youth-forum-2021>.

3.3. Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life (Vatican)

3.3.1 Special session on the "Pastoral guidelines for the celebration of WYD

The IYCS International Team was pleased to participate in a special session on the "Pastoral guidelines for the celebration of WYD in the local churches" organised by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life (Vatican). The IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo represented IYCS during the session. The online session held via Zoom on 8 June 2021 was attended by over 220 National Directors of Youth Ministry Services and International Youth Leaders of Movements, Associations and Communities. During the session, we also had a special prayer led by the young people in Malawi for the youth amidst COVID-19 pandemic.



3.3.2 Annual Meeting of the Ecclesial Movements



In 2021, IYCS participated in the annual meeting of the ecclesial movements recognized by the Holy See.

The meeting was held on 16 September 2021 in the New Synod Hall inside the Vatican on the theme: 'The Responsibility of Government in the Lay Associations: An Ecclesial Service'.

The theme of the meeting was chosen in particular reference to the General Decree promulgated on 11 June 2021.



IYCS was represented in this meeting by the IYCS Secretary General, Mr. Odongo Innocent who was physically present in Rome and the IYCS International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille D'Almeida, the Latin America Regional Coordinator Ms. Karin Idrogo Estelle, and IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator Ms. Prisca Koffi who attended virtually through Zoom.

The meeting interventions are available through the link below:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/september/documents/20210916-associazioni-fedeli.html>



3.4 International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)

3.4.1 Annual General Meeting

On 6 July 2021, the IYCS Secretary General Mr. Odongo Innocent and the Pan African Coordinator Mr. Makusha Benson participated in the Annual general meeting of ICMYO (International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations) which was aimed at reviewing the activities of the previous year, setting the action plan for the coming year and selecting the taskforce that will run the affairs of the network. **IYCS was elected onto the task force and Mr. Makusha Benson was nominated to represent IYCS in the task force.** The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) gathers membership-based, democratic, representative and accountable International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs). The main objectives of ICMYO are the strengthening of the cooperation among youth organisations at the regional and global levels and the coordination of political inputs to global youth policy processes.

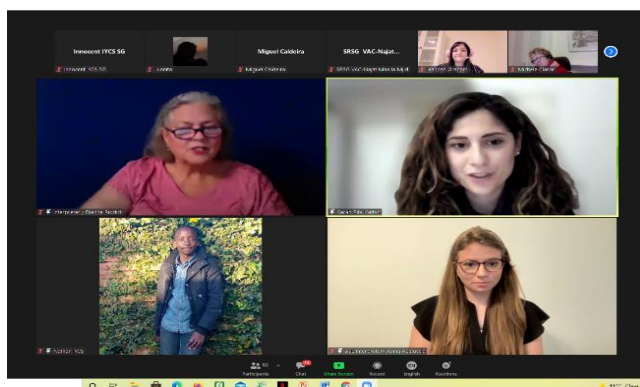
3.4.2 Youth Forum - 5th Least Developed Countries (LDC5) Conference.

In preparation for the Youth Forum, the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) - facilitated by UN-OHRLS and the members of the LDC5 Youth Engagement Group - consulted with young people to form a declaration in support of youth development in LDCs. As a Member of the ICMYO taskforce, IYCS led by Mr. Makusha Benson facilitated some of the consultations with youth organisations and networks in Africa and participated in the drafting of the final youth declaration. The Youth Declaration aims to ensure young people are engaged in the LDC5 decision-making process, that the new Programme of Action for LDCs addresses the development needs of young people in LDCs in the face of emerging challenges, and empowers youth in furthering progress towards targets and goals of the next Programme of Action. For more information about the Youth Declaration visit <https://www.un.org/ldc5/content/youth-declaration>.



3.5. UN General Assembly - Child Safeguarding Side Event Meeting

On 13 October 2021, during the UN General Assembly, IYCS participated in a side event organised by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSGVAC) on Child Safeguarding. Mr. Simago Nathan Simag, a 15 year old YCS student from Malawi represented IYCS bringing in the faith based adolescent voices to the panel and event.



The virtual side event focused on safeguarding, aiming to encourage a constructive dialogue on the need to promote the adoption of rights-based safeguarding policies with relevant stakeholders, including CSOs, UN agencies, Member States, the private sector, children and young people themselves.

IYCS continues to participate in advocacy of these laws at both National, Regional, and International levels by promoting participation of the children in development of laws and their enforcement.

See Appendix 2: Nathan Submission.

3.6. The 26th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP26)

The 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), commonly referred to as COP26, was held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The conference was held on three themes of integrity: credible targets, engagement, and investment for transition.



3.6.1 IYCS Delegation at the COP26

The IYCS delegation at the COP26 led by the IYCS Secretary General Mr. Odongo Innocent included the IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator Mr. Makusha Benson, the Secretary General of JEC Spain Ms. Tereza Gutierrez representing the European Coordination, Mr. Richard APEH a member of the IYCS Advisory Board, and IYCS collaborators Mr. Gabriel Adami Rodrigues, a senior member from Brazil, and the nature animator of the Humanitarian Association of Volunteers for Development in Togo Mr. Yaovi Eyram Dabla. The delegation was part of a larger group of Catholic actors present at COP26, including Fastenopher, CIDSE, Scaif, Caritas, CAFOD, CYNESA, and Laudato Si Generation among others.



3.6.2 Advocacy



As Member States gathered to have conversations at the COP26 on addressing the urgent need of climate change and the commitment towards the realization of the 1.5 Degree Celsius, the IYCS delegation at the COP26 advocated through different side events especially the Catholic actors network at the COP26 and the Laudato Si Movement network for **youth inclusion in decision**

making regarding the future we want and access to quality education for the young generation as the effects of climate change will affect them much longer.

The IYCS delegation also participated in several side-events and meetings organized by YOUNGO, CIDSE, and the Laudato Si movements as well as the meeting with the Vatican Representative in preparation for the presentation of the Vatican submissions to the main COP discussion.



The IYCS Secretary General had the opportunity during the meeting with the Vatican delegation to advocate for inclusion of the youth as part of the Vatican delegation in the future in order to ensure the voices of the Catholic youths are brought to the negotiation table by a fellow youth who is living the experiences of the younger generation in this present era of climate crisis.

3.6.3 The Global Day of Action for Climate Justice

On 6 November 2021 the IYCS delegation joined the group of Catholic actors for a march on the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. The main theme of the march was centred on ‘*climate justice now*’ due to the urgent need for action to avert the effects of climate change.



3.6.4 Feedback and lessons learnt

At the end of COP26, the IYCS delegation discussed the possibilities of organizing side events as IYCS at the next **COP27 to be held in Egypt in December 2022**. This decision was necessitated by the limited participation of faith-based youth organizations in the COP26 discussions, especially those from the global South, and the need to bring the voices of faith-based youth into the main discussions.

The IYCS delegation had the opportunity to interact with the media during the conference and used this platform to make the voices of those most affected by climate change, especially those in the global south heard. Issues related to financing climate change mitigation and adaptation were at the centre of the discussions.

Mr. Odongo and Mr. Makusha shared their experiences about the involvement of the youth in the discussion at COP26 in an interview with the national catholic online newsletter (link available below). Ms. Tereza Gutierrez also in an interview with the noticas obreras magazine shared her most immediate reflections and perspectives following her first participation in the COP meeting link also available below.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/youth-indigenous-people-bring-climate-frontlines-forefront-cop26>



<https://www.noticiasobreras.es/2021/11/teresa-gutierrez-observadora-en-la-cop26-necesitamos-un-cambio-de-mentalidad/>

3.6.5 Turning Climate Anxiety into Climate Action - Webinar

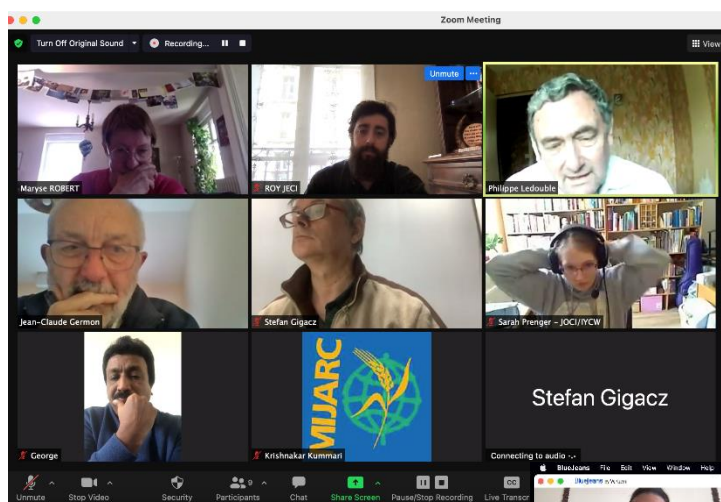
As a follow up to the discussions at the COP26, on 4 December 2021, Mr. Benson Makusha participated in the Laudato Si Generation webinar panel discussion on "Turning Climate Anxiety into Climate Action" <https://youtu.be/eZ-bx9D06JM?t=1917>. The panel included Jennifer Marlon, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer at the Yale School of the Environment, Dr. Judith Anderson, Psychotherapist and President of the Climate Psychology Alliance, and Erin Lothes, Associate Professor of Theology at Saint Elizabeth University (New Jersey, USA).

The webinar focused on the plight of young people, who suffer from climate anxiety and feel hopeless about climate change. Mr. Makusha shared the experiences of youth especially in Africa who are experiencing the full impact of climate change, which threatens their livelihoods and worsens their already difficult situation.

Mr. Makusha spoke about a snap survey of youth on climate anxiety ran by the IYCS Africa Coordination which yielded responses such as "we have no hope, who is going to save us or do anything about it, we are alone!

The webinar discussions revealed that the first step to turning climate anxiety into action is to actively listen to the concerns of youth. Therefore, creating spaces and enabling youth to express themselves and address their concerns and be heard will be essential to begin engaging youth in climate action. If their concerns are not heard, they will remain in anxiety and despair.

3.7 International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action (MIACS).



On 18 March 2021, the IYCS Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy IBRAHIM animated the MIACS meeting held virtually on Zoom. During the meeting, the representatives of Specialized Catholic Action Movements shared their feedback on the Covid19 'Declaration Statement' to the World in 2020: **From crisis**

to conversion: An invitation to a more humane world.

The aim of the sharing was to derive strategies to put into action the declaration, in each organization and to explore possible joint activities and collaboration amongst the MIACS movements.



II. CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

1. IYCS Care for Our Common Home Digital Exchange



The year 2021 marked the sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on Care for Our Common Home. The 2021 celebration was marked by a crown event of the Special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year, a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. The *Laudato Si'* Week 2021 was also a time to reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and to prepare for the future with hope. The theme for the year **"for we know that things can change"** (LS 13), aligned with the IYCS commitment to promoting the urgency and importance of caring for our common home and work towards bringing *Laudato Si'* to Life.

IYCS celebrated the sixth anniversary of Laudato Si by hosting a Laudato Si digital exchange with the aim of providing space for National Movements to exhibit their initiatives at local levels and share critical lessons learnt and to exchange ideas on best practices to mitigate the impact of human actions on the environment, and to continue caring for the environment in the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event also provided an opportunity for sharing of testimonies, where student leaders from different countries shared their experiences in the fight for the protection of our common home amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic and how it has impacted their work. The exchange also provided the International Team with the opportunity to follow up on the activities at the local levels.

The following National Movements and Youth groups shared their local initiatives:

1.1 YCS GUINEA

YCS Guinea started in 1947 thanks to the first missionaries although it experienced a timid evolution due to the prevailing political situation in the country at the time. It was only in 2008 at Saint Etienne de YIMBAYA in the Diocese of Conakry that YCS Guinea was really launched. It exists in the three dioceses (Conakry-Kankan and Nzérékoré), in schools and universities as well as in more than twenty parishes on the national level. Environment Protection has been one of YCS Guinea's thematic actions over recent years, the Movement has carried out a number of activities including the following:

Banares Beach Cleaning in Conakry



Clean-up exercise to rid the beach of dirt and other plastic materials washed on the beach.

Boffa Pilgrimage



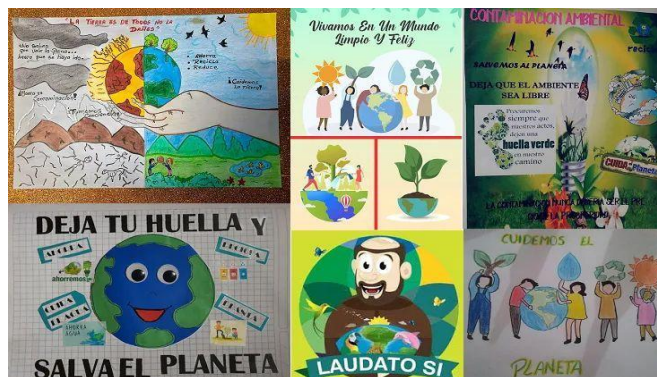
In the year 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the members of JEC Guinea gathered at the Marian Sanctuary of BOFFA from 28 April to 02 May 2021 to ensure all the garbage and plastics were disposed of at the designated collection points.

1.2 UNEC Peru

In the framework of the 6th Anniversary of "Laudato Si'", the "IYCS Digital Exchange for the Care Of Our Common Home", Members of the Movement in Peru shared their experiences and initiatives for the care of our common home. The team was led by Francisco Flores and Ricardo Sanchez.

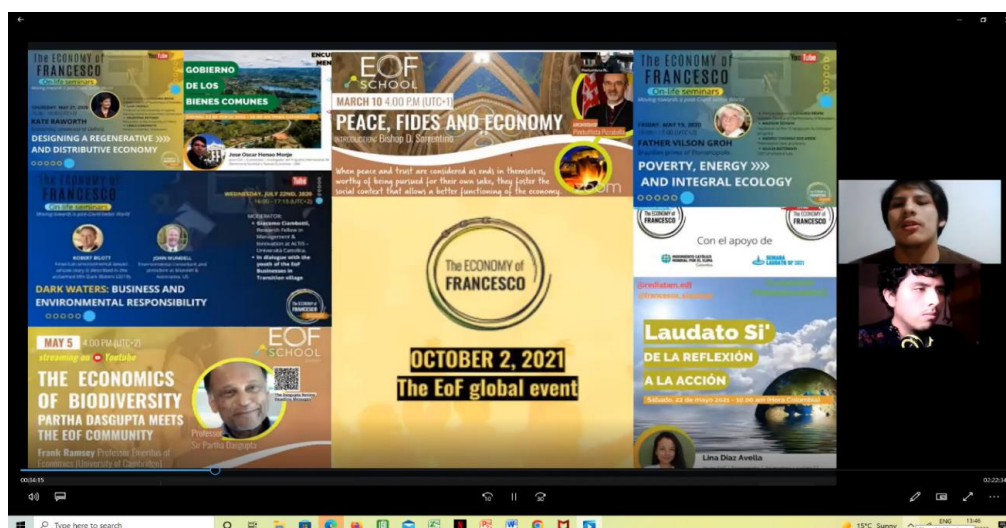
Grupo de Financiación del Clima para AMÉRICA LATINA y el CARIBE (GFLAC)

The two leaders shared the commitment and collaboration in the climate finance group for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Sustainable Finance HUB Peru. They opened with a video portraying how the young people are locally engaged and speaking for climate-environmental protection and sustainability. Francisco pointed out that they work from different angles, both at the local level in Peru and in relations with international entities, a mechanism promoted and led by GFLAC, at the local level they work in the public and private spheres. This is a relatively new space that aims to generate change through active advocacy and social entrepreneurship, by promoting and developing initiatives and projects of the students with the help of GFLAC and other allies.



Economy of Francesco (EoF)

The second initiative shared was that Economy of Francesco, a space convened by Pope Francis in 2019 and whose first general meeting was in November 2020 where economists, change makers and academics gathered from around the world to devise and promote a new way of understanding and practising the economy, making it more inclusive, more humane and sustainable. In this sense, EOF approaches the economy as an integral system in which social, cultural, gender and environmental realities matter. Mr Flores concluded by sharing a video of Jeffrey Sachs, a renowned economist and EOF ally, explaining what EoF is all about prior to the November event. (Video link <https://youtu.be/N-4gY1t0t7s>)



1.3 Bangalore, India (YCS Asia Chaplain)

Plant a tree Campaign

Following the YCS methodology of See Judge & Act, Fr. Anil D'sa IYCS Asia Chaplain is leading the Bangalore Archdiocesan Youth Commission and through the Commission, Fr. Anil is engaging the young people in a number of environment protection actions and initiatives.

On the SEE part they expose the young people to the reality of a deteriorating environment because of human action, therefore young people go to different places like the slums and the rivers where the environment is being destroyed and then they return back to reflect on the different actions to embark on. Among the actions they are taking include planting a tree as a requirement to be recognized as a member of the youth group and every



year they do the same to renew their membership. Also every birthday and other special occasions the young people mark with planting a tree in commemoration.

Earth Day on 22 April 2021

The Commission observed the Earth Day on 22 April 2021 through a month long Earth Day Campaign exhorting the youth to plant a plant each day in the month of April. About 100 youth registered for the campaign and pledged to plant 30 plants each throughout the month. Total of 3,000 plants were planted by the youth through this month-long campaign. Video promos and posters dubbed '**Speak for Nature**' on Earth Day were created and posted in social media to create awareness on the importance of taking care of the mother earth. Several youth sent videos and pictures of youth planting plants as part of the campaign. The Commission organised the Earth Day award for the most effective 10 initiatives. The award ceremony was held on 5 May 2021 taking into account the COVID-19 precautions.

Composting Small actions towards nature



The Commission also trains young people on how to manage their waste by turning them into black gold manure through composition.

Fr. Anil encouraged the members to have little actions towards nature and it will have a big difference.

1.4 YCS Uganda

In Uganda, YCS Members of Arua Diocese led by Rev. Fr. Kizito Yandu are actively caring for the environment in light of Laudato Si. The initiative is tagged '*Laudato Si in action not only preached*'.

Tree planting and seedling distribution



Young people in Arua Catholic Diocese are carrying out tree planting and seedling distribution. This initiative is aimed at putting into practice Pope Francis Laudato Si morals and principles. Through Support and partnership with National Forestry Authority, District Forest Office Arua, UNHCR, Danish Church Aid (DCA), Jesuit Relief Services Adjumani Field Office, the Youth Office of Arua

Diocese yearly secures tree seedlings of different tree species like Afzelia Africana, Jackfruit, Mangoes, Gravilla, Avocado, Pawpaw, Citrus, Pines, Annona, Eucalyptus, Soursop, Guava, Musisi, Mvule, Markhamia Lutea that are distributed to the YCS leaders and Y.C.S sections across the Diocese of Arua. This project has been integrated into the ongoing YCS formation in the country where every event is marked by tree planting. Over 84,500 trees have been planted by the students since the launch of the campaign.

Environmental Walk

During Laudato Si Week, the YCS Leaders annually organize an environmental walk to spread the messages of Laudato Si and the urgent need to care for our mother earth. The local team in collaboration with IYCS Africa Coordination has also organised a series of trainings on the application of Laudato Si in the students' milieu and local communities.



Environmental Protection Training

The Youth office of Arua Diocese designed a training manual and methodology, to train and guide YCS Leaders in organising gatherings like youth conferences, retreats, Y.C.S Rallies, music dance and drama competitions, and other programs like Radio Talkshows, Y.C.S environment month every July, and volunteer environment Student workers.

1.5 YCS Sri Lanka

Green Revolution Campaign



Following in the footsteps of His Holiness Pope Francis' Laudato Si Encyclical, the National Committee of Young Catholic Students Movement of Sri Lanka initiated the YCS Green Revolution Project under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Lester Wijesooriya, Chaplain of YCS Sri Lanka. To protect our common home in a time when the whole of Sri Lanka

was isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The YCS Team initiated the GREEN REVOLUTION Project, on the 28 May 2020, where Rev. Fr. Lester Wijesooriya planted the first tree.

[#LaudatoSiWeek2021](#) [#iycscareforourcommonhomeexchange](#) [#WorldEnvironmentDay](#)

1.6 JEC Benin

Eco footing project: "Operation zero bags in nature"

First of all, it is important to note that the Eco footing project: "Operation zero bags in nature" is not an initiative led by the Young Catholic Student of Benin (JEC Benin). However, the Members of JEC Benin, especially those of the Archdiocese of Cotonou, have actively contributed with our National Chaplain, Father Francis ADIMOU. Indeed, the Eco Footing



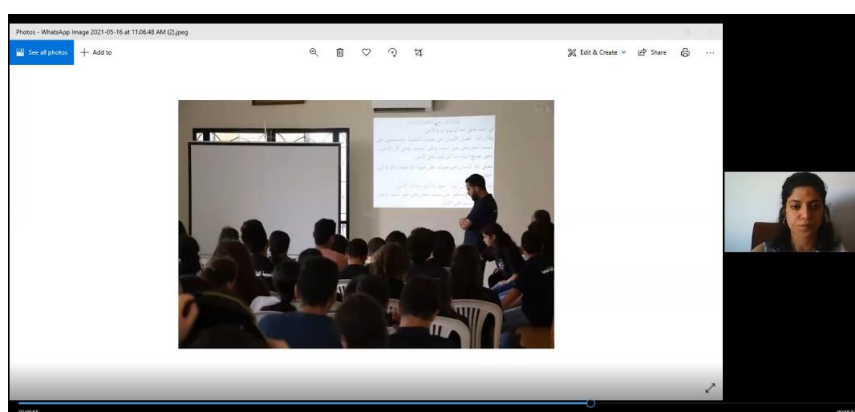
project is piloted by **Fondatio Benin** in collaboration with the youth chaplaincy of Cotonou. This chaplaincy gathers several youth groups and associations including the JEC, IMCS, Scouts and many others. So, a formal authorisation was granted from the Fondatio pilot team to share this initiative to the Digital Exchange IYCS CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME.

The Eco footing project initiative of Fondatio Benin aims to engage the youth of Benin and Cotonou in particular in the fight against the degradation of our living environment. It follows the call of Pope Francis in 2015 on the need to protect "Our common home" through the encyclical "Laudato Si". It is planned in three phases and each phase targets a sanitation and awareness-raising action. The last phase took place on Saturday 17 April 2021 in Cotonou.

1.7 JEC Lebanon

JEC Lebanon organised a day for the YCSers to raise awareness on the importance of caring for the environment. The day took place in a village named *Wede el laymoun* that was chosen because of the nature of the agricultural land and its agricultural seasons. Many of the habitants of the village are farmers who raise chicken and livestock. The day featured dialogue sessions, activities, games and home visits in collaboration with the green orient NGO, on the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; and focused on the importance of recycling from home.

Community action was also organized and participants shared with the people in the village what they learnt during the day. The youths were divided into groups to visit the houses where they asked them about the way they manage their household waste and what they use in growing their plantings, hence learning further from their real life experiences and at the same time sharing with them the knowledge they acquired during the day.



1.8 YCS Zambia - Keep Clean Campaign

Zambia YCS is carrying out an environment initiative tagged '*keep clean campaign*'. The campaign is aimed at keeping the environment around the schools, churches and communities clean and hospitable. Through this campaign, YCS members organise cleaning exercises regularly in their schools, local parishes and around places of residence in the university.



In the beginning of 2021, YCSers conducted cleaning exercises at the University of Zambia, Fatima Girls Secondary School, Stephen Luwisha Girls Secondary School and Laura Girls Secondary School, where each school had YCSers participate in the campaign as a way of taking care of our common home. The YCS members used the opportunity to raise awareness among the surrounding population about the need to keep their environment clean and reminding them it's a collective responsibility to look after the environment. They encouraged the community members to dispose of their rubbish in designated collection points and encouraged the students in their schools and universities to avoid littering in the compounds.

1.9 JEC Madagascar (Tampikri)



JEC Madagascar organised awareness raising activities and training sessions in collaboration with some centres that work with the youth. As the outcome of the training, the Movement is engaging in reforestation through mass tree planting and also in goodwill activities in some dioceses such as the cleaning of the environment in the city most affected by pollution in Madagascar and donations among others. Also due to several sensitizations within the national movement, several dioceses and federations have taken initiatives on the organisation of environmental activities.

For instance, the leaders in the Diocese of Morondava have initiated the Green School project. In this project, each student (JECist) has an obligation to plant young plants every year. Therefore, the national team has facilitated access to plastic pots to help them to make nurseries. As a result, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the national movement got 10,000 plastic pots. The protection of the common home should have an economic incentive through promotion of the green economy. This will help our movement and the development actors to have financial autonomy. Therefore, student leaders in the Diocese of Fianarantsoa have set up the *asa vadi-bainga* (successful action) project. Where each section, federation and the diocese itself is participating in agriculture activities to raise income.



2. Laudato Si Generation Exchange



The IYCS has continued to strengthen its collaboration in the Laudato Si Generation (LSG) and the Laudato Si Movement. In 2021, IYCS organised a virtual session about the Laudato Si, its mandate and initiatives at different levels. This session was organised in the framework of the care for our common home digital exchange to raise awareness among the student leaders about the network and to encourage them to actively participate in taking part in the different call to actions being championed by the Laudato Si Generation. The session was facilitated by Ms.

Analisa Ramsahai who is a Board Member of the Laudato Si Movement. Ms. Ramsahai highlighted that the Laudato Si Generation is the youth group for the Laudato Si Movement. She acknowledged that IYCS is one of the founding members of the LSG which was launched at the world youth day in Panama in 2019. As a result LSG has been involved in several climate strikes around the world through the Friday for Future Movements. Read the full manifesto [here: https://laudatosigeneration.org/our-call/](https://laudatosigeneration.org/our-call/). Ms. Ramsahai concluded her

presentation by inviting YCS members who are interested in becoming a member in the laudato si working group to contact the chair Dominica Reyes or the IYCS Secretary General who is a member of the Laudato Si Generation Steering Committee.

Recommendations

- The IYCS International Team should provide guidelines for the YCS members especially on the recycling process and procedures to guide the leaders in their local activities.
- There is a need to support the local movements to lobby for support locally, especially to acquire seedlings to distribute to their members in order to promote tree planting activities.
- The International Team also needs to organise more of these kinds of exchanges and invite expert speakers on environment sustainability to educate the Student Leaders and improve their skills and knowledge in the care of the environment.
- The National Leaders recommended to the International Secretariat to make available the global guideline for the care of our common home and the promotion of the Laudato Si messages on the different platforms for easy accessibility to the local leaders. But also to organise sessions with the Leaders to educate them on the directions and expectations from National Movements towards the realisation of this thematic topic.
- The YCS members were encouraged to actively participate in climate strikes in the local communities to demand for climate justice and call our church and political leaders to action.
- Whenever any good deed is done at any level in our Movement towards the care of the environment let's make it known by sharing widely to inspire similar deeds somewhere across the world.

III. HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) has developed a strategic proposal aimed at mobilising the younger generation in human fraternity for world peace and living together. This project is very relevant to the IYCS plan of action (2020 – 2024) and addresses the key focus area 2.3: Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together which aims to engage and instil the values of human fraternity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, interreligious and intercultural dialogue in younger generations.

However, due to the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that has restricted the funding towards this initiative, the launch of this project was postponed by the International Team to the year 2022. However, the IYCS also organised an exchange on Fratelli Tutti Sharing in Taizé focusing on the different principles of human fraternity and solidarity addressed by Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti. The exchange brought together YCS Leaders from JEC Spain, France and the International Secretariat Team aimed at empowering the National Leaders to spread the messages of Fratelli Tutti to inspire more young people in the region to enter into dialogue for a better world.



IV. YOUTH MINISTRY (Spirituality, Formation & Accompaniment)

1. Global Training Session



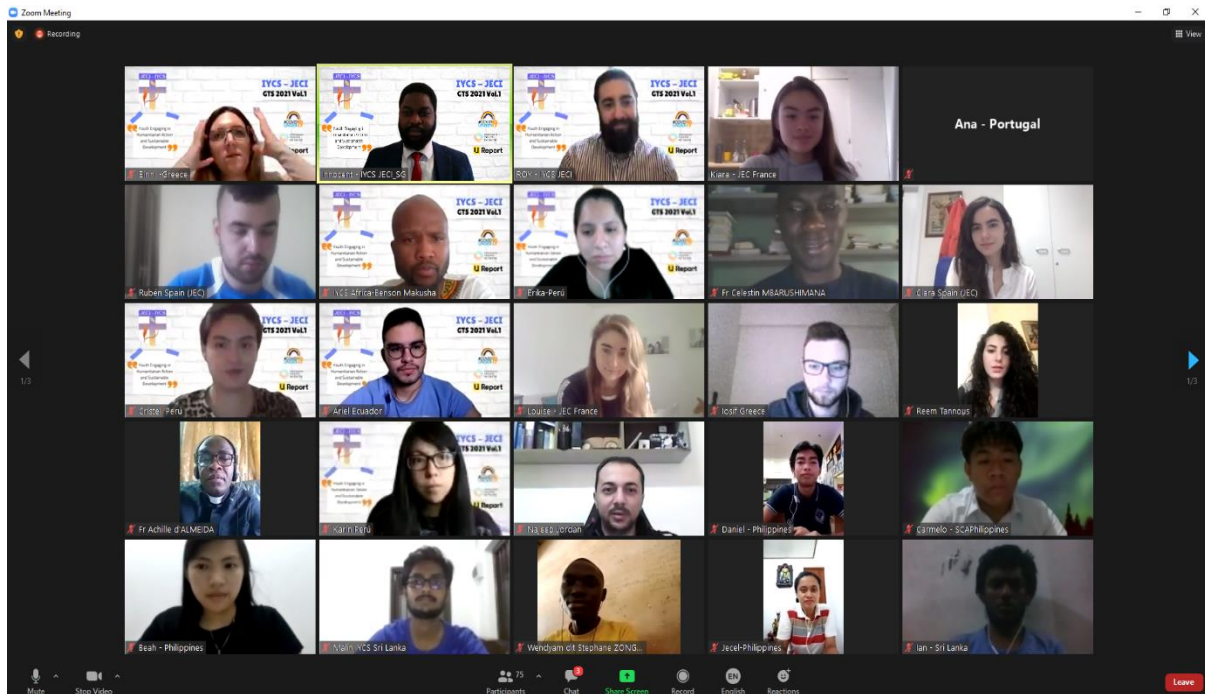
The Global Training Session (GTS), held from 22 to 25 April 2021, virtually through zoom, brought together 85 participants from 65 countries representing the five (5) regions of our Movement of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin America. The GTS was organised on the theme: “*Youth Engaging in Humanitarian Action and Sustainable Development*” to create space for young people from different continents and cultures to discuss the impact of the coronavirus crisis that led to a change in the social and economic order and to evaluate the progress being made on sustainable development, and advocate for it.

This was an opportunity to stitch a new garment: *one that fits all of humanity and nature*. The issues of **Health; Education; Online Violence against Children and**

Young People; Innovation; Inequalities; Climate change; Peace and Security and Partnership were critical as to why there was need to pay more attention to the youth in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic as we journey through the last decade of action. As a result, the participants reflected on the current challenges and came out with a new global campaign theme ‘**Holistic eduACTion for a better world**’ which was adopted by the International Committee to guide the mission and actions of the Movement for the period 2021 – 2024.

However, we observed that these **moments of crisis also present opportunities for more solidarity and humanity**, for more sophisticated and flexible use of technology, less polarisation, a revived appreciation for the outdoors, and life’s other simple pleasures. No one knows exactly what will come, but here is our best stab at a guide to the unknown ways that society—government, healthcare, the economy, our lifestyles, and more—will change. In this context, IYCS has constantly empowered young people on holistic education, the care of our mother earth, and peacebuilding through training and campaigns at international, regional, national and diocesan levels. We’ve also been enhancing the capacity of young people on transformative leadership, personal development, and youth empowerment and advocacy. These cycles of training allowed National Movements to draw action plans to apply the new skills and knowledge acquired.





The participants reaffirmed their commitment to IYCS and firm belief that IYCS has a huge influence on young people through its campaigns and can contribute greatly in social transformation. However, they urged the IYCS Secretariat to build and strengthen the capacity of its members by equipping students on issues concerning collaboration, evangelization and networking in order to make a domino effect of its various program activities and campaigns.

The objective of this Global Training Session was to empower and leverage Young Catholic Students for meaningful engagement in humanitarian action (COVID-19 pandemic), and to positively contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Full report of this global training session can be downloaded from IYCS Website www.iycs-jeci.org.



2. Managing Group Dynamics

In February 2021, the IYCS organised in collaboration with the European Coordination, a training session on Group Dynamics. This session aimed at empowering the new leaders of the 17 National Movements in the European Region. The training session was facilitated by the IYCS Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim and the IYCS International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille d'Almeida brought together 17 leaders virtually on zoom. The training addressed the following thematic themes of managing group dynamics:



- Definition of group dynamics
- Difference between group and team
- Why manage group dynamics
- Stages of group dynamics
- The 5 dysfunctions of a team & how to overcome them
- Group stages & management
- Roles & task of a leader

A detailed description of this training session and recording is available for our members and leaders on the website.

3. Movement Accompaniment

3.1. JEC LEBANON

During his visit to Lebanon in January 2021, the IYCS Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim met the Leaders of the National Secretariat in Lebanon to introduce the IYCS global initiative for the Youth in Faith Caucus. The meeting took place in Salhiyeh, Sidon where we got to meet some local leaders and members to get their updates. The IYCS Special Envoy for Sustainable Development Mr. Moses Engadu, virtually joined the meeting through zoom and presented to the peers the global initiative of IYCS in the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, and we discussed what could be the ways of strengthening the interfaith dialogue programme already in action in JEC Lebanon. This meeting was followed up with the rolling out of the U-Report Global Platform in JEC Lebanon as well as the appointment of Miss Alice Farhat as the Focal Point for the U-report programme in JEC Lebanon as well as the setting up of a training session on children protection policies and safeguarding of minors which took place later in the beginning of May 2021.



3.2. JEC SENEGAL



The IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo made a courtesy visit to JEC Senegal from 5 - 14 January 2021. He used the opportunity to learn and appreciate the reality of the movement in the country but also met and exchanged with the National Executive Team. He also made a visit to JEC Senegal house in Dakar as well had the opportunity to meet with the National Director of the Lay Apostolate in Dakar.

The Secretary General Mr. Innocent ODONGO, accompanied by the national representative of JEC Senegal Paul Marie DIENG and Agathe SAGNE, former IYCS Pan-Africa Coordinator also met with Fr. Pascal Fap Tening DIOME, Director of the National Catholic Lay Apostolate Office, on 13 January 2021.

Mr. Odongo during the meeting thanked the Director of the Laity Commission for the continued support to the JEC Movement in their projects, especially those that require the endorsement and support of the Church. Fr. Pascal expressed his pleasure to receive the leaders of the Movement which is the reason for the existence of the Commission and whose support is fundamental in its mission. He encouraged the Leaders, hoping that the visit of the YCS International Secretary General would inspire everyone to be more committed. The IYCS Secretary General was delighted with his presence in Senegal and the welcome he received. He also congratulated JEC Senegal for the commitment and the work accomplished.



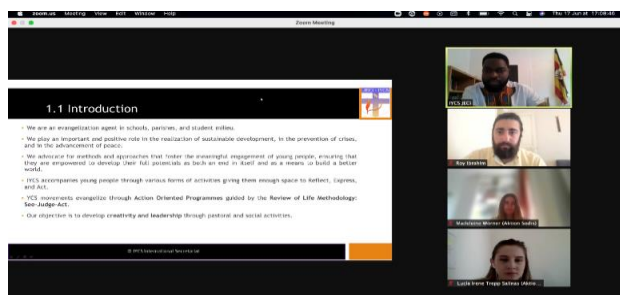
3.3. YCS TAIWAN



The IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo took part in the YCS Taiwan workshop on 6 February 2021 organised under the theme: ***'Young Man I say to You Get Up' (Luke 7:14)*** through a video conference. Mr. Odongo recommended to the student leaders attending the workshop to observe the Covid-19 restrictions and observed the measures put in place by the health and government authorities as the world recovers from the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic in the year 2020. He further expressed gratitude on behalf of the International Team for the efforts of the local leaders in

Taiwan for organising such a workshop considering the restrictions and measures in place to avoid the spread of the virus. He concluded by encouraging the student leaders attending the workshop to freely share their experiences and learn from one another.

3.4. JEC BOLIVIA



The IYCS International Secretariat Team in May 2021 established contact with AKtion Sodis, a youth-led association for development cooperation with Bolivia. With numerous projects in the fields of education, health, digitalization, empowerment and gender equality.

The Team lobbied with the leadership of the association to launch a local collaboration with the National Movement in Bolivia (JEC Bolivia). As a result on 15 August 2021, we held a virtual introductory meeting with the coordinating Team of Aktion Sodis and the Leaders of JEC Bolivia. Aktion Sodis explained the different projects they are implementing in Bolivia and JEC Bolivia also shared on the other hand their mission with the young people.

During the meeting we observed areas of common interest around education, digitalization empowerment and gender equality, where both parties agreed to explore mechanisms of collaboration in the coming year. We are committed to grow this collaboration with Aktion Sodis at the local level in Bolivia to continue empowering and equipping young catholic students in Bolivia to contribute more to the welfare of their communities.

3.5. JEC FRANCE

On 2 July 2021, the IYCS Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim joined the National Team of JEC France for a Special weekend organised around the theme of Freedom of Speech. The programme started on Friday evening with an online session during which we had introductions and icebreaker games. The next day the IYCS Programme Coordinator joined the team in Paris,



meeting at Lady of Bercy Parish. It was an interesting day, discussing the right of freedom of speech, through the See-Judge-Act methodology, bringing out personal sharing based on the participants' experiences. Participants were asked to share ideas and reflections through sketches, songs, theatre and dance. They also reflected on local initiatives that could be taken to secure a safe environment for the people around them to express themselves freely.

JEC France also organized its National Council on 11 September 2021 in Maison Adèle Picot, Paris. During the National Council, the Report of Orientations for the coming five years was presented and participants were invited to give comments and suggestions. The IYCS Programme Coordinator participated in the working groups and brought his contribution in the discussion on finalising the Report of Orientations. The key thematics included: organisational development, engagement of the youth in the society, the church and at school, as well as their engagement on the international level, and care for the environment. The National Council then voted to adopt the document as the official Orientations for JEC France for 2021-2026.

3.6. KSJ GERMANY



The IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo on behalf of the International Team shared a message of solidarity with the National Movement in Germany (KSJ) on the occasion of the 2021 KSJ National Committee held from 27 - 30 December 2021. He wished them a wonderful and fruitful discussion as they gathered to discuss and review their action plan during the year 2021. He also reminded the members to continue to observe the safety

measures put in place by the government to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

Mr. Odongo further reminded them that this year IYCS launched the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Internationality of the IYCS Movement and invited each member to share their wishes and testimonies through recording a short video and forwarding to the International Secretariat to be shared with all the members, former members, collaborators and well-wishers around the world. He wished them a wonderful end of the year and merry Christmas! Video available on our YouTube Channel [IYCS JECL](#).

3.7. JEC TOGO



In-line with the IYCS thematic focus on '*Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*' which advocates for a sense of fraternity amongst all men and women of goodwill who are invited to promote justice and peace, guaranteeing human rights and religious freedom as highlighted in the Human Fraternity document.

JEC Togo organised a National Camp in Lome from 5 - 17 August 2021 on the theme: '*Inspired by hope, be an actor of fraternity and development*'. This national meeting brought together nearly 100 participants and consisted of two main sessions: the training session and the statutory session. The training session was mainly dedicated to the **encyclical FRATELLI TUTTI of Pope Francis**, the SDGs and YCS training. The statutory session was devoted to the revision of the statutes of the movement which date back to the 2012 National Council in Kara, Togo and the renewal of the members of the National Coordination of YCS - Togo.

IYCS Secretary General used this opportunity to share a special message to the YCS Leaders and members in Togo. He urged them to reflect and spread the message of the Holy Father Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* – which calls for more human fraternity and solidarity, and to reject wars for a peaceful, just and sustainable world.



Study session on Fratelli Tutti Encyclical

3.8. UNEC PERU



The IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo addressed the members of UNEC Peru during the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Student Movement in Peru through a video conference. Mr. Odongo in his address acknowledged **that 80 YEARS of “Students formation and transformation”**, is a remarkable milestone realised by the Students’ Movement, UNEC, that is worthy of commemoration. He expressed gratitude for the wonderful collaboration and team spirit sustained through different generations since the establishment of the International Secretariat in Paris in 1946.

He urged them to remember the global students’ movement in their prayers as we look forward to the launch of the IYCS 75th Anniversary year that was scheduled to take place in November 2021. He concluded by congratulating the leaders of the Movement in Peru across different generations for all their efforts to sustain the Movement thus far, and counting more years of transforming and empowering the students and wished that the 80th Anniversary celebration brings new visions to their mission in the students’ world. Video available on our YouTube Channel [IYCS JECL](#).

4. Regional Coordination Activities

4.1. IYCS Africa Coordination

4.1.1. Decade of Action for Ecosystem Restoration World Environment Day

A regional webinar was organised by IYCS Africa on 5 June 2021 to reflect on the theme "Youth Serving the Decade of Restoration". The World Environment Day commemorations coincided with the launch of the United Nations Decade of Restoration, which is an urgent call for ecosystem restoration.

The webinar was a platform to start the conversation about how youth can advocate for the decade of action on ecosystem restoration, as youth are a key group in the discourse on climate change and the environment. 105 students from 10 countries participated in this webinar.



The sessions covered were: the role of youth in the restoration decade, eco-entrepreneurship as a sustainable model to the climate crisis, and using the digital space for climate action. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Fadzai Mashingaidze, National Coordinator of YCS Zimbabwe, and the panellists were young people taking action on the implementation of the SDGs, with a particular focus on SDG 15 in Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda.

The presentations highlighted the urgent need for climate action, particularly in Africa and by African youth, as they are part of the population most affected by climate change. Climate-related conflicts are on the rise in Africa, rainfall patterns have changed, affecting food production and threatening food security. Youth action to restore ecosystems and the environment is needed more than ever.

Students were challenged to take actions that include advocating and engaging in conversations about environmental sustainability from the local level, volunteering in local environmental sustainability initiatives, and partnering with local organisations for grassroots activities to promote and contribute to the decade of restoration.

4.1.2. Prioritising Girls Access to Education amidst the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa

A two-day training workshop on Prioritising Girls' Access to Education was held in Juba at the South Sudan Council of Churches on 14 - 15 December 2021, with the participation of 48 students. This activity was the first training in the framework of the *Prioritising Girls' Education in the Midst of Covid-19 project (2021-2022)*, which is being implemented in Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal and South Sudan. This project aims to raise awareness about the plight of girls affected by the pandemic. Many girls suffered gender based violence and many were impregnated during the lockdowns and suffered which reduced their chances of continuing to attend school. The project aims to address this reality, with students taking steps to raise awareness and propose policy alternatives to stakeholders to ensure that girls continue to attend school.



Launch of girls education campaign juba

The training focused on equipping students with skills and knowledge about human rights, gender rights, and how cultural practices affect girls' access to education. During the training, students also learned about existing education and gender policies in South Sudan and identified gaps that could contribute to impeding girls' access to quality education. Participants also learned advocacy and lobbying skills and how to use social media to raise awareness and bring about positive change by prioritising girls' access to education.

4.2. IYCS ASIA COORDINATION

4.2.1. 14th Asian Session and Council

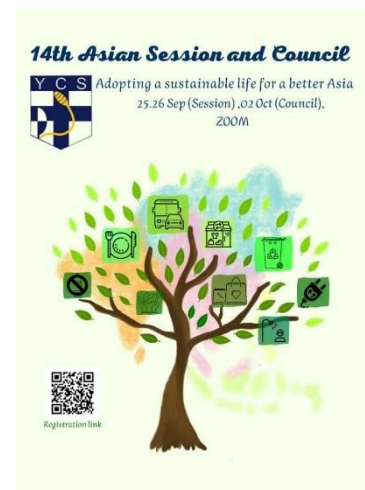
The IYCS International Secretariat during the year 2021 offered technical support and the zoom platform to the Asia Regional Coordination in the preparation and the hosting of the 14th Asian Session and Council which was held on the theme “Adopting a sustainable life for a better Asia”.

The Session took place on 25 - 26 September 2021 and Council on 2 October 2021. The Session and the Council were attended by 80 delegates from 10 YCS National Movements in Asia including: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka,

Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar contact movement who gathered virtually via ZOOM. The event was also attended by former leaders and members of the movement in the Asian Region and the International Secretariat represented by the IYCS Secretary General.

Through prayers, reflections, reports by National Movements, Contact Movement and inputs from external experts, the delegates identified and contextualised the current situation, posed the Covid-19 virus which affected the whole world and humankind. The new normal situation around the world specially in Asia, as seen through the means of different humans, portrays how people's lives got affected in many ways and mainly how this pandemic situation has changed humans' lifestyle into a new normal lifestyle.

The delegates also discussed the current situation of environmental degradation and the indignity of humankind. With a special attention on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), what the world is facing today which universally calls for action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



As agents of change based on the teachings of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, the delegates reflected and resolved:

1. To listen to the calling of the Holy Father on care for our common home and for human fraternity through *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli tutti*: to ruminate on the environment, immigrants and refugees.

2. To listen to the calling of the Holy Father on care for our common home through *Laudato Si* and to ruminate on the environment around us.
3. To rebuild a hope for a better society in and around us to elevate the essence of mankind.
4. To decide the possible actions that can be carried forward in order to create an ideal society.
5. To uplift the lives of people who are in need especially due to the current pandemic situation.

The delegates also decided to take actions based on what they saw and reflected throughout the session, to respond to the current new normal situation, environmental crisis and justice around the world. The action points identified include the following:

1. **To act** with a properly formed conscience and to be holy in our own vocation.
2. **To focus on Charity** as well as stand against injustice that occurs around us.
3. **To assimilate the environmental issues** that occur around us to preserve Mother Nature.
4. **To bring awareness** by posting online content on social media.
5. **To conduct online webinars** on different topics as well as to organise competitions for our students who are stuck in uniformity due to the pandemic.
6. **To publish articles** in Asian E - Newsletter about how young Catholics can choose their leaders by their vote.

In conclusion, the student leaders acknowledged that the purpose of life that God has bestowed upon us is to reclaim and renew the gift of creation. True justice comes about in people's lives when they themselves are just in their decisions.

We are challenged to show our commitment in such a way that everything we do is according to the mission conferred on us by God our Heavenly Father. Through this, we as YCS students commit to adopt our lives and put our plans into action. We will continuously strive for a sustainable life and environment during this tribulation.

4.3 JECI-MIEC EUROPE COORDINATION

4.3.1. JECI-MIEC Training Session in Malta





JECI-MIEC Europe Training Session organised on the theme: *'Today's Students = Tomorrow's Responsible'* supported by the European Youth Foundation, which took place in Birkirkara, Malta from 5 - 12 September 2021 sought to equip representatives of youth organisations from across Europe with skills and knowledge necessary for the promotion of positive personal mental health and in ensuring the positive mental health of the members of their respective organisations.

The training session identified best practices across several key domains that when contextualised and adopted will allow individuals and organisations to better promote positive mental health, while also combating pressures that pose risks to mental health of members and volunteers. The main themes explored during the training session included mental health awareness, communication, funding partners and resources, and outlining the best practices regarding each of these themes identified by the participants.

The global reality of IYCS and IMCS was addressed by Innocent Odongo (IYCS Secretary General) and Ravi Tissera (IMCS-Pax Romana International President). They encouraged the participants to get involved as much as possible in the local movements and not to hesitate to get involved on an international level. At the closure of the session the participants drafted 'best practices' roadmap, a tool with best practices chosen during the Training Session based on the thematic of Communication, Organisation, Mental Health and Project Planning. Link to the best practice: <https://jecimiec.eu/best-practices-roadmap/>

4.3.2. European Committee 2021

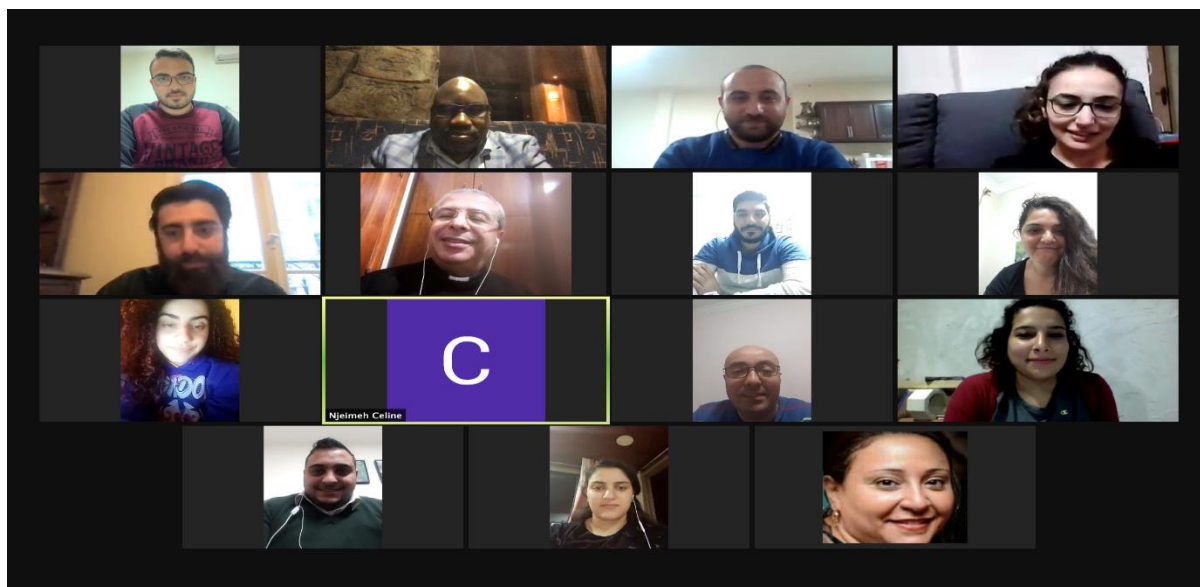
From 3 - 5 December 2021, 30 delegates from the National Organisations gathered online to make decisions for the present and the future of the Movement in Europe. The agenda of the meeting included narrative and financial reports, creation of budget and work plan for 2022, discussion on communication strategies and election of the new European Team for 2022.

The results were the election of Miss Anna Holtkamp from KSJ Germany as the European Coordinator and the election as executive board members of Eduardo Martin Ruano, Carolina Carreira, David Paul Sopon and Jonathan Pagel, representing respectively JEC Spain, MCE Portugal ASTRU Cluj Romania and KSJ Germany respectively. The Team will be accompanied by Rev. Fr. Sergio Fenech, the European Chaplain, as he was assigned in the European Committee 2019.



4.4. JECI-MIEC MIDDLE EAST COORDINATION

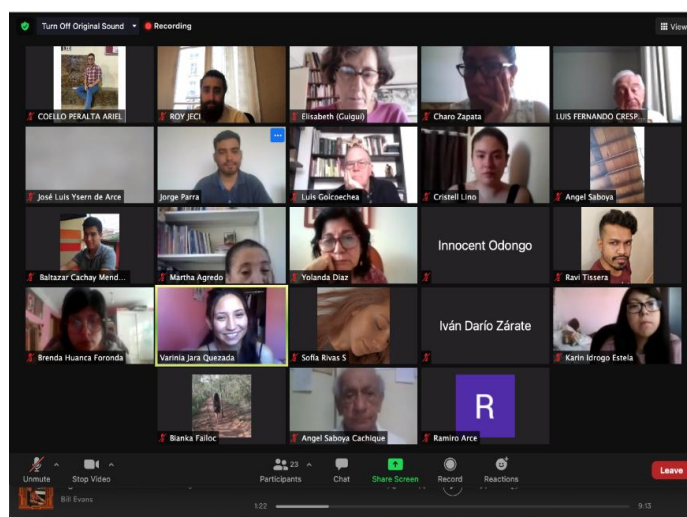
JECI Middle East organized online meetings to stay in touch with the realities within the different Arab countries. In Egypt, the Middle East Coordinator Miss Sarah Hany accompanied the National Movement in the implementation of the annual theme: **“Let’s fix the Nets”**, as an integral response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the mental health of the youth. The activities started in March 2021 aiming to offer emotional and psychological support to the students and each in his/her milieu in order to alleviate the negative effects of the lockdown on the mental health of the peers.



The Coordination also held an online Prayer for the Middle East on the 26 March 2021. Young Leaders from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon participated and raised their prayers for peace in the Middle East and the rest of the world. On 13 October 2021, the Middle East Coordination held an annual review session in which they discussed the updates on the national movements and the challenges they are facing. The second part of the meeting aimed to organise a framework to strengthen the coordination of Middle Eastern countries and to build capacities within the structure of the coordination.

4.5. JECI-MIEC LATIN AMERICA COORDINATION

In the year 2021, Latin American movements have continued their activities within the framework of online engagements. For the Latin American Coordination, it has been a time of change and transition, as the Latin American Committee concluded in March 2021 with the election of the new working group. However, online engagements have allowed it to be a year of great participation in international spaces and strengthening ties with other regions.



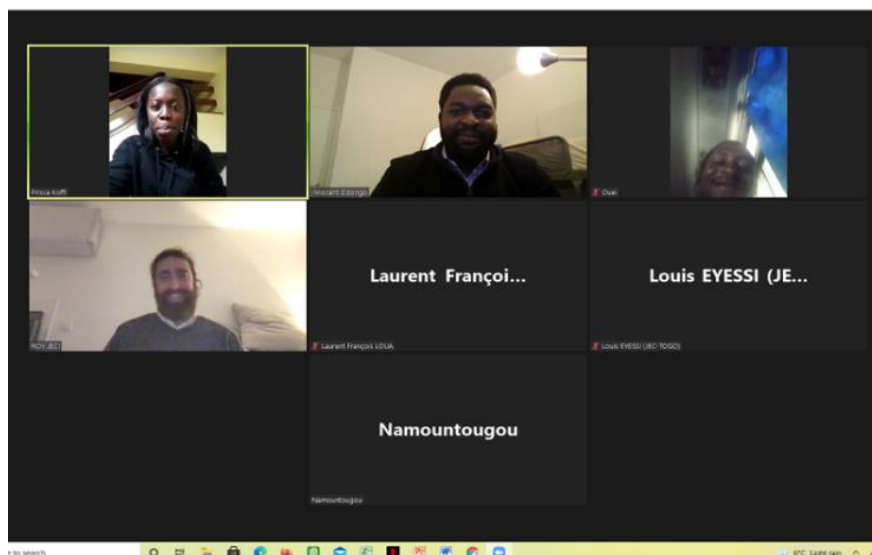
Within the framework of the SEE-JUDGE-ACT methodology, Latin American movements are working on the following topics:

1. In the face of large educational gaps, "A Global Educational Pact" is needed (See)
2. Young people as social actors and cultural managers. (See)
3. Grow in the footsteps of Jesus (Judge)
4. The mission, to be a movement in "exit" (Judge)
5. The Call to an Integral Ecology (Act)
6. Towards an integral renewal

Since 2020, SLA has been working to make panels on the history of Latin American movements and the coordination instance. These spaces were held in coordination with the Movement of Catholic Intellectuals of Latin America, and the University of Florida; the objective was to rescue the history of Latin American movements to socialise it through podcasts.

V. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. IYCS Commission Meetings - October 2021



The IYCS International Secretariat Team on 4 October 2021, met with the Coordinators of the different IYCS Commissions. The Commissions who were present included: Campaign, Finance, Publication and resources. During the meeting each Commission

Coordinator shared the plan of action for the next year, 2022. The action plans were reviewed and recommendations drawn. The Coordinators were tasked to finalise the plan to be adopted by the next International Committee Meeting which was scheduled to take place in November 2021. The Coordinators of the Commission for extension and promotion; and the Commission for advocacy and representation submitted their plan of action prior to the International Secretariat for review and recommendations.

During the meeting, an observation was made that each Commission should liaise with the IYCS Programme Coordinator to have their plans incorporated in the IYCS Global Action Plan for the year 2022 before the next sitting of the International Committee.

2. International Team Meetings



During the year 2021, the IYCS International Team (IT) held four (4) Meetings in February, June, July, and October 2021. The first meeting held in February 2021 focused on the preparation of the Global Training Session (GTS) Vol.1. We reviewed the programme of the session and recommendations of facilitators and speakers were made for each of the topics on the program and proposed tentative dates for the session. The International Team members also divided tasks amongst themselves. During this meeting the Regional Coordinators also shared updates from their respective Coordination offices. We were also joined in this meeting by the IMCS International President and the IMCS Asia Regional Coordinator, therefore we discussed and evaluated the status of our collaboration and status of the joint secretariat offices in Paris and Manila respectively. During the meeting, we also reviewed the actions being carried out regarding the decisions passed by the 16th IYCS World Council meeting on the properties, policies, and membership. Other items reviewed included partnership engagements, work of the commissions and membership of the advisory board. The International Secretariat Team also shared with the IT the proposed roadmap for the celebration of the IYCS 75th Anniversary Celebration and the proposals for the logos received from the National Movements.

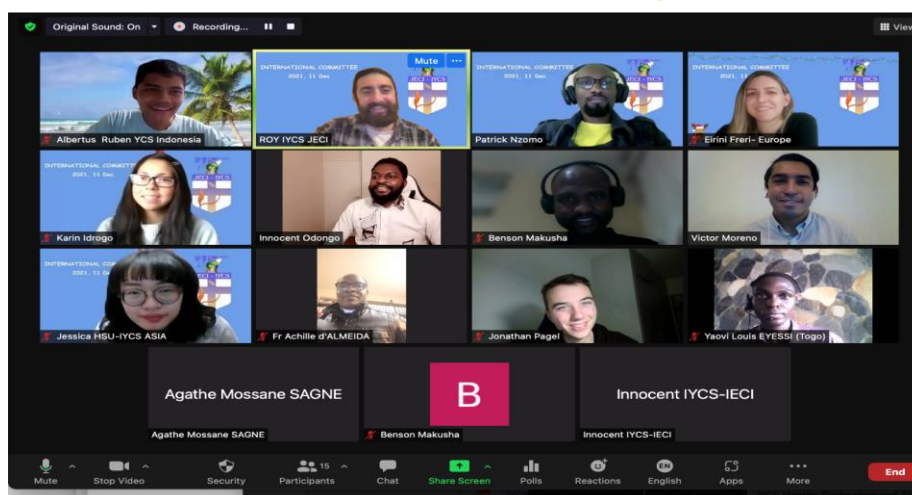
The second meeting of the International Team held in June 2021 evaluated the proceedings and the outcome of the 2021 GTS which was held in April 2021 and also received the IYCS 2020 Annual Report. The IT reviewed the **IYCS Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding Policy; Consent Form, Roll-out and Implementation Plan, Procedures** and reporting mechanism and the Handling Procedures developed by the International Secretariat Team. The meeting reviewed and adopted the proposed programme for the launch of the 75th IYCS Anniversary and 7th IYCS World Day that was scheduled to take place on the 13th November 2021. The date for the 2021 International Committee Meeting was set and tentative agenda drawn. The meeting concluded with assigning the IT members to represent the IYCS in different external partnerships networks.

The meeting held in July 2021 majorly organised to discuss the role out and implementation of the IYCS Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding Policy. We resolved to roll out the policy at regional and national levels through both virtual and physical sessions. The IT reviewed the proposed plan by the International Secretariat team and recommended the IYCS Programme Coordinator engage directly with the Regional

Coordinators to fix the dates and the timelines from the implementation in each region. We concluded by inviting each IT member to sign the consent form and send it to the International Secretariat for the record.

The International Team during October 2021 finalised the final programme of the 75th IYCS Anniversary Celebration Launch. The International Secretariat Team also updated the IT about the preparation for the COP26 Meeting, where we observed that out of the nominated delegates only 8 were accepted and most of them already had their visa ready and the rest were in the process of visa application. The International Team Members profile is available on our website [here: https://iycs-jeci.org/international-team/](https://iycs-jeci.org/international-team/).

3. International Committee Meeting 2021



On 11 December 2021, the International Committee Meeting was held virtually on Zoom bringing together a total of 23 delegates including the official members of the International Committee and observers notably from the International Movement of Catholic Students, IYCS Commission Members, and IYCS Animators and Chaplains. The Committee ratified the election of Ms. Prisca Koffi (Africa Regional Coordinator), Ms. Karin Idrogo (Latin America Coordinator) and Ms. Anna Holtkamp (European Coordinator for 2022). After the ratification the Regional Coordination reports were presented to the Committee for review and recommendations.

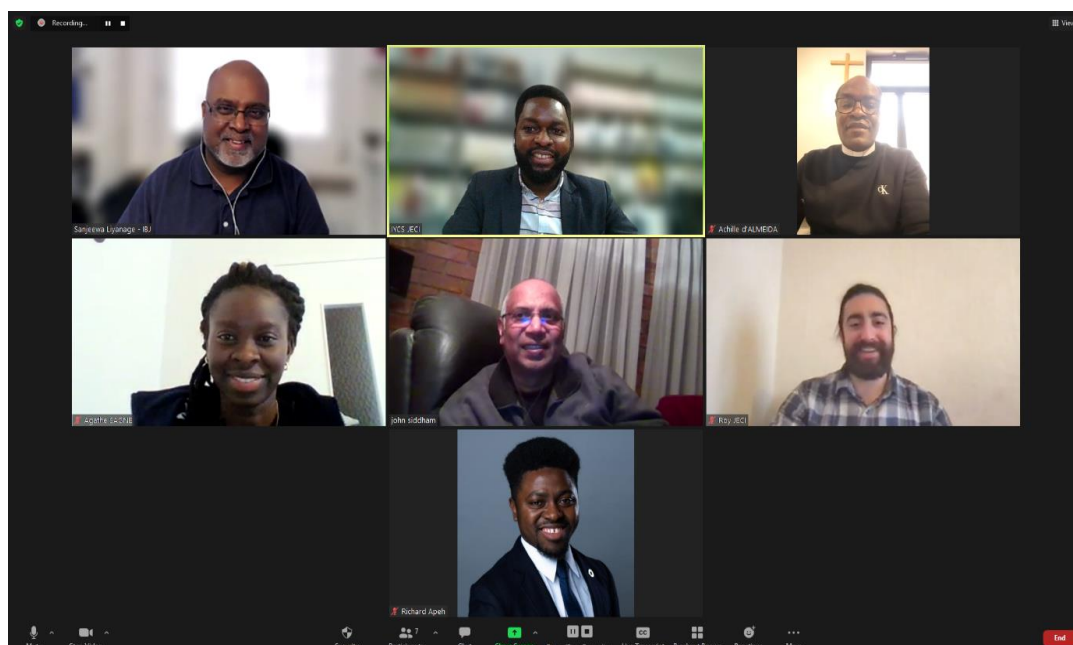
The International Secretariat reports for 2020, both narrative and financial, were also presented for review and were unanimously adopted by the Committee. The Committee also reviewed and approved the IYCS 2022 plan of action and budget as well as the roadmap for the 75th Anniversary of the International Coordination of the Movement presented by the International Chaplain Fr. Achille d'Almeida. The following part was dedicated to the presentation and recognition of the different IYCS Commission works for 2021. The Programme Coordinator presented the Global Campaign for 2021-2024: titled **“Holistic eduACTion for a better world”** that was unanimously adopted. The committee concluded with a discussion around the IYCS Contracts & Guidelines (the PSEA Complaint Handling Policy and the Service Contract Agreements) to be adopted and implemented on the regional and national level after an extraordinary session in 2022, in line with the standardisation of the Vatican and the UN agencies frameworks.

4. Advisory Board Meeting

The International Secretariat Team had 3 consultative meetings (in February, June and October) with the Advisory Board during the year 2021. The first meeting's main agenda was to give feedback to the advisory board regarding the IYCS Properties Office location and status of the International Secretariat in line with the recommendations from the previous meeting (October 2020). The Team also shared the plan and programme of the year with the advisory board, which included the launch of the IYCS 75th Anniversary celebration and the Global Training Session. During the meeting, we also observed the need to fill the gap in the advisory board membership following the death of one of the members.

The second meeting held in June 2021 focused on the setting up of the IYCS Foundation, where we observed two proposals for the location (USA & France) and the International Secretariat Team was requested to make consultations regarding the feasibility of setting up the Foundation in either of the two countries and give feedback in the next meeting. During this meeting, we also observed the need to revise the operational policies and contracts in place and also develop the necessary ones not yet in place. A member of the board volunteered to help the Secretariat Team to work on these documents.

During the third meeting, the International Secretariat Team gave feedback to the board regarding the location of the IYCS Foundation and we observed that it will be more feasible to have it registered and based in France. Therefore, the Team was tasked to make further inquiry for the requirements and begin to organise the necessary documents for the registration. The advisory board also recommended to the Team that since we were approaching the launch of the IYCS 75th Anniversary to get in direct contact with some prominent former members of the movement that will not be able to join the virtual launch of the celebration and invite them to send pre-recorded videos expressing their wishes on the occasion. Lastly, the board recommended to the International Secretariat Team to diversify the resource mobilisation, a member volunteered to engage a Team of former members who have speciality in resource mobilisation to invite them to offer technical support to the Team in the field of resource mobilisation.



5. Launch of the IYCS 75th Anniversary Celebration

The International Coordination of the YCS Movement was established in 1946 in the wake of the Second World War to engage students to build peace based on justice and freedom. Since its inception in 1946, IYCS has evolved and grown to meet the challenges of the world and the local context in which it has been active.

The year 2021, we celebrated 75 years of the universality of our Movement, the Young Catholic Students, upholding our values and mission in the Church and students' milieu. We remain united in the spirit of global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation in our communities. The celebration also coincides with the celebration of the 7th IYCS World Day instituted at our 2015 World Council to enhance the spirit of solidarity among our Movement which is an annual event where YCS members come together to reflect, share experiences and commemorate the internationality of our Movement. It is a day to raise awareness in one voice on a global reality that is of concern to the world of young people no matter where they may be. It is also a special day to celebrate the birthday of Cardinal Joseph Cardijn whose works inspired the formation of the IYCS movement in the 1920's. Thanks to this sacrificial effort, YCS today is a transformative agent in schools and in the communities reaching millions of young people all over the world.



The theme of the 75th Anniversary: ***‘Celebrating 75 years of formation, action and global solidarity to build peace, justice and a sustainable world’***, is inspired by the current two major global crises; the Covid-19 health crisis and climate crisis, which urges us more than ever to come together in solidarity to save humanity and ‘Our Common Home’ just as the Holy Father in his Encyclical *Laudato Si* invited every human on the planet to a communion with the Earth. As we commemorate the 7th IYCS World Day 2020 and the 75th Anniversary of IYCS, we remain united in the spirit of global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation in our communities. In today's rapidly changing world, children and young people's lives are exposed to suffering and manipulation. IYCS therefore continues to offer a platform through which the needs of young people can be addressed, their voices can be amplified, and their engagement can be advanced.

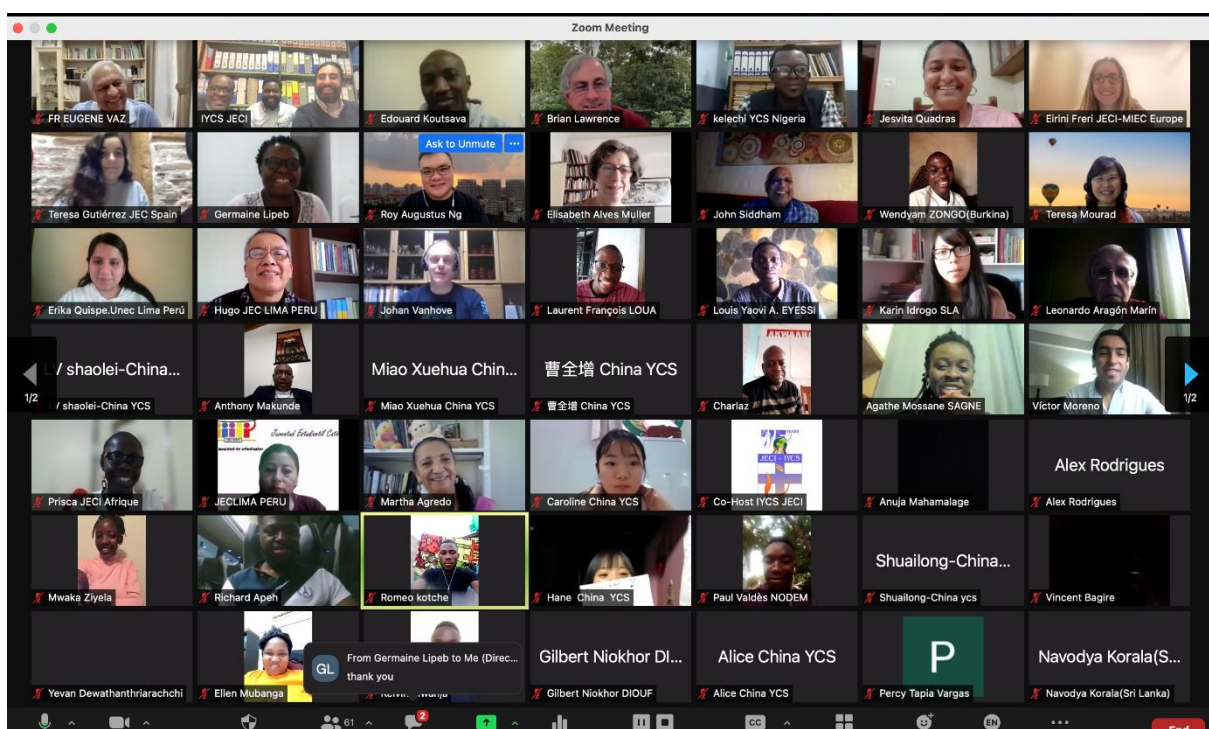
Through the efforts of our National Movements in 87 countries around the world, we educate and form students to work for solidarity, freedom, justice, peace and a sustainable world.



On 13 November 2021, a year-long celebration was launched by celebration of mass held at St Jacques Catholic Parish Montrouge - Paris streamed live on Facebook attended and **followed by over 2,800 YCSers and Alumni across the world**. The celebration of mass was followed by a digital webinar via zoom. The anniversary year is scheduled to climax on 13 November 2022 with a physical celebration at a venue yet to be determined.

The Launch marked the official opening of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary year for all YCS Members, Chaplains, Animators, Alumni and well-wishers around the globe.

During the launch we had speakers who addressed key elements of the work done by the IYCS over the years it has existed to open up conversations and discussions among the participants. A number of alumni were also invited to share their testimonies on how the movement has influenced, transformed and shaped their life. Pre-recorded video testimonies of alumni and current members were also streamed, and a special address was received from Cardinal Kevin Farrell the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life who was the guest speaker of the day. His full address is available [here: https://youtu.be/qeili1a1vk](https://youtu.be/qeili1a1vk).



CONCLUSION

A lot of things have changed in 2021 after the surge of the Coronavirus. We had to adapt our strategies and plans to fit the ongoing situation, respecting the challenging restrictions of the health crisis posed by the pandemic. We are very thankful however to all the International Team members for their unrelenting support and engagement to coordinate our National Movements and the Regional Coordinations. We appreciate as well, the strong collaboration with our strategic and project partners namely, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Fastenopfer, and UNICEF, with whose support, IYCS has lived to its mission and achieved some of its objectives in 2021.

IYCS officially launched the 75th Anniversary of the International Coordination of the Movement since the creation of the International Secretariat in Paris, France in 1946. We successfully organized a virtual celebration on 13 November 2021, gathering most of the IYCS leaders and alumni around the world who came together to share their experiences and their appreciation to the Movement. IYCS also held a virtual Global Training Session (GTS) and trained several YCS Leaders to empower them to adapt to the new realities and ensure continuity of service delivery. These cycles of training allowed National Movements to draw action plans to put into action the new skills and knowledge acquired. Participants during the GTS also came up with the new Global Campaign for 2021-2024: ***“Holistic eduACTion for a better world”***.

Externally, IYCS strengthened its presence and contribution to processes and initiatives within the Catholic Church, interfaith networks, international coordination of NGOs, and intergovernmental spaces such as the United Nations System, thus fostering IYCS Civic Engagements and Advocacy for Human Rights and Meaningful Youth engagement. However, in addition to the challenges posed by the pandemic in 2021, IYCS also experienced a drastic decrease in funding from external partners, although despite all these challenges the IYCS Team capitalised on the available resources and harnessed the positive use of digital platforms and social media to run and sustain our on-going formation programmes, actions, representations, and partnership engagements.

We extend Sincere Gratitude to all our partners and collaborators who supported us in 2021. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration in 2022 as we take action to mitigate climate change, promote holistic education and build a peaceful and just society through interfaith dialogue.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1. IYCS 2021 Provisional Financial Report

2021 Expenses of IYCS International Secretariat				
S/N	Expenditure item	Amount spent in €	Amount budgeted in €	%
	A. CORE COSTS			
1	Elected staff indemnities	27,000.00	36,000.00	75.0%
2	Hired Staff Salaries and Social Charges	16,943.34	33,596.00	50.4%
3	Rent and Utilities Costs	15,014.78	14,148.87	106.1%
4	Owned Property Maintenance Costs & Income Taxes	34,791.96	45,579.28	76.3%
5	Communication Costs	2,707.30	3,200.00	84.6%
6	Insurances Costs	2,730.98	2,950.80	92.6%
7	Financial Services & Taxes	6,354.88	7,720.00	82.3%
8	Stationery and Supplies	555.63	800.00	69.5%
9	Representation and Meetings	1,207.73	4,250.00	28.4%
10	Visitation to Movements and Regions	1,093.36	4,033.33	27.1%
11	Provisions and Other Costs	1,356.87	1,224.85	110.8%
	Sub-Total 1	109,756.83	153,503.13	71.5%
	B. PROGRAMME COSTS			
	Project related expenses	15,837.76	115,140.00	13.8%
	Sub-Total 2	15,837.76	115,140.00	13.8%
	TOTAL EXPENSES	125,594.59	268,643.13	46.8%
2021 Revenue of IYCS International Secretariat				
S/N	Income item	Amount received in €	Amount expected in €	%
1	Rent from Owned Properties	62,719.00	54,000.00	116.1%
2	Membership Fees	1,800.00	3,250.00	55.4%
3	CCFD- Terre Solidaire	18,800.00	25,000.00	75.2%
4	Fastenopfer - Careme Suisse	13,589.42	16,800.00	80.9%
5	Missio Aachen	0.00	25,000.00	0.0%
6	UNICEF	13,451.42	27,340.00	49.2%
7	Other Income & Donations	10,538.60	117,252.33	9.0%
	Total Income	120,898.44	268,642.33	45.0%
	Balance	-4,696.15		

Appendix 2. Nathan Simango Submission

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES: FOR CHILDREN AND WITH CHILDREN

By

Nathan Simango

15 years, Malawi

The implementation of safeguarding policies and the role of children's participation has never been more important than now when the world is faced with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic led to the unprecedented closure of schools, lockdowns, travel restrictions and difficulty for children to access critical services. This has led to a dangerous increase in violence against children especially as schools which were "safe spaces" are closed and access to critical protection and psychosocial services severely affected. The Covid-19 pandemic response also greatly impacted the implementation and children's participation in safeguarding policies:

- Firstly, Governments and Development actors focused their efforts towards managing the health crisis and recovery of the economies.
- Secondly, Protection and safeguarding wasn't prioritized with limited Government funding allocated to it as most resources were diverted towards the 'health emergency' and bailing out the economy.
- Thirdly, Children were never involved, consulted or participated in the planning, development and implementation of these priorities. For instance, no Government in the world ever consulted children about "School Closures" and yet the brunt of the effects of this decision is faced by children.

The International Young Catholic Students is an International Catholic Organization recognized by the Holy See (the Vatican) as a private international association of the faithful. This therefore makes IYCS a faith-based organization. The Catholic Church has been repeatedly rocked by child sexual abuse over the last three decades. Recent inquiries into the historical Catholic Church abuse of children paints a sad and painful picture characterised by victim blaming, negligence, deficiency, silence and an institutional cover-up for instance the Church not only failed to prevent abuse but had also failed to report it, at times knowingly putting children in contact with predators. However, there is hope that things are changing with the direct leadership of Pope Francis where the Church has instituted several safeguarding measures globally:

In February 2019, the Pope led a landmark Summit on clerical sexual abuse and lifted the controversial rule of pontifical secrecy to improve transparency. In March 2019 the Pope issued Vatican Law No. 297, the apostolic letter and guidelines on the protection of minors. This led to the development of the Charter for the Protection for Children and Young People at National Level by the Episcopal Conferences. On 1st June 2021, Pope Francis changed the Roman Catholic Church's laws to explicitly criminalise sexual abuse. The new rules make sexual abuse, grooming minors for sex, possessing child pornography and covering up abuse a criminal offence. These new rules come into effect on 8th December 2021.

In Malawi and most countries in Africa, protection laws and safeguarding policies are under Criminal Law. However, the enforcement of these laws is poor and children were not involved in the development of these laws and policies. At National level, we participate in the advocacy for the revision and implementation of these policies through our National YCS Movement and other children's platforms. Even with the good progress made by the Catholic Church, the development of these safeguarding policies had very low participation of Children. However, the children actively participate in their implementation through Church Movements like the International Young Catholic Students whose own Safeguarding Policy was developed by Children like myself. We continue to advocate for the inclusion of children in the development or revision of these safeguarding policies.

The Role of Children's participation in the development and implementation of safeguarding policies is very important if we are to break the vicious cycle of violence against children, because "today's children are tomorrow's adults", so Children's involvement today leads to awareness, behavior change and preparedness which guarantees the success of safeguarding in the future. Therefore although well intentioned by the Adults, there should be "NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US" that is No Development and Implementation of Safeguarding Policies for Children without Children". This is the only way to achieve the Leaving No One Behind principle at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

What was the most challenging aspect of working with adults in the process?

Getting the adults to listen to children was the most challenging because adults have a big misconception that they always know what is best for children. However only Children only Children know what is best for children. Therefore working with children to develop and implement safeguarding policies is a very good investment for the future because the Children today are the adults of tomorrow. So meaningfully involving children today, means that they will be better prepared for the future implementation of these child protection and safeguarding policies.

What is the one aspect of safeguarding – framework or process – that you want to see strengthened in your organization/industry/context?

In my country and in the Catholic Church, I would like to see "a safe environment and meaningful participation of children to be able to care and protect the weakest and defenceless members of our society". I would like to see more children involved to amplify their voices so that children can influence the development and implementation safeguarding policies. Simply put: "Nothing for Children without Children."



Annual Report made by:
Innocent Odongo,
Roy Ibrahim
Fr. Achille D'Almeida

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