

IYCS - JECI ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), also known as the International Young Christian Students (IYCS), 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 globe, IYCS has continued 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 2022 in accomplishing the organization's mission as well as extend our appreciation to the YCS Members, YCS National Movements, 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.

In line with the mandate adopted by the 16th World Council held in 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria, the IYCS International Secretariat continues to mobilize 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 work 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 challenges and constraints brought about by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, IYCS continued to maximize the use of online platforms such as Zoom, YouTube, and other social media channels to carry out its activities. Statutory Meetings for the International Team, International Committee, and International Advisory Board were held virtually. Key Celebrations such as the 8th IYCS World Day 2022 and the 76th IYCS Anniversary celebration were also held virtually on 13th November 2022, where we climaxed the celebration of the IYCS 75th Anniversary.

On a positive note, during the year 2022, we resumed some of our physical activities and accompaniment visits to National Movements including the Interfaith Dialogue and Regional Training Session in Lebanon organized by IYCS together with the IYCS Middle East Regional Coordination and JEC Lebanon from 18 - 25 August 2022 under the Focus Area: "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together".

Also as part of our global youth engagement, participation, and advocacy, IYCS actively participated in the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP27) meeting held in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt from 5 - 18 November 2022, where in line with the IYCS Care for our Common Home and the promotion of the messages of Laudato Si, we co-organized a side event and exhibition at COP27 and also shared experience on the climate action forum.

IYCS continues to amplify the voices and contributions of Young Catholic Students towards the achievement of a peaceful, just and sustainable world through our participation in platforms and forums such as the Global Caucus for Youth in Faith under the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), Laudato Si Generation, Mouvement international d'action Catholique spécialisée (MIACS), International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organisations (ICMYO), activities of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the #CovidUnder19 initiative.

Special thanks to all our partners, including CCFD Terre Solidaire, Fastenaktion, Missio Munchen, and all the National Movements and Formers Members (Alumni) 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 those who offered translation services and technical support during the virtual and in-person training and sessions.

FORWARD

In the year 2022, 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 and control measures around the world, life began to return to normal.

We thank all the health workers and frontline staff in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We commend the governments, the public and private sector stakeholders who rallied resources toward producing and distributing vaccines worldwide. 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, the production and distribution of facemasks, and volunteering in COVID-19 hospitals and centres.

Despite the challenges faced in 2022, IYCS remained resourceful and resilient by exploring new and alternative ways to deliver our programmes and activities. Thus, IYCS continues 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 2022. We also extend our great appreciation to the National and Regional Bishops Conferences that welcomed and supported our activities and the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life for the technical support and accompaniment during the year.

We continue to promote the spirit of global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation, upholding our values and mission in the Church and Students' milieu. In 2023, we look forward to a strengthened collaboration with all National Movements, Regional Coordinations, Partners, Alumni, and well-wishers to work together in solidarity to achieve our collective aspirations for meaningful youth engagement towards a peaceful, peaceful, just, and sustainable world.



Innocent ODONGO
IYCS Secretary General



Roy IBRAHIM
IYCS Programme Coordinator



Rev. Fr. Achille D'ALMEIDA
IYCS International Chaplain

APPRECIATION

We thank all the IYCS partners for their continuous, relentless support of the IYCS work and mission worldwide. Thanks to all the funding partners (CCFD Terre Solidaire, Fastenaktion, and Missio Munchen) for your financial and technical support during 2022.

We further extend our appreciation to all the National Episcopal and Regional Conferences who welcomed and supported our mission at different levels. Gratitude also goes to all our National Movements, especially KSJ Germany, YCS UK Former Members led by Francis O'Brian, YCS Africa, YCS Asia, JEC Middle East, and JEC Latin America Former Members for their financial support to the International Secretariat in 2022.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BC	Biodiversity Collapse
CC	Climate Change
CCACJ	Coordinating Councils of Catholic Youth Action, such as
CCIC	International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO
CLAP	Continued Learning and Action Program
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DLFL	Dicastery for the Laity Family and Life
EYF	European Youth Forum
ECOSOC	The Economic and Social Council
FAFCE	Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe
GEM	UNESCO-Global Education Monitoring Report
GTS	Global Training Session
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
ICMYO	International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations
ICNGOs	International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations
IMCS/ MIEC	International Movement of Catholic Students
ILO	The International Labor Organization
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
LSM	Laudato Si Movement
MCE	Movimento Católico de Estudiantes (Catholic Students Movement)
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MIACS	International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action
MIAMSI	International Movement of apostolate in independent social milieus
MUC	Catholic University Movement
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHRLLS	Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
RYPs	Regional Youth Platforms
SCMM	Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHICC	Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre
SRSGVAC	Special Representative UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
TES	Transforming Education Summit
UMOFC	World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
YLA	Young Leader Academy

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 developing several YCS National Movements, which grew in the spirit of the Specialized Catholic Action Movements 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 the secondary and tertiary level) by 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 our National Movements in 87 countries worldwide, we educate and train 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 vital 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 emphasizing 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 into 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 2022 annual report presents the programme activities accomplished in line with these objectives, our 2022 plan of action focus areas, and the current global campaign. It also includes the interim income and the expenditure statement for the 2022 accounting year.

FOCUS AREAS AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

I. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND ADVOCACY

During 2022, the initiatives, activities, and partnerships presented below were implemented under Youth Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy.

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

U-Report (www.ureport.in) is a youth engagement platform that allows youths to amplify their voices and participate in decisions that matter most to them. U-Report is also a global forum where young people speak out on issues they care about and effect positive change in their communities by taking local actions to solve the problems identified.

In September 2020, IYCS signed a global **partnership with UNICEF** (the United Nations Children's Fund) to establish a global youth movement for positive change through the U-Report Global Platform to enable communication, information sharing, opinion polling, and evidence-based advocacy among youth globally.

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 critical 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, is also linking our National Movements to UNICEF Country Offices, enabling them to access UNICEF Country Programmes and Resources to support the activities of Young Catholic Students and Movements in those countries with U-Report national platforms.

In the year 2022, IYCS promoted U-Report to National Movements, mobilizing and recruiting Young Catholic Students to join U-Report and encouraging them to actively participate in U-Report Polls, training, advocacy, campaigns, and mobilization efforts. IYCS and National Movements are delighted to have positively contributed to the growth of U-Report to 27 **Million U-Reporters** as of 12th December 2022.

Furthermore, IYCS supported the development of U-Report campaigns and polls on specific issues and actively mobilized Young Catholic Students to participate in these U-Report campaigns and polls. These campaigns and polls were on Advocacy, Climate Change, COVID-19 Vaccination, Discrimination, Education, and Mental Health (Global and Uganda Chatbots), among others. The Poll results were notably used for evidence-based advocacy at the UN General Assembly, the Transforming Education Summit, the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27), and the EU-AU Summit.



U-Report and its social media channels were also used to amplify IYCS Campaigns, such as IYCS Africa's END Violence Against Women Campaign.

IYCS therefore invites all Young Catholic Students to join U-Report Global (<https://ureport.in/join/>) to amplify their voices and actions and collaborate with their peers to transform their communities positively. IYCS further urges all National YCS Movements to actively recruit Young Catholic Students to U-Report and encourage them to participate in national U-Report advocacy, campaigns, training, and mobilization efforts.

2. #CovidUnder19 Initiative

IYCS is a founding member of the #CovidUnder19 initiative that brings together children, child rights activists, experts, and other key stakeholders, including the private sector, to work together to understand what children are experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to involve children in responding to these issues. #CovidUnder19 creates spaces for children across the globe to be meaningfully engaged in the discussions about the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute towards shaping the post-Covid-19 world.

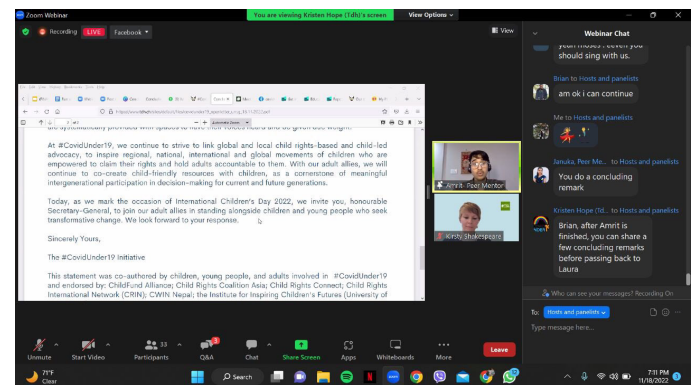
In the year 2022, as Advocacy Co-Lead of the #CovidUnder19 initiative, IYCS continued to spearhead the advocacy efforts supporting the children-led engagements and information sharing at critical events and opportunities, including the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Child Rights Committee, the UN High-Level Political Forum, and the UN General Assembly.

Four key #CovidUnder19 advocacy events were held in 2022. These included:

► **UNSRSGVAC Report to the Children - Human Rights Council:** A Virtual Event on 12th March 2022 where the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (UNSRSGVAC) Reported to Children on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council. This was the first time a high-level United Nations Official reported directly to Children. The #CovidUnder19 Peer Mentors moderated this event. IYCS and other #CovidUnder19 partners issued a Press Release to mark this historic moment for child participation on the margins of the Human Rights Council.



Eyes on the Horizon - 2022 High-Level Political Forum: An Intergenerational event on 15th July 2022 by #CovidUnder19 and its partners. This event was organized and moderated by young people (#CovidUnder19 peer mentors) with support from IYCS and other partners. A Joint Intergenerational Statement to the 2022 High-Level Political Forum was issued. Children co-authored this statement, young people and adult allies at #CovidUnder19, and IYCS and other #CovidUnder19 partners endorsed it.



► **UNSRSGVAC Report to the Children - UN General Assembly:** A Virtual Event on 1st October 2022 where the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (UNSRSGVAC) Reported to Children on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The #CovidUnder19 Peer Mentors moderated this event. IYCS supported these young people to participate in the event meaningfully.

► **Children Leading the Future: A child-led Celebration of World Children's Day 2022:** A virtual event on 18th November 2022 organized by #CovidUnder19 children and peer mentors. Mr. Benson Makusha, IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator, was a Speaker at this event. An Open Letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations was issued. Furthermore, during this event, the Rainbow Healers, a child-friendly toolkit, help children kick-start their advocacies and campaigns. This campaign toolkit was developed by #CovidUnder19 children and peer mentors with support from IYCS, Terres des hommes, Films for All, and other partners.

#CovidUnder19 and its social media channels were also used to amplify IYCS Campaigns such as the IYCS Africa's Promote the SDGs 2022 World Cup and 16 Days of Activism Campaigns.

IYCS will continue spearheading the #CovidUnder19 advocacy engagements and urges all National YCS Movements and Young Catholic Students worldwide to participate and contribute to the #CovidUnder19 initiative actively.



Benson Makusha, the Africa Regional Coordinator for the @iycsjeci raised this really important gap:

There is limited child-friendly information on #climatechange. Information need to be broken down so that #children can meaningfully engage discussions and decision making.



3:47 PM · Nov 18, 2022



3. External Engagement & Representation

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

3.1.1 Transforming Education Summit (TES)

The IYCS International Secretariat Team participated in the Transforming Education Pre-Summit held in Paris at the UNESCO Headquarters from 28th to 30th June 2022, where we had the opportunity to meet with other young leaders and youth advocates from around the world. We were actively involved in the Global Engagement Day which included technical meetings on Thematic Action Tracks and engagements with key stakeholders. We also participated in the Highlevel segment, which consisted of Ministerial and Stakeholders engagement.

The objective of the Pre-Summit was to harness the evolving discussions on transforming education, elaborate initial content, establish a shared vision and suggest actions for the Summit, as well as generate more significant momentum leading up to September. The Pre-Summit provided an inclusive and open forum for countries that had advanced their national consultations to present preliminary outcomes and share key elements of their commitment to transforming education.



It served as a platform for each Thematic Action Track to present spotlight initiatives, explore potential coalitions and partnerships, and create momentum toward a global education movement.



It provided a platform for children, young people, students, parents, and teachers to share their vision and make their voices heard, allowing stakeholders to join forces to transform education. During the pre-summit, our team advanced and amplified the voices of Young Catholic Students and called for action toward creating an inclusive and safe learning environment for all.

3.1.2 UNESCO – International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations

The 2022 International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (ICNGOs) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14 - 16 December 2022 under the theme **"Breaking Barriers - What Role for Civil Society Organizations towards a Sustainable Future."** IYCS was represented at the plenary sessions of the conference by Miss Lara (JEC France), Mr. Ambrose Egong (YCS Uganda), and International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille D'Almeida.

The Conference provided a platform for UNESCO's official NGO partners to review their cooperation, evaluate the collective actions taken in 2021 and 2022, and formulate a programme and roadmap for 2023-2024. The attendees also elected a new Chairperson for the Conference and a new NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. It was also a high point in the NGOs' advocacy towards UNESCO especially on youth, education, peace, culture, heritage, and technology among others.

The Conference addressed the progress and challenges ahead in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in meeting these objectives, especially in the context of the global movement for the transformation of education. The importance of international solidarity and actions of youth and youth organizations were emphasized.

During the "Opportunities and Challenges" session, speakers shared their experiences and obstacles, including language barriers and financial limitations. The attendees appreciated a reminder of the history of UNESCO, which reinforced the purpose of their presence. The survey results on implementing the directives for UNESCO's partnerships with NGOs were also presented.

In the "The Future of Civil Society Organizations and Partnerships in the Global Movement for the Transformation of Education in a Crisis-ridden World" session, the attendees discussed the challenges of meeting the set ecological objectives. The emphasis was on the need for NGOs to support the global public interest, as states face constraints. The attendees emphasized the importance of focusing on the social impact of their actions rather than just the academic impact.

A policy document on youth was presented, highlighting the need for opportunities for young people and aligning with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty by 2030.



The message conveyed was, "Together we can achieve more than we can alone," inspiring young people to get involved. The discussion also covered working with national commissions, primarily through patronage, and making recommendations such as taking action on climate change combating inequalities, developing financial strategies, coordinating calendars of NGOs and UNESCO, and creating dedicated task forces.



3.2. International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO (CCIC)

3.2.1 CCIC Exchange Meeting - Testimonials from Member Organizations

The CCIC hosted a testimonial meeting on 10th May 2022. Representatives from Member NGOs, including IYCS discussed their missions, priorities, and achievements. The NGOs had diverse fields of activities, international establishments, and Christian-inspired values. The IYCS International Chaplain, Fr. Achille D'Almeida, discussed the current priorities of IYCS, including the Global Campaign **'Holistic eduACTION for a better world'**, advocacy for safe learning environments, and equal access to quality education.

The NGOs showed strong involvement in various fields, including protecting women and young girls, assisting demilitarized child soldiers and street children, promoting family, education, health, Christian values among young workers and students, and accommodation of homeless people. NGOs have a long history and international presence and cooperate with other NGOs with common interests. Some NGOs had official recognition by the Vatican or have observers or consultative status in UN institutions or the Council of Europe.

The values of human dignity, respect for people, listening, and dialogue were emphasized as the foundation for the perpetuation of these NGOs. The importance of young people and the centrality of human beings in all endeavors were highlighted.

3.2.2 CCIC hybrid General Assembly

On 21st June 2022, the CCIC hybrid General Assembly was held in Paris, featuring a keynote address by Father Kabugé, a Salesian who represents the World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT) at UNESCO. Father Kabugé shared his experiences as a missionary priest in different West African countries and emphasized the importance of education in shaping responsible and faithful individuals. Salesian charism focuses on creating a welcoming and familial environment, providing education for life, nurturing faith in the Church, and promoting friendship and brotherhood through play.



The Assembly held on the theme ***"Metamorphosis of the world, how far can Man change the human? What compass for Education?"*** resulted from extensive collaborative work of CCIC members and twenty experts invited to participate. In 2022, the CCIC aimed to strengthen its missions by drawing on Christian, humanist, philosophical, and ethical contributions and field experiences from NGOs on all five continents. The CCIC plans to cooperate with UNESCO, Futures of Education, GEM report (20th anniversary), CIONG and Liaison Committee, General Conference, Member States, and Sectors for various projects, such as the training of hydrologists for Africa. The CCIC hopes to facilitate the work of NGOs in collaborating on these and other projects. However, the financial situation of the CCIC is precarious, as donations and contributions have decreased significantly.

During the meeting, the assembly elected a new director and partially renewed the board of directors. Françoise Meauzé (FAFCE) and Dominique de Talencé (MIAMSI and Crescendo) completed their three mandates, while Maryvonne Kayser (UMOFC) resigned before and of mandate. The President, S. de la Fouchardière, also left. Isabelle Chaperon, a representative of the International Association of Charities to UNESCO, accepted the role of President. The Board of Directors convened at the end of the meeting to elect officers.



3.3. ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022

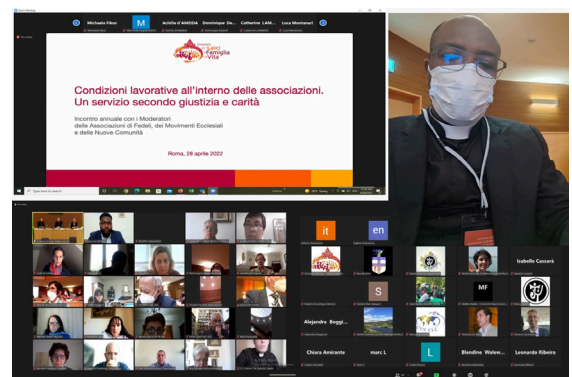
The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum took place on 19 and 20 April 2022 in a virtual format. The Forum provided a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue with Member States and other actors on concrete actions to rebuild from COVID-19 and advance towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Decade of Action. The Youth Forum addressed the theme of ECOSOC and the 2022 UN High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) on "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda." It also reviewed progress in the areas of quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), life below water (SDG14), life on land (SDG15), and partnerships for the goals (SDG17).

The session brought together world leaders, government representatives, civil society organizations, and youth groups to discuss and find solutions to the ongoing challenges and opportunities arising from the pandemic.

The discussions focused on the impact of the pandemic on the progress towards achieving the SDGs and the urgent need for collective action to build back better.

During the session, IYCS was keen to advocate for including young people in the decision-making process toward sustainable development. We highlighted the importance of providing access to quality education, decent work, and opportunities for young people to engage in political circles. We also stressed the need for intergenerational dialogue and cooperation to achieve a sustainable and resilient recovery. Our advocacy efforts were well received, and we received recognition for our commitment to promoting the participation of young people in the sustainable development agenda.

In conclusion, the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022 was an essential platform for Youth leaders worldwide who had the opportunity to engage with government representatives, youth delegates, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders in civil society and the private sector. As IYCS, we remain committed to promoting the participation of young people in the sustainable development agenda, and we will continue to advocate for their inclusion in decision-making processes toward achieving a sustainable future.



3.4. Annual Meeting of the Ecclesial Movements

On 28th April 2022, the annual meeting with the moderators of associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements, and new communities was held at the Aula of the Congregation of the Jesuit General Curia in Rome. The Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life organized the meeting and focused on "Working Conditions in Associations:



A Service according to Justice and Charity." One hundred eighty (180) moderators and members participated in the meeting in person and remotely. IYCS was represented by Fr. Achille D'Almeida in person and Innocent Odongo.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Prefect of the Dicastery, delivered the welcome address and emphasized the pastoral concerns of the Dicastery regarding the accompaniment of associations. He emphasized the need for just and dignified working conditions for members, including fair remuneration, pension provision, social security, and health care.

Professor Luis Navarro and Father Pierre Martinot-Lagarde gave the morning's central lectures. Professor Navarro, a canonist and rector of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross introduced the ecclesiality of associations, the dignity of members, and the meaning of ecclesial service. Father Martinot-Lagarde, a Jesuit with 14 years of experience as a consultant to the Director General of the International Labour Organization, discussed the labour standards set by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and how they apply to work in associations.

In the afternoon, Dr. Isabelle Cassarà and Dr. Philip Milligan presented reports on practical aspects of work in associations and concrete examples. Cassarà gave testimonies of mediation by the Dicastery to protect former members in distress due to non-payment of pension contributions. Milligan presented guidelines on fair pay and benefits for association members. Throughout the day, there was ample time for questions and debate.

Participants expressed interest in continuing the reflection and setting up working groups to explore working conditions and evaluate internal working practices. The day ended with a mass at the Saint Lorenzo Centre.

3.5. Meeting with the Youth Coordinator of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life (DLFL)

The IYCS International Secretariat Team visited the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life on Thursday, 28th July 2022. During the visit, they met with Rev. Fr. João Chagas, the Coordinator of the Youth Office, to discuss various matters. The main focus of the meeting was the upcoming World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon and how less privileged IYCS Local Leaders could benefit from the solidarity fund from the Vatican to attend the event.

In addition to discussing the Youth Forum and the International Congress for Youth Ministry, Fr. Joao also encouraged the Team to promote the final document on the Synod of Youth and Christus Vivit, as well as the document on the celebration of the World Youth Day in local churches in its mission. The Holy Father's message on Young People was also highlighted as an area of importance for the Team to pay attention to.



3.6. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) gathers membership-based, democratic, representative, and accountable International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs). IYCS is a founding member of ICMYO alongside other youth organizations. The main objectives of ICMYO are strengthening the cooperation among youth organizations at the regional and global levels and coordinating political inputs to global youth policy processes at the United Nations.

In 2022, during the ICMYO Annual General Meeting, IYCS was re-elected to the ICMYO Task Force for another one-year mandate.



Therefore, the IYCS representative in the Task Force, Mr. Benson Makusha, who is also the IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator, continued coordinating youth mobilization towards engagement and participation in the least Developed Countries (LDC) Conference. The process started in 2021 with consultations on youth declaration. However, the conference was postponed to March 2023 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but part of it was already done in 2022. The youth declaration was published and endorsed by ICMYO and UNMGCY, but we are calling upon other organizations to undersign them as well. ICMYO and UNMGCY will be responsible for presenting this declaration at the Conference.

The Task Force also participated in selecting 92 youths who are in the process of being trained and formed to engage in the Conference in March 2023.

The Task Force also took part in the consultations towards establishing the UN Youth Office. The process is very positive because it provides a separate office and funding opportunities for the youth.



3.7. International Conference - "The Full Face of Humanity: Women in Leadership for a Just Society."

The IYCS Team participated in an International Conference on **"The Full Face of Humanity: Women in Leadership for a Just Society."** This Conference was organized by Caritas, in partnership with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to UNESCO from 27 - 28 October 2022. This conference explored sociological, ethical, and political perspectives on women's leadership and the need to reflect particularly on the participation of women in society at all levels. It also examined key issues affecting women through the lens of poverty and violence vis-a-vis a culture of exclusion, as well as analyzed the obstacles which these issues present to women in accessing leadership and decision-making positions. It also explored how the empowerment of women through education capacity strengthening and access to resources would help to overcome these barriers.



The recommendations and conclusions proposed concrete strategies on how the international community can promote a culture of women in leadership, ensure that grassroots experiences and needs are represented at local, regional, and global policy and decision-making tables, and work towards sustainable change by removing the barriers and injustices faced by women in society.

3.8. The 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP27)

The 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27, was held at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre (SHICC) in Egypt from 4-18 November 2022 under the theme ***"Together for Implementation"*** to renew and extend the agreements reached in the historic Paris Agreement.

The IYCS delegation at the COP27, led by the IYCS Secretary General Mr. Odongo Innocent, included the IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator, Ms. Prisca Koffi and Mina Samir, an Alumni of JEC Egypt. The delegation attended several side events that advocated for youth inclusion in climate action, availability of climate funding to youth and youth-led organizations and intergenerational co-responsibility in addressing the climate crisis and climate action decisions.

The IYCS delegation participated in an interfaith youth side event, where they shared concerns from a faith perspective and exchanged ideas with other stakeholders. The conversation highlighted the need for more resources and collaboration among youth groups to address the climate crisis. The young leaders committed to fostering collaboration and appealed to partners, member states, and philanthropies for support. A YouTube video is available here: <https://youtu.be/8XbTF3S-8n8>.



II. CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME:

1. CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVES AT COP 27

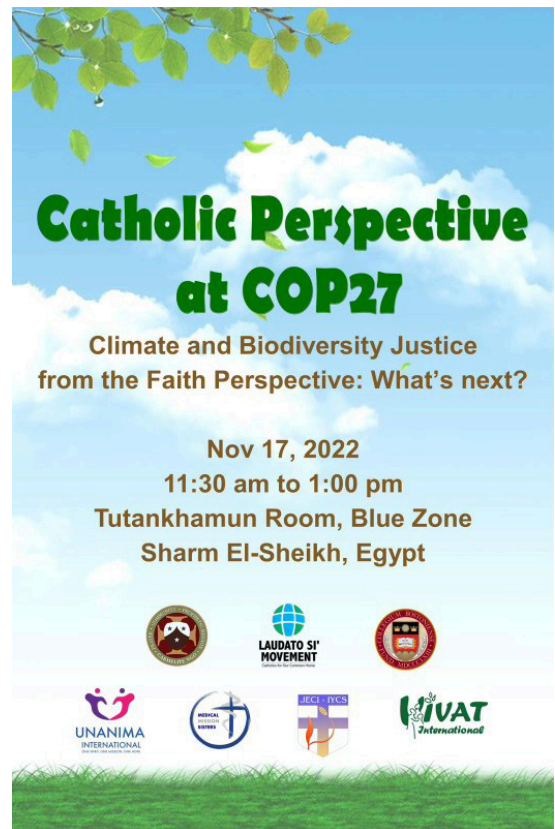
The IYCS with 7 other catholic Actors namely, Laudato Si Movement (LSM), VIVAT International, Congregation of Mount Carmel (Carmelite NGO), UNANIMA International, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (SCMM), Boston College hosted a side event on the 17th November, 2022 at the sideline of COP27, on the theme: ***Climate and Biodiversity Justice from the Faith perspective: what's next?*** The goal of the side event was to assess the progress of COP 27 negotiations by looking at the advances assessment of advances, setbacks, gaps and come up joint position, according to the Catholic Social Teaching climate justice concerns.

Scientific evidence shows us that the two most significant ecological challenges of our time are Climate Change (CC) and Biodiversity Collapse (BC). This is further re-emphasized in the new film ***"The Letter: A Message for our Earth"*** and the moral theological principles gathered in Pope Francis' encyclical Letter ***Laudato Si'***. Some related Climate and Biodiversity justice issues stem from loss and damage, just transition, women and gender justice, human rights, mitigation and adaptation, fair financing and just economics, among others. These were all brought together in the round table dialogue by the different speakers to assess the gaps and weaknesses, the success and strengths expected to arise in the COP 27 final document/negotiations. Concerns and hopes were stated in a Catholic Climate Justice Statement at the end of the round table and endorsed by the organizing partners. The extract of the round table discussion is available on the official COP27 YouTube, accessible here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kgg-BrT_N1j4.

During the round table panel session, the IYCS Representative on the Panel, Ms. Prisca Koffi who is also the IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator addressed the plight of the youth on climate anxiety, highlighting the impacts of climate change on young people, including; financial, professional, and mental effects.

Ms. Koffi highlighted the damage caused by recent floods in Nigeria and its impacts on young people based on the story shared by the IYCS Local Movement Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Kelechi Osuji. Ms. Koffi concluded her submission by proposing recommendations, highlighting some of the actions undertaken by the IYCS and its local members, including; protecting the environment through tree planting, resource reuse, recycling, and waste reduction. Ms. Koffi appealed to partners and governments to financially support young people affected by climate change.

The IYCS delegation also participated in other COP 27 events, gaining insight into the universality of environmental concerns that require everyone to protect the earth, our common home.



Furthermore, IYCS in its capacity as Global Focal Point of the Global Caucus for Youth in Faith under the Major Group for Children and Youth, participated in an interfaith youth side event meeting on 16th November 2022 organized by youth organizations and networks from different religions at COP27.

This event provided a platform for youth to share their concerns from faith perspectives and share common practices towards the care and preservation of the environment. The youths also had the opportunity to exchange ideas with seniors and experts that were present at the side event meeting, therefore opening up space for inter-generational conversation between the current leaders and custodians of present-day avenues to combating climate change impacts and securing the future as young leaders of today are set to hold positions of influence and critical decision making soon. These conversations were essential to ensuring no one is left behind in the climate crisis conversation, and thus acknowledging the younger generation's contribution today promises a better future.

However, one key takeaway from this conversation was the need for more resources at the disposal of the youth and competition among different youth groups engaging in similar actions and campaigns toward addressing the climate crisis. The young leaders committed to fostering collaboration amongst themselves to address the issue of competition and minimize the cost of organizing similar actions and campaigns. The youth leaders also appealed to partners, member states, and philanthropies to collaborate and support their initiatives toward addressing the climate crisis. A YouTube video is available here: <https://youtu.be/8XbTF3S-8n8>.



2. DOCUMENTARY VIDEO EXHIBIT

On the sidelines of COP27, IYCS together with the other Catholic actors, organized a video exhibit from 14-17 November 2022 on the thematic Category: Adaptation, Resilience, and Loss and Damage; Education, Training, and Public Awareness. The video exhibit highlighted the key messages of *The Letter* film. It also included a compilation of videos from direct witnesses and victims of loss and damage, human rights violations, environmental refugees, and the global south sharing their experiences, followed by a message targeting the worldwide north and a promotional segment.

3. THE CLIMATE ACTION STAGE

The IYCS Secretary-General was also invited by the Laudato Si Movement to share a testimony on the inspiration of the movie *The Letter* on the climate action stage that Kite Insights powered. The stage brought together more than 300 speakers from the climate action community to discuss, debate, and deliver concrete actions on climate change. Tapping into the hearts, heads, and minds of scientists, engineers, academics and business leaders, policymakers, and community leaders.



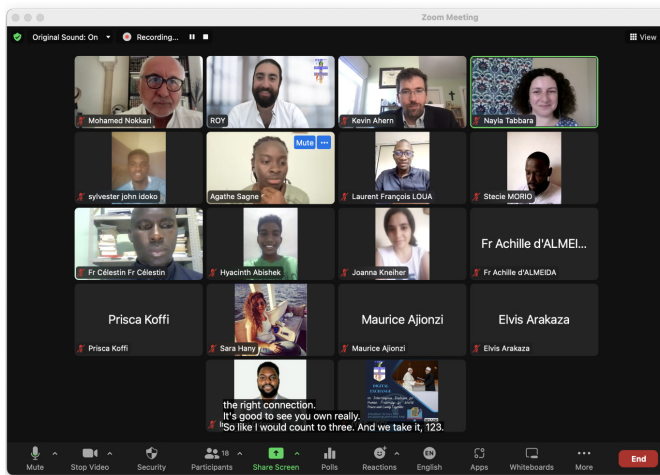
The sharing focused on gathering transformational stories from the front lines of climate change, where leaders discussed the opportunities and challenges inherent in leading the change. The leaders also highlighted how the impacts of climate change have transformed their lives in their countries and how they are coping and adapting to the new reality of climate change. This stage was also an opportunity to spread the messages of Laudato Si that are reflected in the protagonist's stories in *The Letter* film.

III. HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER

1.0 IYCS Human Fraternity Dialogue and Training

1.1 Launch of the initiative

On 30th July 2022, the International Young Catholic Students officially launched its Human Fraternity Project with the goal of promoting world peace and living together. The IYCS had developed a strategic initiative to mobilize the younger generation in human fraternity for world peace and living together, which aligned with the plan of action for 2020-2024 and addressed the key focus area 2.3 on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together.



In his address at the end of the General Audience on 2nd February 2022, Pope Francis emphasized the need for concrete steps towards human fraternity and peace, taken with the believers of other religions and people of goodwill. This IYCS Human Fraternity initiative aimed to train and promote interfaith dialogue among young people in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, in light of the growing religious hatred, discrimination, and conflicts worldwide. Interfaith Dialogue is a way to build trust and counter violence committed in the name of religion.



During the official launch, addresses were given on different thematic topics to enlighten the Young Catholic Student Leaders about the importance of human fraternity and its call for co-existence with people of other religions for peace and cooperation. Dr. Nayla Tabbarach (Director of the Adyan Institute and Vice Chair of Adyan Foundation in Lebanon) spoke on the background and development of the Al-Azhar Declaration, and Dr. Kevin Ahern (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Manhattan College in U.S.A) addressed the theological aspect of the Human Fraternity Document and the background and development of Fratelli Tutti. From the Muslim perspective, Sheikh Mohamed Al-Noqari (Beirut Sharia Judge, and University Professor also Former Director General of Dar Al Fatwa) discussed the human fraternity document concerning the Koran.



1.2 Interfaith Workshop in Taizé

From 13 - 17 July 2022, the Taizé Community hosted the 5th Interfaith Friendship Meeting between young Muslims and Christians. IYCS participated with a delegation of 5 members from Paris, along with young people from CoExister, Cedre - Secours Catholique, and the Massy Mosque along with their Imam. Over 100 young Christians and Muslims, primarily from France and a few other countries, joined the week-long event.

Interreligious dialogues can take many forms, including the dialogue of life, solidarity work, and theological reflection. At Taizé, the focus was on walking together on the spiritual path. The days were marked by the 3 Christian prayers held daily (8:15, 12:20, and 8:30 pm) with songs in Arabic and the Muslim prayers (4:30 am, 1:45 pm, and 9:30 pm), which many non-Muslims participated in. Afternoons ended with workshops open to all the young people, where IYCS had the opportunity to share their experiences of welcome, dialogue, and coexistence, even in challenging circumstances such as in Lebanon and Nigeria.



1.3 Middle East Regional Dialogue and Training

IYCS held a regional dialogue and training session in the Middle East at Jeita, Lebanon from **23 - 25 August 2022** under the theme **"Promoting Fraternity, Peaceful Co-existence, Tolerance, and Respect for Religious Diversity among Younger Generations."** The training and interfaith dialogue focused on the experiences of young people from diverse religious, cultural, and social backgrounds living in conflict-affected areas, who were not responsible for or initiators of such situations.

The aim was to educate young people on how to contribute to promotion of tolerance and end discrimination based on religion. The regional training and dialogue was inspired by the messages of the Human Fraternity Document, Al-Azhar Declaration, and Fratelli Tutti as way to promoting values of solidarity and living together among people of different faith and communities.

The expected outcome was to create a platform for the youth in the Middle East to engage in the values of fraternity, peaceful co-existence, respect, tolerance, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue.



The regional training session examined successful activities and strategies for peaceful co-existence, exploring how they translate the messages of Fratelli Tutti, the Human Fraternity Document, and the Al-Azhar Declaration into action. New strategies, actions, and recommendations were drawn up to guide young people in promoting solidarity among diverse religious groups in the region. The experiences of conviviality, including its challenges and difficulties, were shared with the reality of the Middle Eastern countries.



Many questions were raised about identity, roots, and the origins of the lands in the Middle East. These questions also included how people lived with this reality at the time, even though it was not new in the region. For centuries, Christians and Muslims have lived together in Arab countries, particularly in the Levant and Egypt. However, with the changing realities and emerging questions. Creating a safe and suitable environment for deeper reflection was necessary. An effort was made to answer these questions using the Human Fraternity Document, approved by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb of Al-Azhar in 2019.



To achieve this integration, the interfaith dialogue conference aimed to address the psychological aspect by filtering all the thoughts, feelings, and beliefs that the participants held towards others, especially those from opposing parties, that were a result of wrong ideas and beliefs within people, which may have arisen from inherited habits or negative experiences. It aimed to address the abuses that young people may face in religiously diverse societies and how to overcome them. The interfaith dialogue conference also sought to clarify human needs in general and contribute to understanding the behaviour and actions of others. It focused on providing a proper display and detailed explanation of documents that discussed issues of peace and conviviality and provided opportunities for exchanging experiences, concerns, and life testimonies in the presence of Muslim youth participating in the conference. This aimed to create a model for a real, secure society open to all, accepting freedom of belief and seeing others as partners and supporters in their homeland.

To achieve this, direct invitations were made by specialists from different cultural, religious, and social backgrounds to share their expertise with the participating youth.

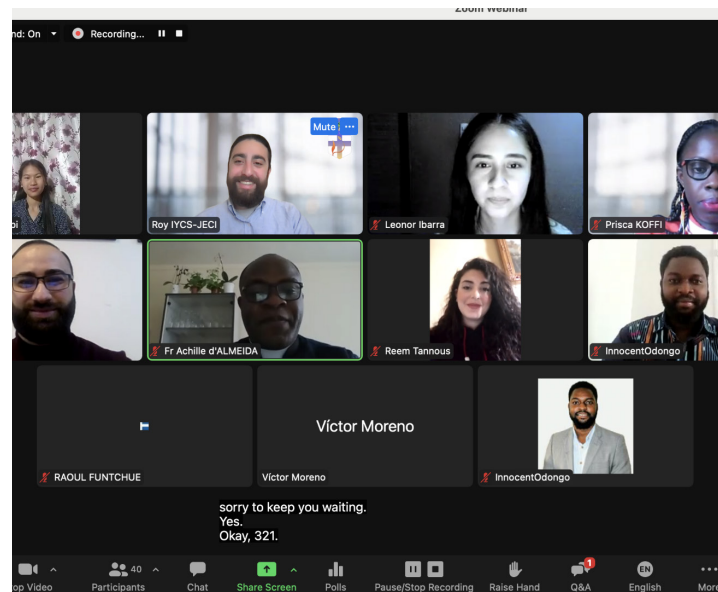


The conference also hosted several local associations that were directly involved in religious dialogue and conviviality, such as the "Adyan" Foundation, "Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation" (DLR) association, and the "World Student Christian Federation" (WSCF). The interfaith dialogue conference was also attended by youth chaplains in Lebanon and Jordan, some former members of JEC Lebanon, and several journalists from various written, visual, and audio media outlets.

IV. YOUTH MINISTRY (Spirituality, Formation and Accompaniment)

1.1. Synodality Consultation

The IYCS engaged her members in the Synodality process initiated by the Church to ensure that no young person is left behind in matters of faith, Church, and society. The IYCS International Team worked with Regional and National Coordinators to coordinate this initiative through intergenerational dialogue with former members to foster the exchange of experiences across different generations, improve understanding, and bring the voices of the laity into decision-making on matters critical to their life and faith. We organized various physical meetings, digital surveys, and webinars, to explore the meaning of synodality and share experiences and initiatives of spirituality.

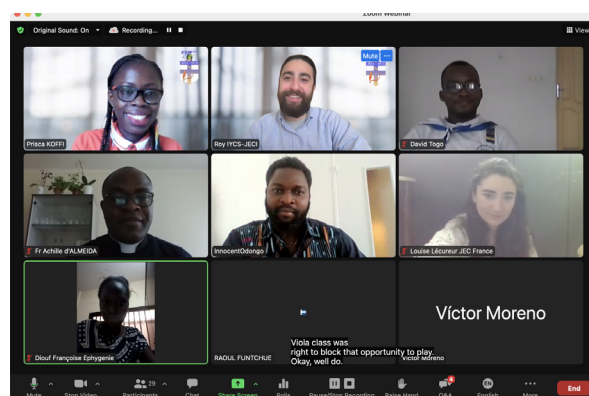


The spiritual aspect of young people has been greatly impacted by new movements and prosperity gospel, exacerbated by the fast rate of globalization and the digital environment. There is need for the church to rise to these changes. The invitation by the Holy Father for a Synodal Church provides an excellent opportunity to re-engage Catholic youth in discussions about mission of the Church as they transition into responsible, morally upright, and committed Christians. The acumen of collected contributions is as follows:

A - COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

It was highlighted that what brings people together in Church most often is their faith in God, commitment, and communion with Christ and others through the Eucharist. The belief in Christ as God and Saviour fills people with grace, and they thank and praise Him for being with them and their families and to all humankind. People recognize that God's love brings everyone together, and as created beings, they are called to contemplate their Creator and love other creatures. To contemplate God, people listen to His Word and participate in Holy Sacraments, especially during the Eucharist at Church. It was also noted that many people had left the Church at some point for various reasons.

Some have placed an overgrown faith in earthly things instead of spiritual realms, while others have felt that their religion doesn't resonate with a pre-set catechism that describes the Creator like the one presented by the Church. Another reason worth contemplating is that some couldn't see the clergy leading by example and giving a wrong impression of religious Christians by mumming words instead of putting into action the Verbs of God.



B - LISTENING & SPEAKING OUT

In Asia and Africa, Young Catholic Students feel that the Church listens to them and allows them to freely express their opinions and carry out activities using the "See, Judge, Act" methodology. They have a good space in the Church to implement these activities, but more efforts are needed for effective involvement in decision-making.

Communication can also be difficult due to protocol in the Church. However, Leaders in some regions reported that their opinions still need to be fully considered during meetings, despite trying to speak up. They feel that the Clergy lacks confidence in lay contributions to decision-making, and there is a lack of space for them in pastoral work. The Church needs to be more attentive to the needs of young people and value their contributions, even in doctrinal discussions. Youth engagement and activities should be prioritized since they are the future of the Church.

C - DIALOGUE IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY

According to our Young Catholic Leaders in the regions, disputes amongst members of the communities are usually resolved through humble discussions and incorporating Christian values. Mediation seminars led by lay and religious people also resolve conflicts. Within the Movement, the See-Judge-Act methodology is recommended for solving problems and misunderstandings with the help of chaplains. These problems may arise from differences in ways of working or leading the mission, but the issues are resolved through evaluation and transformation of opinions into diversities. In Latin American countries, parishes and pastoral communities' justice and peace committee leads this problem-solving procedure.



D - TRAINING FOR SYNODALITY

To enhance the connection between the faithful and holy heritages, churches organize parish, diocesan and national pilgrimages to educate all ages, especially young adults, about the lives of the Saints and Fathers of the Church. To reflect the needs of young people, several National Secretariats have created committees responsible for training and development, with working groups such as the social committee and public relations committee.

Local YCS Movements offer various training courses and events such as Laymen's training weekends, bible courses, and Youth celebrations to build youth capacities and promote effective participation in the Church's life. Coordinating Councils of Catholic Youth Action, such as CCACJ in Lomé with JEC Togo, bring together youth movements and associations to foster synergy of action in the Church, with YCS being a prominent movement to promote participation.

To improve decision-making in the Church, communication and active listening are essential. Everyone should have the chance to express themselves freely without fear of judgment, and listening with an open heart can lead to transformation and inclusive decision-making. Youth clubs and movements are motivated by the Church's openness and increasing youth engagement in pastoral work.

E - RECOMMENDATIONS

To promote a greater level of involvement from young people in decision-making, it was noted that the clergy and young people must make efforts. For the clergy, this includes making young people more involved in Church affairs, initiating socio-cultural frameworks to incorporate the aspirations of young people such as dance, theatre, music, and other arts, promoting the creation of agro-pastoral and socio-professional centres for young people that take into account their vital needs, and initiating intergenerational exchanges between young people and elders to share real-life experience, especially from the professional generation.

As for the young people, they must be in harmony with the doctrines of the Church, such as consciously understanding why the sacrament of marriage is recommended in the Church. They should also encourage young people to become more rooted in the faith, for example, through organizing meditations and Lectio Divina at all levels (children, young people, and adults) to enable the faithful to know the Light within and to become more rooted in the faith. Young people should also rise and defend the Church of Christ, as they are its present and future, full of love, energy, and motivation, acting as authentic apostles of Christ.



If young Catholic Students had the opportunity to meet the Holy Father Pope Francis to discuss their faith and the Church, they would express gratitude for all he is doing for the Universal Church and encourage him to continue upholding the Catholic Church's doctrines and faith. They would also express their desire to be more involved in working together for the common good of the Church, society, and the world. The Young Catholic Students call upon His Holiness Pope Francis to encourage the clergy to have more trust in young people in the Church and to give more opportunities to the laity to be involved in apostolic work. They also expressed that the laity is the Church's future and needs the clergy's support in rehabilitation and empowerment in pastoral service. The Church has accompanied and listened to young people however, the students feel that more freedom of expression should be promoted during pastoral meetings, and other spaces should be created for young people to deepen their faith. The students hope that communication between young people and ecclesial institutions can be developed to restore confidence in oneself and the Church.

The Young Catholic Students now call upon the Church to reconsider their support for ecclesial movements and associations. These groups are critical in bringing the youth and the laity closer together and engaging in pastoral service. The Young Catholic Students believe that the Church should initiate socio-cultural frameworks for evangelization that consider young people's aspirations, such as dances, theatre, and music. They feel that the potential of Catholic youth is tremendous, and tapping into it will guarantee the future of the Church and its pastoral service. Therefore, the Young Catholic Students call upon the Church to include youth networks, associations, and movements in a structural framework within Church management at all levels.

2.2. Synodality Consultation Meeting Taizé Community

From 10 - 12 July 2022, on the invitation of the Taizé Community, a meeting brought together representatives of several national youth ministry services and Catholic Movements involved in ecumenism and Protestant and Anglican Christians to explore the project for a "Gathering of the People of God." The discussions focused on the question: how can the Synodal pathway which is taking place in the Catholic Church become a decisive moment in the search for unity among Christians and the whole human family, and how can we encourage the involvement of young people in this process?

The Programme Coordinator participated in that meeting, where participants expressed interest in the event and a desire to help with its planning. They also emphasized the significance of the ecumenical aspect of such a meeting and called for young people to be actively involved in its planning and implementation. Working groups are being formed to further the discussion further. Taizé would be prepared to assist with planning the prayer vigil or collaborate with the Vicariate of Rome to host young people in the parishes.



During the preparation meeting in Taizé in November 2022, more than 75 delegates from various Churches, ecclesial organizations, communities, and youth pastoral services came together to continue the preparation for the project. Roy Ibrahim, the IYCS Programme Coordinator and Kiara Gigacz from JEC France represented our Movement. The meeting included a welcome from various Church leaders, a meditation on a biblical text, a presentation on the project by members of Taizé, and an open exchange in plenary, with many interventions from Church leaders and young participants who shared their expectations and hopes. There were also nine working groups on different topics, such as support for praying and meditating on the Word, contacts with local authorities, and hospitality. **The "Gathering of the People of God" project aims to bring together young adults aged 18-35 from different Christian denominations to celebrate their faith in Rome, Italy, in late September/early October 2023.** The project also includes a prayer vigil, workshops, and other events in various places around Rome and other cities worldwide for those who cannot attend in person. The meeting concluded with feedback on the different work groups and a discussion of how to invite people to the gathering and who would be ready to get involved in various aspects of the preparation.



3.0 World Youth Day Preparatory Meeting - Fatima

The World Catholic Youth Gathering in August 2023 began with a preparatory session from 18 - 19 October 2022 at the Marian City of Fatima. Teams from the WYD Local Organizing Committees, representatives of episcopal conferences, and youth ministry worldwide came together to kick off the event. Over 300 delegates, including the IYCS Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim and International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille D'Almeida, participated in the meeting.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell called the preparatory meeting for the World Catholic Youth Gathering in Fatima "special," as it marks the first in-person meeting of youth ministry delegates since November 2020. He emphasized the importance of building bridges between delegates from different nations and cultures and encouraged young people to take the lead in shaping the pilgrimage. He acknowledged the logistical efforts involved in organizing such a large event and the many "hidden and small" fruits that come from it, such as calls to the priesthood and consecrated life, marriages, and activism for the needy and the environment.



On the first day of the event, prominent figures such as Bishop Manuel Clemente, the Cardinal-Patriarch of Lisbon; Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life; the President of the National Assembly of Portugal; and several Bishops, Priests, and religious leaders were in attendance. All the speakers emphasized the event's significance for young people and the world. Bishop Manuel Clemente stated, "We must offer not only the Church and young Catholics, but also Portuguese society, a chance for rejuvenation - a new way of being, of living together, of speaking, of expressing opinions, and of creating a future. And a World Youth Day is the perfect opportunity for this, as we have seen from previous events since the 1980s."

He invited all to form a strong community of prayer in Fatima and open themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Augusto Santos Silva, President of the Portuguese Parliament, participated in the international preparatory meeting for World Youth Day 2023, which will take place in Lisbon from 1 - 6 August 2022. He stated that Portugal is ready to host the event, expected to gather over one million young people, and expressed full support for WYD initiatives related to youth and civic education.

The Local Organizing Committee provided information on all topics, including the programme, central events, catechesis, ecology, finances, and more. All 18 Portuguese dioceses and the Fatima Shrine will welcome attendees.

Young people's investment was highlighted, specifically the international group that emerged from the 2018 youth synod and worked with Father Joao Chaggas and Father Alexander in Rome. The intense preparation days are a chance to pray and share with delegations worldwide.



On 19th October 2022, numerous topics were discussed among the attendees in a fraternal and benevolent atmosphere. The President of Portugal sent a special video emphasizing the significance of World Youth Day (WYD) in constructing the peace that the world desperately yearned for. In the evening, everyone joined in a shared prayer of the rosary with children from around the world in the chapel of the apparitions at the Sanctuary of Fatima.



Throughout the day, preparations for WYD continued as the focus shifted to the registration process, the days in dioceses, and the recruitment of 15,000 volunteers. The Lisbon Local Organizing Committee (LOC) team presented innovative ideas in each of these areas and received well-deserved congratulations. During group sharing sessions, attendees brought up their expectations for the event, with visas being a recurrent concern among many pilgrims, mainly from Africa. Father Joao Chagas reminded everyone that WYD is an exceptional event that requires extraordinary efforts from everyone involved, including the Church, government, and various teams. In the afternoon, the group visited the locations where the major events would occur.





3.0 MOVEMENT ACCOMPANIMENT

3.1. JEC FRANCE

In February 2022, the leaders of various JEC groups met at the diocesan spiritual centre of Nancy to discuss the international dimension of the IYCS and how JEC France can contribute to international programmes. They engaged in team-building activities, and discussed various topics, including the roles of managers, tools for new managers, and training possibilities. The discussions were productive, and all suggestions were considered.

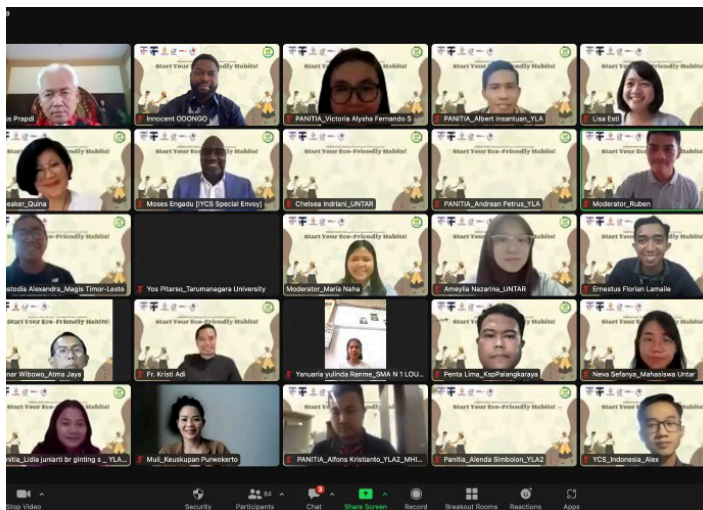
The IYCS International Team was thrilled to be invited to participate in the annual leisure (ludique) Weekend Ludique of JEC France, which took place from 8 - 10 July 2022 in the beautiful region of Metz. The event centred on a spiritual journey "on the road" to Saint Jacques de Compostelle. Participants were encouraged to reflect on the weekend's theme by sharing their testimonies and exploring the day's gospel. This provided a unique opportunity to delve into the meaning of "getting started," asking questions such as "when did I start?" and "are there any brakes or levers I should be aware of?". In addition to the spiritual journey, IYCS had the pleasure of setting up camp at Camping Le Paquis, where we enjoyed various fun games such as petanque and werewolf.

On 30th April 2022, the International Team also participated in the JEC France's National Meeting in Paris. Activities included testimonials, meetings, and workshops and the launching of the new

JEC France Report as well as the Orientations for the coming years. It also facilitated intergenerational dialogue around the thematic focus of the movement since its founding.



3.2. YCS INDONESIA - The Young Leader Academy (YLA)



The Young Leader Academy (YLA) is an annual leadership programme founded by a Young Catholic Student with the support of the Youth Commission of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference. YLA aims to build transformative leaders who can serve others, the nation, and nature using Christian spirituality and the YCS methodology of "See-Judge-Act."

In 2022, YLA held an online webinar focused on climate change, specifically in the Indonesian context. Indonesia was the second-largest producer of waste in the world after China, producing 21.88 million tons of waste in 2021, according to the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Although stakeholders proposed numerous solutions, it would take a collective effort from various parties to create awareness and prevent environmental damage.

To raise awareness, YLA organized the MAGIC webinar on five eco-friendly habits, including reducing food waste, walking to work, sustainable eating, composting, and reusing. The speakers shared more about each habit, and participants were encouraged to share their experiences and apply eco-friendly practices to their daily lives. The keynote speakers, Mr. Innocent Odongo IYCS Secretary General and Mr. Moses Engadu, IYCS Special Envoy for Sustainable Development, spoke on global environmental and climate change policies.

3.3. YCS UGANDA

On 23rd September 2023, the IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo visited the Uganda YCS National Office, where he met with the National Team, National Chaplain, and Mr. Moses Ojok, a Member of the Youth Advisory Board of the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life.

The IYCS Secretary-General praised the efforts of the Uganda YCS in fostering youth leadership and faith development and encouraged them to continue their excellent work. He also highlighted the importance of the youth voice in shaping the future of the Church and society and emphasized the role of the IYCS in empowering young people to make a positive impact.

During the meeting, the National Team shared updates on their ongoing projects and initiatives, including their outreach programs and advocacy efforts. The IYCS Secretary-General listened intently and offered valuable insights and suggestions on how to enhance their impact.



After the meeting, the Secretary-General visited a local YCS chapter, where they engaged with the young members and participated in a lively discussion on faith, leadership, and community service. The visit was an opportunity for the Secretary-General to see first-hand the positive impact of the YCS on the young people in the community. Overall, the visit of the IYCS Secretary-General to the Uganda YCS was a success and demonstrated the strong commitment of the IYCS to supporting and empowering young people in their faith journey and leadership development.

3.4. JEC LEBANON



During the trip to Lebanon in August 2022, before the launch of the Middle East Regional Dialogue and Training, the IYCS Secretary General Mr. Innocent Odongo and Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim had the opportunity to engage in several activities related to cultural exchange and visits to local JEC groups from 17 - 19 August 2022. One of the highlights of the trip was our visit to several historic sites in the company of the JEC Lebanon Chaplain and the national team members,

as well as some regional secretariat leaders to understand the cultural dynamics and religious diversity in the country to help the Team better prepare for the community immersion during regional dialogue and training.

On 18th August, we visited JEC Zahle, a very active and historic JEC group in Lebanon. We engaged in a number of discussions with the students and regional team members and chaplain, and were impressed with the level of commitment and engagement they demonstrated even during hard times. The discussions ranged from academic topics to cultural exchange and personal experiences, and we were able to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by young people in Lebanon. Throughout our trip, we were struck by the resilience and hospitality of the people of Lebanon, despite the many challenges they face. We were also impressed by the rich history and cultural heritage of the region, and the efforts being made to preserve and promote it.

In conclusion, our visit to historic sites with the chaplain and secretariat members, and our discussions with students at JEC Zahle, provided us with a valuable opportunity to learn about the history, culture, and educational landscape of Lebanon. We hope to continue building bridges between our international secretariat and the national movements in different countries and promoting greater understanding and appreciation of each other's dynamics.



3.5 JEC EGYPT

In August 2022, IYCS organized a training and dialogue session for Middle East Coordination in Lebanon. Following that, the IYCS Secretary General and the IYCS Africa Regional Coordinator visited JEC Egypt on 19th November 2022 to follow up on the progress. During the visit, they had a fruitful exchange with the local team, discussing their experiences after participating in the Middle East Regional Training and Dialogue. The visit proved to be a great opportunity to share knowledge and learn from each other's experiences, which has had a positive impact on the mission and work of both the local team and the IYCS.

Furthermore, the visit also included an exciting opportunity to join the local team in Cairo for a school animation activity. This experience provided the IYCS team with first hand exposure to the local action of the Movement in Egypt. The activity was an excellent chance for the IYCS Team to learn and experience the work being done by the Movement in Egypt, and they were able to witness the positive impact it was having on the local community.



3.6 MCE Portugal

During IYCS visit to Fatima in Portugal, the IYCS International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille D'Almeida and Programme Coordinator Mr. Roy Ibrahim met with the national team members of MCE during which we had the chance to discuss a range of issues related to the movement in Portugal. We learned about the team's plans for the European Committee, including their vision for the future and the challenges they face. We also had the opportunity to discuss the preparations for World Youth Day 2023, and the role that the Movement would play in this important event. After the meeting, we had a walk around the Fatima Shrine. The Shrine is an important pilgrimage site for Catholics around the world, and we were able to witness the devotion and faith of the many pilgrims who were present. We also had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Shrine, and the role it has played in the spiritual life of Portugal and the wider Catholic world.

During our visit, we learned about the challenges facing the movement in Portugal. These include the challenge of attracting young people, the need to adapt to changing social and cultural trends, and the need to address issues related to inequality and social justice. Despite these challenges, however, we were impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the national team members, and their commitment to making a positive difference in the world. In conclusion, our visit to Fatima in Portugal was a valuable opportunity to learn about the MCE Movement. We look forward to continuing building relationships with the national team members and supporting their efforts.



4. REGIONAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

4.1. IYCS AFRICA COORDINATION

4.1.1 Improving Educational Opportunities for Girls Project in Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, and South Sudan

Access to education is a fundamental right and critical to the development of girls and their communities. However, many young girls face significant educational barriers due to cultural, social, and economic activities. The Covid-19 pandemic further worsened the plight of girls, with many not returning to school after the protracted lockdowns having fallen pregnant. The project was set out to raise awareness among the students and communities on the importance of girls accessing and completing education and the contributing sociocultural issues to influence behaviour change.



The students and communities were trained on the rights to education, gender dynamics, and how they affect the girl child, as well as the building their capacity to raise awareness and advocate around the various sociocultural barriers for girls accessing education. 200 Young Catholic Students from the 4 countries of Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, and South Sudan were trained. They went on to replicate the training in their schools and engaged in a number of activities like social media awareness on social cultural barriers, debates, radio shows, and engaging with local leadership. Policy recommendations have been gathered from the various engagements and will be presented to the respective ministries through policy briefs.



4.1 2 The Exchange Programme between Kenyan and German Students about SDG 5: Gender Equality

IYCS Africa partnered with a German youth organization, Ludwig Wolker E.V., for an international youth exchange to create a platform for 14 young people from Kenya and Germany to reflect on SDG 5:

Gender Equality with particular emphasis on Gender-based violence and raise awareness on gender issues affecting the youth. During the two exchange visits, one in April 2022 and one in August 2022, the participants explored the realities around GBV in both countries, met with the government, and interacted with the youths and local communities; in the end, the participants created digital advocacy stories from their experiences. The digital campaign, featured during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in November 2022, highlighted issues such as menstrual poverty, sexual abuse of young women in educational institutions, and harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, among others. The online campaign has been cited as good practice by the German Office for Youth in Africa (engagement global).

4.1.3. Humanitarian support to internally displaced people- Burkina Faso

The devastating effects of climate change have contributed to increased conflicts and wars in the Sahel. Many people are internally displaced because of the conflict. Women, youth, and children are often disproportionately affected and find themselves in unbearable living conditions, without access to economic activity to support themselves, and often dependent on aid for their livelihood. With displacement, children are disrupted in school and suffer trauma that affects their mental well-being.

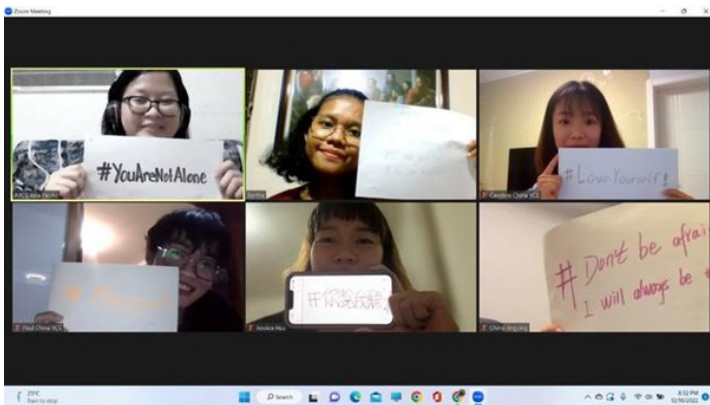
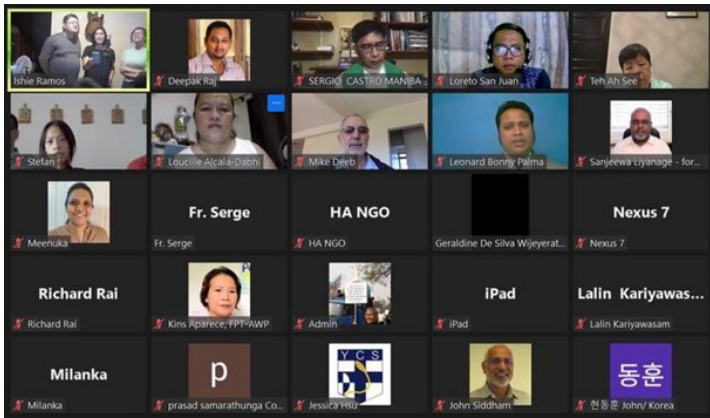
Conflict is also inevitable in the camps as people fight over limited resources. In response to the growing needs of IDPs, IYCS Africa, in partnership with Religions for Peace (RfP), implemented a project to provide humanitarian support, psycho-social support and promote peaceful co-existence to IDPs in Burkina Faso. The project involved young people through discussions, art, and sport, reaching more than 100 with messages of peace and psycho-social support.



4.2. IYCS ASIA COORDINATION

4.2.1. Honouring the Legacy of Fr. Chrispin Leo: IYCS Asia Holds Virtual Memorial Mass with Asian Alumni

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) Asia Coordination organized a virtual memorial mass on 2nd October 2022 to pay tribute to Fr. Chrispin Leo, a notable figure in the YCS Movement in Asia. The mass was attended by Asian alumni and members of the movement who were deeply impacted by Fr. Chrispin's contributions to the growth and development of the organization.



Fr. Chrispin Leo was known for his unwavering dedication to the YCS Movement in Asia. He spent his life working towards empowering young Catholics to be active agents of change in their communities. He was a passionate advocate for social justice, human rights, and the promotion of values that fostered peace and equality. During the memorial mass, Asian alumni shared their fond memories of Fr. Chrispin and how his teachings and mentorship impacted their lives.



They recounted how he inspired them to be courageous in their convictions and to work towards creating a better world. The virtual memorial was an opportunity for the YCS community to come together to honour Fr. Chrispin's legacy and to celebrate his life. The event served as a reminder of the important role that he played in shaping the YCS Movement in Asia, and the impact that he had on the lives of countless young people.

The Mass organized by IYCS Asia Coordination highlighted the profound impact that Fr Leo had on the YCS Movement in Asia, and the enduring legacy that he leaves behind. His teachings and mentorship continue to inspire young people today to be agents of change in their communities, and to work towards creating a more just and equitable world.

4.2.2 Continued Learning and Action Program (CLAP)

The International Young Catholic Students (YCS) Asia Coordination and Pax Romana IMCS Asia Pacific have joined forces to conduct a Continued Learning and Action Program (CLAP) 2022 Workshop. The workshop aims to equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed to address critical issues affecting their communities.



IMCS Pax Romana Asia Pacific
Continued Learning and Action Program
(CLAP) 2022



CLAP WORKSHOP
on
**Culture, Diversity,
& Identities**

Friday: November 18, 25, December 2 & 9
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM MNL Time
via ZOOM

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/CLAPDiversity>
OR SCAN TO REGISTER





@imcs_pax_roma_asia_pacific



The CLAP 2022 Workshop focused on two thematic themes: Culture, Diversity, and Identity and Bullying. The first workshop aimed to explore the importance of embracing diversity and promoting cultural understanding in creating peaceful and inclusive societies. The second workshop aimed to raise awareness on the issue of bullying and provide practical strategies to address and prevent it. The workshops were led by experienced trainers and facilitators who shared their expertise and provided valuable insights on the topics. The participants were engaged in interactive activities, discussions, and role-plays that encouraged critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The CLAP 2022 Workshop provided a platform for young people to come together and learn from one another. It enabled them to share their experiences and perspectives on issues that affect them personally and their communities. The workshop also fostered a sense of community and solidarity among the participants, who were inspired to act and create positive change in their communities.

The workshop emphasized the importance of working together to create a better and more just world.



4.2.3. End of Year with Christmas Party

The International Young Catholic Students (YCS) Asia Coordination and Pax Romana IMCS Asia Pacific, together with the Students Catholic Action (SCA) Philippines, organized a Christmas party to celebrate the end of 2022.

The event was an opportunity for the Movements community to come together and reflect on the past year, give thanks for God's protection from the COVID-19 pandemic, and pray for those who are affected by the virus.



The Christmas party was a festive and joyful occasion, which provided an opportunity for the Leaders to connect with one another and strengthen their relationships. The Christmas party also included a prayer service where they offered prayers for those who are sick with COVID-19 and for those who have lost loved ones to the pandemic.

The service was a solemn and reflective moment that reminded everyone of the importance of compassion and solidarity during these challenging times. It was a celebration of the resilience and strength of the Movements' community in the face of adversity. The event also served as a reminder of the importance of faith, hope, and love in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic.

In conclusion, the Christmas party organized was a great success. It was a testament to the strong bonds and sense of community that exist within the Movements. It provided a much-needed opportunity for the participants to come together, celebrate, and give thanks for the many blessings of the past year.

4.3 JECI-MIEC EUROPE COORDINATION

4.3.1. JECI-MIEC Training Session in Budapest

The Study Session “Active Peace – Students strengthening peace through Human Rights’ Education, organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe’s European Youth Centre in Budapest, took place from 1 - 7 May 2022. Thirty-two participants from 12 different countries attended it.



The study session aimed to support young people with knowledge, skills, resources, and space to become agents of change and peace-builders with tools for active citizenship by understanding acts of non-physical violence as infringements of peace and enabling young students to protect peace and promote peace-building through Human Rights’ education. The study session allowed the exchange of perspective, cultural understanding, and the creation and development of relationships and links between the participants and, consequently, between the organizations to which they belong, favouring intercultural dialogue and collaboration.

The participants reinforced the opportunity to act as multipliers in national organizations on topics such as Human Rights Education, Council of Europe manuals, and new methodologies, such as living library and forum theatre. With this purpose, at the end of the session, the participants planned four follow-up projects to be implemented at the local and national levels to disseminate the session’s outcomes. The four different topics correspond to the more intensively discussed subjects: The social teaching of the Catholic Church, religious freedom, discrimination, and communication skills.

STUDY SESSION 2022
*Students strengthening peace through
 Human Rights’ Education*

1st - 7th May 2022
Budapest, Hungary

<http://www.jecimiec.eu>

This Study Session is designed for members of JECI-MIEC and other student organizations in Europe.

Logos: Council of Europe, European Youth Centre, JECI-MIEC, and other partner organizations.

4.3.2. European Youth Forum (EYF)

The European Youth Forum is a network of European youth organizations and national youth councils in Europe, of which JECI-MIEC has been a member for several years.



In 2022, we were present at a workshop on the status and council of members. Two delegates also represented JECI-MIEC at the General Assembly in November. The European Youth Forum has published several policy papers and lobbies, for example, against unpaid internships. More information can be found on the European Youth Forum website. A significant change this year is a decision to change the membership fee. This will significantly benefit JECI-MIEC as our membership fee will be much lower.

4.3.3. European Committee 2022

The European Committee 2022, was held in Cluj Napoca, Romania from 28 – 30 October 2022. The European Committee is the highest decision-making body of the European Coordination JECI-MIEC, and its most important annual event. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the previous year's achievements and plan for the future.

The Committee had a program that spanned over three days, including a series of reports by the member organizations and the European Team, along with the financial and narrative reports.

The election of the Presidium and Minute taker took place on the second day, along with the adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the previous year. Additionally, the voting for the New Coordinator and Teams was held.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE 2022

28-30TH OCTOBER
CLUJ-NAPOCA (ROMANIA)



In conclusion, we appreciate the efforts of all the participating organizations and hope that the outcomes of the European Committee 2022 will have a positive impact on the future of the European Coordination JECI-MIEC.



4.4. JECI MIDDLE EAST COORDINATION

4.4.1. IYCS Human Fraternity Dialogue and Training in Lebanon

On 8th July 2022, ahead of the Middle East Human Fraternity Regional Training and Dialogue that was scheduled in Lebanon. IYCS organized a preparatory meeting to ensure everything would run smoothly during the event.



The meeting was attended by representatives from each participating country, who discussed the programme, logistics and practical aspects of the conference. They planned sessions to address the topic of Christian youth in the Middle East, primarily to address the challenges of conviviality in multi-religious societies in the Middle East and to issue a call for living in peace starting from small communities and progressing to countries and the world. The meeting concluded with an agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each participating country, in ensuring the success of the conference.

A follow-up meeting was held with the JEC Middle East Chaplain, Father Joseph Salloum, during a visit to the International Secretariat office in Paris two weeks before the event.



4.4.2. Middle East Regional Council Meeting

The JEC Middle East Conference took place from 19 - 22 August 2022, at the Monastery of the "Ointment Bearers" in Jeita, Lebanon. The conference's theme was "The truth will set you free". It aimed to promote encounter, discussion, and team building among participating countries. The meeting began with an opening holy mass, followed by an evening of networking and ice-breaking games.



The second day featured a lecture on team building, a speech on thoughts and beliefs, and a spiritual lecture on the Bible.

In a keynote speech by the Secretary-General of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), Mr. Innocent Odongo discussed the statute of the IYCS adopted by the World Council held in 200, highlighting article 7 of the statute about the Regional Committees/ Councils. He underlined the importance of devoting a place to local movements, allowing them to adequately implement the global action plan in the Middle East region. He also discussed the importance of a regional secretariat and committees in the Middle East capable of implementing the IYCS Global Action Plan and projecting the spirituality of the YCS Movement. The Secretary-General added that the Regional Council is responsible for organizing local conferences and making decisions for the coming years. The intervention also included a brief history of the International Secretariat, including its establishment in Paris in 1946 and the election of coordinators in Paris.



The delegates presented updates about their National Movements during the meeting. The group identified practical action points, including improving coordination among national movements, organizing training sessions for leaders, clarifying the role of the coordinator, and strengthening media teams. The group also suggested appointing a Deputy General Coordinator for Coordination. The action points are aimed at bringing together and unifying the Middle East Movements. To achieve this, various steps are proposed, such as inviting national movements to participate in local camps, activating coordination pages on social media, organizing meetings at the Middle East level with members, preparing a unified program for all countries, conducting projects to support the activities of the coordination, promoting the idea of belonging to the homeland, and standardizing the actions.

The third day was a day for immersion in society and included a visit to the Lebanese city of Sidon, where delegates learned about its historical identity and archaeological character. They also visited the shrine of Our Lady of Mantara, followed by lunch and a meeting with local movement members. The day ended with dialogue sessions, games, and a celebration of Middle Eastern folklore.



On 22nd August 2022, the day began with a prayer led by the Syrian delegates, followed by a lecture by Dr. Marina Fahim on "Needs and Abuses". The lecture highlighted ten basic psychological needs humans must continuously satisfy to live a balanced life. Participants engaged in workshops to understand the impact of not meeting these needs in childhood, the ability to meet these needs in a diverse society, and the role of Christians in meeting the needs of those who are religiously different from them. After a break and fun games, Dr. Fahim presented on abusive impacts, particularly on religiously different people.

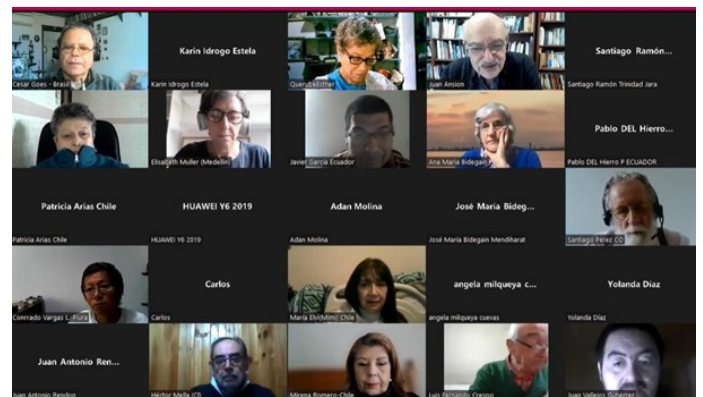
The day ended with the election of a new senior coordinator Mr. Emad Shakar and a folklore celebration where participating countries presented part of their heritage and traditions to the delegates to learn more about different cultures and exchange souvenirs. Participants shared what they learned, experienced, and hoped to become more open-minded people who coexist with others more maturely after the conference.

4.5. JECI-MIEC LATIN AMERICA COORDINATION

The year 2022 has provided opportunities to strengthen ties with other regions and participate in international events. However, the impact of the pandemic and virtuality cannot be ignored and has made it challenging to maintain a sense of togetherness and community dynamics of National Movements. The year has been a mix of experiences, with challenges and opportunities. It is essential to continue working towards strengthening the communities and adapting to the changing times. In 2022, the following activities were conducted:



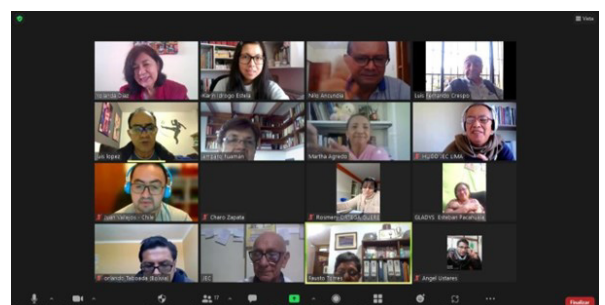
The advisors shared valuable insights into improving the students' engagement in the Church and community development in the region. The Advisors also shared their experiences and challenges in supporting the communities, including financial constraints, lack of resources, and cultural differences. They highlighted different perspectives and experiences across the region and provided valuable insights into how to improve the student's Movement and ensure that students are well supported and empowered.



It is essential to continue holding these types of meetings to promote dialogue, exchange ideas, and collaborate to create a better experience for Catholic Students in Latin America. As a follow up, a course for advisors of student and professional movements was conducted in coordination with CELAM and the International Movement of Catholic Intellectuals in the month of May and July 2022. The sessions covered theological themes, a review of life, and the study of Church teachings. In the past few years, the Latin America Region has also experienced the departure of several senior advisors who have supported the Movements for many years and to honour their memory and valuable contributions to the work of the Movement, a thanksgiving event was held on 23rd July 2022.

4.5.1 JEC Advisors Day & Training

On 23rd April 2022, a meeting was held with the Advisors of Latin American Catholic Student Movements to gather comments and experiences on how to support the students.





In the photo, the certificate of participation in the Movement is displayed alongside the photograph of Father Paco, who was a organizer of the event.

4.5.3. JEC Peru Anniversary

JEC Peru celebrated its 62nd anniversary with a virtual activity from 8 - 13 August 2022. The event consisted of three days of activities that allowed members to participate in various events and engage in meaningful discussions.

**JUVENTUD ESTUDIANTIL CATOLICA
JEC PERÚ**



**GRACIAS SEÑOR POR LOS
62 AÑOS EVANGELIZANDO
A LOS JÓVENES SECUNDARIOS**



8 - 10 y 13 DE AGOSTO DEL 2022

4.5.2 MUC Bolivia - Biblical Fair:

The Catholic University Movement (MUC Potosí), our member Movement in Bolivia participated in the Bible Fair organized by the Diocese of Potosi on 24th September 2022 focusing on the symbolic numbers of the Bible. As part of her contribution, the MUC Potosí developed a didactic game that allowed the attendees to participate and share their knowledge on the subject.

The game proved to be a successful and engaging way to share information and foster a better understanding of the symbolic numbers of the Bible. Attendees could participate in the game and test their knowledge. The game was an effective way to engage the community and create a fun and interactive learning experience.

A panel discussion held during the event focused on ***"How are classes and secondary education currently?"***. The panel allowed members to share their experiences and perspectives on the current state of secondary education and the challenges facing students.

The event also featured a display of posters or banners made by members of each centre, focusing on the theme: “What is the JEC for you”. This event allowed members to express their feelings and emotions about being a part of the JEC and to share what the movement meant to them.

It concluded, on Saturday, 13th August 2022, with a “celebration of the word” animated by the laymen and women of the Movement.

This event was the anniversary celebration’s highlight, as it allowed members to come together and celebrate their faith, share their experiences, and reflect on their journey with the Movement.

4.5.4 Synodal day of Coordinators and Leaders

On 19th November 2022, the coordinators and leaders of Latin American Movements gathered together to share their experiences and support one another on the path of coordination. The meeting was held in response to a Synodal call by Pope Francis, who emphasized the importance of working together to build a more united and cohesive Church.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed their challenges and successes in coordinating their Movements and shared valuable insights and experiences. It also allowed the leaders to strengthen their relationships and deepen their understanding of one another’s Movements.

In the photo, we can see the leaders of Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador, who all participated in the meeting. This was a significant moment for the Latin American movements, as it demonstrated the unity and collaboration that can be achieved when working together.

The spirit of Synodality called for by Pope Francis was present throughout the meeting, emphasizing the importance of working together and building a more united and cohesive Church.



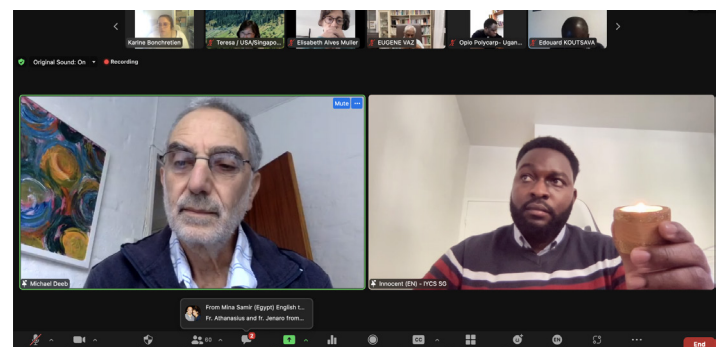
V. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

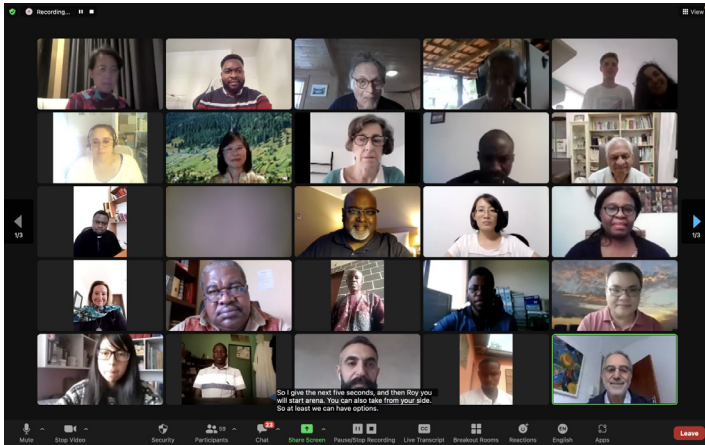
A. 3rd IYCS Former Members Reunion

The 3rd IYCS Former Members Reunion was held virtually from 30th April to 1st May 2022, with the theme: “Intergenerational Co-responsibility in the Third Millennium – Whose Church? Whose World?”. The reunion aimed to engage former IYCS members in a dialogue with young people on the changing context of the world and the Church.

The reunion began with the IYCS anthem/songs, followed by a welcome address from Germaine Lipeb and an opening prayer led by International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille D’Almeida. A “Meet and Greet” session allowed attendees to introduce themselves and connect. A break was taken to show a video and photos of former YCS members dating back to the founding of the International YCS Coordination.

The main event of the day was a panel discussion moderated by Jeanot Minla, featuring speakers from different regions: Lucía Ribeiro de Souza from Brazil, Raquel Rodriguez from Uruguay, and Zita Tan from Singapore.

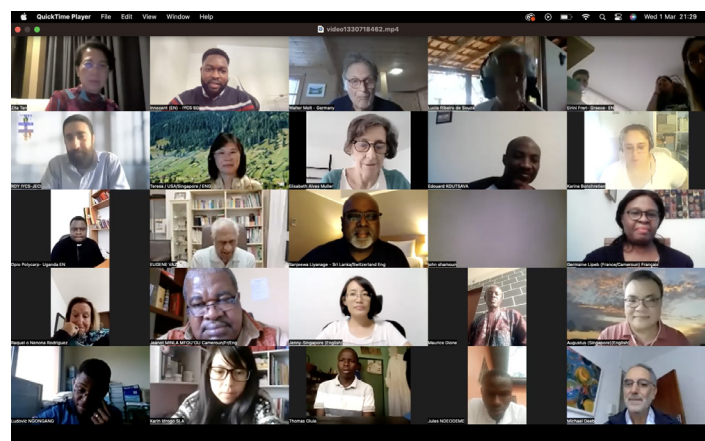




The panel discussion was followed by an honest reflection and synthesis of the 2nd former YCS reunion, moderated by Richard Apeh. The first part concluded with closing remarks from Teresa Mourad and a closing prayer.

The second part of the reunion consisted of regional follow-up meetings where attendees discussed how former YCS members could offer technical support and guidance to the current YCS movement, contribute financial resources to sustain the work of the YCS Movement at national, regional, and international levels, foster ongoing inter-generational dialogue and exchanges, and ensure local, regional, and global coordination to keep IYCS members connected. The regional meetings were moderated by Dr. Michel for Africa, Teresa Mourad for Europe and North America, Elie Ghanem for the Middle East, and Roy Augustus Ng for Asia.

The 3rd IYCS Former Members Reunion provided a platform for former IYCS members to engage with young people in a dialogue about the changing world and Church.



The event highlighted the importance of intergenerational co-responsibility in shaping the future of the Church and the world. The panel discussion and regional follow-up meetings allowed attendees to share their perspectives and reflections and develop recommendations to support church and society leaders and lay faithful to transform the Church and world.

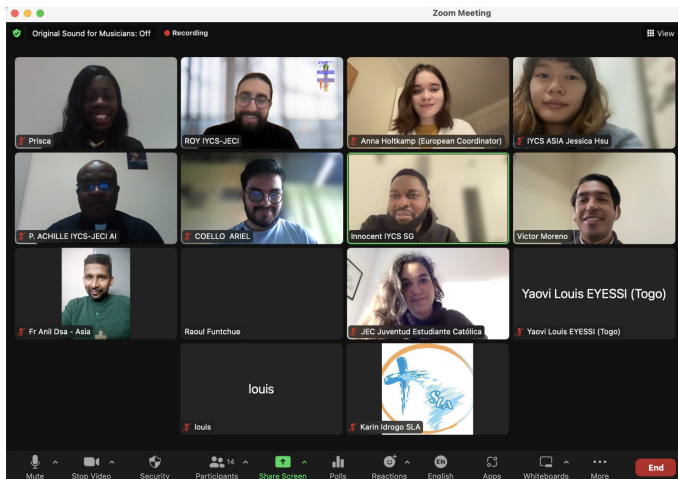
B. International Committee Meeting 2022

The International Committee is the decision-making body of the International YCS between World Councils. It meets at least once a year and is responsible for ensuring the implementation of World Council decisions and evaluating the work of the International Secretariat. The Committee monitors work of all international team members, sets up necessary commissions, approves the budget, and decides on granting Collaborator status. It ratifies the Regional Coordinators as Members of the International Team and elects the International Chaplain after consulting National Movements. The International Committee may make decisions through written communication.

The 2022 International Committee Meeting was held virtually on the 22nd December 2022. The Committee:

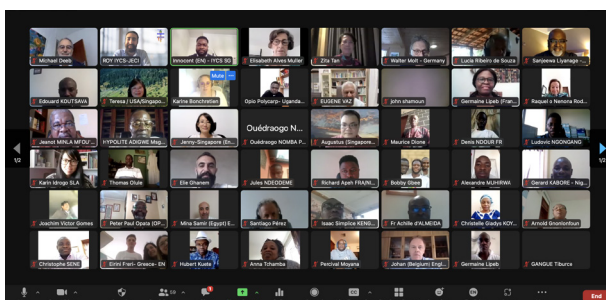
- ▶ ratified the election of the new Regional coordinators of Europe and the Middle East respectively;
- ▶ reviewed and approved the 2021 IYCS Annual Report and Financial Statements;
- ▶ reviewed and approved the 2023 IYCS Plan of Action and Budget;
- ▶ reviewed the Regional Coordinations' reports;
- ▶ discussed and decided to postpone the 17th IYCS World Council from the summer of 2023 to May 2024. This was due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the World Youth Day scheduled to take place around the same time;
- ▶ instructed the International Secretariat Team to send out the circular immediately communicating the decision and to launch the preparations towards the 17th IYCS World Council officially;

- discussed the need to organize a physical Global Training Session that has long been interrupted by the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic and approved the suggestion by the International Team to organize the 2023 GTS and International Committee in Lisbon following World Youth Day, as members of the International Team and Committee will all be participating in the World Youth Day in Lisbon;
- reviewed the work of the different Commissions and recommended that its work and mandate be discussed further in the 2023 International Committee; and
- reviewed the condition of work of the International Secretariat Team members following the economic crisis and inflation currently affecting the world.



C. The IYCS 76th Anniversary Celebration

In 2022, the Young Catholic Students celebrated 76 years of universality, upholding their values and mission in the Church and students' milieu. They remained united in global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation in their communities. The year marked the climax of the 75th anniversary year, which was launched on 13th November 2021 on the theme:



'Celebrating 75 years of formation, action, and global solidarity for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world'. The Young Catholic Students commemorated the 8th IYCS World Day 2022 and the 76th Anniversary of IYCS by recommitting to the spirit of global solidarity while taking local actions for positive change and social transformation in their communities.

SEE YOUR ACT

LIVE WEBINAR

CLIMAX OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

"Celebrating 76 years of formation, action and global solidarity for peaceful, just and a sustainable world"

SPEAKERS:








MANOJ MATHW MIRUS PONON ISABELLE CHAPERON H.E. ÉRIC SOVIGUIDI JHULIENNE BUCAC STEFAN GIGACZ



📍 ZOOM

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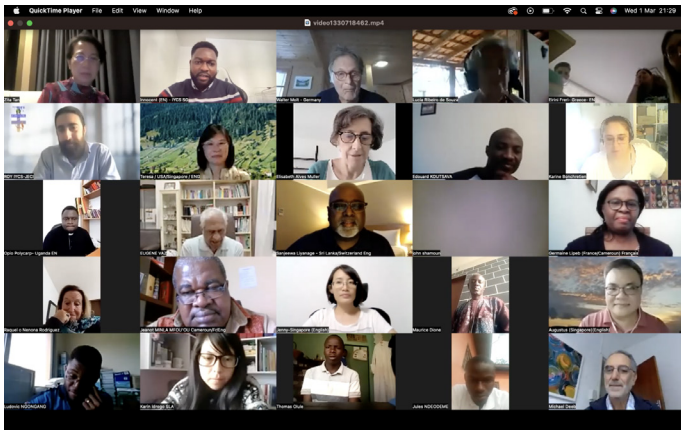
✉ MAIL@IYCS-JECI.ORG

2022

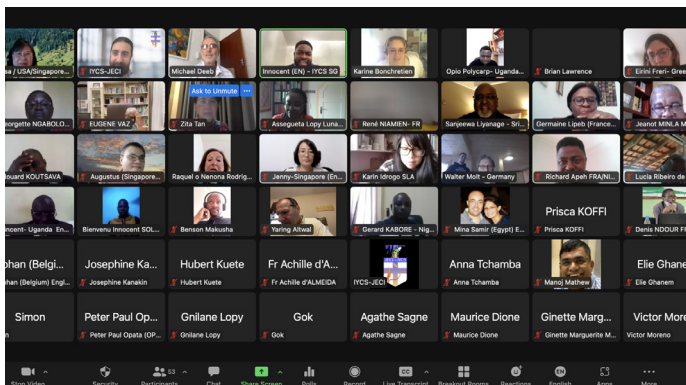
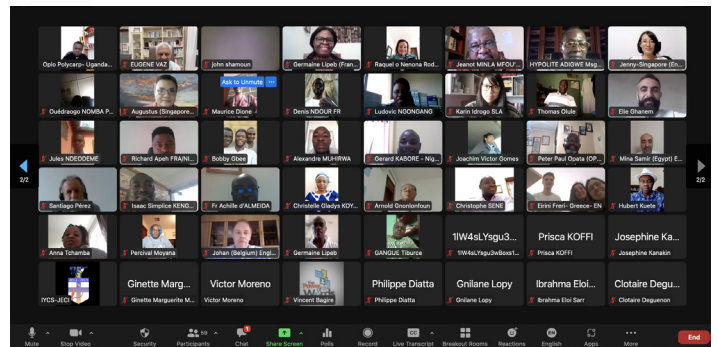
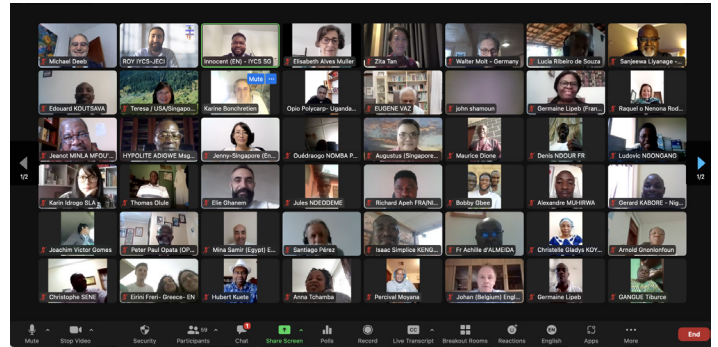
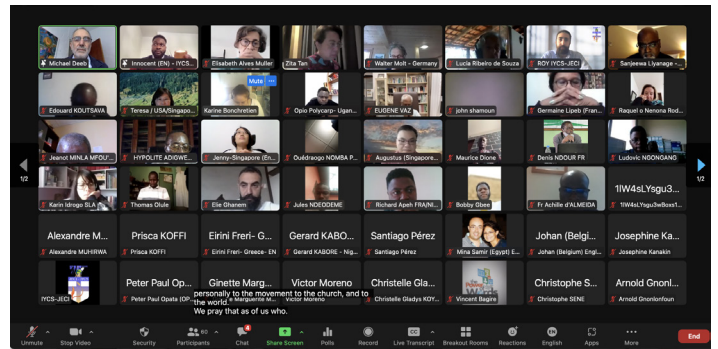
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In today's rapidly changing world, children and young people are exposed to violence, injustices, discrimination, unemployment, and moral deterioration. Therefore, IYCS continued to offer a platform through which the needs of young people could be addressed, their voices amplified, and their engagement advanced. Through the efforts of their National Movements in 87 countries worldwide, they educate and form students to work for solidarity, freedom, justice, peace, and a sustainable world.

In the same spirit, IYCS continued to promote the sharing of joy and exchange with the IYCS Former Members of the time they grew up in the IYCS movement and how the formation they received developed and strengthened them as People of Faith, as People of God, to live the Gospel – to be Church – in their everyday lives and the world. As they saw changes in their Church and the world today, the young people were asking the same questions their seniors asked themselves, but the context of the world changed rapidly.



Therefore, engaging with young people today in dialogue in the spirit of 'Intergenerational Co-responsibility' remained critical in shaping the future of their Church and their World!



CONCLUSION

The year 2022 was momentous for IYCS as we resumed physical activities following the COVID-19 pandemic. We owe our gratitude to the International Team for their support in coordinating the work of Regional Coordinations and National Movements. We are also thankful to our strategic and project partners, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Fastenaktion, and Mission Munchen, whose support enabled us to achieve our objectives in 2022.

Throughout the year, IYCS celebrated its 75th Anniversary of the International Coordination of the Movement, and the 7th IYCS World Day, culminating in a successful virtual event held on the 13th November 2022 to celebrate the 76th IYCS Anniversary and 8th IYCS World Day. This event marked the climax of the 75th Anniversary Year Launched in 2021, bringing together YCS Leaders, Animators, Alumni, Chaplains, and well-wishers to share experiences on the theme "Intergenerational Co-responsibility in the Third Millennium" inspired by the 3rd IYCS Former Members reunion held from the 30th April to 1st May 2022.

IYCS implemented a project on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together in the Middle East, promoting tolerance and ending discrimination based on religion or belief among young people.

This initiative created a platform for youth in the Middle East to engage in the values of fraternity, peaceful co-existence, respect, tolerance, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

IYCS also participated in the Synodality process within the Church to ensure that young people are not left behind in matters of faith, Church, and society.

In line with the promotion of Laudato Si messages and the Care for Our Common Home, IYCS co-organized a side event and exhibit at COP27 in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

We also continued to advocate for meaningful youth engagement and promotion of Human Rights in various spaces, including the United Nations System.

IYCS maximized available resources, digital platforms, and social media to sustain ongoing programs/activities, representations, and partnership engagements. We are grateful to all our partners and collaborators for their support in 2022 and look forward to renewed collaboration in 2023 as we continue to act to mitigate climate change, promote holistic quality education, and build a peaceful and just society through promoting Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together.



APPENDIX

1. Financial Report

2022 Provisional IYCS Expenditure Report				
No.	Expenditure item	Actual Amount (€)	Budgeted Amount (€)	%
A.	CORE COSTS			
1	Elected staff indemnities	24,200.00	34,380.00	70%
2	Hired Staff Social Charges	2,619.00	-	-
3	Rent and Utilities	10,602.37	14,400.00	74%
4	Owned Property Costs	11,986.33	19,500.00	61%
5	Owned Property Income tax	10,912.00	10,500.00	104%
6	Communication Costs	1,984.62	1,978.00	100%
7	Insurances Costs	2,874.51	1,550.00	185%
8	Financial Services	637.53	5,320.00	12%
9	Stationery and Supplies	666.08	700.00	95%
10	Representation and Meetings	409.65	2,500.00	16%
11	Visitation to Movements and Regions	1,161.83	3,500.00	33%
12	Provisions and Other Costs	1,321.50	1,500.00	88%
B.	PROGRAMME & PROJECT RELATED COSTS			
	Programme and Projects costs	25,579.72	65,500.00	39%
	Total Expenditure	94,955.14	161,328.00	59%
2022 Provisional IYCS Income Report				
No.	Income item	Amount Received (€)	Amount Expected (€)	%
	Balance b/f 2021	4,870.15	-	-
1	Rent from Owned Properties	39,909.42	54,000.00	74%
2	Membership Fees	2,180.00	3,250.00	67%
3	CCFD - Terre Solidaire	18,800.00	23,500.00	80%
4	Fastenaktion	15,134.70	16,000.00	95%
5	Missio Munchen	10,000.00	10,000.00	100%
6	Other third party contributions	8,185.27	54,578.00	15%
	Total Income	99,079.54	161,328.00	61%

2. Visits and Meetings in pictures



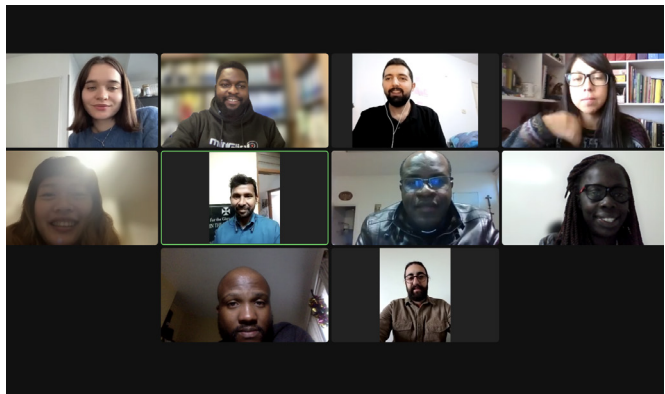
Courtesy visit and meeting with Msgr Eric Soviguidi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO.



Courtesy visit and meeting with Fr. Vincent Breynaert Pastoral Coordinator at the Catholic Bishops Conference in France.



IYCS Africa Team visit to the IYCS Secretariat and meeting with the Secretary General.



International Team Virtual Meeting on zoom.







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