



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## IYCS-JECI

International Secretariat

75015 - Paris, France

[mail@iycs-jeci.org](mailto:mail@iycs-jeci.org); [www.iycs-jeci.org/](http://www.iycs-jeci.org/)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	04
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	05
FORWARD	06
APPRECIATION	07
INTRODUCTION	08
<b>FOCUS AREAS AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>I. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND ADVOCACY</b>	<b>09</b>
1. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	09
2. Annual Meeting with Moderators of the Ecclesial Movements	11
3. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)	12
4. ECOSOC Youth Forum 2023	13
<b>II. CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME:</b>	<b>14</b>
1. Assessing IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report on Climate Change Webinar	14
2. Empowering Youth Voices: SB58 Bonn Climate Change Conference	14
3. The 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28)	15
<b>III. HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER</b>	<b>17</b>
1. IYCS Human Fraternity Dialogue and Training	17
2. IYCS Asia Human Fraternity Regional Dialogue & Training	18
<b>IV. YOUTH MINISTRY (Spirituality, Formation &amp; Accompaniment)</b>	<b>19</b>
1. Together Gathering in Rome	19
2. World Youth Day in Lisbon	20
3. NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S ACCOMPANIMENT	22
4. REGIONAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES	27
4.1.0 IYCS AFRICA COORDINATION	27
4.1.1 Inter-religious Conference (IRC) 2023, Youth Pre- Pre-Conference	27
4.2.0 IYCS ASIA COORDINATION	29
4.3.0 JECI-MIEC EUROPE COORDINATION	32
4.4.0 JECI-MIEC MIDDLE EAST COORDINATION	34
4.5.0 JECI-MIEC LATIN AMERICA COORDINATION	35
<b>V. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>36</b>
A. Extraordinary International Committee Meeting January 2023	36
B. International Committee Meeting August 2023 – Fatima	36
C. International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action (MIACS)	37
D. IYCS 77th Anniversary Celebration: Students Igniting Faith for a Bright Future	38
CONCLUSION	39
APPENDIX	40

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBCP	Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Christian Conference Asia
CCIC	International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO
CEP	Episcopal Commission for Youth Ministry
CLAP	Continued Learning and Action Program
COMECE	Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DLFL	Dicastery for the Laity Family and Life
EYF	European Youth Forum
GST	Global Stocktake
GTS	Global Training Session
ICMYO	International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations
IMCS/ MIEC	International Movement of Catholic Students
IRC	Inter-religious Conference
IYCS	International Young Catholic Students
JEC	Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique
JMJ	Jornada Mundial da Juventude
KSJ	Katholische Studierende Jugend (Young Catholic Students)
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LSG	Laudato Si Generation
LSM	Laudato Si Movement
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MIACS	International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action
MIJAC	International Movement of Catholic Agricultural Rural Youth
NCCP	National Conference of the Churches in the Philippines
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHRLLS	Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
SCA	Student Catholic Action
SCMM	Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLA	Latin America Secretariat of JECI-MIEC
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WYD	World Youth Day
YOUNGO	Youth Climate Movement- Official Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

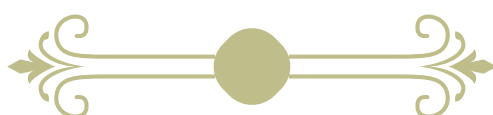
This report presents the progress made by IYCS in the year 2023 in accomplishing the organization's Mission, as well as extends our appreciation to the YCS Members, YCS National Movements, YCS Partners, and the Catholic Church at different levels for their support and unrelenting commitment to our evangelization work and the formation of young people, contributing to the development of the Catholic Students and young people across the world.

The IYCS International Secretariat, as mandated by the 16th World Council held in 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria, mobilised and empowered students on the fundamental issues related 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 worked 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. We continue to maximize the use of online platforms such as Zoom, YouTube, and other social media channels to carry out our activities in particular, International Committee and International Advisory Board meetings as well as Key Celebrations such as the 9th IYCS World Day 2023, the 77th IYCS Anniversary celebration and the official launch of the 17th IYCS World Council.

In addition to the various online activities, we did resume all our traditional physical activities and accompaniment visits to National Movements in 2023, some of this included the Interfaith Dialogue and Regional Training Session in Thailand organized in collaboration with the IYCS Asia Regional Coordination and YCS Thailand 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 SB58 Bonn Climate Change Conference and the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP28) meeting held in Dubai, UAE, where we co-organized a side event with other catholic actors at in line with the IYCS Care for our Common Home and the promotion of messages of Laudato Si.

IYCS also actively participated in platforms and forums such as the Global Caucus for Youth in Faith under the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), ECOSOC Youth Forum, 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 International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO (CCIC) to continue amplifying the voices and contributions of Young Catholic Students towards the achievement of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Special thanks to all our partners, including CCFD Terre Solidaire, Fastenaktion, Missio Munchen, Vatican Dicastery for the Laity Family and Life, and all the National Movements and Formers Members (Alumni) 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.



## FOREWORD

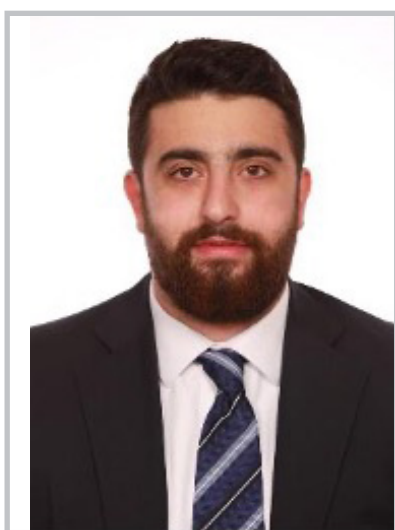
**I**n 2023, the IYCS physical activities gradually picked up and complemented by online initiatives. We sincerely thank all external partners and local collaborators who supported our actions and Mission throughout the year. Your contributions played a significant role in the success achieved.

Special thanks to the International Team (IT) members and volunteers who contributed directly and indirectly through various activities and campaigns. Despite the challenges in 2023, we remained resourceful and resilient, exploring alternative methods to deliver our program activities. We continue to provide platforms to address the needs of young people, amplifying their voices, and advancing their engagement.

Understanding the importance of on-the-ground support, we cannot cease to express our sincere gratitude to our National Movements and the Regional Coordination especially those that we could visit and offer support, as well as to those who visited and supported us during the year 2023. Our sincere appreciation goes to the National and Regional Bishops Conferences for their support and to the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity Family and Life for their technical and financial support and accompaniment.

In our unwavering commitment to fostering global solidarity through impactful local initiatives, we reflect on our journey and anticipate stronger collaborations in 2024. Strengthening national, regional, and international bonds, we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our partners, alumnus, the Church, and well-wishers. Looking ahead, our commitment to solidarity propels towards a meaningful youth engagement, contributing to a world of peace, justice, and sustainability.

Expressing gratitude to all who have been part of our journey, we eagerly embrace the opportunities and challenges of the future. With dedication and unity, we aspire to realize a brighter and more harmonious future through collective effort and proactive contributions to positive change.



**Roy IBRAHIM**  
IYCS Programme Coordinator



**Innocent ODONGO**  
IYCS Secretary General



**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, Missio Munchen, and Vatican Dicastery for the Laity Family and Life) for your financial and technical support during 2023. 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, and YCS Asia Former Member (Philippines, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka) for their in-kind support to the International Secretariat in 2023.



Global Caucus for  
YOUTH  
IN FAITH



THE ALLIANCE  
FOR CHILD PROTECTION  
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



## IYCS MISSION

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 people experiencing poverty, with a commitment to global solidarity, freedom, justice, and peace.

## 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. In the late 1920s, the IYCS Movement developed 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 people experiencing poverty, 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 2023 annual report presents the program activities accomplished in line with these objectives, our 2023 plan of action, focus areas, and the current global campaign. It also includes the income and expenditure statement for the 2023 accounting year.



# FOCUS AREAS AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## I. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY

During 2023, the initiatives, activities, and partnerships presented below were implemented under Youth Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy.

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

#### 1.1 UNESCO 42nd General Assembly

Our Secretary General, Mr. Innocent Odongo addressed the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference, during which he advocated for universal internet accessibility and holistic education. We highlighted IYCS's commitment to global education through our Movements in 87 countries and stressed the importance of nurturing academic knowledge, emotional intelligence, moral principles, and practical skills. We also emphasized the significance of unrestricted Internet access and called for collaborative efforts to ensure ethical and high-quality online education. Mr. Odongo called for the elimination of the digital divide through investments in legislation, infrastructure, and training, promoting a digital environment that benefits all. The speech concluded with a pledge to work towards integral education and universal internet access, empowering young people to reach their full potential. The recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/hZMX9uAEQs8>

The 42nd UNESCO General Conference saw the participation of 163 States to discuss various global issues in the areas covered by UNESCO. Here are the key highlights from the policy debate:



1. **Peace Advocacy:** The theme of peace was predominant, highlighting its crucial importance and how far the world is from this ideal due to armed conflicts and security threats. The ongoing violence, especially in the context of Ukraine and the Middle East, was widely condemned, with debates on an end to the escalation of violence in Gaza.



2. **Climate Change:** Climate concerns, particularly those of Small Island Developing States, were expressed with insistence, highlighting risks such as sea-level rise and ocean acidification.
3. **Education:** Education was a central theme, highlighting the importance of digital and ecological aspects in education, in line with the conclusions of the 2022 New York summit. The importance of qualified teachers and awareness in spreading information on social media were also emphasized.

4. **Culture and Heritage:** The destruction of heritage in Ukraine was lamented, with several States expressing their intention to assist in reconstruction.
5. **Role of UNESCO:** There was broad consensus on the essential role of UNESCO in its areas of competence, with congratulations extended to the Director-General for her leadership and for driving a strategic transformation of the institution.



### 1.2. UNESCO Meetings and Conferences

IYCS participated in several events and meetings in 2023 like the International Conference on the Ethics of Neurotechnologies, organized by UNESCO, where we discussed the ethical framework for neurotechnologies, focusing on human identity, dignity, freedom of thought, and privacy, among other concerns. The conference highlighted the need for ethical governance considering rapid advancements in the field, suggesting the possibility of establishing new human rights or “neuro rights” to protect brain activity and prevent discrimination using neurotechnology.

### 1.3. International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO (CCIC)

We have continued our collaboration with CCIC and did participate in several engagements during the period under review among which are the General Assembly of CCIC in 2023, held on June 13 in Paris, was a pivotal event that marked the organization’s dedication to advancing its objectives and strengthening its role in the international community. During the assembly, members reviewed the past year’s achievements and discussed strategic future plans. The event underscored the importance of collaboration among members, emphasizing educational initiatives, ethical considerations in advancing technology, particularly artificial intelligence, and promoting environmental sustainability in partnership with UNESCO. The introduction of the new Board of Directors also signalled a renewed commitment to these goals, with the leadership poised to guide the organization toward achieving its objectives through innovative projects and initiatives.

In the dynamic landscape of a world in metamorphosis project, our collective efforts have led us to reflect deeply on the mysticism of the human being, emphasizing the awakening of consciousness. In alignment with these reflections, IYCS actively participated in a collaborative initiative since 2021, contributing to the development of a compass designed to navigate the complexities of Artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on human experience. As part of our commitment to this transformative endeavor in 2023, IYCS actively engaged in this process by providing valuable student testimonies and experiences. Our students have shared insights into the positive impact of AI on their learning journey and how it has contributed to their personal development which can help enable users to implement a pedagogy focused on discerning the benefits of AI and addressing potential drifts and consequences within the intricate realm of human experience. Through these contributions, IYCS remains at the forefront of fostering meaningful dialogues and initiatives that bridge the gap between technology and human consciousness, empowering young minds to navigate the evolving landscape with wisdom and purpose.



Additionally, IYCS actively participated in “Meeting-Testimony of the CCIC” in cooperation with OMAEC, in which we listened to Father Youssef Nasr, in his intervention, explored the notion of catholicity, highlighting its importance in the Lebanese context, particularly in Catholic schools. IYCS made an intervention to inquire about the crucial role of education in promoting unity and citizenship across sectarian divisions while recognizing the challenges posed by Lebanon’s economic crisis and religious diversity. These meetings and engagement have reinforced our link and collaboration with other catholic partners/ actors fostering collective action in the area of holistic quality education.

## 2. Annual Meeting with Moderators of the Ecclesial Movements

The year 2023 the Dicastery for the Laity, family and life commemorated the 25th anniversary of the first World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities instituted by Pope John Paul II on May



30, 1998. 'This gathering held significant importance for various ecclesial realities born around the time of the Second Vatican Council, fostering dialogue among them and with the Holy See.

As part of the celebration, the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life hosted the annual meeting for moderators of associations, ecclesial movements, and new communities in Rome on Thursday, June 22, under the theme, “On Mission with Peter: Apostolicity at the Heart of the Movements’ Identity.” Discussions centred

on the “theological collocation” of Movements, a theme initially presented by Card. Joseph Ratzinger at the Congress. This apostolic dimension remains crucial for Movements faithful to their identity.

The event welcomed intervention from notable speakers, such as Kevin Cardinal Farrell, prefect of the Discaltery for Laity, Family and Life, Fr Paolo Prosperi of the Priestly Fraternity of the Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo as well as testimony from participants. The meeting addressed epochal changes with boldness and creativity, encouraging re-evaluating structures, styles, and evangelization methods of aggregate realities. IYCS representatives joined the over 150 participants to share and reflect on experiences from the five continents.

### 3. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)

IYCS, a founding member of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), was re-elected to the Task Force of the platform during its 2023 Annual General Meeting. ICMYO serves as a coalition uniting International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs) with membership-based, democratic, representative, and accountable structures. It aims to foster collaboration among youth organizations globally and regionally and to coordinate their contributions to global youth policy processes at the United Nations.

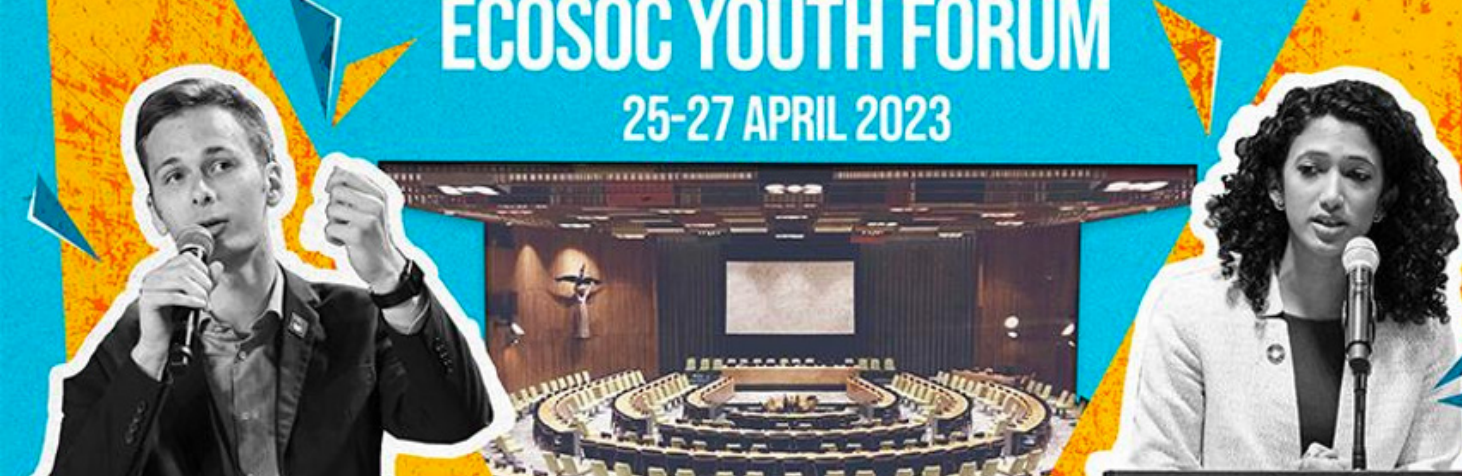


As part of its advocacy efforts, ICMYO participated in the UN 5th Least Developed Countries (LDC5) Conference, held 2023. This conference saw ICMYO and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) collaboratively drafting and gaining endorsement for the youth declaration, facilitated by consultations led by the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). Mr. Benson Makusha IYCS Africa Coordinator, representing ICMYO, concluded the 2 yearlong consultative process by presenting the final Youth Declaration at the conference in Doha in March 2023. Presentation available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/6Tz9p-xbjWQ>



Ongoing discussions between ICMYO and UN-OHRLLS aim to involve ICMYO in the youth track leading up to and during the 3rd Landlocked Developing Countries Conference in 2024 and the 4th Small Islands Developing States Conference. Furthermore, the ICMYO Taskforce partnered with the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (UNOSGEY) to organize and moderate youth consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and youth work. These consultations, co-moderated by ICMYO and MGCY, culminated in outcomes launched during the SDG acceleration weekend at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023.

In conclusion, the ICMYO Task Force, including IYCS, continues to play a significant role in advancing youth engagement and participation on both regional and global fronts. Mobilization efforts for the LDC conference and youth consultations on the SDGs and youth work highlight crucial steps toward amplifying young voices and recognizing their contributions in global decision-making processes.



#### 4. ECOSOC Youth Forum 2023

IYCS was part of this year's ECOSOC Youth Forum; a platform for fostering dialogue among young people, Member States, and other stakeholders. The 2023 youth forum focused on strategies to create a fairer, greener, and more sustainable world in alignment with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Benson Makusha, the IYCS Africa Coordinator, played a significant role in the organizing committee of the forum as a youth representative through IYCS's involvement in the ICMYO Task Force. He provided valuable insights into the program and was instrumental in inviting and selecting young speakers for various sessions. Moreover, Mr. Makusha played a crucial role in co-organizing the Virtual Networking Reception of the Forum. This virtual event attracted hundreds of young participants who engaged in discussions on various topics and explored virtual booths.

#### 5. IYCS at SDGs Action Weekend 2023 in New York

Miss Lawkadinch Gomez a member of IYCS from the Gambia participated in the SDGs Action Weekend in New York as part of the ICMYO delegation. Her participation was particularly significant for IYCS as it aligns with our commitment to empower young people to actively contribute to realizing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Lawkadinch presented the outcomes of the global youth consultations facilitated by ICMYO, MGCY, and the office of the UN Youth Envoy between June and August 2023. These consultations were a crucial platform for young voices worldwide to express their perspectives and insights on various issues related to sustainable development. The session, titled "Youth Event Torchbearers for SDGs: Meaningful Youth Engagement and the 2030 Agenda," took place on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The presentation served as a unique opportunity for the global community to hear directly from young people about their aspirations, concerns, and proposed solutions concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The significance of Lawkadinch's presentation and participation cannot be overstated. It highlighted the active involvement of IYCS in global initiatives and emphasized the crucial role young people play in shaping the future. By presenting the outcomes of the youth consultations, Lawkadinch contributed to the ongoing dialogue on meaningful youth engagement and underscored the importance of integrating youth perspectives into implementing the 2030 Agenda. The link to the event recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/-QYZAWiW6Yk>



## II. CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME:

### 1. Assessing IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report on Climate Change Webinar

The IYCS, in collaboration with fellow Catholic actors for climate, notably, Laudato Si Movement (LSM), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), VIVAT International, IMCS Pax Romana, UNAANIMA International, Congregation of Mount Carmel (Carmelite NGO), Boston College, and Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (SCMM) organized a webinar on March 30, 2023, to evaluate the IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report. The report, encompassing scientific findings from 2018 to 2022, echoes the urgency for climate action, reminiscent of the pre-2015 Paris Agreement era. The objective was to assess, understand, and mobilize efforts urging governments to adopt tangible solutions for the well-being of citizens and the planet.

Key speakers shared profound insights, emphasizing the responsibility of governments in caring for the vulnerable and the Earth. The co-organizers released a joint statement, urging nations to collaborate responsibly in implementing the Paris Agreement and striving for net-zero emissions to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. Despite seven Climate Summits passing since the Paris Agreement, progress remains insufficient. The latest IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report underscores the need for substantial reductions in fossil fuel use, minimal reliance on unabated fossil fuels, and implementation of carbon capture and storage mechanisms.

The webinar's recording, accessible on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTZBqgzBOec> further amplifies the call for global cooperation to achieve the Paris goals. It emphasizes the challenging task ahead and encourages nations to enhance their climate plans, fostering a collective commitment to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions swiftly.

### 2. Empowering Youth Voices: SB58 Bonn Climate Change Conference

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) actively participated in the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB58), showcasing our commitment to global climate action. Our representatives included the Secretary General of IYCS-JECI and Fabian Abel from KSJ, the IYCS National Movement in Germany.



This significant event served as a dynamic platform that brought together various climate actors, activists, negotiators, and decision-makers, aiming to prepare crucial decisions for adoption at the COP28 in the United Arab Emirates in December. Our engagement with other youth organizations and stakeholders emphasized the pivotal role of young people in driving climate action. The conference provided a space for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic planning to address pressing climate challenges globally. Our objective as IYCS was to underscore the importance of involving youth in shaping and implementing effective climate policies, believing their active



engagement is crucial for creating a sustainable future. By participating in SB58, we contributed to the global effort of building awareness, inspiring action, and fostering collaboration toward a more sustainable and resilient world.

In addition to the main negotiations, IYCS played a significant role during the interim negotiations held annually in Bonn. As one of two representatives, Fabian Abel actively participated in the main negotiations, smaller panels, and delegation talks with the Members of the parliament and the German delegation. Within the framework of YOUNGO, the youth constituency to the UNFCCC, we focused on the “Action for Climate Empowerment,” addressing topics related to Education for Sustainable Development. The interim negotiations revealed significant global climate change mitigation challenges, with disagreements and slow processes among various states.

The “Global Stocktake” at the subsequent negotiations will be of particular interest, determining adjustments to the current course. From the perspective of young people, there is a pressing need to tighten the recent course significantly and address the just, global phase-out of fossil energies. Countries must shoulder varying responsibilities for a successful fight against climate change (CC).

### 3. The 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28)

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) actively participated in COP28 in Dubai, UAE, from December 1st to 12th, 2023, demonstrating our commitment to global environmental advocacy and youth engagement. During the event, we hosted a side event showcasing initiatives by young Catholic students aimed at climate education and sustainable development.

Led by program coordinator Mr. Ibrahim, the IYCS delegation engaged in targeted advocacy efforts to promote climate action and raise awareness about environmental challenges. We emphasized the importance of collective action in combating climate change and preserving the planet for future generations. Notably, COP28 approved the Global Stocktake (GST), providing a roadmap for implementing the Paris Agreement. Countries are now required to submit new emission reduction targets by 2025, a significant step forward in global climate action.



Additionally, COP28 approved the Loss & Damage Fund, managed by the World Bank, though funds remain insufficient compared to actual needs. IYCS advocated for equitable distribution of funds, emphasizing both mitigation and adaptation efforts. We encouraged investments in renewable energy technologies as alternatives to fossil fuels and urged governments to prioritize renewable energy infrastructure.

Despite challenges, COP28 marked a significant progress in climate action and global cooperation. The conference’s dynamics, including its location and leadership, elicited diverse reactions, reflecting a global shift towards renewable energy solutions. While challenges remain, COP28 outcomes demonstrate collective determination to address climate change and build a sustainable future. IYCS remains committed to this effort.”

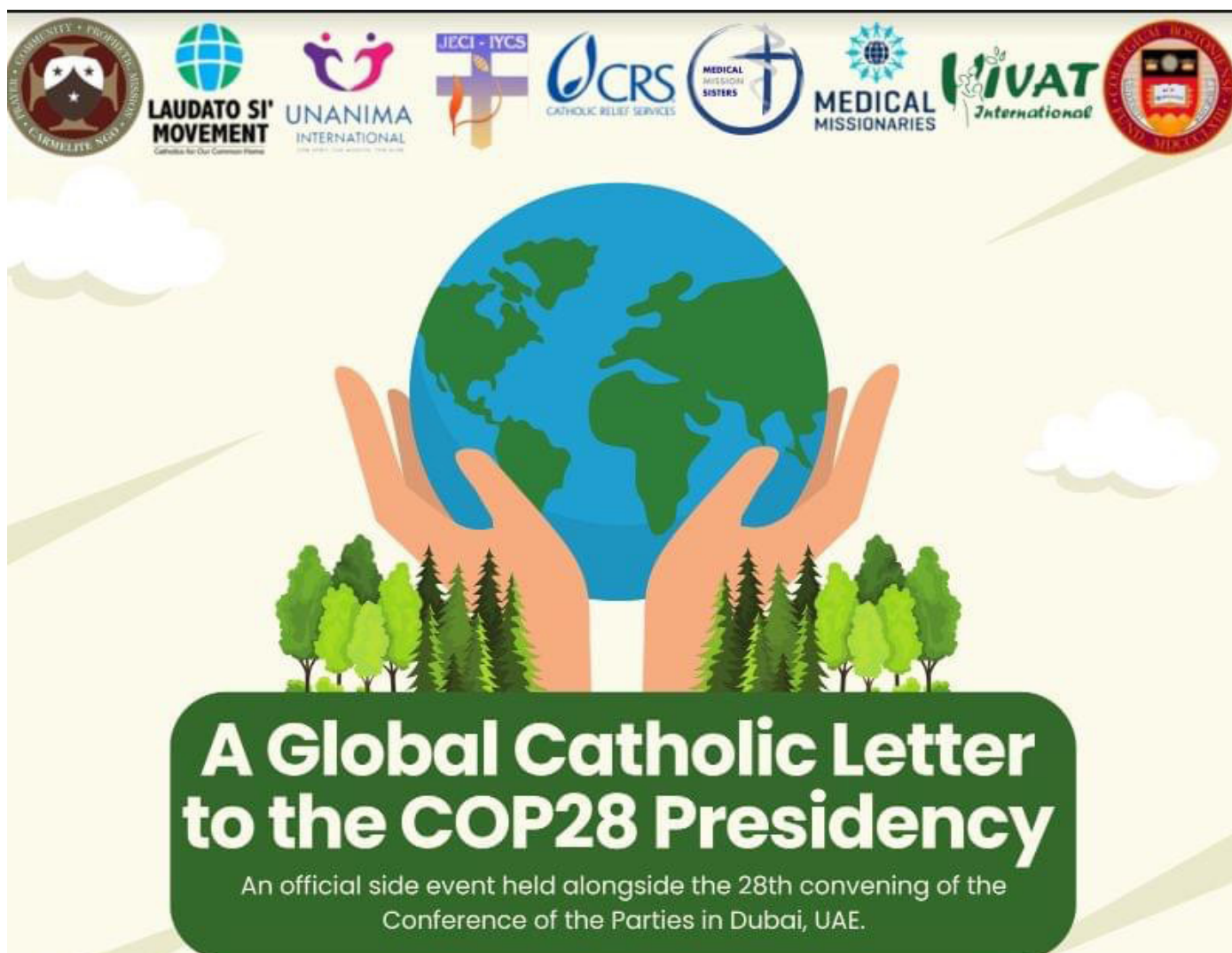
#### 3.1. Observer NGOs’ Side Event: “Global Catholic Letter to the COP28 Presidency”

IYCS actively participated by hosting a side event titled “The Global Catholic Letter on Climate Change to the COP28 Presidency”, providing



a platform for Catholic actors to showcase their initiatives and contributions towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. Coordinated by Fr. Eduardo Agosta of the Carmelite NGO, this event not only ignited discussions but also catalyzed a call to action. Our representative, Mr Roy Ibrahim, emphasized the need for integral ecology and urged for bold decisions from governments through the lens of seeing, judging, and acting.

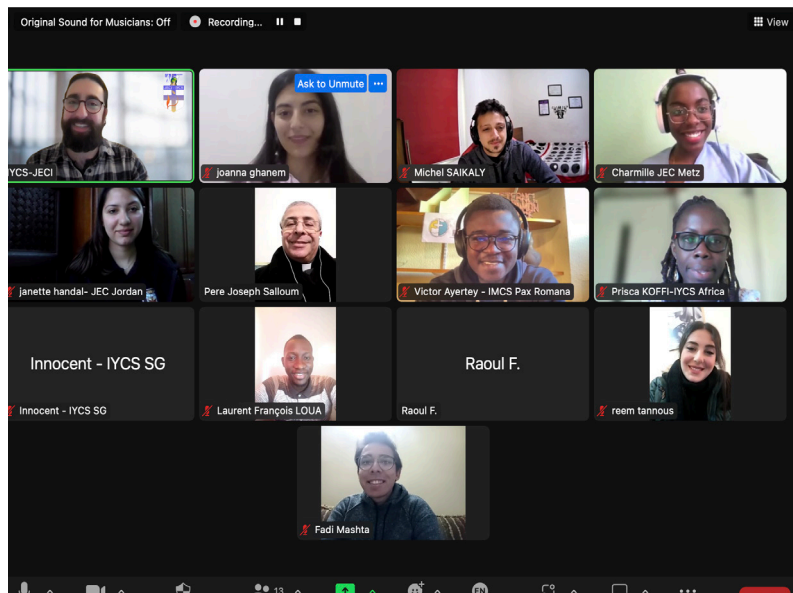
Our collaboration with the Holy See and Dicasteries strengthened our influence on global gatherings, ensuring that the principles of Laudato Si' were integrated into discussions on integral ecology and human development. This side event at COP28 served as a beacon of advocacy, mobilizing stakeholders to confront climate challenges through a comprehensive approach rooted in Catholic values and environmental stewardship. The event recording is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8niyR4YHdTQ>



### III. HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER

#### 1. IYCS Human Fraternity Dialogue and Training

IYCS successfully completed the Global Training on Interfaith Dialogue for Human Fraternity, Peaceful Co-existence, Tolerance, and Respect for Religious Diversity organised through an online training session on the International Day for Human Fraternity on February 4, 2023. This strategic initiative served to promote conviviality and friendship among individuals representing various faiths.



A noteworthy feature of the training session was the inclusion of religious scholars who provided expert insights to the participating members. Young leaders who actively participated in the Middle East regional dialogue in 2022, held in Jeita, Lebanon, were invited to share their experiences. This inclusive approach enriched the dialogue with diverse perspectives and allowed for a meaningful exchange of knowledge and insights among the participants.

As a follow up, we implemented a comprehensive digital engagement strategy to promote human fraternity among younger generations. This

included content creation and strategic reach optimization across various social media platforms. This was to ensure a widespread and impactful dissemination of the principles of human fraternity, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation among the youth for peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and respect for religious diversity.

#### 2. IYCS Human Fraternity Regional Dialogue and Training Follow-up

The IYCS Program Coordinator, Mr Roy Ibrahim, made a courtesy visit to the Middle East region during the second half of April. The visit aimed to follow up on the outcomes of the coordination conference, which addressed the theme of human fraternity and living together, in line with the global Movement's direction for the current year, and to follow up on the conference held in Lebanon in August 2022 as well as expressed our fraternal support to the National Movements in the region. The programme coordinator visited three national movements: Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

##### 2.1. JEC LEBANON

Against the backdrop of ongoing socio-political challenges in Lebanon, Mr. Ibrahim's visit took on added significance as it sought to reaffirm the identity and Mission of the IYCS amidst turbulent times. Engagements with local stakeholders emphasized the organization's vital role in nurturing resilient leadership and fostering a sense of hope and solidarity among Christian Students. Amid Lebanon's trials, the IYCS is a beacon of light, inspiring positive change and empowering young leaders to champion social justice and reconciliation in their communities. Through dialogue and collaboration, efforts were directed



toward strengthening the organization's resolve to stand firm in its commitment to building a brighter, more inclusive future for Lebanon and its youth.

## 2.2. JEC SYRIA

In Syria, Mr. Roy Ibrahim's visit was marked by significant interactions with local bishops and alumni, amplifying the spirit of Easter and solidarity within the Christian community. His meetings with esteemed figures like His Excellency Bishop George Masri and His Excellency Bishop Joseph Tobji held a profound significance, symbolizing a collective commitment to supporting and empowering Christian youth amidst challenges. As Syria grapples with the aftermath of a recent earthquake and the enduring scars of conflict, Mr. Ibrahim's presence served as a beacon of hope, offering encouragement and assurance to a resilient community in the face of adversity. Furthermore, Mr. Ibrahim's participation in local Easter festivities and activities provided a poignant opportunity to connect with the community on a deeper level. Engaging in traditions and celebrations alongside Syrian Christians underscored a sense of unity and shared resilience, reaffirming the bonds that bind communities together in times of trial.



## 2.3. JEC JORDAN

Transitioning to Jordan, the visit shifted towards exploring future collaborations and deepening ties with the national team. Discussions revolved around local challenges facing Jordanian students. They explored potential initiatives, including the prospect of hosting the World Council, highlighting the importance of fostering unity and cooperation within the global Christian youth community. Moreover, reflections on the identity and Mission of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) served as a cornerstone, guiding efforts to empower youth and uphold the values of solidarity and social justice.

Throughout all meetings, the Programme Coordinator had discussions to introduce further the International Secretariat and the Christian Student Youth movements worldwide, explaining their mechanisms of work and activities.



## 3. IYCS Asia Human Fraternity Regional Dialogue & Training

The International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) successfully conducted a regional interfaith dialogue and training session for the Asia Region in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 2nd to 8th September 2023. The overarching theme for this event was "Promoting fraternity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and respect for diversity."

The objectives of the session were meticulously outlined to achieve several goals. Firstly, the intention was to foster a more compassionate understanding of religion, challenging negative perceptions and stereotypes associated with various faiths. The emphasis was shifted towards highlighting that the essence of religion extends beyond its teachings and doctrines, finding



its core in the character and actions of its followers. Another key objective was to create an environment conducive to forging new friendships and building bridges between individuals of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Recognizing the intrinsic need of young people for companionship, this initiative sought to tap into those needs and create connections that transcended religious boundaries.

Furthermore, the program aimed to empower and equip children and young people with the necessary skills to undertake community-based dialogue activities. This empowerment was seen as a crucial step towards fostering a culture of peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity among the younger generation from various religious backgrounds.

Thirty-three (33) Young Catholic Students and Youth from different Asian faiths actively participated in the event. The session was a significant platform for promoting dialogue, understanding, and collaboration among youth, contributing to the overarching goal of cultivating a more harmonious and tolerant Asian society. As detailed below, the IYCS achieved the objectives outlined in the regional dialogue and training session.



### 1. Fostering Understanding and Exchanging Ideas:

Members of IYCS in the Asia Region, predominantly Christians, actively engaged with youths from diverse faith backgrounds, including Buddhists and Muslims. Through interactions and exchanges, participants better understood each other's beliefs. They were inspired by insights from experts and religious leaders, motivating them to replicate similar exchanges in their local communities.

### 2. Breaking Stereotypes and Cultivating Peace:

One-on-one discussions with Buddhist female monks and Muslim Sheiks and visits to various religious centres, such as Islamic and Cultural Centres and Buddhist temples, were instrumental in breaking down stereotypes and fostering a culture of peace and understanding. These experiences provided tangible examples of interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

### 3. Leadership Development and Strategic Planning:

The election of new leaders and formulation of a new strategic action plan during the statutory meeting signified the successful implementation and continuation of the project's goals for the following year. This aspect highlighted the project's commitment to empowering youth leaders and ensuring the sustainability of the objectives beyond the initial activities.

Overall, the initiatives effectively addressed the project objectives, promoting compassionate understanding, fostering friendships across religious divides, empowering youth to engage in dialogue activities, and promoting a culture of peace and solidarity among participants from diverse religious backgrounds.



#### IV. YOUTH MINISTRY (Spirituality, Formation & Accompaniment)

##### 1. Together Gathering in Rome

The IYCS program coordinator, Roy Ibrahim, who was a member of the team in charge of the preparation of the ecumenical project on the theme “Together Gathering of the People of God,” had the fantastic opportunity to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican on March 15, 2023. This opportunity was crucial in our effort to carry on Cardinal Cardijn’s legacy of lay apostolate and foster greater cooperation and communication between clergy and laity in the Church.

This project was an exciting initiative to unite people from different Christian denominations for a night of prayer and reflection in Rome on September 30 in collaboration with the Taizé Brothers. Over three days, from the 12th to the 14th of March, we had the opportunity to collaborate with various departments of the Vatican, including the Dicastery for the Unity of Christians, the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life (DLFL), and the Vicariate of Rome, as we prepared for this event. It was an enriching experience to work together towards a common goal of promoting unity and fraternity among Christians.

Our journey on 30 September began at San Fulgenzio parish in Rome, where we were warmly hosted by the parish community. During our stay, some of us were graciously accommodated by local families, fostering a sense of hospitality and kinship. This immersive experience allowed us to immerse ourselves in the local culture and deepen our connections with the community. Throughout our time in Rome, we shared meals together both in the morning and at night, fostering friendship and solidarity among the participants from various Christian denominations and religious traditions. Additionally, as we navigated between different workshops and vigil prayers during the day, we continued to share meals and engage in meaningful conversations, further strengthening our bonds as a team.

As an international young catholic student movement, we are thrilled to be part of this historic event that marks an important step towards the goal of Christian unity. Cardinal Cardijn’s viewpoints and advocacy have had a long-lasting influence on how the Church approaches evangelization and social action, and his conception of a more inclusive and participatory Church inspired the Synodality concept. The meeting with Pope Francis is a touching reminder of the significance of our mission, and we appreciate the chance



to discuss our goals with the head of the Catholic Church. We hoped to build on this momentum as we worked to create a more inclusive and active Church for all.



## 2. World Youth Day in Lisbon

In August 2023, an IYCS delegation of 10 young people embarked on a transformative journey to participate in World Youth Day (WYD) in Lisbon, Portugal. As the sun rose over the historic streets, our delegation eagerly joined the throngs of young Catholics gathered from every corner of the globe. The atmosphere crackled with anticipation as we assembled for the Opening Mass at Terreiro do Paço, where the Patriarch of Lisbon ignited the week-long celebration with his inspiring words and presence. Surrounded by the energy of hundreds of thousands of fellow believers, we felt a profound sense of unity and purpose. Over the ensuing days, we immersed ourselves in a tapestry of experiences, from thought-provoking catechesis sessions to lively workshops led by esteemed clergy and experts. Each discussion and encounter deepened our understanding of our faith and our role in shaping a more just and compassionate world.

One of the most poignant moments came a day before the Way of the Cross procession when Pope Francis arrived in Lisbon amidst a cheering crowd shouting with joy to welcome him through the cobblestone streets of Lisbon. As we retraced Christ's journey to Calvary, we carried the weight of our struggles and hopes, reflecting on humanity's challenges and the enduring message of love and redemption. The culmination of WYD unfolded at Parque Tejo, where we joined millions of young pilgrims for the Vigil and Final Mass presided over by Pope Francis. Under a canopy of stars, we raised our voices in prayer and song, surrounded by the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a moment of profound communion, a testament to the power of faith to unite hearts across continents and cultures.

Amidst the solemnity of the Mass, we revelled in the joyful festivities of the Youth Festival at Parque Eduardo VII. Here, amidst the laughter and music, we forged new friendships and celebrated the diversity of our global Catholic family. But our journey was not confined to the grandeur of large-scale events. Throughout our time in Lisbon, we also ventured on pilgrimages to sacred sites and engaged in service projects, grounding our faith in concrete acts of love and solidarity. As we bid farewell to Lisbon and WYD 2023, our hearts were full, our spirits uplifted. We returned home as individuals and ambassadors of hope, carrying the light and love we had encountered in the beautiful event.



### 3. NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S ACCOMPANIMENT

#### 3.1 JEC FRANCE

Our Programme coordinator Roy Ibrahim took part in the national meeting organized by the National Team, the Encounter of Leaders, and Mentors, on March 18, 2023, at St. Eloi Parish in Paris. The gathering welcomed members from the local teams of Metz, Nancy, St-Julien, and Jussieu. The meeting discussed the orientation report, particularly strategies to achieve the set orientations. The day's theme, "How are you doing?" prompted participants to share in smaller, diverse groups about their well-being in various life aspects, such as school, work, family, and local teams. A broader discussion among all attendees followed this. Before the lunch break, a session was dedicated to national information, updating everyone on upcoming activities. This annual encounter proved to be an enriching experience, fostering unity and collaborative spirit among members while aligning on strategic goals and sharing personal experiences within the community.

#### 3.2 JEC SENEGAL

During his visit to Senegal, our Programme Coordinator, Roy Ibrahim, engaged with the local JEC community, visiting the Jean XXIII group in Kaolack and participating in a training session at the JEC Universitaire in St Pierre-Grand Dakar. This visit was pivotal for the International Team, offering first-hand insight into the local Movement's dynamics and challenges. It also served as a platform for updating the local members on our global campaigns and discussing the potential adaptation of Global Initiatives locally. The warm reception from the local JEC Group in Kaolack underscored our strong ties and shared vision. Our heartfelt thanks go to Team JEC Senegal for their unwavering dedication. We eagerly anticipate sharing our upcoming initiatives and achievements with you.

#### 3.3 JEC RWANDA

The IYCS Secretary-General made a courtesy visit on Sunday, May 14, to JEC Rwanda, where he attended the enrolment ceremony for 15 new members at the Notre Dame of Good Counsel School Section, organized by JEC Rwanda. The Secretary-General congratulated and welcomed the new members into IYCS global family. In his speech to students gathered at the ceremony, the Secretary General Innocent Odongo highlighted the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainable living, focusing on the 2023 Laudato Si week theme, addressing the critical issue of climate change. He proposed a screening of the 'Letter' film documentary.



The visit provided a firsthand understanding of the Rwandan Movement's reality and an opportunity to interact with the students at the grassroots. Witnessing the growth of our Movement in Rwanda and the enthusiasm of the new members was an unforgettable experience. This event will inspire more young people to join us in our effort to make the world more sustainable and just. Special thanks to JEC Rwanda for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Additionally, the IYCS Secretary-General made a courtesy visit to Mgr Papias MUSENGAMANA, Bishop of Byumba Diocese and President of the Episcopal Commission for Youth Ministry (CEPJ), accompanied by the JEC Rwanda National President, Vice President, and National Chaplain. He highlighted the crucial role of young people in today's Church, fostering a synodal spirit and called for the Church's support for the Youth Movement.

### 3.4 JEC BURUNDI

The Secretary General of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) undertook a goodwill visit to JEC Burundi from May 10 to 13. During the visit, he engaged in constructive discussions with National Leaders, gaining valuable updates on the local Movement's progress in educating and empowering young Catholics. He connected with JEC members from various universities in Bujumbura, witnessing firsthand the remarkable initiatives the Movement in Burundi undertook. This visit was pivotal in strengthening collaboration between JECI and JEC Burundi and identifying with the Local Movement's achievements. The Secretary-General met with National Leaders, who shared their advancements around education and empowerment of young Catholics.

The visit highlighted JEC Burundi's crucial role in fostering the education and empowerment of young Catholics, emphasizing holistic development opportunities. The Secretary-General discussed strengthening collaboration between IYCS and the Local Movement with former JEC Burundi members and the National Director of the Burundi Catholic Pastoral and Youth Ministry Department. Expressing admiration for JEC Burundi's achievements, the Secretary-General affirmed IYCS's unwavering support. Emphasizing collaboration, he underscored the need to share best practices, resources, and knowledge. As the visit concluded, he commended JEC Burundi for nurturing young Catholics' intellectual and spiritual growth, stressing the importance of continued investment in youth education and empowerment.

---

**IYCS is committed to sustaining the amplification of Laudato Si's message and collaborating to care for our precious planet, steadfast in our belief that we can make a difference together.**

---

**By fostering collaboration, IYCS and JEC Burundi are poised to create a lasting impact, equipping young individuals with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary for positive change in their communities and beyond.**





**the assembly convened nearly 150 participants from various regions across Spain. The assembly served as a platform for reflections on self-care, the care of others, and the stewardship of our common home.**



### 3.5 YCS UGANDA

The IYCS Secretary General's journey across East Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda) culminated with the celebration of Laudato Si Week with the National and Local Leaders of YCS Uganda. During this remarkable week, the IYCS Secretary-General undertook a series of local movement visits, spreading the messages of Laudato Si and empowering young Catholic students to take action for our common home. One highlight of the trip was the screening of 'The Letter Film Documentary,' a powerful tribute to Laudato Si's influence. In Uganda, the Secretary-General shared this inspiring documentary with YCS University Leaders, encouraging them to rewatch it on YouTube and share it with fellow students and friends in their hostels. In a touching tribute, the visit in Uganda concluded with the planting of fruit trees in memory of the YCS Eastern Africa Chaplain, who sadly passed away during Laudato Si Week.

The Secretary-General also paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary-General of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, highlighting the importance of synodality and encouraging deeper collaboration with the Church. Among the essential subjects highlighted was the critical responsibility of young people in maintaining and growing their faith in the face of our world's rapid transformations. IYCS is committed to sustaining the amplification of Laudato Si's message and collaborating to care for our precious planet, steadfast in our belief that we can make a difference together.

### 3.6 JEC SPAIN

Before the WYD event in Lisbon, Mr. Roy Ibrahim stopped in Spain to attend the XXXIX JEC General Assembly themed "We are temple. Let's take care and take care of ourselves." Held in Mollina, Malaga, the assembly convened nearly 150 participants from various regions across Spain. The assembly served as a platform for reflections on self-care, the care of others, and the stewardship of our common home. During his participation in the assembly, Mr. Ibrahim contributed to the discussions and deliberations on these critical topics, emphasizing the importance of holistic well-being and community support. Additionally, he had the opportunity to engage with participants and share insights from the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), reinforcing the global solidarity among Christian youth. Moreover, Mr. Ibrahim's presence at the assembly underscored the collaborative efforts between

the JEC Spain and the international team, fostering mutual learning and exchange of ideas. Through presentations on the Pastoral Project and other training materials, the assembly further enriched discussions on empowering youth and promoting social justice initiatives within the Catholic student community.

### 3.7 KSJ GERMANY

The Secretary General of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) conducted a valuable visit to the KSJ National Office in Koln, coinciding with the #SB58 Climate Conference in Bonn. This visit allowed the Secretary-General to gain insights into KSJ's national initiatives and immerse himself in the local Movement's programs in Germany.

During the visit, the Secretary-General engaged in discussions with KSJ national executives, fostering collaboration and exploring opportunities for KSJ's local leaders to participate in international forums through the IYCS International Partnerships. This initiative aligns with IYCS's commitment to global engagement and collaboration, aiming to create a more inclusive representation in youth empowerment and climate action discussions.

The exchange enriched KSJ's leadership and reinforced the IYCS network's interconnectedness, showcasing a commitment to shared goals and values. This visit exemplifies IYCS's dedication to fostering meaningful connections and partnerships, contributing to a more substantial collective impact on the global stage.

### 3.8 YCS THAILAND

The transformative experience for the IYCS delegation during World Youth Day in Lisbon was not solely attributed to the JMJ (Jornada Mundial da Juventude); it was also significantly influenced by a profound encounter with YCS Thailand. The International Team actively engaged in a meaningful one-on-one exchange with ten young leaders from YCS Thailand, creating a unique opportunity for interaction and dialogue regarding the realities of the YCS Movement in Thailand.

During this encounter, the IYCS International Team seized the opportunity to share global initiatives with the local leaders. They delved into discussions about the prospects of the IYCS Asia Regional Dialogue and Training hosted by YCS Thailand in September 2023. This dialogue further enriched the transformative experience by fostering a deeper understanding of the Movement's global initiatives and the specific context of YCS Thailand.



### 3.9 SCA PHILIPPINES

The Secretary General of IYCS embarked on a courtesy visit to SCA Philippines from September 9 to 12, 2023, establishing a significant connection with our local Movement. This visit offered us an opportunity exchange with the National Leaders, offering valuable insights into ongoing programs, activities, and the reality of the Movement.

The Secretary-General engaged with local SCA groups in universities, such as the University of the Philippines - Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, and the Centro Escolar University - Manila. Through on-site visits, he gained first-hand insights into the dynamic and diverse nature of the local SCA chapters, which deepened his understanding of their activities and challenges. Additionally, a courtesy visit was made to the Catholic Bishops



Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). During this visit, the Secretary-General and the SCA National Coordinator, Mr. Steven Nelson Segura, interacted with Fr. Jade Licuanan, Secretary of the CBCP – Episcopal Commission on Youth. Discussions centered around collaborative efforts, and support was sought for the Movement's endeavors.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General, accompanied by the National Director of SCA Philippines, Mr. Cyril Ryan Lituañas, also met with several alumni of the Movement to explore potential technical



support for the Movement in Asia. Given that the Asia Regional Coordination is based in Manila, these conversations formed a group advisory think tank. This think tank is poised to provide technical support to IYCS Asia coordination, enhancing its regional capabilities and impact.

The visit climaxed with a courtesy visit to Bishop Leopoldo “Pol” Jaucian, SVD, the National chaplain of SCA Philippines. This meeting provided an opportunity to express gratitude, strengthen ties, and reinforce the collaborative spirit between IYCS and SCA Philippines. The insights gained, and collaborations formed during this visit stand as instrumental steps toward advancing the collective Mission of empowering young people and fostering positive change within the Philippines and the broader Asia region.





## 4. REGIONAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

### 4.1.0. IYCS AFRICA COORDINATION

#### 4.1.1. Strengthening Young People's Digital Skills

In 2023, IYCS Africa launched its project 'Strengthening Young People's Digital Skills'. The primary objective was to build the capacity of 200 young students, across Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The project exceeded expectations, reaching 2100 students within various learning institutions in the targeted countries.

One notable outcome of the project was the establishment of a WhatsApp group named "Digital Girls" by five students from a girls' school in Rwanda. This platform was a digital hub for these young girls to share their experiences navigating the digital space. The "Digital Girls" WhatsApp group has become a virtual space for these students to engage in discussions and peer learning on various aspects of digital security, including combating fake news. This initiative addresses the immediate goal of enhancing digital skills and fosters a supportive community where young girls can navigate the challenges of the digital world together. The empowered young trainers hosted workshops in the school libraries and their communities' common spaces, reaching 2100 students directly in the learning institutions.

While the project has achieved substantial success, continuous efforts are required to address ongoing challenges and leverage opportunities for further impact. Ensuring the longevity and sustainability of the "Digital Girls" WhatsApp group and the broader digital security capacity-building initiative is crucial. Developing continuous engagement and support strategies will contribute to the project's long-term success. Exploring possibilities for scaling the project to reach even more young individuals in the targeted countries and expanding to additional regions with similar needs will maximize the positive impact on digital literacy.

By surpassing initial outreach goals, the project has laid a foundation for continued success and growth in enhancing digital security awareness and skills among young individuals in Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Ongoing efforts, strategic planning, and collaboration will further contribute to the sustained success of the initiative.

#### 4.1.2. Inter-religious Conference (IRC) 2023, Youth Pre- Pre-Conference

Mr. Benson Makusha, the regional coordinator for IYCS Africa, co-led the organization of the inter-religious youth pre-conference at the 2023 IRC in Johannesburg, South Africa, on December 3. The conference brought together more than 40 young

people and faith actors from Africa, Europe, and Asia,

- ♣ To reflect on the convention sub-themes, including the diverse strategies employed by faith change-makers to advance women's rights/ gender justice and inter-religious actions on climate change, youth, and women in peace and security.



- ♣ To reflect on religion and cultural traditions and how, through intergenerational partnerships and the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups and youth, they have promoted respect and freedom of religious belief for diverse and harmonious multi-faith, multicultural communities, and societies.
- ♣ To identify common challenges and critical factors necessary for effectively implementing policies/programs for adolescents and youth on gender equality, peace & security, SRHR, health, and development. These will be presented during the opening and closing plenary sessions.
- ♣ To create a space for youth to share and learn from one another about the role of youth and faith actors in social action and explore the diverse religious perspectives represented.
- ♣ The Youth Pre-conference was organized in plenary and kneecap group discussions between youths and senior religious leaders covering the following themes: SRHR, Legal and Policy Frameworks, Peaceful Coexistence, Leadership, and Participation in Decision Making.

### Key outcomes of the discussion were:

- ♣ The endorsement of religious leaders and faith actors concerning the advancement

and dismantling of barriers within faith communities regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is crucial. Instead of avoiding these issues, faith leaders should embrace them and become advocates.

- ♣ Incorporating young people into leadership roles within faith communities is essential to meaningful and inclusive youth involvement. Transitioning from mere token representation to substantive participation of young individuals within faith communities cultivates resilient leaders and institutions.
- ♣ Youth play pivotal roles in peacebuilding efforts, and prioritizing their inclusion in the design and execution of peacebuilding initiatives is imperative. Faith leaders should champion youths as promoters of peace rather than perceiving them as troublemakers.
- ♣ Young religious leaders should engage in political discussions to become agents of change who influence policies. Places of worship should serve not only as spaces for religious education but also as forums for dialogue on political and social matters, nurturing responsible leadership.

The event was facilitated by Faith to Action Network, ACT Alliance, ACT Church of Sweden, ACT Ubumbano, Mensen mit en Missie, Muhammadiyah, Religions for Peace South Africa, World Faiths Development Dialogue, and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA); the pre-conference set the stage for the Interreligious convention which was running from 4-6 December 2023.



## 4.2.0. IYCS ASIA COORDINATION

### 4.2.1. 15th IYCS Asia Session and Council Meeting

The International Young Catholic Students (YCS) Asia Coordination held its 15th council meeting on the side-line of IYCS Human Fraternity Asia Regional Dialogue and Training held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. National YCS Leaders, Chaplains, and Lay Animators from nine (9) National IYCS Movements in Asia, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, participated. Other Movements represented by proxy include Taiwan, Korea, and Vietnam. The Council reviewed the coordination efforts across the Asian regions, encompassing various aspects of the organization's operations. A few highlights from the meeting includes:

**National Movement's Reports:** During the opening segment of the council meeting, reports were presented by representatives of each National Movement, offering a detailed status update on the current state of the Movement within their

respective countries. These reports served as a crucial foundation for understanding the realities, challenges, and achievements experienced by each Movement in the region.

The insights shared during the National Movements Reports played a pivotal role in shaping the subsequent plenary discussion. By understanding the unique circumstances and contexts within each country, participants were better equipped to engage in strategic discussions leading to the formulation of plans for future actions and guiding strategies for enhanced engagement and accompaniment within the diverse landscape of the Asian region.

**Asia Coordination Report:** The Asian Coordinator delivered an update on the three designated regions—Eastern, Southeast, and South Asia. The presentation highlighted challenges specific regions faced, noting instances of inactivity or a lack of contact. Discussions also touched upon the 13th Asian Session and Council held in Taiwan in 2018, emphasizing the organization's focus on capacity-building and addressing critical issues within the regions.





**Activities & Initiatives:** Several activities and initiatives were reported, including the Global Training in 2018, a visit to YCS Indonesia, and renovating the Asian office in the Philippines. Collaborative efforts in the Asian CAFÉ held in Indonesia, participation in international programs, and the launch of initiatives such as the Youth for Myanmar campaign and CLAP Workshop on Culture, Diversity, and Identities were highlighted. The report underscored the importance of collaboration with other national Movements and SCA offices.

**Financial Overview:** A detailed financial breakdown covering accounts, website maintenance, formation programs, allowances, and property management was presented. The report showed the organization's complete reliance on alumni and external support.

**Plenary Discussion:** The discussion featured suggestions to minimize expenses, such as the proposal to utilize free email accounts. Questions arose regarding financial management and reporting, leading to a proposal to engage an external audit firm for auditing purposes. During the plenary, Student Leaders and the Advisory Board expressed gratitude to Jessica, the outgoing coordinator for her dedication. The Advisory Board provided insights into financial needs and support for the Asian team.

**Future Planning:** Proposals were made to establish a board and a student committee and

entrust finance handling to SCA Philippines. The meeting witnessed the nomination and election of an interim coordinator, Yen, from the SCA Philippines. Coordinators were also elected for each subregion: Apará Silva (YCS Sri Lanka) for South Asia, Iggy and Thaline (YCS Singapore and YCS Indonesia, respectively) for Southeast Asia, and Young Young (YCS China) for East Asia. Plans for future coordination and collaboration between regions were articulated.

**Chaplaincy Team:** The meeting addressed the issue of the chaplaincy team, nominating Fr. Prageeth for a role of coordination within the team. The other members of the Chaplaincy Team included Fr. Chetan, Fr. Antony, Fr. Khurt, and Brother Winhtakon. Detailed discussions ensued about the role and support structure for the chaplain team.

The final stages of the meeting involved the approval of the final statement and decisions regarding the structure, roles, and responsibilities of the Asian coordination team. India was selected as the international representative for Asia. Sri Lanka volunteered to host the next Asian Session and Council. The meeting concluded with a detailed discussion on financial matters, organizational structure, and strategic planning for the Asian team's future endeavours.

#### 4.2.2. Continued Learning and Action Program (CLAP)

In 2023, the International Young Catholic Students (YCS) Asia Coordination collaborated with Pax Romana IMCS Asia Pacific to execute the





Continued Learning and Action Program (CLAP) Workshop. This program aimed to empower young individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to address critical issues within their communities.

The focus of the 2023 CLAP Workshop was on Ecumenism & Inclusiveness. The workshop was held virtually, every Friday and Saturday between September 8, & 16, conducted live on Zoom. The initiative provided a platform for learning,

networking, and fostering solidarity among the attendees.

The program, a collaborative effort by IMCS Asia Pacific, International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) Asia, Christian Conference Asia (CCA), and the National Conference of the Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), exemplified the commitment to advancing the capabilities and connections of young individuals in the region.

*Promoting fraternity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and respect for religious diversity among younger generations*



**DAY 1: SEE**

*Promoting fraternity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and respect for religious diversity among younger generations*



**DAY 1: SEE**

### 4.3.0. JECI-MIEC EUROPE COORDINATION

#### 4.3.1. JECI-MIEC Training Session in Budapest



our programme coordinator, Roy Ibrahim participated in pivotal gatherings that significantly contributed to our understanding and engagement in democratic processes and organizational development within the JECI-MIEC framework. A study session organized in collaboration with the Council of Europe held in Budapest under the theme, “Shaping our World across Generations:

Understanding the Past to Create a Democratic and Sustainable Future”. This session brought together 35 participants from 15 countries, providing a platform for learning, sharing knowledge, and fostering personal development. The agenda focused on democracy, the myriad forms of nonviolent protest, the critical role of voting, and active participation in one’s country’s political life. Our involvement allowed us to delve deeply into the complexities of political participation beyond conventional voting or party membership, exploring its intrinsic link to democracy and sustainable development. It was a space for us to share ideas, encourage engagement, and contemplate actions to enhance youth political participation locally, and get acquainted with the Council of Europe Standards.

Feedback from participants showed overall satisfaction and an enhanced understanding of the key concepts. However, the need for a more in-depth exploration of topics and incorporating diverse methodologies was identified to further improve the session’s effectiveness.

#### 4.3.2. European Youth Forum (EYF) and COMECE

The European Coordinator, Anna, represented JECI-MIEC at the General Assemblies of the European Youth Forum and the training course, Youth Academy. The European Youth Forum is the largest platform for youth globally and a crucial advocacy platform for JECI-MIEC. It also offers





an excellent opportunity to foster relationships with partner organizations such as MIJAC, ATD Fourth World, and the Jewish Students Movement. JECI-MIEC also takes part in the COMECE Youth Platform. Anna was responsible for the platform involvement and attended in-person meetings in Brussels and several online meetings. The platform served as a connection to other catholic European youth organizations and cooperation on specific topics, such as a campaign for the upcoming European Elections.

#### 4.3.3. European Committee 2023

Our Programme Coordinator, Roy attended the European Committee meeting in La Roche-

Sur Foron, France, at the IMCS Pax Romana headquarters. This gathering was crucial for the strategic direction of JECI-MIEC, focusing on renewing the European Team's composition and electing the European Coordinator. Discussions extended to refining our organizational structure, notably through establishing an Advisory Board composed of former members. This initiative aimed to bolster our approach to various tasks, including the meticulous planning and execution of study sessions in partnership with the Council of Europe. Our contribution to these discussions aimed to ensure a coherent strategy that aligns with our core values of democracy, sustainability, and effective political participation.



#### 4.4.0. JECI-MIEC MIDDLE EAST COORDINATION

##### 4.4.1. Middle East Regional Meetings

The activities section of the Middle East Coordination in 2023 encompasses a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the community, foster development, and address regional challenges. These activities include:

**National Secretariat Meetings:** Regular meetings were held to discuss strategic planning, operational matters, and ways to enhance the Movement's impact within the Christian student community across the Middle East.

**Monthly Coordination Team Meetings:** These meetings focused on coordinating the movement's activities, sharing updates from different countries, and planning regional initiatives to ensure cohesive and effective efforts across the Middle East.

##### Special Events and Initiatives:

- ♣ The "They Know the Truth" follow-up initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue, understanding, and unity among Christian students in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan.
- ♣ Response efforts to the Syria earthquake, highlighting the Movement's commitment to humanitarian aid and support for affected communities.
- ♣ Expressing solidarity with populations affected by conflicts and actively advocating for peace and reconciliation.
- ♣ Participation in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Egypt, emphasizing the Movement's dedication to fostering Christian unity and interdenominational dialogue.

**Challenges Addressed:** several challenges are faced by the Movement, including funding limitations, the impact of regional conflicts on communities and activities, difficulties obtaining visas for international travel, and the need for a more substantial social media presence to engage more effectively with youth and stakeholders.

The effort of the Middle East Coordination shows the Movement's commitment to serving their communities, promoting Christian values, and working towards peace and unity in a region marked by significant challenges.



#### 4.5.0. JECI-MIEC LATIN AMERICA COORDINATION

The year 2023 presented numerous challenges, notably transitioning from virtual to face-to-face interactions within our communities. Amidst the diverse circumstances experienced by each Movement, this period witnessed some consolidation of their efforts while regional coordination directed its focus toward labour and sustainability.

The resumption of face-to-face learning enabled our Movement's active participation in significant international spaces. The latter part of 2023 was characterized by ongoing coordination efforts to ensure the success of the MIEC-JECI Latin American Committee in 2024.

##### Key Regional Participation Spaces:

**Planning Day 2023:** On February 6, the Latin American Secretariat team created a forum to review the progress of 2022, plan activities for 2023, and align them with organizational goals.

**Advancing Synodality: Meeting of National Leaders and Coordinators:** Leaders and coordinators convened on March 25 to share achievements from 2022 and discuss their perspectives for the upcoming year.

**Virtual Course for Ecclesial Community Advisors of Students and Professionals:** The SLA actively engaged in organizational meetings and provided essential support during the course, from July 22 to August 26, showcasing collaborative efforts.

**Meeting to Transmit International Participation to Latin American Movements:** On September 16, a session was organized by the regional coordination to disseminate the learning experiences gained in international spaces during July and August. Insights from World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, and the IYCS International Committee Meeting in Fatima, Portugal, were explicitly shared.

**End of Year Meeting: Walking in Community Into 2024:** On December 16, leaders and coordinators gathered for a conference reflecting on Christmas and global challenges. The second part focused on sharing perspectives and progress in organizing the Latin American Committee 2024, providing a platform for participants to articulate their aspirations for 2024.

**Support Team Meetings:** Throughout the year, the Latin American Secretariat, comprising a secretary and an advisory priest, regularly coordinated meetings. Notably, a face-to-face meeting was held on October 4, emphasizing the importance of in-person collaboration.

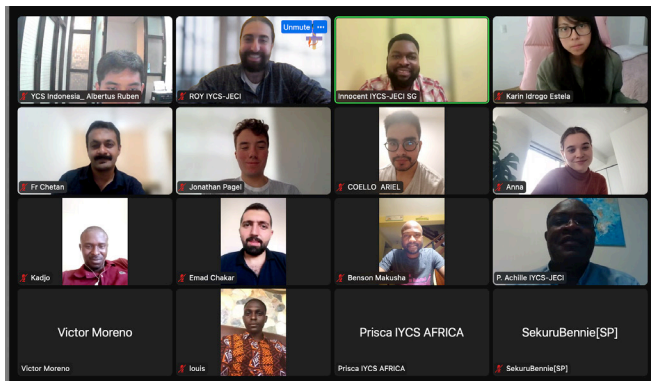
These regional engagements exemplify the proactive approach of the Latin American movements and their coordination body, showcasing a commitment to continuous improvement and collective growth.



## V. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### A. Extraordinary International Committee Meeting January 2023

The International Committee 2022 (extraordinary session) resumed on January 22, 2023, commencing with an opening prayer led by Fr Antony Makunde, the IYCS Africa regional chaplain.



The committee's primary focus was on the work of the International Commissions. Each commission coordinator presented an overview of their achievements, challenges, and recommendations from the past year. Discussions ensued, emphasizing the need to reflect on commission work and propose new strategies. Challenges, including the improper transfer of institutional memory, led to the suggestion of organizing periodic induction and study sessions with different commissions. The Theology and Chaplaincy Commission stressed the importance of collaboration with chaplains from diverse regions to achieve cross-cultural understanding. Addressing challenges related to mobilizing young people and funding limitations, there was an emphasis on the need for an international plan and global funding strategies.

Other matters discussed included the proposal to send a delegation to the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon. The 17th World Council's postponement to 2024 was agreed upon, with the International Secretariat (IS) tasked with hosting country selection. The unanimous decision was made to hold the Global Study Session and the 2023 International Committee in Portugal post-World Youth Day. Discussions on membership fees were deferred to the physical meeting in Lisbon.

The committee unanimously extended the International Secretariat Team's mandate until the end of 2024, following the postponement of the 17th World Council, to facilitate smooth transmission of memory.

### B. International Committee Meeting August 2023 – Fatima

The 2023 International Committee Meeting occurred in Fatima, Portugal, from August 8 to 10, 2023. During this gathering, the Committee officially ratified the re-election of the Regional Coordinator for Europe. The session included a thorough review and approval of the regional coordination's reports and the IYCS Narrative and Financial statement for the year 2022. The Committee also scrutinized and approved the 2024 action plan for IYCS. Furthermore, discussions unfolded regarding the 17th World Council, culminating in supporting JEC Jordan's application to host the World Council in May 2024.

During the 2023 International Committee Meeting, detailed discussions and reviews took place regarding the work of the IYCS International Commissions. These included the Advocacy and Representation Commission led by JEC Ivory Coast, the Campaign Commission led by JEC Guinea, the



Extension and Promotion Commission led by JEC Spain, the Theology and Chaplaincy Commission led by YCS India, and the Finance Commission led by JEC Burkina Faso.

During the International Committee Meeting in



Fatima, a specific day was set aside for a specialized study session and group reflections. The primary purpose was to define the theme and topics for the upcoming World Council study session. The session emphasized exploring the IYCS Identity and Mission in contemporary society, the IYCS Structure and Management System, and the membership status of National Movements. This session was facilitated and guided by two (2) members the IYCS Advisory Board (Mr Richard Apeh and Mrs Agathe Sagne)



and Mr. Nuno Wemas, the former Secretary General of IYCS. Part of the outcome is the creation of two committees; one on IYCSs identity and mission in contemporary society, as well as the IYCS's structure and management system and the second committee was tasked with examining the membership status

of National Movements and its collaboration with the International Secretariat. Both committees were directed to engage in further reflection and consultation, with a scheduled report-back session planned for the extraordinary committee meeting, which will be held in the first half of 2024.

### C. International Movements of Specialized Catholic Action (MIACS)

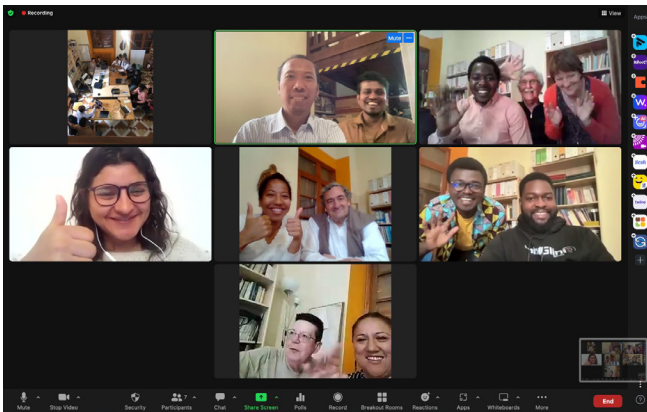
In May, the MIACS network (Specialized-Catholic-Action International Movements) embarked on a retreat in La Roche-sur-Foron, engaging in reflections about the future trajectory of our network. This retreat was pivotal, guiding our discussions and shaping our vision for the upcoming year. The retreat culminated in a significant decision to appoint JECI and CIJOC as coordinators for the next year, tasked with steering the network towards its envisioned goals. Throughout the summer, we maintained momentum by convening for a meeting to synchronize our plans and set the stage for a more comprehensive online gathering post-summer.

As September drew close, we reconvened to share updates and insights, setting the tone for our subsequent meetings in October and December. During these gatherings, we deliberated on our future engagement as movements, highlighting two primary areas of focus:



1. Synod of Synodality and the Role of Movements in the Church: Our commitment to reinforcing engagement within the Church found expression through plans to prepare a joint intervention during the ecclesial movements meeting in June 2024. Additionally, we resolved

to ready ourselves for a side event during the Synod meeting in October 2024, aiming to articulate lay movements' role in Vatican II and explore avenues for collaboration in the forthcoming Synod. We underscored the interconnectedness of our work within the Church and society, recognizing them as intertwined facets of our mission. Our goal is not to categorize our efforts but to seamlessly integrate our actions, acknowledging the symbiotic relationship between the Church and broader society.



2. Defining the Mission for the Coming Decade: Looking ahead, we recognized the imperative to define the mission of the MIACS network for the next decade. This mission-setting exercise is essential to revitalizing our network, ensuring relevance and impact in an ever-evolving landscape.

As we chart our course for the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering collaboration and synergy within the Church and Society. By embracing our collective identity and purpose, we are poised to embark on a journey of renewal and purposeful engagement in the years

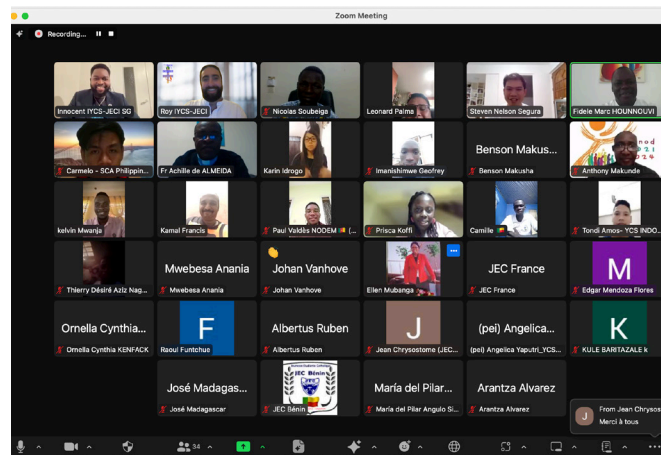


to come.

### **D. IYCS 77th Anniversary Celebration: Students Igniting Faith for a Bright Future**

In 2023, the IYCS joyously celebrated the 77th anniversary of the Young Catholic Students Movement, reaffirming our steadfast commitment to our values and Mission within the Church and student communities worldwide. This milestone showcased our unity in global solidarity, complemented by impactful local actions to foster positive change and social transformation in our respective communities.

The celebration under the theme: "Students Igniting Faith for a Bright Future" coincided with the 9th IYCS World Day, established in 2015 during our World Council, which catalyzes solidarity among YCS members. This annual event provided a significant opportunity for reflection, experience sharing, and commemorating the international nature of our Movement. Additionally, it served as a tribute to Cardinal Joseph Cardijn, whose



visionary works inspired the formation of the IYCS movement in the 1920s.

The celebration commenced on November 13, 2023, with a Holy Mass led by the IYCS International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Achille d'Almeida, live-streamed on YouTube and available (here). The celebration was preceded by a webinar on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The webinar featured two brief interventions of around 10 minutes each, Fr. Anthony & Greta (JEC Lebanon Alumni), followed by a group session for feedback. The aim was to showcase projects and programs illustrating how holistic education contributes to a more sustainable and inclusive future. Through these interventions, we reaffirmed our dedication to fostering positive change aligned with Integral Ecology, Global Social Justice, and Human Fraternity.

During the webinar, participants were invited to contribute their perspectives on the significance of integral and holistic education in shaping youth understanding of peacebuilding, tolerance, integral ecology, climate awareness, social justice, and sustainability. The insights gathered during this session are invaluable in advancing our collective Mission.

Thanks to the collective efforts of YCS as a transformative force in schools and communities, we have reached millions of young people globally. Aligning with the emphasis on holistic education for a sustainable future and broader themes of Integral Ecology, Global Social Justice, and Human Fraternity, we proposed the celebratory theme: "Youth Igniting Faith for a Brighter Future." This theme reflects our commitment to comprehensive education that enriches minds and instills a profound responsibility towards the environment and society, emphasizing the interconnection between education, sustainability, and social justice.

The celebration climaxed with the official launch of the 17th IYCS World Council, scheduled to take

place in Amman, Jordan, in 2024, with the theme: 'Students Igniting Faith in a World of Crises.'

## CONCLUSION

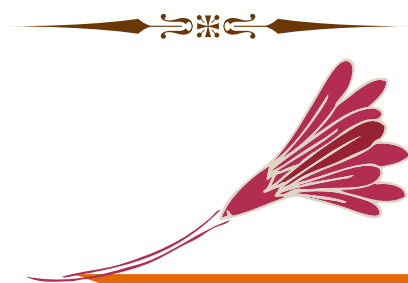
In 2023, IYCS experienced significant milestones amid the challenges posed by the many geopolitical situations around the world. In the concluding report, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners—CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Fastenakton, and Mission Munchen—for their unwavering support and to our International Team members coordinating the Regional Secretariats and National Movements.

The year saw us commemorating our 77th Anniversary and 9th IYCS World Day with a successful virtual event on November 18, 2023, marking the launch of the 17th IYCS World Council scheduled for May 2024 in Amman, Jordan.

IYCS took the lead in spearheading the Human Fraternity project in the Asia Region, aiming to foster tolerance and end discrimination based on religion or belief among young people. Synodality processes within the Church ensured that young voices remained integral to matters of faith, Church, and society.

Our active participation in COP28 in Dubai underscored our commitment to promoting Laudato Si messages and environmental advocacy despite external funding challenges. We maximized resources and digital platforms for program sustenance, advocacy, and partnerships.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, we express gratitude to our partners and collaborators and eagerly anticipate continued collaboration in 2024. Together, we will advance initiatives to combat climate change, promote quality education, and foster a peaceful, just society through the advocacy of Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together.



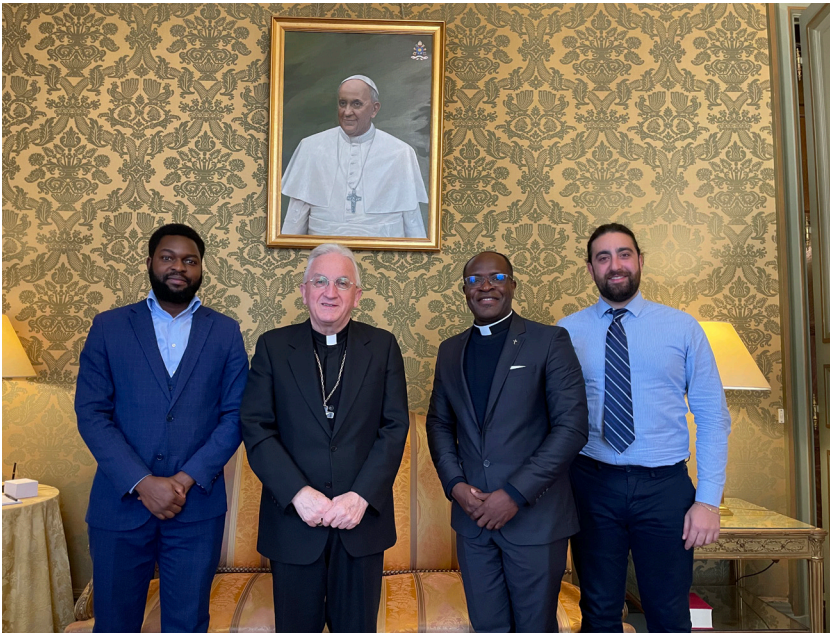
## APPENDIX - 1

## 1. IYCS 2023 Provisional Financial Report

2023 EXPENSES OF IYCS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT				
S/N	EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT SPENT IN €	AMOUNT BUDGETED IN €	%
<b>A.</b>	<b>CORE COSTS</b>			
1	Elected Staff Stipends	20,900.00	34,100.00	61.29%
2	Hired Staff Social Charges	1,034.92	-	-
3	End of Service Costs	2,000.00	-	-
4	Rent and Utilities	11,137.45	15,400.00	72.32%
5	Owned Property Costs & Maintenance	28,092.41	18,600.00	151.03%
6	Communication Costs	2,284.98	1,978.00	115.52%
7	Insurances of Elected Staff & Properties	2,650.48	2,054.00	129.04%
8	Financial Services & Taxes	7,958.54	5,180.00	153.64%
9	Stationery and Supplies	634.30	650.00	97.58%
10	Representation and Meetings	1,182.43	1,500.00	78.83%
11	Visitation to Movements and Regions	1,737.73	2,500.00	69.51%
12	Provisions and Other Costs	2,505.00	1,000.00	250.50%
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>82,118.24</b>	<b>82,962.00</b>	<b>98.98%</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>PROGRAMME AND PROJECT RELATED COSTS</b>			
1	Youth Engagement, Participation and Advocacy	281.97	14,500.00	1.94%
2	Care for our Common Home	686.01	5,500.00	12.47%
3	Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together	19,391.38	37,813.50	51.28%
4	Youth Ministry (Spirituality and Formation)	5,285.02	13,507.00	39.13%
5	Organizational Development	2,541.55	4,000.00	63.54%
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>28,185.93</b>	<b>75,320.50</b>	<b>37.42%</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>110,304.17</b>	<b>158,282.50</b>	<b>70%</b>

2023 INCOME OF IYCS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT				
S/N	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT RECIEVED IN €	AMOUNT BUDGETED IN €	%
	2022 B/F	4,124.41	-	-
1	Rent from Owned Property	44,495.67	48,840.00	91.10%
2	Membership Fees	2,500.00	3,250.00	76.92%
3	CCFD-Terre Solidaire	18,000.00	20,000.00	90.00%
4	Fastenaktion – Careme Suisse	14,992.50	16,000.00	93.70%
5	Other third party contributions	26,619.12	70,192.50	37.92%
5.1	Vatican Dicastery for Laity Family & Life	5,213.00	-	-
5.2	Alumni Donation	650.00	-	-
5.3	Other Income/ Donations	6,426.12	-	-
5.4	Local YCS Contributions (participation fees & Airtickets)	14,330.00	-	-
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>110,731.70</b>	<b>158,282.50</b>	<b>70%</b>

APPENDIX - 2  
2. Visits and Meetings in Pictures



## APPENDIX - 2

### Visits and Meetings in Pictures



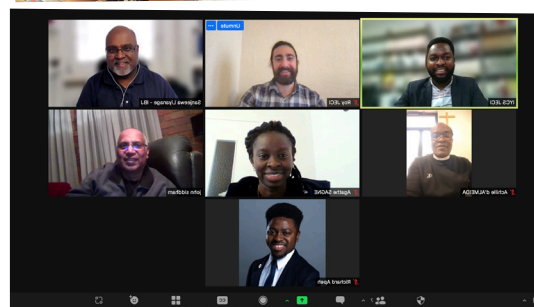
## APPENDIX - 2

### Visits and Meetings in Pictures



## APPENDIX - 2

### Visits and Meetings in Pictures



## APPENDIX - 2

### Visits and Meetings in Pictures



## APPENDIX - 3

### 2. Final Statement of XV IYCS Asian Session & Council 2023

The Final Statement and the Recommendations of the XV IYCS Asian Session and Council 2023

We, 33 participants of YCS Asia representing nine National Movements across Asia gathered at International Youth Training Centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand hosted by YCS Thailand from September 2-8, 2023 to deliberate on the theme, “Promoting fraternity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance and respect for religious diversity among younger generations”.

The YCS Review of Life Methodology of “See, Judge, and Act” by Joseph Cardinal Cardijn provided a platform for young minds to rediscover their spontaneity both personally and socially. We discussed the problems that young people after COVID 19 had to deal with in terms of political and social issues that affected our lives.

#### SEE:

Resource persons assisted us in thinking critically about the theme throughout the study sessions. We talked about the encyclical by Pope Francis titled “Fratelli Tutti,” which gave us insight into the problems and realities the world is currently facing. We witnessed the predicament that the underprivileged, marginalized, immigrants, and other disadvantaged groups in society faced. Additionally, we witnessed the diversity that exists and the significance of fostering a culture of peace. We received a thorough explanation of religion and spirituality. Spirituality is more about knowing humankind than it is about adhering to a certain faith. Our visits to a Buddhist temple and a Mosque taught us to respect the diversity in the community. Sharing by other National Movements and Asian coordination also aided in the understanding of the various activities they organized and their condition.

#### JUDGE:

In groups, we discussed the issue and made an effort to comprehend the circumstances in various nations. While learning about the spirituality of the YCS, we discussed interreligious dialogue. The subjects of respect, fraternity, diversity, and peaceful coexistence were also extensively covered by us. Religious leaders also assisted us in thinking of peace and mutual respect. However, we realized that rigidity and inclination to dominate, as well as ignorance of other religions, political intervention, and attitude of not showing solidarity, continue to hold us back.

Often the attitude of teachers, family, political parties and peers distort our understanding of fraternity, peace and coexistence. We made a detailed analysis and expressed our understanding of the existing reality. We appreciated the rich culture that exists in our region.

Some of us spoke of struggles balancing our purpose of YCS with modern life, the scarcity of devoted chaplains and animators, concerned parents, and understanding teachers to serve as our mentors, and the difficulty many have in figuring out who we really are. A few students talked about having little patience and tolerance, having the wrong priorities, feeling lonely, and being uninterested in life. We were impressed with the excellent work done at these levels despite several difficulties after hearing about the difficulties the Asian coordination and National Movements experienced like financial crunch and coordination.

#### ACT:

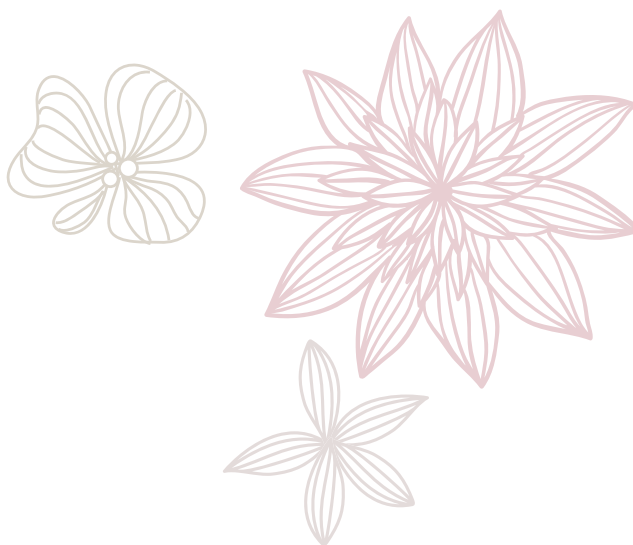
To resolve these concerns, the delegates were inspired to break open their paths to be the change and bring the change to build a just society – God’s Kingdom.

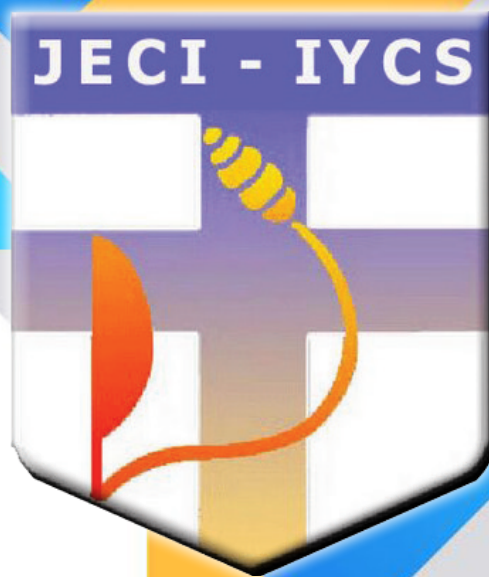
Thus, we the delegates of the XV ASC resolve:

1. That our YCS groups regularly practice the review of life, and take actions to change ourselves, our community and the world.
2. To study and consider how our national movements promote fraternity, harmony, and respect for religious variety, and to work with young people of various faiths to promote best practices and the celebration of our rich diversity.
3. That each member lives out the YCS spirituality – See, Judge, Act – in our daily lives, individually and collectively.
4. To work closely with chaplains and church leaders, encouraging synodality, in order to actively contribute to the revitalization of the student community.

Sept 7, 2023  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

- ♣ Bangladesh
- ♣ China
- ♣ India
- ♣ Indonesia
- ♣ Myanmar
- ♣ Philippines
- ♣ Singapore
- ♣ Sri Lanka
- ♣ Thailand





**Annual Report made by:**

Mr. Innocent Odongo  
Mr. Roy Ibrahim  
Rev. Fr. Achille D'Almeida

**Copyright © 2023 IYCS-JECI**

**Copying or storing any content is expressly prohibited without prior written permission of IYCS-JECI.**