



**International Catholic Movement
for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs**

ICMICA/MIIC

**PAX
ROMANA**



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Who we are ? **Some Background of History....**

- The International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA) Pax Romana is **an international association of the faithful**, with private juridical personality according to canons 298-311 and 321-329 of the Code of Canon Law.
- It is governed by applicable canonical rules in force and by the statutes of movement.
- It also constitutes an Association for civil purposes in the sense of articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss Civil Code. The office is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

History of Pax Romana Family



Participants in 1946 at Twenty-Fifth Pax Romana World Congress at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland

- **ICMICA** comes from the tradition of Pax Romana IMCS, an association of Catholic University Students founded in Fribourg, Switzerland in **1921** and approved by Vatican in June 1921.
- **ICMICA was founded in the years 1946** as the graduate branch of Pax Romana and the original statutes were approved by a letter from Cardinal Pizzardo to Monsignor Francois Charriere, Bishop of Lausanne, Fribourg and Geneva, of 18 June 1948.
- **ICMICA** is also recognised in the tradition of Specialised Catholic Action. ICMICA is also characterised by methodologies, which include, among others, see-judge-act, applied according to the various contexts in which it is present.

History of Pax Romana Family



- **ICMICA/MIIC Pax Romana** has members in more than 54 countries of all continents and several contact groups and individual members. The international headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- So Pax Romana, initially founded in 1921, is made up of **2 complementary organizations** or branches:
 - **ICMICA/MIIC:** whose members are the federations of intellectuals and professionals.
 - **IMCS/MIEC :** The International Movement of Catholic Students, whose members are the federations of young students. The headquarters is in Paris, France.
- Relations between IMCS and ICMICA, which constitute the two branches of Pax Romana, are governed by their respective statutes and by any cooperation agreement entered into.

The identity of ICMICA

- **An International Lay movement** : composed of Catholic professionals and intellectuals with a spirituality of action to the service of **human dignity and the common good in human society.**



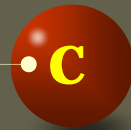
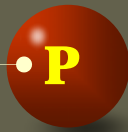
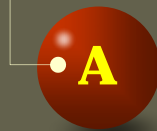
- **An apostolate movement:** Its members, as professionals and intellectuals, seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God through their life and their commitment in the various contexts in which they are present, to share the Gospel in the environments to which they are committed and to contribute to **the building up and renewal of the Church at the local and universal level.**

The aims of ICMICA are

- **Act** in defence of human dignity and human rights, for the construction of true peace on earth, for the eradication of all forms of poverty and injustice, and for sustainable development in harmony with nature;

- **Pursue** all its works on behalf of society in the light of the Social Teachings of the Church, and especially through the professional and intellectual contributions of its members;

- **Contribute** to the path of ecumenism seeking the growth of communion between all Churches and Christian communities; and to be in dialogue, peace and understanding among religions.



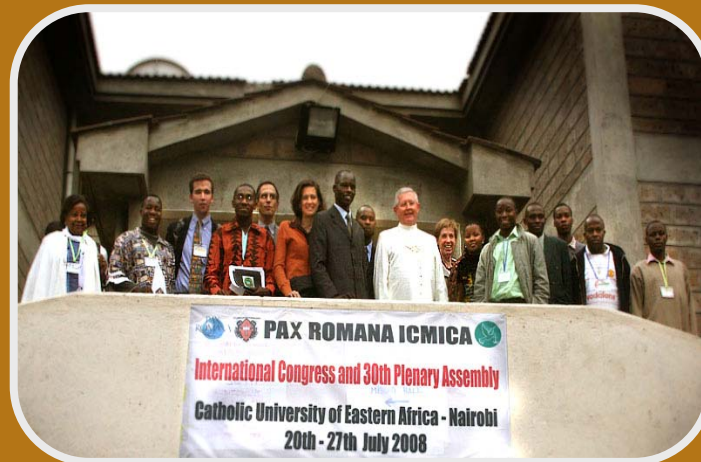
- **Support** the deepening of the faith and the coherence of life of its members;

- **Support** the process of constant formation of its members in spiritual matters, in commitment, and in professional and intellectual matters by way of exchange of experiences, shared study, openness to the Word of God and the celebration of, and participation in, the life of the ecclesial community, in communion with the local Church, in which it is present, and with the universal Church;

- **Serve** as witness of the Gospel in the various communities and environments with which it is involved and to contribute intellectually and professionally to a proactive dialogue between the Christian faith and cultures, and between faith and reason;

The Plenary Assembly of ICMICA/MIIC Pax Romana

- **The Plenary Assembly of ICMICA/MIIC Pax Romana** meets every 4 years and, in addition to taking the decisions on statutory matters and action plans for the period, appoints the 17 members of the International Council, including President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General. The last Plenary Assembly took place in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2008.



5 Vice-Presidents, one for each region.

- **ICMICA/MIIC Pax Romana** has **5 Vice-Presidents, one for each region.**

Mesvres, France for Europe

Seoul for Asia/Pacific

Miami for North America.

Nairobi for Africa

Santiago, Republic
Dominica for Latin
America and the
Caribbean

- The regions have a small-scale framework in voluntary basis for the regional coordination.

International Team

- ICMICA/MIIC Pax Romana has just elected **the new International Team** in **2008** which is composed by:

- **Prof. Dr. Javier María IGUÍÑIZ ECHEVERRÍA**,
Professor of Economic,
Pontifical University of Peru.

- **Ms. Laurence Kwark**, who
previously worked for CCFD
in Paris, France.

- **Fr. Luis Maria GOICOECHEA**,
Director of Seminary in
Victoria, Basque Country.

Specialized secretariats

- Pax Romana also operates through **specialized secretariats:**
- **SIQS** – International Secretariat for Scientific Questions
- **MIJC** – International Secretariat of Catholic Jurists
- **SIIAEC** – International Secretariat for Catholic Engineers, Agronomists and Industry Officials
- **SIESC** – International Secretariat of Catholic Secondary Schools Teachers
- **SIAC** – International Secretariat of Christian Artists
- International Secretariat for **Gender Issues**



Structure of the ICMICA Pax Romana

The Plenary Assembly

Decision making body
composed by National
Movements

The Council

Governing body
composed by 17
members of the
Council plus
Secretary General

Secretary General

supported by the
Regional
Coordination Team

Regional Coordination team

composed by the
vice-president for
each continent plus
2 council members
from each
continent

- Technical agencies of the Movement

**the General
Secretariat**

**the Specialized
International
Secretariats**

What Pax Romana ICMICA is doing ?

- **Internally,**

- Coordination and animation of **the Life of movements**
- Development of Formation and **leadership training courses**
- Promoting Exchange of experiences and practices among national movements
- Contributing with a **theological and ecclesial reflections to the Church**
- For the **renewal** of our understanding of the faith in the context of our society, to **the important church events and activities**
- **Consolidation of contact groups** in the countries where there are no movements
- Building **solidarities** among members and national movements
- **Articulating our professional knowledge** and expertises at the service of poor at national, regional and international level
- **Promoting the voice of voiceless at International level,** through our active advocacy and lobby activities jointly conducted with the Catholic Church and the ICOs



What Pax Romana ICMICA is doing ?

- Pax Romana has been in communion with **other catholic organizations internationally**, and it has been working closely with the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the Secretary of State of the Holy See, and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, for Culture and for Interreligious Dialogue.



- Pax Romana also works with the **Permanent Observers** of the Holy See to **the UN and UNESCO in Geneva**, New York and Paris. Previously Pax Romana was an active member of the International Catholic Organization (ICO) and was part of the Conference of ICO. Now, it has been part of the Forum of the Catholic NGOs.

What Pax Romana ICMICA is doing ?

- **Pax Romana ICMICA/MIIC** maintains a close working relationship with the Catholic agencies members of **CIDSE** – International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity, an international network of 15 Catholic development agencies.
- **Pax Romana** is a **member** of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative relationship with the UN (**CONGO**). Pax Romana was Vice-President of CONGO for the period 2003-2006. Pax Romana is the President of the NGO Committee on Human Rights in Geneva and Co-chair of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning in Geneva.
- **Pax Romana** has consultative status with the United Nations since 1949, through the Economic Social Council (**ECOSOC**), as well as with UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Pax Romana has permanent representatives for the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It is also presence in the regional intergovernmental body such as Council of Europe and the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights and has accredited representatives to those organizations. Likewise, **Pax Romana has been very active in many of the meetings and activities of the UN.**



PRIORITIES OF INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF ICMICA/MIIC PAX ROMANA 2008-2012



- During **the 30th Plenary Assembly 2008**, the International Team has been mandated to put some new priorities in their action plans. Those priorities include:

- Promoting **Intercultural & interreligious dialogue**
- **Gender** as an emerging area of action.
- **Global Governance.**
- **Human Rights** and **Sustainable Human Development**
- **Migration and Human Rights**
- **South-South Dialogue**
- **Cooperation** with Different Actors and Partners
- **The Role of the Church** at the **International Institutions**
- Consolidation of the movement. Especially in **Asia and in Africa**
- Formation and Training for the new leadership building, especially **young profesional leaders**
- **Resource Mobilization**

Challenges in Asia

- **Weak** and few National Movements
- **Absence** of the movement in many critical countries
- **Negative image** attached to the concept of “**Intellectuals**”
- **No space** of continuous commitments
- Maybe due to **the difficult context of Asia** ?
- **Lack of human and financial resources**

