



International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs
Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques
Movimiento Internacional de Intelectuales Católicos

36th Plenary Assembly

Final Documents and Report of Statutory Session



Prepared by Kevin Johnson, Kevin Ahern, and Philippe Ledouble

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Introduction: A Summary of Our Assembly

Dear members and friends,

Please find attached the report of the 36th Plenary Assembly of the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana), which met in Barcelona on the theme: **From Indifference to Mercy: Our Commitment.**

Our Assembly met at a critical moment in the history of our planet, our church, and our movement. Over the course of several days, our delegates came together in prayer, common reflection, and planning. The input of our members on the realities facing Christian intellectuals and professionals guided our analysis throughout the Assembly. This report summarizes the main decisions and commitments of the Assembly.

Broadly, our commitments were threefold:

- A. Our Commitments in the World:** As a global movement of professionals, local communities, and national movements, we affirmed the analysis of Pope Francis on the globalization of indifference as a root cause of the multifaceted challenges facing people and planet today. As a movement of professionals, local communities, and national movements, we recommitted ourselves to work for social change globally within the United Nations system and locally by supporting our members to live the social demands of Christian faith in their professional and personal lives.
- B. Our Commitments in the Church:** As a lay church movement, our Assembly reaffirmed our central task as one of evangelization—a commitment to prophetically go forth to the margins, the margins of society, the margins of intellectual and professional life, and the margins of the church. We desire to respond to the invitation of Pope Francis and *Evangelii Gaudium* to witness to Jesus Christ in our world.
- C. Our Commitments as a Movement:** Our Assembly also affirmed our commitments to our movement. To this end, we welcomed six new member movements, elected new International Council members, and set directions for the future.

With Deep Gratitude

Our Assembly would not have been possible without the work and leadership of many individuals and groups. First and foremost, we must thank the three national movements in Catalunya: G.J.Roda Ventura Barcelona, Moviment de Professionals Catòlics de Barcelona (MPCB); Catalunya (Spain) and the Fundació Pasqual Maragall. Our movement owes much to these movements and their members.

Second, we are most grateful to the work of Philippe Ledouble, the ICMICA Secretary General, who helped to prepare the Assembly on behalf of the International Council and Javier Maria Iguñiz Echeverria, who concluded his mandate as International President of ICMICA. Our movement owes much to your leadership over the past eight years.

Last, but not least, we are most grateful to the many national movements, delegates, experts, and friends who participated in the Barcelona Assembly. We look forward to continuing the conversation over the next four years.

On behalf of the International Council, we hope that this report is helpful for you as we look ahead to the future of our movement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ahern
President
ICMICA-Pax Romana

Program of the Assembly

*The following is a summary of the program of the Assembly.

Thursday, October 27th

- Meeting of ICMICA International Council

Friday, October 28th

- Opening Session at Blanquerna- Ramon Llull University School of Communication and International Relations- C/ Valldonzella, 12 08001 Barcelona.
- **18h. Reception**
- **18:30h. Welcome to participants.**
 - Welcome from local team **Noemí UBACH**, MPCB President
 - Welcome from **Javier IGUÍÑIZ**, President of ICMICA/MIIC- PAX ROMANA
 - Welcome from **Monsignor Joan Josep OMELLA**, the Barcelona's Archbishop.
- **19h. Introduction**
 - **Josep M. CARBONELL**, President of Fundació Joan Maragall
 - **Fr. Gustavo GUTIÉRREZ, OP** (by video)
 - **LECTURE: MERCY, A POLITICAL ACTION**, **Josep M. RAMBLA, SJ.**
- **Closing,**
 - **Núria SASTRE**, President of Grup de Juristes Roda Ventura and European Vicepresident of ICMICA MIIC- PAX ROMANA
- **21h. Welcome Reception**

Saturday, October 29th

(Residència Salesiana Martí-Codolar- Avda. Cardenal Vidal i Barraquer, 15. 08035)

- **8:45h. Opening Prayer**
- **9:15h. Introduction to the Study Session**
 - Javier IGUÍÑIZ, President of ICMICA MIIC- PAX ROMANA **9,30h.**

SESSION I:

OUR EXPERIENCE OF INDIFFERENCE AND MERCY

- **9:30 Panel**
 - Introduction and moderation,
 - Philippe LEDOUBLE
 - Indifference and mercy in political context
 - RD Congo (JB NDUNDU)
 - Indifference and mercy in war context
 - Ukraine (Ulyana TKACHUK)
 - Indifference and mercy in professional context
 - Catalonia (Geni CANTA and Montse SUBIRANA)
 - Indifference and mercy in Pax Romana context
 - Global coordination (Camila Jara APARICIO)

- **11h.**^[L]_[SEP] **Coffee Break**
- **11:30h. Introduction to Session II**
 - Núria ICETA Workshops

SESSION II:
SHARING OUR REALITY

- Group 1 (English): Women's concerns^[L]_[SEP] (Annemarie WEINZETTL)
 - Group 2 (English): Continental network (Frederik WAMALWA)
 - Group 3 (English): War conflict^[L]_[SEP] (Prakash KHADKA)
 - Group 4 (French): Political issues (Juan ANSION)
 - Group 5 (Spanish): Political conflicts^[L]_[SEP] (Ruki FERNANDO)
- **13h.**^[L]_[SEP] **Lunch Break**

JUDGE SESSION III:
LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL

- **15h. Introduction to the session III**
 - Suso MON^[L]_[SEP]
- **Introduction to the speaker and moderation**
 - Antoni MATABOSCH, theologian and MPCB chaplain
- ***MERCY OF LETHARGY: FROM INDIFFERENCE TO MERCY***
 - András MÁTÉ-TÓTH, Theologian and President of Hungarian Movement of PAX ROMANA
- **Discussion**

ACT SESSION IV:
THE CHALLENGE OF COMMITMENT II

- **17h. Introduction and moderation of the roundtable of key partners**
 - Kevin AHERN, Vice president of North America ^[L]_[SEP]
 - Carles TORNER, director of Pen International
 - Claire QUINTIN, member of MIJARC
 - Mike DEEB, OP Dominican order at the UN ^[L]_[SEP]
- **20h.**^[L]_[SEP] **Dinner and traditional party**

Sunday, October 30th

(Residència Salesiana Martí-Codolar- Avda. Cardenal Vidal i Barraquer, 15. 08035)

- **8,45h.**^[L]_[SEP] **Opening Prayer**

SESSION V
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- **9h Panel on International Institutions**
 - **Introduction to the session VI**
 - Jaume ARTÉS
 - Moderation
 - Council of Europe, Philippe GROLLEAU (video)
 - UNESCO, Marguerite DAUNY
 - UPR process, Lawrencia KWARK
 - Human Rights Council, Sr. Yvette ANGULO
- **9,45h^[11]_[SEP] Coffee Break**

SESSION VI:
CHALLENGES OF PAX ROMANA MOVEMENTS

- **10,15h Workshops**
 - African Group
 - European Group
 - Latin American Group
 - North-American Group
 - Asian-Pacific Group

CONCLUSIONS OF THE ACT PART

- **11,30h. Closing Plenary Assembly**
 - Frederik WAMALWA, Vice-President for Africa
 - Javier IGUÍÑIZ, President of PAX ROMANA-ICMICA
- **11,45h^[11]_[SEP] MASS, celebrated by Barcelona Auxiliary Bishop – Monsignor Sebastià Taltavull**
- **13,30h^[11]_[SEP] Lunch^[11]_[SEP]**
- **16h^[11]_[SEP] Visit to Sagrada Familia Church**
- **18h^[11]_[SEP] Cultural visit to old city of Barcelona, neighborhood of Ciutat Vella**
- **21h^[11]_[SEP] Dinner in a Restaurant at Barcelona Port**

Monday, October 31st and Tuesday, November 1st: Statutory Session

(Residència Salesiana Martí-Codolar- Avda. Cardenal Vidal i Barraquer, 15. 08035)

Report of Statutory Session 36th Plenary Assembly

1. Opening Session

- The Assembly opened with a prayer by Fr. Luis Maria Goicoechea, international chaplain.
- Javier Iguiniz, president of ICMICA, opened the session.
- Kevin Ahern, Vice President of North America, led a prayer to remember deceased members who have died over the past four years.

2. Report of the Credential Committee

- The International Council proposed the following members to serve on the credential committee.
 - Cyrille N’Kawula (MIIC Togo)
 - Nuria Sastre Domenèch (Cataluña – Pax Romana)
 - Ana Claudia de los Heros (MPC Uruguay)
- The Assembly proposed adding AnneMarie Weinzettl (KAVÖ- Austria)
- **The Assembly approved the committee by acclamation.**

3. List of Members with Right to Vote

- After considering present membership dues and presence at the Assembly, the Committee presented the following movements with the right to vote at the beginning of the Assembly:

<p><u>Europe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basque-Spain: Barandiaran Kristau Alkartea (JMBKA); • Spain-Catalunya: Pax Romana Federation (G.J.Roda Ventura Barcelona and Moviment de Professionals Catòlics de Barcelona (MPCB) • Great Britain: Newman Federation • Italy: Movimento Ecclesiale di Impegno Culturale (MEIC) • Ukraine: OBNOVA • Austria: Katholischer Akademkerverband Oesterreichs (KAVO) <p><u>North America</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States: Inner Room 	<p><u>Africa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Togo: Mouvement des Intellectuels Catholiques (MIIC) • DRC: Mouvement des Intellectuels Catholiques (MIIC) <p><u>Latin America</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile: Movimiento de Profesionales Católicos; • Colombia: Movimiento de Profesionales Católicos • Peru: Movimiento de Profesionales Católicos (MPC); • Uruguay: Movimiento de Profesionales Católicos (MPC).
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4. Election of the Chair

- Candidate for Chairperson of the Assembly: Josep Maia Carbonell
- Candidate for Vice Chairperson: Nestor DaCosta
- **The members of the Assembly voted unanimously for the candidates.**

Josep Maia Carbonell took the presidency of the Assembly and thanked the outgoing Council and International Team.

5. New Members

- Dr. Carbonell presented the candidates for new national members:
- **Representatives of each movement presented themselves with discussion:**
 - Catalunya (Spain): Fundación Pasqual Maragall
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome Fundación Pasqual Maragall as a new member of ICMICA.**
 - Navarra (Spain): Solasbide
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome Solasbide as a new member of ICMICA.**
 - Ecuador: Militantes por la vida (MPV);
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome MPV as a new member of ICMICA.**
 - Paraguay: Movimiento de Profesionales Católicos (MPC);
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome MPC Paraguay as a new member of ICMICA.**
 - Côte d'Ivoire: Mouvement des Intellectuels Catholiques
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome MIIC- Côte d'Ivoire as a new member of ICMICA.**
 - Portugal: Metanóia
 - **The Assembly voted unanimously to welcome MIIC- Côte d'Ivoire as a new member of ICMICA.**

The six new members were added to the members with the right to vote.

6. Minutes of the Past Assembly

- Dr. Carbonell presented to the Assembly the minutes from the 2012 Plenary Assembly, posted online.
- **The Assembly voted unanimously to accept the minutes**

7. Regional Reports (most were available online)

- Africa: Mr. Wamalwa presented the regional report for the African region.

- Latin America: Ms. Muller presented the regional report for Latin America.
- North America: Dr. Ahern presented the regional report for North America.
- Europe:
- **The Assembly voted to accept the above regional reports by acclamation.**
- Asia Pacific: Mr. Ledouble informed the Assembly of the situation in the Asia Pacific region. The regional vice president was unable to attend the Assembly. The three participants from Asia shared with the Assembly the state of the movement in the region and updated some of the activities.
- The Assembly requested that the next international council deepen communication with the national movement and develop a common strategy for the region.

8. Specialized Secretariats

- **SIIAEC:** Theo Quendler presented the report of SIIAEC.
- **Women's Vision:** Anne Marie Weinzettl presented the report of the Women's commission. She asked the movement to find new members to coordinate the group and to see how to explore its work to the UN representation.
- **The Assembly thanked Mr. Quendler and Ms. Weinzettl and asked the Next Council to clarify the status of the specialized secretariats.**

9. International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS/MIEC Pax Romana)

- Edouard Pihèwa KAROUE, the President of IMCS updated the Assembly on the activities of IMCS.
- The chairman of Assembly thanked the IMCS President profusely and asked the ICMICA Assembly to work very closely with IMCS in future.

10. Financial Report (available online)

- Mr. Eneko Caballero, the treasurer, presented the financial report.
- After breaking over lunch to consider the report, the Assembly reconvened to consider the report.
- The treasurer and General Secretary clarified the question raised.
- The Assembly requested that more effort be made to clarify the financial reports in the future. Having national movements pay membership dues each year on time would be critical for the future.
- **The Assembly voted to approve the financial report with 34 in favor and 4 abstentions.**

11. Report of the International Team (available online)

- Phillipe Ledouble and the outgoing International Council, presented the 2012-2016 International Council report focusing on activities, communication, partnership, and administration.

- **After discussion with the Assembly, the Assembly approved the report by acclamation.**

12. Presentation of Candidates for Next International Council

- Dr. Carbonell presented the candidates for the next International Council.
- The Albanian movement raised concerns about having an election with no contested positions. The Albanian movement motioned to nominate Annemarie Wenzettl for President. Ms. Wenzettl expressed her gratitude for the nomination, but declined to accept the nomination.
- The Assembly voted for each of the following candidates:
 - President: Kevin Ahern (USA)
 - **Elected unanimously**
 - Secretary General: Philippe Ledouble (France)
 - **Elected unanimously**
 - Vice President for Africa: Fredrick Wamalwa (Kenya)
 - **Elected unanimously**
 - Vice President for Europe: Núria Sastre Domènech (Catalonia, Spain)
 - **Elected unanimously**
 - Vice President for Latin America: Elisabeth Muller (Colombia)
 - **Elected unanimously**
 - Vice President for North America: Kevin Johnson (USA)
 - **Elected unanimously**

November 1st: Morning session

- Opening prayer
- Distribution of books by WTI Korea to all movements. The Assembly thanked WTI for the books.
- Dr. Ahern presented an overview of the goals for the day to organize planning for the future.
- The Assembly began by looking at two draft statements. One addressed to Pope Francis and the other to the incoming Secretary General of the United Nations. After discussion, the Assembly requested the next International Council to amend and send the two texts.

13. Planning and Priorities

- The Assembly broke into working groups to discuss the Priorities for 2016-2020 and the Plan of Action for the following year (See attached).

14. Closing

- The Assembly reconvened after the working groups
- Dr. Carbonell, on behalf of the movement, thanked Javier Iguñiz for his service as president.
- Dr. Carbonell formally closed the Assembly.

Meeting of the International Council

- Following lunch, the newly elected International Council met briefly.

Statement to UN Secretary General

H.E. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
Secretary General Designate
United Nations

Dear Mr. Guterres,

We, the members of the 32nd Plenary Assembly of the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana), wish to express our strong support for you as you prepare to begin your mission as the Secretary General.

Representing over fifty national movements of lay Catholic intellectuals and professionals, our delegates gathered in Barcelona to reflect on the theme: **From Indifference to Mercy: Our Commitment?** At that meeting, our Plenary Assembly voiced a desire to congratulate you on your election as General-Secretary of the United Nations.

We feel close to you, given your formation in the JUC, which was a national affiliate of our sister movement, the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana).

As an international Catholic lay movement with a long history of collaborating with the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization, we wish you success in your difficult but essential world-wide task.

Sincerely,

The members of the 32nd Plenary Assembly of the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana),