

IMCS
INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF
CATHOLIC STUDENTS

PAX ROMANA

PAN-AFRICAN COORDINATION

STATUTES
OF THE PAN-AFRICAN IMCS

IMCS SOUTH AFRICA

International Movement of Catholic Students

TITLE 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1 – NAME

Article 1: The International Movement of Catholic Students at the Pan-African level is hereinafter referred to as “Pan-African IMCS”.

CHAPTER 2 – VENUE

Article 2: The Pan-African IMCS coordination office is currently based in Nairobi, Kenya.

CHAPTER 3 – OBJECTIVES

Article 3: The objectives of the Pan-African IMCS are:

- 3.1 To promote student Apostolate among students of higher education, emphasizing their responsibilities within the life and mission of the Church in the world.
- 3.2 To promote justice which is crucial for the transformation of society and to collaborate with all people in common reflection and action for a more just and equitable social order at all levels including national, continental and international ones.
- 3.3 To deepen our experience of the Christian faith lived through commitment and to communicate this faith to the students’ milieu by witnessing Jesus Christ.
- 3.4 To develop an educative process that will help students translate their Christian faith into more practical efforts at building a more just society.

TITLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

Article 4: The Pan-African IMCS is composed of:

- 4.1 All National Movements / Federations that are fully affiliated to the Pan-African IMCS.
- 4.2 All National Movements / Federations that are affiliated to corresponding members of Pan-African IMCS.

Article 5: Affiliated Members

5. All Catholic student organizations in universities and other institutions of higher learning are considered fully affiliated members of Pan-African IMCS if they fulfill the following conditions:

- 5.1.1 Pursuance of the objectives of Pan-African IMCS as stipulated in Article 3

Article 8: The Pan-African Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the Pan-African IMCS

Section 2 - Composition

Article 9: Pan-African Assembly Delegates

The Pan-African Assembly is made up of all delegates of affiliated national Movements/Federations, sub-regional coordinators, members of the Pan-African Team, a delegate from the International Team, and candidates to the Pan-African team as well as invited guests according to the defined circumstances.

Section 3 - Roles and Duties

Article 10: The Pan-African Assembly has the following as its roles and duties:

- 10.1 The evaluation of the work of National Movements sub-regional coordinations, and of the Pan-African Coordination team with the view of building a strong united African Movement.
- 10.2 The planning and organisation of the orientation of activities of African Movements remaining faithful to the objectives of IMCS. However, it must allow National Movements to be autonomous in taking initiatives.
- 10.3 The organisation of elections to the Pan-African Coordination Team, the Pan-African Council and the sub-regional coordinations.

Section 4 - Convening of Meetings

Article 11: The Pan-African Assembly

- 11.1 The Assembly is to meet once every four years. The Pan-African Coordination Team in consultation with the Sub-Regional coordinators and the National Movements fix the dates and venue.
- 11.2 The central decision of a country to host the Pan-African Assembly lies in the linguistic experience, given that the sub-regional rotation takes second precedence.
- 11.3 The linguistic experience is defined according to the official language of the country.
- 11.4 The Pan-African team convenes the Assembly. However in an event of failure to do so, the IMCS International Team is to see to it that the Assembly is convened.
- 11.5 In the event of the inability to hold the Assembly due to unforeseen circumstances, without precedent, the Pan-African Coordination team after consultation with the Sub-Regional Coordinators and National Movements can re-schedule the meeting time for a later date.
- 11.6 The Assembly is held for a minimum period of two weeks.

- 11.7 For the Assembly to take place, there shall be a quorum of 2/3 majority present. Otherwise a consultation meeting can replace the Assembly.
- 11.8 For the practical details that stipulate and regulate the preparation, organisation and holding of the Pan-African Assembly, refer to the relevant annex.

Section 5 - Tools:

Article 12: Requirements at the Assembly:

12.1 The structural tools of the Assembly are the exposure programme, study session and the statutory session.

The Steering Committee is composed of the members of the Pan-African Council and one of the Local Organizing Committee and is in charge of directing the work of the Assembly. In addition, the Steering Committee makes an evaluation of the daily activities at the end of each day and plans for the next day.

12.2 The Steering Committee chooses the Presidium that will animate the discussion following the principle of rotation in order to ensure an effective participation of all the delegates. This team is made up of a President and two Secretaries.

Article 13: Procedures at the Assembly.

13.1 During the study session, any delegate may intervene at any time. The Presidium can, however, decide to withhold the right of a delegate to intervene.

13.2 During the Statutory Session, intervention is made following the principle of one voice per country.

13.3 The following are in order of precedence as regards intervention:

13.3.1 A participant can call for a point of order only when the defined procedure is not followed.

13.3.2 A participant can call for a point of personal privilege to react to issues when he/she is the subject of discussion.

13.3.3 A point of information can be called for when asking for information and/or clarification.

13.3.4 The Presidium has the right to stop any speaker on the floor if he/she is out of order, having abused the "point of personal privilege" granted him/her by the Presidium.

13.4 The members of the Pan-African Coordination Team always have the right to speak by priority.

13.5 Motions are presented by any Movement in writing to the Presidium and each motion must be seconded by another Movement. A point of order has priority over all other motions and is voted on and passed by a simple

majority.

- 13.6 When the Presidium receives an amendment motion, it is obliged to ask the mover of the original motion if he/she agrees to withdraw his/her motion. If he/she agrees, it is only the amendment motion that is voted upon. If not, then the vote is conducted to choose one of the two motions.

Section 6 - Voting Procedures

Article 14: Rights and Procedures

- 14.1 Each National Movement/Federation which is a full member of IMCS has only one vote in any round of voting.
- 14.2 The Pan-African Coordination Team and all other members of the Pan-African Assembly who are not delegates of fully affiliated National Movements/Federations have no voting rights.
- 14.3 A Movement's voting right can be withdrawn in an event of failure to pay its annual dues. In such a case, the Movement concerned has the right to present before the Assembly its case for failure to pay, and the latter has the right to decide.
- 14.4 The delegation of a vote is allowed either before or during the Assembly.
- 14.5 A voting Movement absent at the Assembly can delegate its vote by a letter to either a member Movement, to the Sub-Regional Coordination or any member of the Pan-African Coordination of its choice. The proxy vote must be declared to the Assembly before voting is conducted.
- 14.6 One proxy vote per country is allowed. However the Sub-Regional Coordinator and/or any member of the Pan-African Team may hold more than one proxy vote.
- 14.7 Each proxy vote must be accompanied by the report of activities of the National Movement that delegated the said vote.
- 14.8 At the beginning of each Session, and before every vote, the number of voting members of the Assembly is taken to certify that there is a 2/3 majority of Movements voting.
- 14.9 Voting on issues is done by showing of cards and by secret ballot for persons.
- 14.10 A discussion shall be called for on issues before voting is conducted or carried out.
- 14.11 For each round of election the positive votes are counted, then the negative ones and abstentions last.
- 14.12 All issues are passed by a simple majority of the votes.

CHAPTER II – THE PAN-AFRICAN COUNCIL

Section 1 - Definition

Article 15: The Pan-African Council is a decision-making body between two Assemblies.

Section 2 - Composition

Article 16: The Pan-African Council is made up of the following:

- 16.1 Members of the Pan-African Coordination Team;
- 16.2 Sub-Regional Coordinator;
- 16.3 Two delegate members from two national Movements elected as members of the Pan-African Council.

Section 3 - Roles and duties

Article 17: The Pan-African Council is responsible to the Pan-African Assembly to determine the orientations and options of the Movement. Its roles and duties are the following:

- 17.1 To prepare the IMCS plan of action in conformity with the Pan-African Assembly's decisions.
- 17.2 Safeguard sub-regional contacts, draw up specific sub-regional plans of work, which take into account the needs and priorities of the local sub-regions.
- 17.3 Fix the same financial allocation of all the sub-regions, which can be increased or reduced depending on the amount of work and/or the availability of funds. The Council must also determine/review the salaries of the Pan-African Coordination Team.
- 17.4 The financial allocation for the functioning of the sub-regional structures is given after the presentation of the report (sent in due time) on the use of the funds given in the previous allocation.
- 17.5 If an urgent decision must be made, the Pan-African Council must adopt the necessary measures called for, with the reservation that it must be ratified by the Pan-African Assembly. Member Movements must immediately be informed of this.
- 17.6 The Pan-African Council shall meet immediately after the Pan-African Assembly to implement the programmes of action drawn up by the latter. The next Pan-African Council meeting should be held not later than two years after the Assembly. This Council will evaluate the past and then draw up the programme of action for the next two years before the next Pan-African Assembly.
- 17.7 The mandate of the Pan-African Council is four years non-renewable.
- 17.8 In case of an impossibility of holding a Pan-African Council meeting because of any major problem (e.g. financial problem, lack of quorum,

academic constraints or other valid reasons) the Pan-African Coordination Team can take the initiative under the fundamental options of IMCS to address the structural circumstances.

CHAPTER III - PAN-AFRICAN COORDINATION

Section 1 - Definition

Article 18: About the Pan-African Coordination:

- 18.1 The Regional Coordination Team is the Pan-African Coordination.
- 18.2 The Pan-African Coordination Team works in close collaboration with the International IMCS Team in accordance with the norms defined by both the Pan-African Assembly and the International Committee.

Section 1 - Composition

Article 19: The Pan-African Team

- 19.1 It is composed of two elected Coordinators elected by the Pan-African Assembly and one Chaplain chosen by the SECAM (Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar) among a list of 3 names proposed by the Pan-African Team after an appeal for candidates from National Movements.
- 19.2 Regarding the Team, it is preferable to have two coordinators with different linguistic experience.
 - 19.2.1 Nevertheless, this condition is not a sine qua non in the choice of a Coordination Team.
- 19.3 The two Coordinators are equally competent.
- 19.4 One Coordinator takes office immediately after the Pan-African Assembly and the other joins up one year after in order to allow for a smooth transition with the leaving Team.
- 19.5 The choice of who is to take up office first will depend on one of the Coordinators' immediate availability
 - 19.5.1 In the case of the two elected Coordinators being available for the same period, authority is then given to them and them alone to work out the solution on who should be starting first.
 - 19.5.2 If there is some disagreement amongst them, then the first elected Coordinator is given the priority.
- 19.6 The two Coordinators will define their domain of work and inform the Pan-African Council.

Section 3 – Elections of Coordinators and Chaplain

Article 20: Nominations and Mandate:

- 20.1 Candidates to the Pan-African team have to be presented by their National Movements/Federations to the Pan-African Coordination at least three months before the Assembly.
- 20.2 One Movement/Federation can either present one candidate for Pan-

- African Coordinator or one candidate for the Chaplain but not both.
- 20.3 To be elected a Coordinator, one has to: 3.1 Be confirmed committed Catholic Christian, and be recommended by the Episcopal Conference of the candidate's country. 3.2 When proposed for election, the candidate must still be a student or having ended not more than one year and a half before. 3.3 Have a good foundation and co-ordinating experiences in the Movement. 3.4 Be free to take up coordination work immediately and for four years or as decided by the Assembly.
 - 20.4 Having a good command of the official languages used in Africa is an added advantage.
 - 20.5 The mandate of the Pan-African Coordinators and the Chaplain is four years non-renewable. However for the Chaplain, it can be renewed if the need arises.

Article 21: Voting Procedures

- 21.1 An Electoral Commission elected by the Pan-African Assembly amongst non-voting members organizes the elections.
- 21.2 The counting of votes and the declarations of winners are done immediately after each round of voting by the electoral commission.
- 21.3 Voting shall be conducted in the following manner:
 - 21.3.1 There will be two rounds in general election.
 - 21.3.2 There shall be the first general election with a simple majority votes to select one candidate from among all the candidates.
 - 21.3.3 Depending on the first elected person's linguistic experience, the next round of general election is conducted on simple majority votes on other candidates from the other experience.
- 21.4 In the case of a tie involving two candidates of different linguistic experiences, both are declared elected in order to avoid any possibility for a new round.
- 21.5 In the case of a tie involving two candidates from the same experience, the Pan-African team is hereby empowered to break the tie.
- 21.6 All candidates contesting any elections being conducted by the Assembly must be physically present to be introduced to the Assembly by their respective delegates.
- 21.7 In the case where a candidate has no other delegates from his/her respective movement to introduce him/her, then his/her sub-regional representative if present can introduce him/her to the Assembly. In the absence of a sub-regional representative, the Pan-African team may do so.
- 21.8 Assembly delegates have the right to pose questions to the candidates in order to know them better and to be sure of their experience and their understanding of the Movement.
- 21.9 The electoral Commission shall determine the time to be allowed for introduction and questioning of the candidates.
- 21.10 The electoral Commission reserves the right to determine the validity of any particular vote that is not sufficiently legible or clear in statement – or

bears two or more different names or symbols used to represent the different candidates.

Section 4 – The responsibilities and the life of the Pan-African Coordination

Article 22: The Coordinators

- 22.1 The Team members should work in communion with the help of prayers and moral support.
- 22.2 The Team has to work towards portraying a modest and realistic Christian life.
- 22.3 The Team shall be at the service of the National Movements.
- 22.3.1 It shall promote decisions and recommendations of the Pan-African Assembly (i.e. Plan of action).
- 22.3.2 It shall ensure that the reality and the problems of Africa appear in the programmes of IMCS.
- 22.3.3 It shall promote the extension, coordination and the interaction of the National Movements/Federations:
- 1) By visits, organisation of meetings, formation sessions and reflections for National Movements expressing a need.
 - 2) By the exchange of experiences through publications.
- 22.4 In view of safeguarding the International solidarity, the Pan-African Team in collaboration with the International Secretariat and all the Regional Secretariats of IMCS through correspondence, the exchange of documents and the participation in different events at the meetings organized by one or the other while preserving its autonomy.
- 22.5 The Coordination Team should develop a working relationship with other International Movements and organisations with a similar orientation.
- 22.6 The Pan-African team is the spokesman of the African IMCS at any International forum.

Article 23: The Chaplain

- 23.1 The Chaplain has the role of spiritual counseling to the Team of which he is a member without voting rights, and does attend meetings.
- 23.2 He is informed of the activities of the Coordination. He has no right of decision and his advice is consultative on all, important matters concerning the movement.
- 23.3 In case of dispute between the two Coordinators, the Chaplain has the right of breaking the tie.
- 23.4 He is to help the two Coordinators on theological and pastoral questions.
- 23.5 A Chaplain is preferably a priest, but a Church lay person can also be a Chaplain.
- 23.6 The Chaplain should be a person with an informed experience of the youth and the movement. He should be one who understands them and their problems and is able to deal with them.
- 23.6.1 In the case of a lay person, he has to have good knowledge of the Church's doctrines.

- 23.6.2 The relationship between the students and the Chaplain should not be one of dependence, inferiority, or one of superiority but it should be more of trust and understanding. It has to be a relationship of frank collaboration marked with faith, respect among themselves and of the love of Christ.
- 23.7 The work as Chaplain need not necessarily be full time. A Chaplain could also work part time.

CHAPTER IV – SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATIONS

Section 1- Definition

Article 24: The Sub-Regional Coordination is a structure of Pan-African IMCS.

Section 2- Composition

Article 25: The Pan-African Coordination is comprised of four Sub-Regions, viz: West Africa, Central Africa and Madagascar, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

Section 3- Elections and Mandate

Article 26: Modus Operandi:

- 26.1 Each Sub-Regional Coordination is confined to one country that chooses its Coordinator or a structure of their choice to do its work.
- 26.2 The election of the Sub-Regional Coordination is done by the Sub-Region, and the elected country is presented to the Assembly for adoption.
- 26.3 The mandate of the Sub-Regional Coordination is for four years, and non-renewable unless a consensus is presented permitting a renewal for clear and specific reasons.

Section 4- Roles and Duties

Article 27: The Sub-Regional Coordinator among other things has the following responsibilities:

- 27.1 To ensure a regular correspondence with the affiliated movements/federations in the Sub-Region and the Pan-African Team as well.
- 27.2 To study possibilities of organising meetings in collaboration with the movements/federations and the Pan-African Coordination Team. These could be study sessions, training seminars, work camps, etc. by taking into account local, regional, continental and international situations and questions.
- 27.3 To visit different countries in the Sub-Region (i.e. for consolidation, extension work, preparation of sessions, participation in national movements' meetings, etc.)
- 27.4 To represent the Pan-African Coordination Team when the need arises.

27.5 To present a financial report as well as a report of Sub-Regional activities to the Pan-African team.

TITLE 4: FINANCE

CHAPTER 1 – RESOURCES

Article 28: The resources of the Pan-African IMCS are presented as follows:

28.1 The annual subscription fees of members of the Movements/Federations, are fixed by the Pan-African Assembly, apart from the obligations due to the International Team.

28.2 Contributions made by friends of Pax Romana.

28.3 Catholic financing Agencies and anyone in general.

28.4 Gifts, subsidies and benefits.

28.5 Local financing efforts by the National Movements and the Pan-African Team.

CHAPTER II – ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Article 29: The Pan-African Coordination has to have its accounts audited by a qualified auditor before presenting it to the Pan-African Assembly.

Article 30: More about Finance

30.1 The financial year for the Pan-African IMCS runs from the 1st January to the 31st December.

30.2 The Sub-Regional Coordinators shall send their financial statement(s) to the Pan-African Coordinators and to the National Movements of their Sub-Region.

30.3 The commitments of the Pan-African IMCS, are guaranteed by its assets. Its members and its organ's directors do not incur any liability except in the event where they are personally involved.

TITLE 5 PARTICULAR DISPOSITIONS

CHAPTER 1 – NON AVAILABILITY AND DISPOSITIONS

Article 31: Resignation is not encouraged. However, in a situation in which a member has to resign, he/she should tender his/her resignation to the Team with a copy to the National Movements and the International Team outlining in detail the reasons leading to his/her resignation in order to enable the National Movements and the International Team to study it. After this, the Pan-African team has the responsibility to either accept or reject the resignation letter as it judges it to be justified or not.

Article 32: In case of a resignation, failure to report for duty or failure to elect a

full timer, the Pan-African Coordination Team in consultation with the National Movements/Federations is authorized to co-opt a member to the team. In such a case, the team suggests a replacement and consults member Movements/Federations. A simple majority of the answers received within a deadline period of two months is then applicable.

CHAPTER II – MODIFICATIONS OF STATUTES AND HEAD OFFICE

Article 33: Only the Pan-African Assembly is allowed to modify the statutes.

Article 34: Only the Pan-African Assembly has the authority to transfer the head office of the Pan-African IMCS. Whereas, in the case of a necessity, the Pan-African Coordination Team in agreement with the Pan-African Council can decide on the transfer. This decision must however be submitted for ratification at and by the next Pan-African Assembly.

CHAPTER III – DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Article 35: The dissolution of the Pan-African IMCS can only be pronounced by the Pan-African Assembly convened for this purpose. It shall only be valid unless voted on by 2/3 majority of members who have the right to vote.

Article 36: The liquidation of the Pan-African IMCS is only the right of the Pan-African Assembly in consultation with the International Committee.

CHAPTER IV – ON THE OFFICIAL TEXT

Article 37: The versions of the Statutes:

37.1 The official versions of the present documentation are written in English and in French. In case of an interpretation doubt, the original text prevails.

37.2 These Statutes are written in accordance with the statutes and norms of the International IMCS to which Pan-African IMCS is part.

Article 38: The present statutes adopted by the Pan-African Assembly replace the former ones.

Nairobi, 18th May 1999