

STATUTES of ICR AT FAO

MISSION STATEMENT

Our world has been created in goodness; every human person has the inherent right to live a dignified life in this world; part of that dignity is food security: “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” (The Committee on World Food Security [CFS], FAO).

Filled with life by the Gospel message of hope, inspired through the teaching of the Social Doctrine of the Church, challenged by the reality of continuing poverty and food insecurity in our world, International Congregations of Religious have come together with the urgency to say also ‘no more hunger’ and to work together with others to ensure that all people have available to them adequate, nutritious food and the means to access it.

NAME and HEADQUARTERS

Article 1:

ICR at FAO (International Congregations of Religious at Food and Agriculture Organization) is a non-profit association governed by the present statutes.

Article 2:

The headquarters of the association is in Rome, Italy. Its Office is located within the property of the Passionist Generalate. Address: ICR Office, Piazza SS. Giovanni e Paolo, 13, 00184 Roma, Italia.

CONTEXT

Article 3:

The United Nations is a family of organizations. Also known as the United Nations system, it is made up of the United Nations Secretariate, the United Nations programs and funds and the UN specialized agencies. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a United Nations specialized agency, accountable to the FAO Conference of member governments (122 plus observer government members). FAO’s headquarters are in Rome, Italy. Address: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Article 4:

Achieving food security for all people in the world is at the heart of FAO’s efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high quality food to live active, healthy lives. FAO’s mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Article 5:

Many Catholic religious congregations of men and women have their headquarters (Generalates) in Rome. A collaborating group of congregations believes – particularly because they are also in Rome – that it is incumbent to work with this important, specialized agency of the UN, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

PURPOSES

Article 6:

The association shall pursue the following aims: a) ICR at FAO shall carry the values reflected in the Gospels and the Social Doctrine of the Church and articulate these at FAO; b) the association also carries the values and goals of its constituent member congregations of men and women religious; c) the association aspires to be a constructive critical presence at FAO through gathering the experience of the ICR membership at country and local level of the implementation of FAO Policies and Programs at those levels.

MEMBERS

Article 7:

Sponsor member congregations of ICR at FAO will be those who join and support ICR at FAO with an annual financial contribution; Associate member congregations can join and support ICR at FAO with in-kind contributions. Several founding members of ICR at FAO are themselves associations or groupings of member religious congregations; these include Vivat International, Franciscans International and Dominican Sisters International. The amount of the annual dues for members will be established by the General Assembly. All religious congregations of men and women are eligible and invited to join.

ORGANS

Article 8:

The ICR at FAO organs are: a) The General Assembly; b) The Executive Committee; c) The Representative or Delegate at FAO; d) The Treasurer. Other organs of the association will be established by the General Assembly.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 9:

The General Assembly is the Association's highest authority; it is composed of all the member congregations. It shall hold ordinary meetings once a year. It may also meet in extraordinary session whenever necessary by decision of the Executive Committee.

Actions of the General Assembly shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.

Members shall be informed by notice of the annual meeting at least six weeks in advance. The convocation, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 10:

The Executive Committee serves as the Steering Committee of the ICR at FAO Association. The Executive Committee meets with the ICR Representative monthly. All those attending the monthly meeting constitute the Executive Committee for that meeting.

Article 11:

The Executive Committee is authorized to carry out all acts that further the purposes of the association. It is authorized to carry out the ICR at FAO Group's business.

Article 12:

The functions of the Executive Committee are: a) to take all measures to attain the mission and purpose of the association; b) to interact with and support and to advise and guide the ICR at FAO Representative; c) to convene General Assemblies; d) to ensure the Statutes are applied and to draft rules of procedure as needed.

Article 13:

The Treasurer member of the Executive Committee shall hold all financial assets of the association and make a quarterly report of income, expenses and balances to the Executive Committee.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ICR AT FAO

Article 14:

The ICR Representative at FAO holds and expresses with conviction the vision and mission of the association members, the religious congregations in interacting with the persons at FAO (including staff, member governments' personnel, NGOs and CSOs and other participants at FAO meetings).

The ICR Representative will build bonds of understanding and working relationships with other Rome based groups with mutual interests such as the Vatican Permanent Observer to the UN specialized agencies (including FAO) and Catholic inspired NGOs as well as with the Civil Society Mechanism.

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Article 15:

The ICR Representative calls the monthly meeting of the ICR at FAO Group Executive Committee and records and sends out minutes of the proceedings to member congregations.

The ICR Representative is responsible to keep a file of all meeting minutes, reports to ICR at FAO members and other relevant correspondence.

Article 16:

The ICR Representative will prepare and present an Annual Report on work and activities of the position at the time of the Annual Assembly of the ICR at FAO Group assembly.

Article 17:

These Statutes may be amended by an absolute majority of members present at meetings of the General Assembly

Prepared by Ken Thesing and presented on 22 February 2013; revised on 20 March 2013. To be formally adopted by the first General Assembly meeting to be held in fall 2014.