

PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM

PRO LAICIS

STATUTS FONDACIO

DECREE

(Translation of the Decree of the Pontifical Council for the Laity,
delivered to Fondacio in Rome on June 12, 2015)

The association *Fondacio, Christians for the world*, finds its origins in Poitiers (France) in 1974, as a result of the dynamic apostolic movement of lay people inspired by Vatican II Council and in the spirit of the Charismatic Renewal movement. *Fondacio* gathers men and women who commit themselves as Christ's apostles and who accept to be transformed and converted by his grace, convinced that, in this way, they will take part in the coming of the new World that the Lord has announced himself. It is in this spirit that the *Fondacio* members accept to follow a spiritual and human training and to commit themselves in a variety of apostolic activities, especially with the youth, families, decision makers in society, but also with people which are marginalised by today's society.

Fondacio was officially recognised « Diocesan Association of the Faithful » on June 4th, 1995 by his Excellency Mgr Jean-Charles Thomas, then bishop of Versailles. On December 25th, 2008, the Pontifical Council for Laity recognised *Fondacio* as a private international association of the faithful, with a legal identity, and approving its statutes for an *ad experimentum* period of 5 years.

The recent Pontifical Magisterium tells how urgent it is for the Church to launch a new evangelisation campaign which will set fire to the hearts of the faithful, already at work, who will bring back to the Church baptized people who no longer practice their faith. It is also meant to open the doors widely to those who do not know Christ and who have always refused to follow him. This announcement of the truth of the Gospel will have to be done in an attractive and cheerful way which will urge them to experience a personal conversion.

Consequently, the Magisterium considers these ecclesial movements and new communities as one of the gifts inspired by the Holy Spirit to evangelise people from all walks of life, contributing in that way to transform our culture, so that the Gospel might enculturate it.

(cf. FRANCOIS, Apostolical Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 14, 29, 46, 69 ; FRANCOIS, Speech to the participants of the third Worldwide Congress for the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, on November 22nd, 2014).

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Consequently:

In response to the request of definitive approval of the statutes addressed to the Pontifical Council for the Laity by Mr. François Prouteau, President of Fondacio, on October 30th, 2013;

Considering Fondacio's consolidation and development for the last five years;

After giving a positive answer to the modifications to the statutes proposed by the association:

Considering the article 134 of the Apostolical Constitution Pastor Bonus on the Roman Curia as well as the Canon 322 of the Code of the Canonic Law;

The Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees:

- 1) The confirmation of the acknowledgement of the association *Fondacio* as an international private association for the faithful, with a legal identity, according to the canons 298-311 and 321-329 of the Code of the Canonic Law ;
- 2) The definitive approval of Fondacio's statutes, well authenticated, a copy of which is stored in the archives of the Dicastery.

Given at the Vatican, the twelfth of June two thousand and fifteen, on the Solemnity of the Heart of Jesus.

Josef Clemens
Secretary

Stanislaw Card. Rylko
President

INTRODUCTION

- The catholic association of the faithful, *Fondacio*, gathers men and women who commit themselves to follow Christ in a life of prayer and brotherly love with others in all the fields of their lives (family, professional, associations ...) for the world and its future. Trying to give a meaning, both to their own life and to men and society in general, wishing to come back to the real human values, they experience the love of the Father and rediscover that Christ is the way to a new Life, the path to a renewed world.

Its spirituality is inspired by the idea that the New World announced by Christ is already here when people accept to be seized and transformed by the love of the Father and by the spirit of Christ Risen: however, it is also coming as a seed in the core of any social group which accept to be moved by the Spirit of the Gospel. God himself is calling us to participate to his incarnation.

« The joys and hopes, the worries and anxieties of our contemporary men, as well as of the poor and all those who suffer are also the ones of Christ's disciples' and every human feeling find an echo in their hearts. » (*Gaudium and Spes*).

- Meeting the living Christ is the basic path of the *Fondacio* members. Through him they perceive that God is coming to love, take charge and save all that makes up their humanity. In his person, they feel they are invited to love and live fully their conditions of men and women, but also to be reached and converted at the heart of their suffering, their limits, their reluctance to love and their sins.

Meeting him leads them to marvel at every person they come across, to have a deep relationship with them. This person is called by God, is longing for him, has been created free and he is called to give herself through love too. His most honorable dignity is his vocation to be in communion with God. « *What is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visited him ?* » (*Ps 8, 5*). As a sinner, every man is called to salvation through faith. A « blessing attitude » is at the heart of *Fondacio* members spirituality: to be grateful for life, mine and others' and be thankful to God. It leads them to recognise God's work in other people and collaborate to it.

Meeting the living Christ enlightens their life and leads them to become « fermentation » of humanity in our society. It is an invitation to follow Christ to become his disciples. Wherever they go, they will discern the signs of the time and commit themselves in the world to be messengers of hope.

- The *Fondacio* association members are eager to be filled by the Holy Spirit, which enables them to change their hearts gradually and to grow in obedience to God as children of the Father. Since the community's origins, they have received the grace of the « Baptism in the Spirit » which enables them to become like little children, abandoned and trustful. This grace, which calls to have responsibilities to face the world challenges, is the base of the community and its apostolic identity.

Through their commitments, either personal, collective or communitary, each member of *Fondacio* tries, in his everyday life, to listen to the Holy Spirit, who opens new ways and inspires new initiatives in a world which is changing, full of promises, but also of tragedies, challenges and inhuman situations.

- To live as a disciple, and to accept to be sent to the mission, in one's everyday life, supposes that one has a close relationship with God Trinity and one's brothers. The Christian community becomes a path to experience this alliance, which is the core of people's lives and entities who are part of *Fondacio*. In this way, *Fondacio* is an « Alliance community », a place where one can reload and find his way to God. *«I am the vine, you are the branches. He who is in me at all times as I am in him, gives much fruit, because without me you are able to do nothing.»* (Joan 15, 5) It is also a place of communion to become the face of Christ with others *«so we, though we are a number of persons, are one body in Christ, and are dependent on one another?»* (Rm 12, 4-5).

Through the ups and downs of its life story, and as a cell of God's People of and Christ's Church (Lumen Gentium n° 9), *Fondacio* is aware to be desired by God who is calling today's humanity to a new phase of its life. The *Fondacio* community recognizes itself as a cell of the Church in letting itself be attracted by the vision shown by the prophet Isaiah.

I will get you together from the peoples, and make you come out of the countries where you have been sent in flight And I will give them a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in them ; and I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh : so that they may be guided by my rules and keep my orders and do them : and they will be my people and I will be to them a God. » (Ezekiel, 11, 17-20)

- *Fondacio* believes that a way of unity between several individuals, from all walks of life and all ages, but also from different christian confessions, is possible *« May they all be one! Even as you father, are in me and I am in you, so let them be in US, so that all men may come to have the faith that you sent me ».* (Joan 17, 21).

So, the Association *Fondacio*, composed of catholic faithful people, also welcomes as associates some Christians belonging to different confessions, while respecting their identity and their roots in their Church or in their first Community.

Focussing on meeting the other person such as he is, its everyday life becomes ecumenical through sharing and brotherly correction, spiritual growth, and in a common mission every time it is possible.

« Fraternity between christian people (.....) is based on the unique baptism which has a supernatural dimension, and which integrates us all in the unique Body of Christ. Together we proclaim that Jesus-Christ is God and the Lord » (Benedict XVIth; Ecumenical meeting in Cologne on August 19th, 2005).

The Association Fondacio wishes to take an active, but modest part in the concern of the whole Catholic Church to help to «a full and visible unity of the Christians» (Benedict XVIth; Ecumenical meeting in Cologne on August 19th, 2005), following the indications of the Council Decree « Unitatis redintegratio » and the main lines of the Directory for Applying Principles and Norms on Ecumenism ».

« Humanity cannot be renewed if men are not transformed » (Paul VIth, Evangelii Nuntiandi, § 18). The members of the Association Fondacio are guided by this inspiration in their personal and community life. The purpose of their commitment is to be constantly renewed by the Holy Trinity who saves and inspires us, so that, sent to the world, they might help it to become more human and to open itself more to the presence of God, incarnated in Jesus-Christ.

This renewal path can be experienced by any christian person faithful to Christ, according to his own call. *Fondacio* takes its inspiration in the certainty that ordinary life is a theological place and that all of us are called to sanctity, according to *Christifideles Laïci*. The community focusses on our baptismal vocation, especially on developing lay people vocations.

I - LEGAL IDENTITY

1 - The Association Fondacio is an international private association of the faithful with its legal identity (according to the canons 298 to 311 and 321 to 329 of the CIC). Its reference is the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

2 - The Association Fondacio is governed according to these statutes as well as other regulations of the Canon Law relating to it.

3 The headquarters of the Association Fondacio are located in France. It is presently in the diocese of Versailles at:

23, rue de l'Ermitage – 78 000 VERSAILLES – France

II – PURPOSE OF FONDACIO ASSOCIATION

4 - Fondacio's call is to commit itself in the world and to be present to the men and women of our world by listening to their needs. Following Vatican II inspiration, it sympathises deeply with human society. It tries to discern the signs showing how the Holy Spirit works in contemporary men and inspires concrete answers in the different fields of spiritual life, evangelisation, training and life in society. It believes in the progress of the civilisation of love. The sentence from St John « *For God had such love for the world that he gave his only son* ». (Joan 3, 16) supports and inspires particularly its actions and relationship with the world.

5 - *Fondacio* is aware to be called for the following specific missions:

- **To spread the Good News:** Fondacio wishes to speak the same language as its contemporary fellows, be close to them in their requests and claims, to announce them the Good News of Christ alive today.
- **To contribute to make society more human:** each member is called, in the name of his faith and through love, to commit himself in different life spaces (family, professional, social ...) to make the world more holy. As a community, Fondacio also contributes to activities which will foster the human development and promotion in the spirit of the Gospel.
- **To call and train workers for the kingdom:** the path followed in Fondacio tries to encourage the growth of the people and the birth of new vocations, to support these workers wherever they are.
- **To contribute to the progress of the life of the Church,** by particularly encouraging communion between the members, ecumenism, baptised people responsibilities, promotion of community life, training Jesus-Christ' disciples and experiencing new ways to be at his service.

6 - These missions are carried out in the following fields:

- The youth
- Couples and families
- People having responsibilities in society
- The poor and the marginalised
- The elderly

III – LIFE, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS

7 - *Fondacio*, a community of alliance, offers to people of all ages, all walks of life, different social classes and cultural backgrounds, the adventure of an apostolic life in alliance with God. It is a place of sharing, meeting others, freedom and responsibility, communion, conversion, celebration and prayer, service, so that everyone will be at the core of the world according to his personal call, as a worker of the kingdom. Community life aims at encouraging the Christian experience and its life re-reading according to a process which helps to welcome salvation in Jesus-Christ.

8 - Any catholic person joining the alliance (cf. articles 9 to 14) proposed by the association *Fondacio*, is a member.

Non catholic Christians can be admitted in the association as associates. They live their faith according to their original Church or Ecclesial Community, particularly for the sacramental life. They take part in the liturgic celebrations, being aware and respecting that there is no full communion between the different Churches of the Christian communities.

As far as missions and community life is concerned, members refer to the association *Fondacio*. In these fields, they follow the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The norms of the statutes concerning the members could be applied to the associates by analogy, taking their Church position into account, unless it deals with duties and rights typical of the members.

9 - In order to be transformed according to Christ and become «christians for the world», the members of the association *Fondacio* commit themselves freely to organise their life according to a base and three priorities:

10 - **Base:** a life united to God through prayers and sacraments.

The commitment of the *Fondacio* association members is based on their desire to give God the first place in their lives, to see his presence in everything, to reach the full dimension of their divine nature, by the only Son, in the Holy Spirit. Personal prayer but also with the community, practice of the holy sacraments, being fed by the word of God, but also a humble everyday life and duties to others, in a contemplative attitude, are all the means available on this path to meet God alive in man's heart.

11 - **Priority to a path of conversion:** the members do wish to cooperate actively to the transforming grace of God, to their personal conversion, and to take all the appropriate measures to succeed it. Training is provided within the community, through a well structured course, but also outside. It aims at taking each member in a dynamic of growth and fulfilment for his own life and for the mission as Jesus-Christ's disciple. It is personalized and contains various dimensions: spiritual, biblical, personal development, etc ...

12 - Priority to live this path with others, within a community: « *When two or three are gathered in my name, I am here among them* » (Mt. 18, line 20). Through prayers in groups and the spiritual survey of their lives, the members experience that God gives himself through the face and words of the brothers and sisters. Community gatherings are privileged times of brotherly love, friendship, forgiveness and celebration. Committing oneself in a community also includes financial sharing to the common good and for the mission.

13 - Priority to the apostolic work: « *He sent them before him, two together, into every town and place where he himself was about to come* » (Luke 10, 1). The association *Fondacio* focusses on promoting and organising events proposing the Good News of Jesus-Christ to men and women of our time, in their culture and language. It also encourages some activities oriented towards the promotion of Man in the light of the Gospel and following Christ's example, especially in helping the poorest. What is at stake for the members of the association *Fondacio* is to be witnesses of the Hope which is in them and of the love of God. They feel called, by Christ and in his friendship, to take their share of responsibility in the future of humanity. This entails announcing the good News, thanks to everyday behaviours and commitments of solidarity in the world.

14 - To help the members to live all these priorities, different means are proposed, especially:

- To take time for personal prayer
- To take an active part in the church and sacramental life
- To be accompanied in the community by a person who is not the head of the group
- To join the community activities and gatherings
- To take part in the missionary activities according to everyone's possibilities
- To follow the appropriate training for a human and spiritual growth
- To share financially (tithe)
- To take part, through services, to the common good of the community.

These represent the path offered to each member to acquire faith gradually and get a more unified life.

15 - The members are called to live a life of conversion, of concrete alliance and interpersonal links with others. So, they accept to open themselves to the word of God, to the suggestions and advice of the brothers and superiors in the community, whose role is to help them to discern how relevant to the Gospel their choices are, in the light of Christian faith. However, each member keeps a full autonomy for his personal, professional and material choices.

16 - Training proposed by the Community are offered to the members, places for gathering and praying, special events and missionary projects, as well as all the means of information which are meant for them.

17 - Every one can keep and manage his own material goods.

18 - The members pledge not to make any declarations or take any actions in the name of *Fondacio* - especially the ones which would lead them to court – neither privately or in public, without the written authorisation of the person in charge, both on a national or international level.

19 - Only the catholic members can attend and express themselves in the community assemblies and be elected to a role of responsibility, for which it is necessary to meet some criteria which will be different for each entity (cf. chapter VI). The associates are allowed to attend the community assemblies and be associated to some people in charge, on a consulting basis. Both members and associates can expect to be supported in their burdens.

20 - If a member considers that a measure taken by a person in charge does not respect the spirituality of *Fondacio* and/or the freedom of the persons, he can appeal to a higher authority according to the internal hierarchy set up by *Fondacio*.

21 - Each member should observe the present statutes. He also has the moral duty to help and pray for the other members.

IV - ENTRANCE AND COMMITMENT PROCEDURES

Entrance and commitment in the community :

22 - Each *Fondacio* member lives his path of alliance with God within a community group and takes part in a missionary project. The community groups can gather between ten and sixty members. They do not live together in the same place but are a group of people who meet regularly in the spirit of *Fondacio* to feed their spiritual life and organise missionary projects.

People wishing to join *Fondacio* are invited to take part to community gatherings and start the discernment process which has been defined, case by case, by the community.

23 - The entrance process includes, besides other processes, to write a letter expressing one's motivations to the member in charge of the group. (cf. article 50).

24 - When the member in charge gives a positive answer, this is the official entrance in the community. It will be proclaimed during a liturgic celebration with all the community.

25 - For some people, who cannot, for personal or social reasons, write a letter of request, other means of admission can be organised.

26 - There are a lot of people who take part in the missionary activities of *Fondacio* but do not feel called to be bound by an «alliance» with God in this specific community. The community thanks them, acknowledges and enjoys their participation, feeling supported and accompanied by their friendship and the different forms of collaboration decided by them.

This participation is done in different ways and each one is free to define it according to the activities developed by the community on a local scale. *Fondacio* opens its doors widely and will keep on this relationship.

Commitment for a long period of time :

27 - For the members who have been committed in *Fondacio* for more than seven years running, a long term commitment is offered. This member will have to start a discernment process where will be examined:

- How relevant to the Gospel his life is and the way he intends to progress in the future, especially regarding truth in his relationships, a sober life, the way he uses his authority, respect to others, obedience to the Holy Spirit through these intermediaries,
- His path of alliance with God and the influence of *Fondacio* spirituality in his life
- An eventual call regarding a total commitment as a disciple of Jesus-Christ.

In each country, an ad hoc team appointed by the Country Council, after consulting the long time members, will watch this discernment and follow these full time commitments.

28 - The long-time commitment of the catholic members will be proclaimed in front of the community, of the team in charge (in the country or at international level) and the bishop of the place or his representative. The member pledges to commit himself actively in the community and to try and live, with the help of the Holy Spirit, according to its spirituality.

This member is then proclaimed «full-time committed member»; for the associated members, this commitment will be pronounced in front of a person in charge from their Church.

The «full-time committed members» do not have any special rights or duties, but are called to be the witnesses of the lifestyle fruitfulness proposed by Fondacio. They commit themselves to be particularly respectful of the content of the article n° 27, especially in their relationship with the «intermediary entities» , especially with the Church, and their capacity to be both obedient and autonomous in their relationship with the persons in charge.

If a member committed for a time considers he wishes to leave Fondacio or this form of commitment, he will make this decision only after discerning with the team in charge, together with the Country Council; according to a process similar to the process he had to go through to become a full-time committed person.

The couples' commitment will be both personal and «as a couple» except in some cases discerned with the team in charge of the full-time committed member and with the Country Council.

Full-time commitment

30 - Some Fondacio members commit themselves as «full-time committed members» in answer to a personal call to give their life to God through a mission discovered by Fondacio. This kind of commitment is not limited in duration, except if there is no mission identified by the team in charge, and in that case it will come to an end.

31 - This mission, which is full-time most of the time, can be internal or external to Fondacio. It takes its roots in its spirituality and takes part to its global mission (cf article n° 5). A specific mandate with the content and duration of the mission will be delivered to the member.

32 - So that a married person can become «full-time member», he will have to get his partner's agreement.

33 - *Fondacio* makes sure that all the means they need will be granted to accomplish their mission and progress in their spiritual, human and professional life. It helps them to set up a financial and spiritual network, when their mission or professional life does not provide them with sufficient revenues. It also ensures that the full-time committed members have a social statute compatible with the law of each country.

34 - The members wishing to become full-time members have to follow a three year course enabling them to confirm their choice and giving them the necessary elements for their mission.

V - DEPARTURE - DISMISSAL

35 - All the members are free to leave Fondacio at any moment. If they had undertaken, within the community, an activity with special deadlines, they are asked to do everything possible to respect their commitment.

The full-time committed members wishing to leave Fondacio accept to follow the process indicated in the article n° 29 and to inform the community of the reasons of their departure.

36 - The dismissal of a member of the community whose behaviour is an obstacle for the life of Fondacio, or a pure scandal in relation of the christian life (comportmental or moral problems, etc) will be proclaimed by a secret ballot by the Country Council or by the Council of Fondacio. The member will have the possibility to meet previously at least one person of the team in charge.

The dismissal can also be pronounced in case of serious or frequent violation of the present statutes.

37 - Those guilty of apostasy, heresy or schysme, cannot claim to remain a member of Fondacio. They will be authorised to appeal to the Church authorities (cf. Canon 316)

38 Any leaving member will not be allowed to complain of any kind of harm against him neither about the work he has freely developed within Fondacio while he was a member, nor as far as the tithe is concerned or gifts freely granted to Fondacio during the period of his commitment.

VI - GOVERNANCE

39 - **The general principles** which manage the constitution and the smooth running of the organisation are the following;

- Priority to spiritual matters
- Discernment by the community and legitimacy of the members in charge

- Co-responsibility and solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Alterity and flexibility

The **discernment of the community** in all the acts of governance is fundamental to follow God's path as closely as possible.

40 - The Fondacio community offers a wide variety in terms of missionary projects, the audience to whom it addresses itself, and by its geographical bases. It is « one » as far as its spirituality and apostolical aims are concerned. Fondacio is then governed as a « **one yet diversified community** »

Fondacio managing teams at global level

41 - Fondacio Congress

The Fondacio congress is the last responsibility reference of the community in the world. It is the collective sign of its unity and diversity. It gathers the delegates of the principal entities composing *Fondacio* in the different countries.

It gathers every five years after being summoned by the Council, or in an extraordinary manner, after an urgent request of at least the two thirds of the delegates, still members of the Fondacio Community, in reference to the list of delegates of the previous Congress.

Its mission is :

- To listen to new ways opened by the Holy Spirit, following the charism of the *Fondacio* community
- To encourage unity at worldwide level
- To adopt the main lines of the general life of *Fondacio* for the years to come
- To elect the President of Fondacio and its Council
- To dismiss the President of Fondacio in case of serious fault ; the dismissal will be proclaimed only by summoning the Congress in an extraordinary session composed of at least two thirds of the members of the Congress. A secret ballot concerning the President dismissal is organised. The dismissal is then proclaimed at a simple majority.
- To ratify the fundamental texts of reference of Fondacio.

The Congress is composed of at least 100 people. It includes 50 % of the members of the Fondacio Council and of the Country Councils, and people with responsibilities in the coordination, project, department and service teams. The other 50 % of delegates are chosen by the members of the association through a consultation organised beforehand at the Congress.

42 - The Fondacio Council

It is in charge of the «one yet diversified community». It is composed of at least seven members and a maximum of twelve. The members of Fondacio Council are appointed for a five year mandate. There cannot be more than 2 successive running mandates. The members of the Fondacio Council cannot cumulate this mandate with one of member of the Country Council.

Gathered around the President, the Council of Fondacio is the keeper of the unity and the identity of Fondacio in all the countries where the community is present. It meets as often as necessary. It is in charge of governing, helping Fondacio to develop the seeds of novelty, to accompany the growth of Fondacio and its mission in the world, in surveying the principle of subsidiarity in the respect of a common identity.

To that end:

- They welcome the word inspired by the Holy Spirit to the Congress and the main groups of the Congress during their meditation.
- It implements the orientations of the Congress and their pastoral enforcement.
- It proposes for the next Congress new fundamental orientations for the growth of the community and its mission.
- It authenticates, *ad experimentum*, the refence documents of Fondacio, the background documents presented by one or several Country Councils when they have a general meaning and can help the countries in carrying out their mission. They present them to the Congress to be ratified.
- It accompanies the pastoral actions of the countries and continents,
- It coordinates *Fondacio* both with the Holy See and the international representatives of the Catholic Church,
- It watches the communion between the Fondacio community and the other local christian communities,
- It encourages the creation of *Fondacio* training centres. It guarantees their identity in the different countries (relevant to *Fondacio* charism),
- It appoints the persons in charge in the different countries according to the regulations defined in the article n° 49,
- It presides over all the decisions concerning the exchange of goods, of human and financial means between the different countries and continents, especially the solidarity between countries and continents,
- The Council is assisted by a team of pelple «in charge of a mission» for the running and implementation of the decisions made,
- It has a role of representative and public relation.

43 - The President of Fondacio

The President's mandate is for five years, and can be renewed only once.

The President of Fondacio is elected by the Congress by secret ballot as being the person in charge of the whole community. As a consequence, he is the sign of the unity of *Fondacio* and the ultimate keeper of the initiatives made for its spiritual and missionary spirit.

- He summons and presides over the Council according to a precise agenda. He watches the ongoing of its mandate and duties such as described in the previous paragraph.
- He surveys and accompanies the pastoral activities of the persons in charge of countries, continents, as well as the members of the Council,
- He appoints and sends the people in charge of the countries to their mission (R1). Together with the R1, he appoints the second person in charge of the country (R2). He can delegate this mission to any member of the Council, particularly to the person who accompanies the country. He is entitled to discharge a R1, after the Council of Fondacio has made the decision, after hearing the Council of the country and the ecclesiastical Assistant of Fondacio.
- He represents Fondacio for the official representatives of the Catholic Church and towards religious or lay groups who he is in relation with,
- At civil level, the President of Fondacio will be the President of the mother legal association on a worldwide level. He will overview that all the obligations imposed by the law have been fulfilled and to provide Fondacio with the legal supports enabling the community to grow.
- He is particularly concerned by special events organised at country level by attending or being represented.

44 - Procedures to appoint the President and the members of the Council

Members whose names are suggested by the different countries are eligible after a time of discernment by the community. This is organised during the months preceding the Congress. An «ad hoc» team, which will be neutral and composed of answerable people, appointed by the Council for this process, will do everything possible so that the discernment will be made in good conditions and the final election will take place during the Congress.

There is no «quorum» of people. Only the present members will vote. Proxies will not be used.

The election of the President is made by secret ballot. The necessary majority to be elected is 2/3 of the votes.

The election of the other members of Fondacio Council follows the President's. The election is made through secret ballot. The Council will be elected with a simple majority.

The President chooses one or two vice-presidents within the Council of Fondacio, taking into account the votes expressed by the Congress. The first vice-president replaces the President when he is prevented to come or absent for serious reasons.

The elected President introduces himself **to the bishop of the local headquarters and to the President of the Pontifical Council for Laity**. He cannot be in charge of a country at the same time (if he is, he has to resign).

In case of serious fault, the President of Fondacio can be dismissed by the Congress (following the procedure described at the article 41).

45 - For each level of responsibility, advisers, either ecclesiastical or other, can be consulted or called as observers during meetings or to accompany the persons in charge in special decisions, especially for pastoral issues.

The Council of Fondacio has, through its President, regular relationship with the Ecclesiastical Assistant that he will consult for any important decision relating to the mission of the Community.

Between two Congresses, **the Group of the Heads of Countries** meet with the the Fondacio Council at least twice, for at least four days, to give their advice and appeal, if necessary, to the Fondacio Council, about the life and the mission of the Community.

Managing representatives of a country

45 - In a country, it is the Heads of the Countries, the Country Council and the Assembly of the persons in charge, who will govern Fondacio. These representatives, being part of the only Fondacio Community present in the world, always refer to the Fondacio Council.

47 - Each country has an **Assembly of members in charge**

It is composed of :

- The members of the Country Council
- The heads of the community groups (cf art. 50), of the departments and services
- Persons having had responsibilities at local, national or international level within Fondacio during at least a full year. The list of these persons is made up according to a quota and criteria validated previously by the Council of Fondacio.

The Assembly of the Members in charge is a place for decisions and consultation in a spirit of communion.

Its mission includes :

- To approve the specific orientations of the country and the pastoral project elaborated by the Country Council under the light of the Fondacio Congress and the decisions made by the Council for its enforcement in the country environment.
- To discuss and approve the budget and the accounting, according to the legal regulations. The budget of the country includes the solidarity approach as well as the community needs (deprived countries, Congress, national meetings, training institutes ...)
- To give its advice (consulting body) on some fundamental texts which are a reference and other decisions the Country Council would like to submit
- To give its advice about the conclusions of *Fondacio* life in the country and its evolution, about which the Country Council needs some light,

- Make an investigation among the country members to help them to choose the R1s and the members of the Council.

The assembly of the Members in charge gathers after being summoned by the Head of the Country at least once a year or after special request by at least one third of its members.

48 - **The Country Council** is composed of 5 to 8 members. It can be surrounded by a team of experts or collaborators for the running and the implementation of decisions. The Council members mandate is for two years, renewable twice.

The Country Council is charged of running *Fondacio* in the said country.

As a consequence, the **Country Council**:

- Interprets and implements, at the country level, the principal orientations accepted by the Fondacio international Congress as well as the decisions made by the Council of Fondacio, related to the « One Community » and having an impact on the country.
- Implements the orientations of the R1 Assembly,
- Makes sure Fondacio charism is respected and developed worldwide, especially on its continent, following the «common good» and solidarity with the most deprived countries, managing the human and financial resources, taking into account the fact they belong to a larger entity with whom each country is linked.
- Looks after the training and spiritual growth of the persons in charge, as well as the animation of the community life in the country.
- Takes charge of the coordination, the organisation and the promotion of the missionary activities, of the training and evangelisation programmes. They are also charged of the service and social development projects as well as the animation of the community at national level. It inspires new initiatives in these different fields.
- Appoints the heads of departments and services
- Links with the bishops of the dioceses where the community is based and ensures the good participation to the local ecclesial life,
- Tries to promote ecumenism
- Manages the human resources in order to help to the growth of the persons called to have responsibilities,
- Discerns and proposes everything helping Fondacio to develop in the groups present in the different countries (community groups, regions, associated groups..) and gives them the references necessary for their mission.
- Sends the full time members and the R1s to mission (community groups, missionary projects, services ...) and, eventually, dismisses them if the behaviour or orientations taken by some members are a threat for Fondacio.
- Creates the necessary structures (regions, services...) necessary to help *Fondacio's* communion and mission.

49 - The **Head of Country** is appointed by the President of Fondacio together with the Fondacio Council, after consulting the Assembly of the members in charge of countries. The mandate of the Head of Country is for four years, renewable once. His mission :

- Together with the Country Council, he surveys the life and mission of the community (cf. article n° 48)
- He chooses, after consulting the Assembly of R1, and together with the person he is referring to at the Fondacio Council, one or two assistants (R2s). They choose together the other members of the Country Council, taking into account the Assembly advice.
- He encourages the communion with the «one yet diversified community» and the participation of his country to the growth and development of Fondacio in the world.
- He represents Fondacio with the Catholic Church representatives and with the religious or civil representatives of the country who he is linked with.
- On a civil level, in most countries, a legal association will be created. The R1 will do everything necessary to meet the obligations imposed by the law (accounting, summoning to the General Assemblies, etc ...). He guarantees the associations within his scope of responsibilities. By definition, he is the president of the mother company of his country. He works together with the headoffice of Fondacioto as a whole. He tries to apply the social laws enforced in the country to his staff.

Community groups and missionary projects

50 - Each community group is animated by a team in charge of at least 3 persons, one of them being the first in charge.

Appointing the team in charge of each community group has to be discerned with the Holy Spirit, with the community group (consultation), the persons concerned (availability), and the superior representatives (confirmation and going to mission).

The Head first, then the members of the team in charge of community groups, are appointed by the Country Council for a two years mandate, renewable at least twice.

The missionary projects are supported by the community groups, surveyed by the of the Country Council. Their persons in charge are appointed by the Country Council for two renewable years.

VII – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HIERARCHY

51 - Fondacio will have a real existence in the diocese as soon as the local bishop - or one of his representatives - has agreed with its presence in the area.

52 - In a diocese, the Heads of Fondacio have regular relationships with the bishop of the diocese, or its representatives, aiming at a full communion. The bishop of the diocese will be informed of the different missionary projects of the community. Besides, *Fondacio* will try to collaborate with other associations (canon 328) and setpartnerships to carry out these common projects.

53 - Fondacio chooses, according to the Catholic Church law, an ecclesiastical assistant after approval by the pontifical Council for the Laity , with agreement of the Ordinary or from the person to whom this person reports.

The Council of Fondacio, thanks to its president, links regularly with the Holy See, especially for the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

VIII – REGULATIONS ABOUT CLERGY AND CONSECRATED PERSONS

54 - The members of the Clergy committed in Fondacio have the same rights and duties as the other members, except for the specific obligations they have in regard with their place of incardination.

55 - As for the members of the Clergy, the Ordinary of their incardination place must indicate, by written authorisation:

- Their role as a «full-time member» so that the mission will be valid,
- Their obligation to be «committed for a long period» so that the commitment in time will be valid

56 - As for the Consecrated persons, they need the agreement of their community Head to join Fondacio.

Their head will have to draw a document indicating:

- Their role as a «full-time member» so that the mission will be valid
- Their obligation to be «committed for a long period» so that the commitment in time will be valid

57 - The issues specific to priests and religious persons will be dealt with by a member of the Country Council who will have been appointed by the Council of the country.

IX – PROPERTIES

58 - *Fondacio* manages its properties according to its statutory projects, as defined by her statutes, in agreement with the canon 325. The management of the properties is under the

authority of the «one yet diversified community», under the responsibility of the Fondacio Council in the country where it is located and (loss and profits accounts, balance sheet). Any decision to acquire or sell a part of the property, as well as any investment or mortgage over 10 % of Fondacio annual budget in the said country is submitted to the Assembly of R1s and the Council of Fondacio. As for parting from a part of the property, the President of Fondacio will need the authorisation of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, explaining the reasons for this transaction, if the deal exceeds 1 000 000 euros.

59 - In each country, at the level of the association in charge, the accounting and annual financial accounts (loss and profits accounts, balance sheet) will be carried out by a financial manager appointed by the Country Council or the Council of Fondacio, according to circumstances. The financial statements have to be approved by the Assembly of R1s and are audited by a statutory auditor. They are available to the Council of Fondacio.

60 - The revenues of Fondacio include:

- The financial part given by the members (the tithes),
- The products of the mission (evangelisation, training, various duties...)
- The donations given to Fondacio to support the missions of the full time members (sponsorships)
- Any other resource which is not contradictory with the laws enforced (donations, patronage)

61 - According to canon 326 § 1, the Fondacio Council can dissolve Fondacio. In order to do so, it must have obtained the agreement of three quarters (3/4) of the members of the Assembly or R1s (cf. article n° 47) which are considered, as for the votes, as a whole entity.

In case of dissolution, the net assets of Fondacio, if necessary, are given to associations of communities similar to Fondacio in their projects and spirit.

X – MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES

62 - The statutes can be modified by the Council of Fondacio, with two thirds (2/3) of the votes, on the basis of the decisions made on this issue during the Congress and after consulting the Members in charge of Countries and the Ecclesiastical assistant. The modified text will be presented to the Pontifical Council of the Laity to be approved.

Exact copy as the one stored in the archives of the Dicastery.

Vatican, June 12th, 2015

Rev. Mgr. Miguel Delgado Galindo