



ICMC Statutes

Approved by ICMC members in March 2007

Article I

NAME AND HEADQUARTERS

1. The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is an international operating organization erected by the Holy See according to canons 113-123 of the Code of Canon Law and is concerned with the problem of population movements and the migration of refugees and nationals.
2. The principal office of the Commission shall be in Geneva, Switzerland, with branch offices in such other countries as may be deemed necessary
3. From the point of view of civil law the Commission is a non profit organization structured on a corporate basis, governed by articles 60 ff of the Swiss Civil Code.

Article II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commission is to pursue the following objectives:

1. To strive for the application of Christian principles in the formulation of migration and population policy and the adoption of such principles by international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in particular as far as the protection of family rights is concerned.
2.
 - To act in permanent and active collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People who will have a representative attending the meetings of the Council and Governing Committee of the ICMC.
 - To act in close collaboration with the Secretariat of State, II^o section with respect to its presence and activity at international level and with international bodies.
 - To maintain contact with the other dicasteries of the Roman Curia on specific issues related to their competence (e.g. pontifical Council of the Laity, Cor Unum) according to the competences established in the Apostolic Constitution Pastor Bonus.
3. To maintain a permanent working relationship with Catholic organizations, international in scope or working internationally, which are engaged in activities aimed at the prevention of forced migration and for the protection and assistance of

migrants and refugees; and to work towards a closer co-ordination of their activities in these fields.

4. To maintain co-operative relationships with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including other Christian and non-Christian structures, operating in the field of migration and refugee assistance.
5. To represent Catholic activities and organizations before international organizations and conferences concerned with migration and refugee issues.
6. The special charisma of the ICMC is to work specifically with the local Church in the field of refugees and migrants. In this context, to perform at the direct request of the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities, and in co-operation with other interested national structures, those functions in the field of migration which cannot be performed by national agencies.
7. To convene meetings of Catholic groups in order to better co-ordinate and plan services to migrants and refugees and to bring about better understanding between countries of emigration and immigration. Besides international meetings, there shall be established permanent working relationships and regular meetings of national and international organizations engaged in operational activities that are the concern of the Commission.
8. To render assistance in the development of programs of Catholic activity on behalf of migrants and refugees in countries where such activity is needed and to provide technical and advisory assistance to interested groups and organizations.
9. To work toward the recognition by governments and international organizations of the right of migrants and refugees to freedom of conscience as well as to adequate spiritual and religious care.

In the discharge of these functions, insofar as they involve activity within a given country, such functions will be carried on with the approval of and in collaboration with local ecclesiastical authorities.

Article III

ORGANIZATION

The organs of the Commission shall be:

- the Council,
- the Governing Committee,
- the General Secretariat.

Article IV

COUNCIL

1. The Council shall be the policy-making organ of the Commission. It is the supreme authority of the association.
2. It shall be composed of:
 - representatives appointed by the national episcopates of those countries particularly concerned with migration and refugee issues;
 - additional members, not to exceed 18 in number, coopted by the above-mentioned representatives from among other persons by reason of their special competence;
 - honorary members, who retire from the Council after rendering extensive and valuable services to the ICMC and to the cause of migration and refugee service. These members will be elected by the ICMC Council. They will have no vote.
3. Members of the Council, with the exception of the honorary members, shall be appointed for a period of four years.

Article V

The Council shall:

- determine the program and activity of the Commission
- authorize the implementation of the four year strategic plan
- mandate the Governing Committee to approve the annual budgets and review the Treasurer's report;
- examine and ratify the decisions of the Governing Committee;
- elect, from among its members, a Governing Committee as defined in Article VII.

Article VI

1. The Council shall meet at least every four years or more often at the request of the Governing Committee.
2. Special meetings of the Council may be held at the express request of one-fifth of the members.
3. The decisions of the Council shall be taken by a relative majority vote of those present.

Article VII

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

1. The Governing Committee shall be composed of the President of the Commission, the Vice-president, the Treasurer, the Secretary and seven other members of the Council, all of whom shall be elected by the Council for a period of four years.
2. The Governing Committee shall:
 - function for the Council in the intervals between its meetings;
 - prepare the work of the Council, including the annual budgets, and carry out the decisions of the Council;
 - appoint the Secretary General and ratify his or her decisions;
 - establish the branch offices;
 - designate persons qualified to represent the association.
3. The Governing Committee shall be convened by the President as often as is necessary for the transaction of current business.
4. Its decisions shall be taken by two-thirds majority of those voting.

Article VIII

NIHIL OBSTAT

All candidates for the posts of President and Secretary General shall be submitted for the approval of the Holy See at least three (3) months before being officially proposed for the vote of the ICMC Council. The Holy See shall communicate in due time the names of those to whom it can give its approval (“nihil obstat”)

Article IX

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives of national Catholic organizations or other structures concerned with migration and refugee issues, which have received a national mandate from their episcopate, recognized private and public Catholic entities with an appropriate interest in forced migration, and institutes of consecrated and apostolic life who have demonstrated work with migrants can apply for affiliate non voting membership. Their applications must be approved by the ICMC Governing Committee.

Article X

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat shall be the executive organ of the Commission. It shall be composed of a Secretary General and his or her auxiliary staff.

1. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Governing Committee. His/her appointment shall be ratified by the Council.
2. The Secretary General shall be appointed for a period of four (4) years. His/her mandate may be renewed by a decision of the Governing Committee.
3. The General Secretary shall supervise and be responsible for:
 - a) the administration of the General Secretariat, for contacts with international organizations, the ICMC branch offices and the affiliated organizations of the Commission;
 - b) the operational activities and the administration of the budget;

- c) the information services and ICMC publications;
- d) informing the Council of the activities of the Secretariat and of any developments of interest to the Commission.

Article XI

FINANCES

1. The Commission shall be financed by the members and other agencies, funds or persons interested in its work.

Its resources consist of annual contributions by members, legacies, various donations and subsidies and other revenues issuing from its activities.

2. A plan of contributions shall be proposed by the Governing Committee and approved by the Council.
3. Every year the General Secretariat will render an account of finances and administration of the assets of ICMC to the Secretariat of State.

Article XIII

AMENDMENTS

Any modification or suspension in whole or in part of these statutes may be adopted by the two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Council and approved by the Secretariat of State.

Article XIV

In case of dissolution or cessation of the association, the assets will entirely be assigned to a Catholic institution with aims similar to those of the ICMC.
