



Lettre

Aux

Mouvements

Carta

A los

Movimientos

Letter

To the

Movements

2022 - N° 1 Bureau International 2022-2026

To the leaders and members of MIAMSI

April 2022

I – EDITORIAL

15th MIAMSI General Assembly from 21 to 25 March 2022

The MIAMSI movements met in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 25 March 2022 for their 15th General Assembly. This Assembly was scheduled to take place in Lebanon in 2020. But as the political and economic situation in Lebanon had become tragic and dangerous, it was necessary to choose another place, in this case the city of Rome (Italy). In addition, the coronavirus pandemic forced us to postpone.

This Assembly brought together about sixty participants representing a dozen countries in person and, for the first time in the history of MIAMSI, half a dozen countries by videoconference. The theme of the assembly was "Witnessing and Engaging in an Inclusive Society".

"God loved the world so much that he gave His Only Begotten Son: so that all men who believe in him may not perish but obtain eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to judge the world, but that through him the world could be saved" (Gospel according to St John, 3:16-17).

Several events marked the meeting, including the adoption of new texts to govern our movement, the admission of new countries such as Senegal and Burundi, the return of Morocco and the election of a new International Board.

As the new president of MIAMSI, I would like to thank all the participants who trusted us, deciding to come to the site or participate remotely to exchange and reflect together informed by the contributions of the experts which were present. We worked together to give new directions to our movement and examine the challenges we face for the next four years. Some, despite their goodwill, have not been able to be with us, especially our friends from India, D.R.C, Mali, Niger, following the consequences of the corona 19 travel pandemic, the difficulties of obtaining visas or the sociopolitical events that are shaking some countries. We, members of MIAMSI, are therefore called to act for the creation of an inclusive society where we can live through our testimonies, through our personal and collective prayers and through trust in our Church.

Good mission to you all, and that all our discoveries, our challenges may allow us to grow in faith and give us the strength to share it.

Good mission to all and again from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU ALL.

Prosper HONAGBODE
President of MIAMSI

II - The new members of the International Board (2022 - 2026)



Prosper Honagbode



Jonathan Ravat



Assunção Mexia



Marília Braga



Ildephonse



P. Richard Arce



Hélène Mercier



Rajarathinam P.



Cecilia Rodriguez

International President and African Representative	Mr. Prosper HONAGBODE	Benin	prosho2003@yahoo.fr
Vice-President for Inter-Islands and Secretary-General	Mr. Jonathan RAVAT	Mauritius	jrvat@icjm.mu
Vice-President for Europe and Treasurer	Mrs. Assunção MEXIA	Portugal	sunsamexia@gmail.com
Vice-President for Latin America and Communications Secretary	Mrs. Marília D. V. BRAGA	Brazil	mdvbrega@gmail.com
Vice-President for Asia	Mr. ILDEPHONSE	India	binu@live.in
International Chaplain	P. Richard ARCE	Uruguay	richardarce67@gmail.com
<u>Substitute Members:</u>			
	Mrs. Hélène MERCIER	France	mercier.a.h@free.fr
	Mr. RAJARATHINAM P.	India	rajarathinam2009@gmail.com
	Mrs. Cecilia RODRIGUEZ S.	Uruguay	arquitecta88@hotmail.com
<u>Associate Members:</u>			
- MIAMSI Representative at the UN in Geneva (Human Rights Council and ECOSOC):			
	Mr. Paolo NAVONE		paolo.navone29@gmail.com
- MIAMSI Representative at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg:			
	Mr. Daniel GUERY		daniel.guery@sfr.fr
- MIAMSI Representative for CRESCENDO (Global Network of Human and Christian Aging):			
	Mr. Dominique LEMAU DE TALANCÉ		dlemaudet@free.fr

We are pleased to extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing team of the International Board.

We count on the contribution of all MIAMSI members to help us in our mission and accompany us with your prayers.

III - A Word from the Chaplain

The Gospel of Luke, read on the Easter Vigil, tells us that Mary Magdalene, Joan and Mary, mother of James, as well as the other women who accompanied them, told the Apostles all they saw and heard of the angels in the Tomb of the Lord, but "seemed to wander to them and did not believe in them" (cf. Lk 24, 10-11). But if we continue to read the text, it indicates that "Peter nevertheless rose and ran to the grave" (24:12).

As a Church, we are committed to this challenge of the Synod, to walking together, and to become like the People of God. Our beloved Pope Francis insists "in time and out of time" in his invitation to openness to others, and he himself gives us courageous and fruitful examples of welcome, listening, waiting and exhortation to fraternal communion.

One of the challenges of this journey to the Synod is the true consideration of the laity and of the laity women, as "persons of ecclesiality", and not only as "objects of the action of the Church", as if the laity were not part of it. In this sense, our movement has much to contribute inside the places where we are engaged as committed Catholic Christians.

If we contemplate the proclamation of the resurrection that these women make to the apostles, the first appeal to this task which, in the end, is that of the Church (evangelization), the paradox according to which the proclamation of the hope of resurrection often leads to situations of misunderstanding and even derision ("it seemed to them that they would be delirious"), if not violent rejection, is expressed in a few words.

The proclamation of hope can be poorly received, or worse, rejected, because it often arises against very wounded realities, as it was in the first community, defeated by power and misunderstanding, how we can be ourselves in the midst of conflicts of world wars, or pandemics, or situations of exclusion and marginalization (migrants, women, poverty, sex, etc.), or personal situations, family situations, professionals... Waiting for something new and different can seem to us all at least an "illusion".

In the last assembly, we said in the final message that our hope is based on our faith, expressed in many ways, such as Paul's phrase that inspires the end of the message: "Where hatred and individualism have grown, love and solidarity abound."

It is the Risen Lord who moves hearts, as he moved Peter's, who, even if it was not easy for him to accept what those women told him, even if he heard them as if they were "delusional", he still goes to the grave, lets this hope make its way and continues seeking the light.

Even today, there are voices that may even seem aggressive in their form, because they are contrary to the church's usual discourse, but perhaps they can be prophetic voices, bearer of the Word of God. Perhaps from there another light may arise that we will have difficulty in perceiving according to our own tradition (for example, on the issue of abuse, or also on issues related to women, or so many other voices that challenge our Christian life).

It is the Risen Lord who calls us to walk together, to sustain the hope of those who are affected by the uncertainties of life, by the weakness of our promises, by the violence of the powerful... Let us not fail to proclaim the good news of the Resurrection. He is coming to do all the new things! Happy Easter!

R. P. Richard ARCE

IV - The final message of the GA

Final Message of the 15th General Assembly of MIAMSI in Rome

March 21-25, 2022

"How can we witness and engage ourselves in today's world for a more inclusive society?"

"God loved the world so much that he gave His Only Begotten Son: so that all men who believe in him may not perish but obtain eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to judge the world, but that through Him the world could be saved" (St John, 3:16-17).

This Assembly was due to take place in Lebanon in 2020. As the political and economic situation in Lebanon had become tragic and dangerous, it was necessary to choose another place, in this case the city of Rome (Italy).

The covid-19 pandemic prevented the participation of members of some countries, such as India.

The war unleashed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine is disturbing the whole world. The peace achieved after World War II was undermined. Europe feels threatened and weakened. The countries of the European Union denounce this unjustified aggression which does not respect human rights. The destructive power of weapons causes a large number of casualties among innocent civilians. The misfortune caused by the war is far superior to the ideals of conquest evoked by the aggressor. It is impossible to justify it from an ethical point of view.

The message from Burkina Faso's last General Assembly in 2016 called for conflict resolution through justice, dialogue, and respect for the dignity of every man. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in conflicts. Instead of growing up in peace, the political and economic situation in the world has worsened with the advent of new causes of violence.

Several MIAMSI member countries are now concerned about the fragility of peace, both in their states and at their borders.

Gathered now in Rome, the members of MIAMSI want to give reason to their hope. Where hatred and individualism grew, love and solidarity abounded.

MIAMSI's motto is "Look, discern, transform."

We think fear paralyzes and divides. The feeling of helplessness leads to withdrawal for yourself or even to fatalism. In many countries, power and economic wealth are concentrated in the hands of an elite, while the majority of the population suffers from poverty and media manipulation without participation in decision-making. In this context, migrants, refugees, women, and children are particularly vulnerable.

MIAMSI members continue to believe in the power of truth discerned in the community. Called to transform cultural, political, educational, and economic mentalities and realities, they note the need to develop personal and collective thinking in order to understand and guide the fundamental choices of society, with the Gospel of the Risen Jesus Christ as a compass.

Immersed in the media society that often makes us spectators in front of screens, MIAMSI members choose to become actors, not only to act and give, but also to receive and share, in an experience of synergy with anyone of good will and reciprocity. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "It is to give what one receives."

It is not only young people who have the strength to act, but the wisdom of the elders also represents a precious heritage to be passed on to the new generations to build not walls, but bridges.

This is what Pope Francis addressed to us during his 4th catechesis about old age on 23 March 2022.

Done in Rome, 25 March 2022

V – Documents from the GA

The MIAMSI website (www.miamsi-rome.org) is being updated. On this site you will find in the coming days the final message of the GA, as well as some documents of which we have the texts, and which will be published online as we have and when we have the translations in other languages.

VI - Sharing - Life of the movement - Contributions

To feed our website for better exchange and sharing of life, we encourage you to send to our communications secretary (miamsi.rome@gmail.com) what you are living, your meetings, your news, your themes of the year, etc., if possible, in the three languages - English, Spanish and French - because we cannot always guarantee translations into other languages... Don't forget the pictures.

Please also inform our communications secretary of any changes to your movement, new managers, new email addresses, etc., to update our database.

As a reminder, the movements are invited to send their annual payments to our Treasurer to meet our obligations. The MIAMSI budget year runs from October 1st to September 30th. Thank you.

VII - Miscellaneous information

Obituaries

We are sorry to announce the death of:

- Jacqueline, older sister of Daniel Guéry, former president of MIAMSI and current representative of MIAMSI in the Council of Europe. The funeral was held on Monday, April 11, 2022.
- Michel Coulibaly died on March 29, 2022, husband of Delphine Coulibaly, who is a longtime member of the Friendship Group, one of the components of MIAMSI Burkina.
- Benoît Sanon died on March 31, 2022, the father of Berthe Sanon, also a member of the Friendship Group, one of the components of MIAMSI Burkina.

May their souls rest in peace and may God grant them eternal light. Amen.

The new MIAMSI International Board held its first online meeting on 23 April 2022.

Important Dates:

- **Africa:** Zoom meeting scheduled for late May 2022
- **Europe:** Zoom Meeting scheduled for June 2022
- **Latin America:** SAL warmly invites you to participate in ELAM (Latin American Meeting) which will take place in Arequipa, Peru, from October 6 to 10, 2022. The working theme is "Building Fraternity in the new realities of our society". If you are interested in having more information, contact the vice-president for Latin America or directly the representative of SAL Gloria Pfannl at the email gloria.pfannl@gmail.com.

Good reading and good work for everyone.

The International Board

Palazzo S. Calisto - 00120 Cité du Vatican – Italie - Tél. : (39) 06 698.87183 - Fax : (39) 06 698.87364

E-m@il : miamsi.rome@gmail.com

- WEB : <http://www.miamsi-rome.org>

Organisation Internationale Catholique

Organisation non gouvernementale avec statut consultatif à ECOSOC et statut participatif au Conseil de l'Europe