



MIAMSI

*Lettre
Aux
Mouvements*

*Carta
A Los
Movimientos*

*Letter
To the
Movements*

2024 - N°1 International Bureau 2022-2025

To the leaders of the member and affiliated movements of the MIAMSI

July 2024

I – EDITORIAL

The full members of the MIAMSI International Bureau met in Rome (Italy) from 16 to 19 June 2024. In this letter, we share with you the conclusions of the various issues raised during the meeting. This meeting was preceded on Thursday, June 13, 2024 by the annual meeting of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life with the moderators of international associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities on the theme "The challenge of synodality for mission" in which the President took part. There will also be echoes of this important meeting.

The world in which we live is increasingly complex and there are many challenges for all of us: war, terrorism, generalized violence, the tragedies of immigration, the increase in inequalities that exacerbate social tensions and constitute a threat to democracy, the fight against all new forms of injustice, unemployment, insecurity, respect for human life, global warming and the environment, migration, etc.

In this context of crisis, where we have not completely turned our backs on the pandemic with impacts that are still visible and where the economic and social crisis is taking hold as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war or the war in the Middle East (Israel – Hamas), it is difficult to make assumptions about the future, but we must be attentive to the signs of the times and continue to take our commitments to heart. Let us dare to keep Christian hope at the heart of our lives.

Good luck to you all.

**Prosper HONAGBODE
President of MIAMSI**

II – Main conclusions of the meeting of the International Bureau from 16 to 19 June 2024

From Sunday 16 to Wednesday 19 June, the meeting of the International Bureau for the 2022-2025 term of office took place in person.

The meeting began on the afternoon of Sunday, June 16 with exchanges between the members present. On Monday, June 17, the actual work began with the President's welcome speech, followed by the adoption of the agenda of the meeting and general information before the opening Mass.

After the Mass, the agenda continues with the personal assessment of each member and news of the movements in the four corners of the world.

The Vice-President in charge of Europe (Treasurer) reported on the missions carried out with the President, in particular the transfer of our archives from San Calisto to Azione Catolica Italiana, located in Via Aurelia where the said archives are safe, the events marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Miamsi in Marseille September 2023 which saw the launch of the book published on this occasion. She continued with the report of the various meetings at the Vatican: audience at the Dicastery in charge of the Laity for the presentation of the book which greatly congratulated the movement for its action in the world, the audience with the Pope and the offering of the book by hand which also encouraged and congratulated the Miamsi, the delivery of the book to the Dicastery in charge of Human Development and to the Secretariat of State through the intermediary of the former president Daniel Guéry. Everywhere, the initiative was well appreciated and the efforts of the movement in the field of evangelization of independent circles were praised. In her capacity as Treasurer, she shared the financial difficulties that the movement is going through due to the decrease in members, the low or even non-receipt of subscriptions, the total absence of subsidies which translates, among other things, by the absence of the movement at certain meetings etc. She delivered conclusions of the European Relay of February 2024 before talking about the tasks carried out in the preparations for the next General Assembly in Fatima in Portugal, her country.

The President, who is also in charge of Africa, agreed with the one who preceded him with regard to the reports of visits to the Vatican and the financial difficulties of the Miamsi and praised the countries in good standing with their dues. In this sense, several African countries are lagging behind and he is constantly reviving them despite the particularly difficult situations that most countries are experiencing, but a lot of efforts are being made to ensure the smooth running of activities and we can mention and salute Senegal, Burundi, Benin, Morocco, not to mention which is coming back after several years of silence. The Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso) are experiencing worrying political and security situations, but Burkina Faso maintains contact through the production of reports and the payment of its contributions. He underlined the challenges of the moment, the problems that hinder the smooth running of the movement, in particular everywhere the decline in the number of members by country, the lack of new recruitments, old age and the disappearance of members.

A collaboration agreement is being developed between Pax Roman (MIIC) and the Miamsi to pool efforts, carry out joint projects and ensure that one of the two movements can represent

the other in certain bodies. This is the case of ITC-UNESCO where the Miamsi, a member of the Governing Board, represents Pax Romana in this platform.

Then the point was made in relation to our presence and our presence in international bodies (UN, Council of Europe, CCIC-Unesco, CCIG, Crescendo) which are generally very much appreciated. It should be noted that Crescendo, after 21 years of existence, has just been dissolved. After Margarida Restani Pinto who was appointed to represent us in Geneva (Human Rights Council) and for whom the President is asking for authorization to finance at least once her face-to-face participation in the meetings of this body, there is the recent appointment of Marc Deluzet to replace Dominique Lemau de Talencé to represent us at the CA/CCIC-UNESCO where our quality participation is very much appreciated.

For the Vice-President in charge of Latin America, the movement is in decline with a pronounced ageing of members. In Brazil, there are about 50 committed members with a president who is 85 years old, still committed, but who still wants to hand over to a younger generation. As a project, a Campaign against Hunger has been carried out with women who are given 250 euros per month; it is not huge, especially in view of other expenses, sometimes within the MIAMSI itself, but with this sum, many initiatives can be experienced; 60 children are affected for a total of 38 families. It's not much, but you can be relevant if you commit to action.

Ecuador – Katty Arce is working in the city of Guayaquil with the Latin American Relay (SAL). In Paraguay, most dating is done online and there is little recovery. The same is true of Peru.

After Marilia BRAGA's presentation, the President took the floor again to underline a constant: the MIAMSI is in decline everywhere. He notes that the breath of the Second Vatican Council is fading and with it, the spirituality proper to the Movement, which no longer attracts young people. Overall, the Movement is facing the same problem everywhere and it is appropriate to ask the question of its future by daring to question the maintenance of the structure in its current form or an institutional overhaul. *"Are we going to continue to talk about the movement in a country where there are only seven members?"* Paradoxically, we cannot kill the initiative of even a small number on the pretext that this number does not correspond to the idea we have of a national structure and that according to the statutes, the movement must have a national extension. It must be recognized that the problems that MIAMSI is experiencing are not unique to it and they are present today in all the post-Vatican Council Catholic Action movements. It can be noted that a large meeting is planned on the sidelines of the Synod on Synodality to reflect, among other things, on the mission and vocation of the laity in a synodal Church. Reflection on the Apostolate and the Lay Ministry in the Light of the Second Vatican Council (60th Anniversary of Lumen Gentium).

At the level of the Inter-Islands, it can be noted that on July 6, 2024, the ACI will organize a national anti-corruption day. Conferences and exhibitions will be organized where there is a CREA team.

We are now in the preparation phase. In this phase of preparation, we are working with the Episcopal Commission of the Lay Apostolate, the CEM (Bishops' Conference of Madagascar), public anti-corruption institutions such as BIANCO (Independent Anti-Corruption Bureau), PAC (Anti-Corruption Pole), SAMIFIM (Anti-Money Laundering Directorate) and

international organizations such as Amnesty International. The objective of this day is to raise awareness among the public, the Catholic faithful, of the danger of corruption that plagues Malagasy society.

This is the national activity that we are preparing.

In view of the various interventions, the international chaplain found the exchanges that the Bureau was currently pursuing relevant, because they revealed that the Movement was in crisis and that it might be appropriate to refound it: for this reason, he thought that the next World General Assembly would be very important. Because it would be an appropriate opportunity to dare to face the truth and ask the right questions and find the necessary solutions. The chaplain goes on to indicate that there are several standards of living within the MIAMSI: the life of the teams is crucial but that at the international level is just as important; This requires money to be able to organize events and to promote initiatives that allow people and countries to meet.

The other highlight is the preparation of the XVI General Assembly in Fatima in November 2025

The date chosen is from 18 to 20 November 2025 (excluding travel days) and constructive debates were held on the theme, logo, structure, format, etc. We will return to this in later communications.

III – Echoes of the annual meeting of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life with the moderators of the international associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities

The annual meeting with the moderators of the international associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities took place on Thursday, June 13, 2024 in the Synod Hall in the Vatican on the theme "The challenge of synodality for mission". After the opening Mass, the work began with the remarkable presence of the Holy Father who in his exhortation recalled that the Church, through the Synod on Synodality, is living a prolonged period of consultation, reflection and dialogue in order to fully concretize the synodal dimension which is part of its nature as a mystery of communion in the image of Trinitarian communion.

At the meeting presided over by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery, some examples of synodal structures already lived in associations and movements that can inspire and stimulate the whole Church were highlighted. At the same time, the reflection focused on the synodal dimensions that pose new challenges to the growth of associations and movements. The theme of the day is anchored in the ultimate ecclesial purpose, which remains that of mission, the only one capable of giving full meaning, concreteness and effectiveness to the synodal journey.

As in previous years, only the international associations of the faithful, both private and public, as well as other entities with juridical personality and under the direct competence of the Dicastery, which accompanies them in their life and development, were invited to the meeting

(cf. EP, n. 134). More than 150 participants reflected on the basis of two introductory lectures. The first was given by Rafael Luciani, Professor at the Andres Bello Catholic University on the theme of mission as the goal of synodality and the second by Dr. Elisa Lisiero of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life on the theme of synodality and the experience of movements.

In short, it is a meeting of exchanges and proposals for the development of our movements.

IV – On the way to the sixteenth General Assembly of the MIAMSI

We are actively entering into the preparation of this General Assembly scheduled to be held in Fatima, Portugal from November 18 to 20, 2025. Several aspects were discussed, namely the orientations and prior provisions; major practical provisions: registrations and payment facilities, evaluation of the number of participants; format (fully face-to-face or partially online, modalities, etc. The particularity is that the reflections will begin at the level of the relays, according to their modalities, and the conclusions and resolutions will be discussed in Fatima. It is planned that the first day will be devoted to statutory issues and orientation debates, the second day will be thematic and the third day with immersion in Fatima, a great Marian pilgrimage site, and a festive evening.

V-1: Reminder of contributions

We thank all the movements that are up to date with their membership fees or that have paid in part with the commitment to pay and we ask those who have not yet been able to do so to pay them as soon as possible. For many we are waiting for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 dues. The board recalls that the official year of the MIAMSI runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Each country, which has its own year of operation, communicates the renewal of membership fees at the beginning of the year, taking into account the actual number of members and inviting everyone to face this statutory obligation. From this data, the treasurer makes her provisional plan for the entry of subscriptions. Apart from this LAM, the treasurer will write to each relay leader and each movement leader at the national level to invite them to fulfill this obligation on time. Contribution arrears are also expected.

We remind you that the membership fee is requested at the beginning of each year and at the latest in the first half of the year and that your financial participation is vital for our movement and allows us to meet our commitments and our operating obligations.

As a reminder, the MIAMSI asks for a share of US\$ 5 (or €5) per member per year.

Payment can be made by bank transfer to Crédit Lyonnais Paris:

Owner: MIAMSI - **Bank :** Crédit Lyonnais: 30002 - **Agency :** Paris Passy: 00428
Account : 0000006784B Key: 97 - **IBAN:** FR29 3000 2004 2800 0000 6784 B97

ou à la Banque du Vatican – IOR (Institute for Vatican Works)

US\$ account

YUMMY

Account No. 21401001

IBAN: VA62001000000021401001

BIC CODE: IOPRVAVX ou IOPRVAVXXXX

Euro account

YUMMY

Account No. 21401003

IBAN: VA08001000000021401003

BIC CODE: IOPRVAVX ou IOPRVAVXXXX

V-2 : A WORD FROM THE TREASURER
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I have come to make an appeal for the collection of MIAMSI's subscriptions because without this the International Bureau will have serious difficulties in paying all its expenses and monetary obligations for operation. Thus, all movements are invited to settle their contributions and also their arrears which have not been made so far.

We are waiting for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 contributions. The office reminds you that the official budget year of the MIAMSI runs from October 1st to October 30th of the following year.

We also encourage all those who can really make an effort beyond the statutory \$5 per year to do so, as it would be vital for our movement.

People of good will or possible generous souls can support us with their donations at the address below and we are all invited to approach us.

As a reminder, the MIAMSI asks for a share of US\$ 5 (or €5) per member per year.

Details of our bank accounts are given in the paragraph above.

On behalf of the International Bureau, I send you a big THANK YOU!

Assunção MEXIA - Treasurer of MIAMSI

VI – MIAMSI Database

In order to update our Database and the MIAMSI website, please send us the updated information of your movements and send it by email to the secretariat. Don't forget to send us your projects, photos, reports, etc., and above all allow us to consider avenues of reflection for all countries.

In addition to the updating of our database, the sharing of your realities, your experiences through our site allows a mutual enrichment of the different movements/countries of the MIAMSI.

VII – Informations diverses

- **ACI-France:** Summer University in Angers from July 12 to July 14, 2024 on the theme "Actors of democracy to build the future"
- **Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life:** Annual meeting with moderators of international associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities: 05 June 2025
- **16th MIAMSI General Assembly:** 18-20 November 2025 in Fatima, Portugal

Happy reading and good work to all.

The International Bureau

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International Catholic Organization

Non-governmental organization with consultative status with ECOSOC and participatory status with the Council of Europe