

SECRETARIAT OF STATE

N. 450585

GENERAL DECREE

The Cardinal Secretary of State,

- bearing in mind the Chirograph, *During the Last Supper*, of 16 September 2004, with which Saint John Paul II granted canonical public legal personality to *Caritas Internationalis*, in accordance with cann. 116-123 of the Code of Canon Law;
- considering that this pontifical document recognizes that *Caritas Internationalis*, by its origin and nature, is united by a close bond to the Pastors of the Church and, in particular, to the Successor of Peter, and that its action must be inspired by the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church (see Chirograph, *During the Last Supper*, 2);
- taking into account the guidelines of Benedict XVI regarding the charitable activity of the Church, in the Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas est*, in the Motu Proprio *Intima Ecclesiae Natura* and in the Address to the General Assembly of *Caritas Internationalis*, of 27 May 2011;
- bearing in mind the indications of His Holiness Pope Francis on the social dimension of evangelization in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and in the Address to the Representative Council of *Caritas Internationalis*, of 17 November 2016;
- given that *Caritas Internationalis* is subject to the rules of the Code of Canon Law, in particular, to those concerning public juridical persons and, by analogy, to cann. 312-316, 317 § 4, 318-320 and 1257 § 1 of the Code;
- given that *Caritas Internationalis* is also a juridical person in the Vatican City State (cf., Decree of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State of 19 July 1976), with its office registered at *Via della Tipografia*, Vatican City State;
- aware that *Caritas Internationalis* is subject to the norms of the Holy See and the Vatican City State;
- understood that *Caritas Internationalis* is included in the “*Segment IV*” of the list of Bodies and administrations envisaged by art. 1 § 1 of the Statutes of the Council for the Economy, according to the Rescript *Ex Audientia Sanctissimi* of 21 September 2017, modified with the Rescript *Ex Audientia Sanctissimi* of 12 February 2018;
- given the Vatican City State Law CCXI, concerning the registration and supervision of non-profit organizations, of 22 November 2017;
- having regard to the Statutes of *Caritas Internationalis*, the Internal Rules and the Staff Regulations of the General Secretariat;
- given that the legal representative of *Caritas Internationalis* is the Secretary-General;

- aware of the need for an update of the General Decree of 2 May 2012, No. 200.257, in order to adapt its contents to the changes of canonical legislation and that in Vatican City State;

- given the delegation granted to the Cardinal Secretary of State for the conferment of the “powers necessary to negotiate and resolve in his name, starting from 18 January 2011, of all and each of the questions relating to the canonical public legal personality, to the management and operation of the public juridical person of canonical right “*Caritas Internationalis*”, issuing the norms that may be necessary” (Rescript *Ex Audientia Sanctissimi*, of 17 January 2011, AAS CIII [2011] 127);

stipulates the following:

Article 1

§ 1. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD) is the competent Dicastery with respect to *Caritas Internationalis* for the entire extent of its institutional activity, with regard to the observance of the present Decree and of the legislation of this juridical person, without prejudice to the competencies of the other bodies of the Roman Curia and of Vatican City State.

§ 2. Any text containing, or referring to, doctrinal or moral content and those public positions issued by *Caritas Internationalis*, or by its representative offices or regional groupings of Member Organizations, must be in accord with the positions of the Holy See. In the case of more sensitive issues, the aforementioned bodies are invited to consult, according to the themes and their respective competencies, the Secretariat of State or the DPIHD. These latter will provide, as they deem necessary, specific indications that must be followed.

§ 3. The DPIHD can participate through its own representatives with right to speak at the meetings of the bodies of *Caritas Internationalis*, as well as at the regional meetings of its members.

§ 4. The DPIHD, having carried out the appropriate consultation, in particular with that of the President of *Caritas Internationalis*, is to appoint an Ecclesiastical Assistant, who enjoys the right to participate in the meetings of the governing bodies, is to build a spirit of communion between the members of the Organization and with the Holy See, and is to accompany reflection on questions of a theological nature and promoting the Catholic identity of *Caritas Internationalis*.

§ 5. Any agreement that *Caritas Internationalis* will sign with non-governmental organizations or other institutions must respect the positions of the Holy See and any indications given by the DPIHD. The DPIHD must be informed, reasonably in advance, of the possibility of such an agreement.

§ 6. The DPIHD constitutes a point of reference for the regional groupings of Member Organizations of *Caritas Internationalis*, yet without canonical personality and for exclusively functional purposes, in order to promote dialogue and collaboration with the Holy See. The DPIHD may appoint its own delegate to the aforementioned groupings.

§ 7. To facilitate dialogue, the DPIHD regularly convenes a meeting, in which the Secretary-General and the Ecclesiastical Assistant of *Caritas Internationalis* participate, as well as a Representative of the Section for General Affairs and / or the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State. To these meetings may also be invited other parties who may have a particular competence in the context of the topics being dealt with.

Article 2

The Section for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State is the competent authority for the following:

1° after receiving the opinion of the DPIHD, to submit for the approval of the Roman Pontiff the Statutes, the Internal Rules and the Staff Regulations of the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis*, as well as any changes to them;

2° to monitor the application of the Statutes and Rules referred to in the previous point 1°;

3° to exercise the controls established in Canon Law and that of Vatican City State, and to arrange, for those cases deemed necessary, further checks, inspections and controls;

4° to supervise the administration of finances and patrimony of *Caritas Internationalis*, without prejudice to the competencies attributed to other bodies of the Holy See or the Vatican City State;

5° to approve the signing of contracts for auditing and certification of financial statements, accounting management and consultancy relating to the management of finances and patrimony;

6° to authorize, after consulting the Section for Relations with States, the introduction or contestation of a dispute in the name of *Caritas Internationalis* before State, international and arbitration tribunals.

Article 3

§ 1. The Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State is the competent authority for the following:

1° to approve, after first consulting the DPIHD, the financing agreements by Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations and bodies;

2° to approve, after first consulting the DPIHD, the agreements of cooperation and any other agreements with the Governments and with the intergovernmental Organizations and bodies.

§ 2. In the event of a serious humanitarian emergency, the authorities of *Caritas Internationalis* are authorized to enter into short-term operational agreements with governmental authorities and with intergovernmental organizations and bodies. These agreements must be communicated as soon as possible to the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State and may be renewed, unless the Section for Relations with States gives an indication to the contrary.

§ 3. *Caritas Internationalis* is required to report to the Section for Relations with States, at least every four months and in a summary manner, on the relations maintained with Governments and with the Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Holy See and to inform likewise the DPIHD of the same.

Article 4

§ 1. Labor relations are governed by the Staff Regulations of the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis* and the applicable laws.

§ 2. The jurisdiction for any controversy lies with the courts of the Vatican City State, without prejudice to the powers assigned to the Tribunal of the Roman Rota by cann. 1405 § 3, 3 ° and 1444 § 2 of the Code of Canon Law.

Article 5

§ 1. Before beginning their mandate, the President of *Caritas Internationalis*, unless it is a Cardinal or a diocesan Ordinary, if a Bishop, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer, must pronounce, before the Prefect of the DPIHD, the promises set forth in attachment 1 of this Decree. Officials will make the same promises before the President of *Caritas Internationalis* or his delegate, while the employees before the Secretary-General. These Promises are required for those assuming roles contained in the Statutes as well as for all for the managers and employees for the establishment of a contract of employment with *Caritas Internationalis*.

§ 2. The non-fulfillment of the aforementioned Promises or of the canonical norms and of Vatican City State can constitute a reason for revocation of a managerial assignment or employment with *Caritas Internationalis*, or for interruption of collaboration and self-employment, also coordinated and or continuous.

Article 6

§1. *Caritas Internationalis* is required to provide in writing all the information requested by the DPIHD, by the Secretariat of State and, according to their competences, by other offices of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

§2. The *Caritas Internationalis* Representative Offices are required to collaborate with the Permanent Missions of the Holy See active in the same area.

Article 7

Failure to comply with the obligations coming from this Decree may constitute a cause for suspension or removal from an institutional position.

Article 8

The Statutes, the Internal Rule and the Staff Regulations of the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis* must comply with the provisions of this Decree. All provisions of any kind contrary to the present General Decree are abrogated; they are to be interpreted in light of the contents in the Chirograph “During the Last Supper”, not modified by this Decree and by the Rescript *ex Audientiae*.

The present General Decree, having the force of law, was approved specifically by the Roman Pontiff on 20 May 2019. It will be officially promulgated by publication in *L’Osservatore Romano*, coming into force according to the norm of can. 8 of the Code of Canon Law, and will subsequently be published in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*.

The original will be deposited in the Archive of the Section for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State, with a certified copy deposited at the Archive of the Laws of Vatican City State.

From the Vatican, 22 May 2019

Pietro Cardinal Parolin

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

PROMISES

I N., in assuming the office of, promise, with the help of God, to always preserve communion with the Catholic Church, both in word and in action.

I will carry out diligently and faithfully those duties to which I am bound in the Church, both universal and particular, according to the norms of law, with which I have been called to exercise my service. In particular, I will fulfill the duties to which I am held by the Holy Father according to what he has decided and will decide.

In like manner, I will carefully carry out all the duties entrusted to me towards the Episcopal Conferences and the individual Bishops, on which the Organizations coordinated by *Caritas Internationalis* depend.

In exercising the office entrusted to me, I will preserve entirely, transmit and illustrate faithfully the deposit of faith, rejecting any doctrine contrary to it.

I will follow and support the common discipline of the whole Catholic Church and I will take care to observe ecclesiastical laws, in particular those contained in the Code of Canon Law.

Aware of the nature of a public canonical juridical person of *Caritas Internationalis*, I will observe and ensure that the legislation that applies to public canonical juridical persons, in particular cann. 116-123, 1257 and 1273-1288 of the Code of Canon Law, as well as any other canonical norm applicable to public canonical juridical persons and, in particular, to *Caritas Internationalis*, is observed. Likewise, I will observe and ensure that all pertinent legislation of the Vatican City State and the provisions of the Statutes and that of the legislation of *Caritas Internationalis*, is observed.

I will carry out honestly and faithfully the duties inherent to my office with the diligence of a good *pater familias*.

I also promise to neither ask for nor accept offers as compensation, even if presented in the form of a donation.

I will observe with Christian obedience that which the Sacred Pastors declare as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or establish as guides of the Church and I will faithfully lend assistance to those at the diocesan level, so that the charitable action that should be exercised in the name and by mandate of the Church is accomplished in communion with the Church itself. I pledge myself and, therefore, solemnly promise, to fulfill diligently all the tasks entrusted to me in this Office.

Date.....

Signature.....

PROMISES

(for employees)

I N.... promise, with the help of God to be faithful to the Supreme Pontiff and his legitimate Successors; I promise to fulfill with diligence all of my duties and observe all orders that are placed upon me by my Superiors.

Date..... Signature.....