Introduction
Over the last twenty years Caritas Internationalis has worked to develop partnership principles in order to guide the relationship between the Member Organisations of the Confederation according to the Caritas founding values and principles. In 2003 the Caritas Partnership Guiding Principles were approved and published, but were neither prescriptive nor binding. Inspired by the Encyclical Letters Deus Caritas Est and Laudato Si', and by the Moto Proprio Intima Ecclesiae Natura, and taking into consideration the evolution of the international context, in 2019 Caritas Internationalis adopted the Partnership and Fraternal Cooperation Guiding Principles.

In 2022, following the request of many Member Organisations and of the Regional Secretariats, a decision was made to hold a conference on fraternal cooperation with a particular focus on improving internal mechanisms as a key driving factor for strengthening local leadership at this important moment when localisation is a priority for the international community.

It is in this process of localisation, where empowerment of local actors is a key factor, that reflecting about fraternal cooperation becomes of primary importance. Fraternal cooperation is rooted in the identity of Caritas and will lead us to have a common understanding of mission, service and communion. This will help us to journey together as a family, with a shared vision in which the human person is at the centre of all our concerns and actions.

Purpose
The purpose of this conference is to take stock of good practices, share success stories and lessons learnt, assess shortcomings and propose a way forward to implement the Partnership and Fraternal Cooperation Guiding Principles in the spirit of enhancing co-responsibility, accountability and transparency, always putting the dignity and the needs of the poor at the centre. To that end, the first objective will be to discuss the key elements of a Modus Operandi. The Fraternal Cooperation Modus Operandi should clarify key actions, roles and responsibilities at all levels and include a mechanism for arbitration and mediation between parties whenever needed. The second objective will be to decide the pathway towards the General Assembly 2023 for making this document a requirement for all Member Organisations and an integral part of the CI Management Standards.

Expected outcomes
- A common understanding and a shared vision of fraternal cooperation in the current reality, to be lived in a spirit of solidarity.
- Key elements of a Modus Operandi for fraternal cooperation, which will include the mechanisms to be put in place for their enforcement and monitoring, are identified and discussed, and a draft document is developed, to be further discussed and adopted by the General Assembly in 2023.
- A space for regulation and arbitration in case of non-respect of the Principles and Modus Operandi is identified and discussed, and key elements of a system/procedure to apply it, including clear roles and responsibilities of MOs, Regional Secretariats, General Secretariat, are proposed.
- A reflection is conducted on ways to address challenges and how to make the Principles and the Modus Operandi a requirement for all MOs.

The programme below has been designed based on the “see – judge – act” methodology. In the first part, we will look at the current reality of fraternal cooperation in our Confederation; in the second part, we will analyse the good practices and main challenges to be addressed; the third part will focus on next steps to be taken in order to strengthen our Confederation’s fraternal cooperation mechanisms.

Day 1 | Monday 21 November 2022
9:00 – 9:10 Opening prayer
Msgr. Michael Landau, President, Caritas Europa
9:10 – 9:30 Opening remarks
Reading the signs of the times
Fraternal cooperation throughout the history of Caritas Internationalis
Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis
9:30 – 10:30 Session 1 (plenary)
Where are we? The current context of fraternal cooperation in the time of localisation
Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, Caritas MONA
Fr. Alphonse Seck, Secretary General, Caritas Senegal
Anahit Mkoyan, Director, Caritas Georgia
Dominic Verhoeven, Chair, Catholic Identity Committee
Moderator: Chimwemwe Nyamboshe Ndhlouvou, National Coordinator, Caritas Malawi
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
11:00 – 13:30 Session 2 (plenary)
Living fraternal cooperation
Voices from the Confederation: a reflection from the grassroots on the Confederation’s best practices and challenges. The value and richness of different perspectives.
11:00 – 12:10 Round table 1
Challenges for stewardship in fraternal cooperation
Testimonies, experiences, best practices and challenges from Member Organisations.
Caritas Congo Asbl, Caritas Denmark, Caritas Jordan, Caritas Argentina, Caritas Fiji, Caritas Chile
12:15 – 13:30 Round table 2
Accompaniment to promote local leadership
Experiences, best practices and challenges from Member Organisations.
OCADES/Caritas Burkina, Caritas Syná, Caritas Spain, Caritas Philippines, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Moldova
Moderator: Moïra Monacelli, Director of Operations, Caritas Internationalis
13:30 – 14:45 Lunch
14:45 – 16:00 Session 3 (Working groups)
Analyze the current situation of fraternal cooperation in our Confederation and the key challenges to be addressed
Based on the inputs gathered in the plenary sessions, reflect on a SWOT analysis of the Confederation’s current situation on fraternal cooperation.
16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break
16:15 – 17:15 Feedback from working groups
Moderator: Silvia Sinibaldi, International Cooperation and Humanitarian Director, Caritas Europa
17:15 – 18:00 Taking stock of the reflections and outcomes of the day: time for exchange and debate
Moderator: Msgr. Pierre Cibambo, Ecclesiastical Assistant, Caritas Internationalis
18:15 Holy Mass
19:30 Dinner

Day 2 | Tuesday 22 November 2022
9:00 – 9:10 Morning prayer
Fr. Francisco Hernández Rojas, Regional Coordinator, Caritas Latin America and Caribbean
9:10 – 9:30 Highlights from Day 1
Zar Gomez, Regional Coordinator, Caritas Asia
9:30 – 10:30 Session 4 (plenary)
Caritas Horizon 2030: a synodal approach for effective fraternal cooperation
Spirituality of fraternal cooperation based on Caritas values and principles, Catholic Social Teaching and the Magisterium
H. Em. Card. Luis Antonio Gómez Tagle, President, Caritas Internationalis
Moderator: Marta Petrosillo, Director of Communications, PR and Fundraising, Caritas Internationalis
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15 Session 5 (Working groups)
Empowered fraternal cooperation: promoting local leadership and global solidarity
The key elements of a Modus Operandi
- What do we want to change in fraternal cooperation in order to follow the signs of the times?
- What instruments do we need to implement the fraternal cooperation principles and respect them?
12:15 – 13:15 Feedback from working groups
Moderator: Rita Phayem, International Strategy and Partnership Lead, Caritas Lebanon, HIV/Health Advisor, Caritas Internationalis
13:15 – 14:45 Lunch
14:45 – 16:00 Session 6 (Working groups)
Strengthening the Confederation’s mechanisms to enhance fraternal cooperation as the basis for the empowerment of Member Organisations
A reflection on political instruments for promoting and enacting fraternal cooperation
16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
16:30 – 17:45 Feedback from working groups
Moderators:
Maria Nyman, Secretary General, Caritas Europa
Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, Caritas MONA
17:45 – 18:00
Where do we want to go? Engagement to strengthen fraternal cooperation
Conclusions and way forward
Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis
18:15 Holy Mass
19:30 Dinner