

## ***Caritas Internationalis***

### **STATUTES**

#### **PREAMBLE**

“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (1 John 4:16). The word of God illuminates our minds and molds our hearts for the exercise of fraternal charity and for justice in communion with Christ and docile to the actions of the Holy Spirit. The love of the Father, seen in the presence, the face, the words, the human actions and the unconditional love bestowed upon Jesus, triggers our spirituality and our action, through never ending love towards every person and all humanity.

The service of charity is a responsibility of the Church as a community of love and also a task of every believer. This responsibility must be taken at all levels of the Church: from the local community to the particular Church and to the universal Church as a whole. Thus, charity must be organized to be an ordered service of the community (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, 20)

The Church, inasmuch as it is “in some way a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race” (Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, 1) is an integral part of God’s salvation plan for humanity and contributes to a “civilization of love” (Encyclical *Populorum Progressio*) by proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity: these three tasks are inseparable (*Deus Caritas Est*, 25)

In *Caritas*, as *opus proprium* (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, 29) the Church engages with people in need, assists them and defends their dignity in the light of the Gospel and of the teaching of the Catholic Church. Through *Caritas*, the Church also supports and promotes the integrity and protection of God’s creation, establishing a clear link between social and environmental issues. (cf. Encyclical *Laudato si*, 63-64). *Caritas* is therefore at the heart of the Church’s nature and mission.

Mandated by respective Episcopal Conferences, *Caritas* Organizations all over the world link together in fraternal cooperation and form a Confederation named *Caritas Internationalis*. The mission of *Caritas Internationalis*, as stated in these *Statutes*, is to foster communion between the universal Church and the particular Churches in the exercise of charity, and also among the faithful, in pursuit of the common good, through fraternal cooperation. (cf. Chirograph “*Durante L’Ultima Cena*”, 2; Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, 278-280)

The members of *Caritas Internationalis* are grouped into geographical regions. The role of the regions is to serve and to support their Members in the fulfilment of their mission in conformity and under the guidance of the particular and universal Church, and in line with the decisions and the plans approved by the General Assembly of *Caritas Internationalis*.

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **PURPOSE AND JURIDICAL NATURE**

1.1 *Caritas Internationalis* (hereafter, also “Confederation”) is a public canonical juridical person dedicated to the service of the poor and to the promotion of charity and justice, and the promotion of integral human development.

1.2 As an entity that participates at the heart of the ecclesial community in the mission of the Church, *Caritas Internationalis* is committed to fostering communion between the universal Church and the particular Churches in the exercise of charity, as well as communion among the faithful, acting for the common good.

1.3 The specific task entrusted to *Caritas Internationalis* is to assist the Roman Pontiff and the other bishops in their ministry of charity. *Caritas Internationalis* carries out this task by attending to the poorest and most needy, assisting in humanitarian emergencies, and helping to spread charity and justice in the world in the light of the Gospel and of the teaching of the Catholic Church.

1.4 *Caritas Internationalis* may also carry out works of international advocacy within the limits established by the competent ecclesial authority. To this end, *Caritas Internationalis*, in cooperation with other competent bodies, and in particular the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD) and the Secretariat of State’s Section for Relations with States, studies the problems arising from poverty in the world, investigates the causes and proposes solutions in accordance with the dignity of the human person considering the competence of the aforementioned Curial Institutions with regard to the approval of cooperation agreements and any other agreements with Governments and intergovernmental Organizations and Bodies (cf. Art. 3, General Decree).

Above all, *Caritas Internationalis* is committed to opening the eyes of Catholics and all people of good will, so that they may recognize their obligations to the poor and fulfil those obligations freely and responsibly.

1.5 To these ends, *Caritas Internationalis* promotes cooperation among its members, without diminishing their natural autonomy, by carrying out tasks of encouragement, coordination, representation and development of respective competencies.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **NAME AND LEGAL STATUS**

2.1 *Caritas Internationalis* is a public canonical juridical person (CIC 116-123) erected by Saint John Paul II by means of the Chirograph “*Durante l’Ultima Cena*” of 16 September 2004. Is a Vatican juridical person registered in the Register of canonical legal persons of the Governorate of the Vatican City State. *Caritas Internationalis* is governed by universal and proper canon law, in particular the General Decree of the Secretariat of State, by these *Statutes* and by the *Internal Rules*, as well as by the law of the Holy See and of the Vatican City State.

2.2 Caritas Internationalis is registered in the list of Bodies referred to in Article 1 § 1 of the Statutes of the Council for the Economy and is subject to the administrative, economic and financial provisions and controls applicable to it in accordance with the current legislation.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

3.1 Caritas Internationalis has its registered office in Via della Tipografia, Vatican City State. Any transfer of the registered office to another location would require the prior approval of the DPIHD and the Secretariat of State.

3.2 The General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis has its operational headquarters in Palazzo San Calisto, Rome.

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERATION**

4.1 *Caritas Internationalis* is a confederation of Catholic charitable organizations which, in general, are national *Caritas*. The rights and obligations of individual Member Organizations of *Caritas Internationalis* are set out in articles 5 and 6 of the present *Statutes*.

4.2 National charitable organizations whose statutes have been approved by the local Episcopal Conferences or by its equivalent in law or, in the case of a country consisting of a single diocese, by the diocesan bishop or by its equivalent in law, can apply for membership of *Caritas Internationalis*, following acceptance by the General Assembly and ratification by the DPIHD.

4.3 Charitable organizations can also apply to become Members of Caritas Internationalis if they operate either in the territories of several States, where only one of them has a Catholic Hierarchy, or in territories that are a significant part of a single State, where there is an express wish of an Episcopal Conference or its equivalent canonical body.

4.4 The withdrawal of approval or authorization by the competent Episcopal Conference or by its equivalent in law leads to automatic loss of membership.

### **ARTICLE 5**

#### **RIGHTS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

5.1 The main rights of the Member Organizations are:

- a) to elect the organizational structures of *Caritas Internationalis* and to be a member thereof;
- b) to participate in the preparation of the programs of mutual cooperation and the services of the Confederation at the international and regional levels;

- c) to contribute to outlining the strategic direction of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- d) to be informed at least annually about international developments and the implementation of the *Caritas Internationalis* strategic plan and annual work plan;
- e) to be supported in their own work;
- f) to see their own activities integrated within the universal Church's commitment with regard to the promotion of integral human development;
- g) to evaluate and monitor the activities of *Caritas Internationalis*, in accordance with the *Statutes* and *Internal Rules*;
- h) to have their autonomy respected by *Caritas Internationalis* and its organs, in accordance with the legal framework of *Caritas Internationalis*; any waiver of such autonomy requires the express authorization of the Secretariat of State and must be motivated by exceptional circumstances;
- i) to be informed at least annually about the economic and financial state of *Caritas Internationalis* and to receive, on request, whatever clarifications may be necessary and to raise any specific questions which may arise.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **DUTIES OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

#### 6.1 The main duties of the Member Organizations are:

- a) in all their activities, including those in the spheres of international cooperation and partnership, to act in a manner in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church and the provisions of canon law, as well as the indications of the competent ecclesiastical authorities;
- b) to ensure that their *Statutes* are in harmony with those of *Caritas Internationalis* and meet the minimum standards of governance as defined in the *Internal Rules*;
- c) in all their activities, including those in the spheres of international cooperation and partnership, to comply with the norms of conduct and the criteria defined in the *Statutes* and the *Internal Rules* of *Caritas Internationalis*, as well as with internationally shared principles and Management Standards, established by *Caritas Internationalis*;
- d) to harmonize their own international activities with those of *Caritas Internationalis* and to accept and actively support coordination by the General Secretariat in such operations; to accept representation by *Caritas Internationalis* in international relations;
- e) to accept and abide by the procedures established by these *Statutes* and by the *Internal Rules* of *Caritas Internationalis* for the resolution of disputes between Member Organizations and between Members and *Caritas Internationalis*;
- f) to pay statutory fees and jointly finance the organizational structures and activities of *Caritas Internationalis*.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES**

*Caritas Internationalis* has the following organizational structures:

- a) the General Assembly;
- b) the Representative Council;
- c) the Executive Board;
- d) the General Secretariat.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **REGIONS**

8.1 The Member Organizations from the different geographical Regions, as determined by the General Assembly, meet in Regional Conferences without a canonical personality and for exclusively functional objectives, with the aim of promoting and harmonizing their work within the Region, in accordance with the priorities determined by the General Assembly. Regions promote dialogue and collaboration with the DPHID, in accordance with Article 1 of the General Decree, and in harmony with the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis*.

8.2 Each Regional Conference is to elect its Regional President and to establish its headquarters.

8.3 Regional Conferences, with the approval of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, may establish regional cooperation bodies, where and when needed, whose function, in coordination with the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis*, is to promote the work of the Region as well as collaboration among Member Organizations of the Region.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

9.1 Member Organizations gather every four years in ordinary session for the General Assembly.

9.2 The General Assembly is the primary internal governing body of *Caritas Internationalis*.

9.3 Each Member Organization is represented by an official delegation of not more than two persons, one of whom is appointed by the Member Organization as Head of the Delegation. Only one delegate from each Member Organization participates in the sessions of the General Assembly referred to in 9.4 c.d.e.f.j.

9.4 It is the responsibility of the General Assembly:

- a) to set the strategic and financial frameworks of *Caritas Internationalis* for the next four years;

- b) to decide on the admission of new Member Organizations or the exclusion of Member Organizations, as well as deciding on the establishment of new Regions or the modification or suppression of existing regions;
- c) to elect the President and the Secretary General;
- d) to ratify the election of the Vice President of *Caritas Internationalis* elected by the incoming Representative Council;
- e) to ratify the appointment of Executive Council member made by the incoming Representative Council;
- f) to approve the decisions of the outgoing Representative Council regarding the total number of Member Organizations within the limits provided for in Article 10.2 that will become members of the successor Representative Council, and, within this total, the number of members that will correspond to each Region in accordance with Article 10.2 of the Statutes, with a view to ensuring that each Region is adequately represented.
- g) to receive and examine the report on the implementation of the previous strategic plan;
- h) to set the amount of membership fees;
- i) to receive the financial report and the balance for the period since the last General Assembly;
- j) to approve amendments to the *Statutes* and to the *Internal Rules*, so that they can then be submitted to the competent bodies for final approval by the Roman Pontiff, except as provided in Article 10.6.1.

9.5 With regard to collegial acts (CIC 119), unless the *Statutes* or *Internal Rules* provide otherwise, and as long as a majority of those who *must* be summoned to the General Assembly are present, what is decided by an absolute majority of those present is binding. Further provisions regarding procedures of the General Assembly are set out in the *Internal Rules*.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

10.1 The Representative Council is the highest internal governing body of *Caritas Internationalis* during the period between General Assemblies.

10.2 The Representative Council consists of the President, elected by the General Assembly, the Regional Presidents, as *ex officio* members, and the Member Organizations elected by the regions, as well as two additional young members, a man and a woman between 18 and 30 years of age, chosen according to the procedure defined in the *Internal Rules*. Regions shall ensure that at least one of their delegates is a woman. In the event that, as a result of regional elections, the representation of women is not at least one-third of the members of the Representative Council, two women will be appointed as additional members as specified in the *Internal Rules*. The minimum number of members of the Representative Council is twenty, and the maximum twenty-three.

10.3 The Representative Council, on the proposal of the President, elects the Vice President of *Caritas Internationalis* from among its members

10.4 The Secretary General is not a member of the Representative Council; he attends Representative Council meetings with voice but not vote except as provided in Article 4.16 of the *Internal Rules*.

10.5 The Treasurer, who chairs the Finance Commission and the chair of the Legal Affairs Commission attend Representative Council meetings with full speaking rights but no right to vote..

10.6 The principal functions of the Representative Council are:

- a) to make governance decisions not reserved for the General Assembly, necessary for the promotion of the work of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- b) to represent the priority issues and needs arising in the Regions and Member Organizations;
- c) to promote the active involvement and ownership of the Confederation's decisions and choices by all Member Organizations and of the Regions;
- d) ensure, under the guidance of the President and with the support of the Ecclesiastical Assistant, the dissemination of the Catholic Identity of *Caritas Internationalis* and the connection between social and pastoral and evangelization activities as well as promoting fraternal cooperation within the Confederation;
- e) disseminate in the Regions and Member Organizations, the guidelines and policies adopted by the Representative Council itself;
- f) to approve the four-year work plan of *Caritas Internationalis* and present it to the General Assembly;
- g) to approve the annual work plan and the annual report of the Secretary General;
- h) in compliance with the provisions and jurisdiction of the Holy See regarding the drafting and final approval of budgets to approve, having consulted the Finance Commission and having received the annual certification of external auditors, the annual financial statement and the annual budget, prepared and presented by the Executive Board, and approve the annual budget prepared by the Executive Board if the total costs for the year or the cumulative net income for the intervening years since the last General Assembly differ by more than 20 % from the four-year financial plan.
- i) to approve and disseminate the general policies and procedures of *Caritas Internationalis* both those applicable to the General Secretariat and to Member Organizations overseeing their implementation by the General Secretariat of *Caritas Internationalis*, and promoting them to each Member Organization, including through Committees and other *ad hoc* instruments;
- j) to undertake any other function explicitly assigned to the Representative Council by the General Assembly, or necessary for the good governance of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- k) to establish the Candidates Committee one year prior to the regular session of the General Assembly;
- l) to prepare amendments to the *Internal Rules*, in the period between General Assemblies, with two-third votes in favor of them, in order to ensure the governance of *Caritas*

*Internationalis*, and submit them, through the competent bodies, to the final approval of the Roman Pontiff;

m) to extend the powers assigned to the Secretary General by the *Internal Rules*;

10.7 The Representative Council is convened by the President and meets at least twice a year and more often if necessary, at a time, place, and manner determined by the Council itself.

10.8 The Representative Council may be consulted electronically or in writing by the President and is to conduct its business using technology available to all its members.

10.9 The Representative Council may meet in special session if the majority of its members consulted in writing by the President, agrees on the agenda, place and date of the meeting, or if the majority of its members so request, in writing to the President.

10.10 With regard to collegial acts (CIC 119), unless the *Statutes* or the *Internal Rules* provide otherwise, a majority of those who must be summoned to the Representative Council being present, what is decided by an absolute majority of those present is binding. Further provisions regarding procedures of the Representative Council are set forth in the *Internal Rules*.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

11.1 As the executive arm of the Representative Council, the Executive Board makes the necessary decisions for the direction and control of the ordinary activities of the General Secretariat and to facilitate and promote the operational activities of *Caritas Internationalis* in accordance with the plans and guidelines established by the General Assembly and the Representative Council.

11.2 The Executive Board is comprised of seven members:

- a) the President of *Caritas Internationalis*, *ex officio*, serves as Chair of the Executive Board;
- b) the Vice President of *Caritas Internationalis*, *ex officio*;
- c) a member appointed by the Representative Council, taking into account geographical representativeness, skills needed to carry out the tasks, and the presence of female representation;
- d) two members nominated by the DPIHD, taking into account geographical representation, the skills necessary to carry out the tasks, and the presence of female representation;
- e) the Treasurer;
- f) the chair of the Legal Affairs Commission.

11.3 The Executive Board has the following functions:

- a) acts as the executive body of the Representative Council by implementing its decisions and directives;



- b) approves acts of ordinary administration that exceed the delegations assigned to the Secretary General;
- c) makes the necessary decisions suitable for facilitating the activities of the General Secretariat, either by responding to requests from the Secretary General or by acting on its own initiative for acts outside the powers assigned to the Secretary General;
- d) reviews the content of the public positions adopted by *Caritas Internationalis* by its Representative Offices and the Regions, and promotes due collaboration with regard to the DPIHD, the Secretariat of State and the Permanent Missions of the Holy See, according to its competencies, by virtue of Articles 1 and 6 of the General Decree;
- e) supervises the activities and performance of the Secretary General;
- f) identifies the need for acts that exceed the limits and modalities of ordinary administration, as defined by the Council for the Economy, as well as the need for alienation of property belonging to the stable patrimony, and recommends such acts to the Representative Council, in compliance with the canonical norms regarding ecclesiastical property.
- g) in compliance with the provisions and competencies of the Holy See regarding the drafting and final approval of budgets, approves the annual budget if the total costs of the year or the cumulative net income of the intervening years since the last General Assembly do not differ by more than 20% from what is stipulated in the four-year financial plan, and submits it to the Representative Council if this limit is exceeded; transposes and verifies the draft annual financial statements prepared by the Secretary General and submits it to the Council of Representatives for approval.

11.4 The Executive Board is to meet at least five times a year, in the manner it decides, upon convocation by the President.

11.5 The Executive Board may be consulted electronically or in writing and is to conduct its business using technology available to all its members, such as videoconference.

11.6 The Executive Board may meet in special session according to the modalities established by article 5.10 of the *Internal Rules*.

11.7 All the members of the Executive Board participate in the sessions of the General Assembly, *ex officio* with voice but no vote, unless they have been accredited as the representative of a national Caritas. Members of the Executive Board may not attend sessions of the General Assembly specified in Article 9.3, unless they have been accredited as the voting representative of a national Caritas.

11.8 With regard to collegial acts, provided that an absolute majority of members of the Executive Board are present, what is decided by an absolute majority of those present is binding. Further provisions regarding procedures of the Executive Board are set forth in the *Internal Rules*.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **PRESIDENT**

#### 12.1 The President:

- a) leads the Confederation;
- b) is the highest representative of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- c) is the person primarily responsible for relations with the competent offices of the Holy See;
- d) is responsible for ensuring that the activity of *Caritas Internationalis* fully observes the requirements of universal canon law, as well as the particular canon law directly pertaining to *Caritas Internationalis*, and the law of Vatican City State.
- e) chairs the sessions of the General Assembly, the Representative Council and the Executive Board;
- f) votes only when voting is tied;
- g) may participate, with voting rights, in all committees and commissions of the governing structure of *Caritas Internationalis*

12.2 The President may delegate some specific duties of governance, which are not the responsibility of the Secretary General or another governing body, to the Vice President or in exceptional cases, to a member of the Representative Council or the Executive Board.

12.3 The President is elected for a period of four years, starting his/her mandate at the close of the General Assembly that elected him/her and continuing until the close of the following ordinary General Assembly. The President may not be elected for more than two terms, whether consecutive or not, and may not hold any other office in *Caritas Internationalis* before at least one full term has elapsed.

### **ARTICLE 13 VICE PRESIDENT**

13.1 , The Vice-President represents and promotes *Caritas Internationalis* subordinate to the President and in agreement with him and according to the tasks assigned to him by the President.

13.2 The Vice-President, in accordance with Art. 10.3, is elected by the Representative Council upon the proposal of the President, who identifies, from among the members of the incoming Representative Council, the Vice-President as the most suitable person to support him/her in his/her role according to his/her skills, time availability, and geographical location. The appointment must be ratified by the General Assembly..

13.3 In the event of the incapacity, grave impediment or death of the President, the Vice President assumes the Presidency, if approved by DPIHD.

### **ARTICLE 14 SECRETARY GENERAL**

14.1 The Secretary General directs the General Secretariat for which he/she is responsible to the Executive Board according to the assigned delegations indicated in the *Internal Rules*.

14.2 The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring that the entire activity of the General Secretariat corresponds to the general requirements of canon and civil law, as well as to the General Decree and other requirements applicable to *Caritas Internationalis*.

14.3 The Secretary General is responsible for

- a) the activities within the competence of the General Secretariat for the implementation of the strategic plan of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- b) the economic and operations management of the General Secretariat, in compliance with the approved financial framework and, in particular, of the accounting, registration and contribution obligations of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- c) the execution of further tasks assigned to him/her by the General Assembly, the Representative Council, the Executive Board, or the President.

14.4 The Secretary General is the legal representative of *Caritas Internationalis*.

14.5 The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring that regular and timely written correspondence is maintained with the DPIHD, with the Secretariat of State, and, where their respective competencies are concerned, with every other Dicastery, agency or competent office of the Roman Curia and the Governorate of the Vatican City State in accordance with the requirements of the General Decree.

14.6 The Secretary General ensures, in consultation with the President, communication between the Holy See and the other bodies of *Caritas Internationalis*. To this end, he / she maintains frequent contact with the DPIHD and with the Secretariat of State in accordance with the requirements of the General Decree and, where their respective competencies are concerned, with every other Dicastery, agency or competent office of the Roman Curia and the Governorate of the Vatican City State, while keeping the Executive Board informed as necessary.

14.7 The Secretary General shall be elected for a period of four years and shall hold office from the moment he/she makes the promise referred to in Article 5 of the *General Decree*, which shall take place as soon as possible, not later than 60 days from the closing date of the session of the General Assembly which elected him/her, until the date on which the same promise will be pronounced by the Secretary General elected by the next ordinary General Assembly. The Secretary General may not be elected for more than two full terms, consecutive or non-consecutive, and may not hold any other office or position within the General Secretariat for a period of four years following the end of his or her term of office.

14.8 The ordinary administration of the financial resources and of other temporal goods belonging to *Caritas Internationalis* falls to the Secretary General, under the supervision of the Executive Board, in accordance with the requirements of Canon Law, the Vatican regulations and those of the Holy See, as well as the present Statutes, and the *Internal Rules*.

14.9 In addition, it is the responsibility of the Secretary General to carry out acts of extraordinary administration in accordance with instructions received from the Executive Board within the limits and procedures set out by the Holy See.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

15.1 The General Secretariat is the organizational structure under the direction of the Secretary General. The personnel of the General Secretariat carry out their duties assigned by the Secretary General in accordance with the instructions from the Executive Board and in compliance with the Personnel Rules of *Caritas Internationalis*.

15.2 General Secretariat staff may not assume the position of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Commission, before 4 years after termination of employment in the General Secretariat.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **FINANCE COMMISSION**

16.1 The Finance Commission is a statutory commission.

16.2 The Finance Commission is chaired by the Treasurer. Members are elected by the Representative Council. The DPIHD may participate in a non-voting observer role. Commission members serve the general interest of Caritas Internationalis.

16.3 The Finance Commission is responsible for:

- a) Assisting the Regions and Member Organizations on economic and financial issues;
- b) Providing the Representative Council with qualified opinions on economic and financial matters, particularly with regard to fund management and investment policies;
- c) Providing the Representative Council with advice on the four-year financial plan prepared by the Secretary General and approved by the Executive Council;
- d) Carrying out and present to the Representative Council analyses related to statutory dues including assessments on any requests for reduction/amendment of statutory dues;
- e) conducting an independent audit of the General Secretariat's final financial statements;
- f) any other activities assigned by the General Assembly.

16.4 The Chair is elected for a term of four years and may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms while committee members may not be elected for more than three consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

17.1 The Legal Affairs Commission is a statutory commission.

17.2 The chair and members are elected by the Representative Council. The DIPHD may participate in a non-voting observer role. The members of the Commission work in the overall interest of *Caritas Internationalis*.

17.3 The Legal Affairs Commission responsibilities include:

- a) To ensure of the application of statutory and legal norms in the Confederation, as requested by the governing bodies considering the supervision of the competent Curial Institutions;
- b) To assist the governing bodies, operating structures, and Member Organizations of the Confederation in the correct interpretation and application of the *Statutes, Internal Regulations*, labor and legal norms, as well as on civil and canonical legal issues relevant to the work of the Confederation;
- c) to assist the Representative Council and the Executive Board in preparing the necessary decisions with regard to policies, specific guidelines and procedures to implement the Statutes & Internal Rules;
- d) to provide legal and procedural support in the conduct of the General Assembly;
- e) to analyze the legal profiles of membership and affiliation and disaffiliation requests and to submit recommendations to the Representative Council for decision;
- f) Other activities assigned by the General Assembly.

17.4 The chair is elected for a term of four years and may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms; members may not be elected for more than three consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES**

Due to the special relationship between *Caritas Internationalis* and the Holy See, the list of candidates for the offices of President and Secretary General and Treasurer must be submitted to the DIPHD for the prior approval of the Roman Pontiff, at least four months before the General Assembly at which the elections are to be held.. The names of the candidates may be made public only after they have been approved by the Roman Pontiff.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT**

19.1 The Ecclesiastical Assistant is appointed by the DPIHD, after consulting the President of *Caritas Internationalis*, for a four-year term

19.2 The Ecclesiastical Assistant fosters a spirit of communion among the members of the Organization and with the Holy See, he accompanies reflection on theological matters and promotes the Catholic identity of *Caritas Internationalis*.

19.3 The Ecclesiastical Assistant participates by right at the meetings of all the governing bodies of *Caritas Internationalis*, with voice but no right of vote.

19.4 The Ecclesiastical Assistant cannot be appointed for more than three consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **TREASURER**

20.1 The Treasurer is elected by the Representative Council. He is an *ex officio* member of the Executive Board and participates in the Representative Council, with right to speak but no vote.

20.2 The duties of the Treasurer are:

- a) inform the Representative Council and the Executive Board on the economic, financial and budgetary implications of their decisions;
- b) to advise, after consulting the Finance Commission, the Representative Council and the Executive Board on policies and decisions for the provision of reserve funds to secure the long-term financial viability of *Caritas Internationalis*;
- c) carry out checks on the budgets prepared by the Secretary General, in accordance with the criteria established by canon and civil law, to be presented subsequently to the Executive Council in compliance with the provisions of the Holy See;
- d) define the content timing and formats of the reports to be submitted periodically by the Secretary General to the Executive Board;
- e) as head of management control, verify the adequacy of the administrative procedures used by the General Secretariat and to report to the Executive Board and the Representative Council on the conformity of the Secretary General's administration of the financial resources and other temporal goods of *Caritas Internationalis* with the provisions of canonical and civil norms and the directives adopted by the Representative Council.

20.3 The Treasurer is elected for a four-year term, starting his/her work at the close of the General Assembly at which he/she was elected and continuing until the close of the following ordinary General Assembly. The Treasurer cannot be elected for more than two full terms, consecutive or non-consecutive.

20.4 The Treasurer is not to hold concurrently any other office or role in *Caritas Internationalis* or as staff of the General Secretariat, for a period of four years following the conclusion of his/her term of office.

## **ARTICLE 21**

### **SUPPORT COMMISSION**

21.1 The Support Commission is an independent body. It comprises three or more members nominated by the Roman Pontiff, with law, economics, organization, and technical expertise.

21.2 The task of the Support Commission is to collaborate with the President, the Secretary General, , the Legal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission so that all of the work of *Caritas Internationalis* is carried out in compliance with canonical legislation and the legislation of the Vatican City State and, in particular, in accordance with the requirements of the General Decree. The Chair of the Support Commission may attend meetings of both the afore-mentioned Commissions as well as the meetings of the General Assembly, the Representative Council and the Executive Board, with voice but no vote. The members of the Support Commission may take part in meetings of the General Assembly.

21.3 The Support Commission reports to the DPIHD and, in agreement with the same Dicastery, forwards to the Secretariat of State and to the competent Dicasteries of the Roman Curia any necessary information on legal and economic matters.

21.4 The Support Commission carries out its work in accordance with its own working rules approved by the Secretariat of State.

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **TEMPORAL GOODS**

22.1 Temporal goods owned by *Caritas Internationalis*, as a public juridic person in canon law, are ecclesiastical goods (CIC 1257 §1.) and as such must be used and administered in accordance with civil, canonical, Vatican and Holy See Law and with the purposes of *Caritas Internationalis*.

22.2 For alienation of goods which constitute the stable patrimony of *Caritas Internationalis* whose value exceeds the amount set by the Holy See, as well as for the valid performance of extraordinary administration, it must follow the procedures and provisions set by the Holy See.

22.3 For the annual audit, internationally recognized external auditors are appointed by the Representative Council. Internal auditors are appointed according to the provisions of the Holy See.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **FINANCE**

23.1 In general, *Caritas Internationalis* is funded through:

- a) the annual membership fees paid by the Member Organizations;
- b) the registration fees paid for participation in the General Assembly and other meetings;
- c) donations, legacies, grants, and project funding.

23.2 *Caritas Internationalis* is obliged to seek clearance from the Section for Relations with States and International Organizations of the Secretariat of State, in accordance with Article 3 of the General Decree, for the signing of financing agreements with governments or with Intergovernmental Organizations and Bodies.

23.3 Where there are good reasons to suspect that funds or other economic resources, or transactions, are connected to money-laundering or the financing of terrorism, the Secretary General will report the matter to the Financial Supervision and Information Authority, in compliance with the laws of the Holy See and the State of the Vatican City.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

24.1 The provisions of these *Statutes* and *Internal Rules* may be amended by the General Assembly on the basis of a two-thirds majority vote of the Member Organizations present, according to Article 9.5 of these Statutes. The provisions of the *Internal Rules* may also be amended, according to the provisions of Article 10.6.1.

24.2 Modifications to these *Statutes* and to the *Internal Rules* must be approved by the Holy See (cf. *General Decree* Art. 2).

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **DISSOLUTION**

25.1 *Caritas Internationalis* can only be dissolved by the Holy See (cf. canons 120 and 320 § 1, CIC). Dissolution may be proposed to the Secretariat of State by the General Assembly on the basis of a two-thirds majority vote of the Member Organizations present. For a valid decision, two-thirds of the Member Organizations of *Caritas Internationalis* must be present at the General Assembly taking this decision.

25.2 In the event of dissolution, the temporal goods of *Caritas Internationalis* devolve to the Holy See for the Roman Pontiff's works of religion and charity



**ARTICLE 26**  
**INTERNAL RULES**

26.1 The application of the provisions of the present Statutes is in general determined by the *Internal Rules*, which are an integral and binding part of the said *Statutes*.

**ARTICLE 27**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE**

27.1 These *Statutes* are effective immediately.

27.2 In the event that there is a conflict with the previous *Statutes*, the provisions of the present *Statutes* shall prevail.

From the Vatican, May 2nd 2023

Papa Francesco