

CLM INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS



PRESENTATION

The present document intends to expand the organizational bases agreed in the 2012 Assembly of Maia, also collecting the continental agreements. We hope that this will allow having in a single document with the organizational and identity aspects approved by all.

It does not pretend to be a directory where it is defined in a unique way what it is to be a CLM but it is a guiding line agreed by all and from where we recognize ourselves. Combining the essential elements of the CLM vocation while respecting the diversity of each country. Each CLM group will have a directory (charter or statute) where it develops in a specific way the particular aspects of their country.

INTRODUCTION

In a vision of church as communion, the charism of Saint Daniel Comboni is a gift of the Spirit to the particular churches in which the CLM are springing up. They are developing a new dimension of living the Comboni charism in autonomy and communion with the rest of the Comboni family. As a lay missionary movement they are an expression of the missionary dimension of the particular churches (both the sending and the receiving ones) and live the values of the Kingdom of God within the daily realities (economics, political, social, cultural).

CRITERIA TO BE A CLM

- *The CLM has Christ as his/her master and guide us to go to meet the other and to live with consistency in what he/she believes.*
- *To be defined for our option of following Jesus Christ in an ecclesial context.*
- *Prayer and the Word of God lead us to make common cause with the poorest and most abandoned and to share the charism with the Comboni Family.*
- *Each CLM should undertake commitment in pastoral and social areas, integrating with the local Church.*
- *A mature person lay, with missionary spirit, capacity of adaptation, coexistence and teamwork.*
- *To possess an appropriate human, Christian, Combonian and professional formation.*
- *To have psychological and emotional stability, and appropriate state of health.*

- *To have the ability to work as a team*
- *To have a history of commitment in the service of others as an expression of their Christian faith.*
- *To commit oneself in the implementation of the aims of the Movement*
- *To have concluded the discernment stage of formation.*

PURPOSE OF THE MOVEMENT

- Work in evangelization, promotion and integral development among the people where we are sent, preferably the poorest and most abandoned.*
- Prepare and send Comboni Lay Missionaries to the mission; accompany their missionary service and attend to their needs in their destination and on their return.*
- Promote missionary animation and commit with the local Church.*
- Participate at personal and community level in the different intra and extra ecclesial forums of announcement and denunciation, in coordination with other related movements.*
- Accompany and nourish the missionary vocation of its members throughout their life wherever the Lord calls them in each moment of their life.*
- Provide spaces for growth and community support that strengthen the CLM identity and the commitment of life of its members wherever they are.*
- CLM communities create common spaces of communication, integration, and formation to maintain the ties to the CLM family.*
- Open the mission to the laypeople, gaining autonomy, strengthen the different groups, develop strong organizational structures and live our common identity while remaining open to the Spirit.*
- Being a Christian community of reference for its members, establishing a calendar of prayer, retreats, sacraments and community life review.*

CLM IDENTITY

Layperson

- *We are men or women, single or married, and mature.*
- *Involved in the secular life (work, family...)*
- *Aware of the value of the cultural diversity, we are formed in a human, professional and Christian way.*
- *In the country of origin, we support ourselves by our own work.*
- *We work for the values of the Kingdom of God, promoting the evangelization and liberation of people.*
- *We have a Christian vocation and the sense of ecclesial fellowship*
- *We have a mature faith and clear motivation for the missions.*
- *We are motivated by our option to follow Jesus Christ in an ecclesial and community context.*
 - *By encouraging in a missionary way the local Church and the society in which we live.*
 - *By working at the service of human liberation, of justice and peace.*

Missionary

- *The CLM live the mission in answer to our Christian vocation.*
- *We have a clear and positive disposition to go to the mission among those non-evangelized people or those still needing to strengthen their faith as Christian communities.*

- *As CLM, we want to share (giving and receiving) our life (faith, capacities, etc.) among the people to whom we are sent.*
- *As Christians the CLM announce the Gospel:*
 - *With our testimony of life;*
 - *With our commitment in the civil society by means of our work and at the service of the integral human development, of human liberation, of justice and peace;*
 - *With our commitment in pastoral activities, promoting a ministerial Church;*
 - *Promoting the missionary awareness of the Church.*
- *We promote the missionary vocation.*
- *From the point of view of the poor making them the main protagonists of their own liberation.*

Comboni

- *As the Comboni Family, we CLM live our vocation through Daniel Comboni's charisma, re-creating it by the light of our lay status.*
- *In general, we work in co-responsibility and in collaboration with the Comboni Family.*
- *This supposes:*
 - a) *Identification with the Charism, the founder's knowledge and his spirituality, to be witness of Jesus' Gospel.*
 - b) *"To Save Africa with Africa" being promoters and animators of local laypeople.*
 - c) *To make a preferential option for the least in society (the excluded and impoverished), which to be authentic, is born of faith, which influences the world of politics, of education, of the economy, etc. willing to bear the cross with the crucified of today.*
 - d) *Community Life as the fundamental dimension of the missionary life. That is carried out in the community of CLM (where it is possible), be it in the apostolic community with the Comboni Missionaries or other pastoral agents; maintaining an austere style of life and an attitude of sharing with people.*
 - e) *Continuing in our country of origin the "missionary" work being carried out especially in the promotion of the justice and the solidarity, with an "alternative lifestyle" and maintaining the CLM presence in projects 'ad extra' in the various missions.*
 - f) *As part of the Comboni Family, we believe that the CLMs, MCCJ, Comboni Sisters and seculars should come together for assemblies (as observers), retreats, feasts or special days of the Comboni Family, etc.*

MISSION FIELDS

The CLM movement is born to serve the missionary needs of the world. Meeting these needs, going to meet people, leaving our own personal, cultural, country borders, remains our priority as CLM. We must give a double response from our vocation to the call to leave our own culture: both on a personal level (to the call received by each one) and at the CLM group level (assuming responsibility as a group that enables others to go and do it in our name), opening the Church to its missionary dimension.

We know that the mission cannot be understood only in geographical terms. In a globalized world like the one we live in, we need to respond in a way that transcends these needs. Recognize and commit ourselves as CLM family in these new realities, found both outside and within our countries, is essential in our service as a missionary movement. Not only acting in the consequences but above all in the causes of an unfair World.

We believe that the missionary outflow from one's own culture, language, etc. it is a constitutive part of our missionary vocation and a moment of grace for all CLM. But like Comboni, we recognize that those people who

give their lives for the mission and make it the center of their life, whether leaving or remaining in their country of origin, are an essential part of our CLM family having the same rights and duties. If we place the mission in the center and everyone at the service of it, we will form a great family that will enable a better missionary service for the poorest and most abandoned of our world in every historical moment.

It is this characteristic of serving the mission of God, in the moment and place that the Lord places us in each moment, what should characterize us as CML and not only the time that we remain outside of our country. This is the vocational proposal that we must make to all people who want to join our missionary movement, both those who can leave their land and those who from their own land give their lives for the mission (in missionary services within their own country, in formation, missionary animation, search for resources, etc.).

We also encourage our country groups to establish missionary communities within our own countries, at the service of different missionary realities such as attention to indigenous peoples, immigrants, JPIC, pastoral in areas not sufficiently evangelized, etc.

All united and in co-responsibility for our common mission that we assume all as an international CLM movement.

For this reason, our priorities in missionary activity as CLM shall be:

- *As CLM, we are called to awaken the missionary consciousness of the church promoting missionary vocations within the Church;*
- *To be in frontier situations, this does not depend on geographical location but to be where no one else wants to go.*
- *Empower local leaders in mission situations: "Save Africa with Africa".*
- *To strengthen and ensure continuity of our presence as CLM in the existing communities.*

Criteria to keep in mind in the election of the mission field:

- *The needs of the local Church;*
- *Places of first evangelisation and among the poorest and neediest;*
- *The preparation and talents of the CLM;*
- *Projects which have been approved by the province that welcome the CLM;*
- *Projects have to be clear and sustainable safeguarding the continuity;*
- *Where they can live in a community that facilitates the mutual help, formation and internationality, and be signs of an evangelizing community and where everyone has a personal task to fulfil;*
- *Assistance to the CLM with children where it is necessary*

Possible Intervention models:

- **Pastoral Model:** *Where the CLM community takes care of the parish or a large part of it is put in the hands of the community. We underline as positive aspects the possibility of working in the explicit announcement of the faith, as well as showing a pattern of Church nearer to the people. Follow-up of communities, formation of laity, family ministry, witness of life, pastoral organization... responding to pastoral plans.*
- **Social Model:** *Inserted in problems of justice and peace, community development, and so on. It is a model that has a wide field of activities, helping also the insertion of the CLM community into the real life of the people. Support for community human formation initiatives (cooperatives,...), social action activities in the line of justice and peace, activities with disadvantaged groups (street children, etc.)*
- **Working Model:** *working in one's own local structures as another. In this way we do not create new things, but rather we support what they have already established, working from inside, strengthening the*

local structures, in the professional training of people, etc. We try not to take away the work of the local laity but to strengthen the local structures from inside by developing our profession.

These models can be separate or exist together in the same community or work-area.

FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE CLM METHODOLOGY

"Save Africa by Africa"

- *Recognition of people's dignity;*
- *Attitude of listening, cooperation, co-responsibility and fraternity;*
- *Empower local leaders for evangelisation and human development;*
- *Empower the local population and accompany them so that the population itself is the main subject and the architect of its own destiny;*
- *To promote the growth and not the dependence of the people;*

To make common cause with people

- *To avoid falling into the temptation of creating new superstructures neither personal projects;*
- *To be of service to the people, living without big pretension;*
- *Projects according to the needs and capabilities of the local Church;*

Inculturation and inter-religious Dialogue

- *The knowledge of the language, of the country, of the area is important in view of respect for the culture, the traditions and the religion of the people;*
- *Insertion into the cultural background of the people with an attitude of humility;*
- *To know and to respect the beliefs and the way of living of the people;*
- *Being a sign of communion improving the interethnic and inter-religious dialogue*
- *To be sensitive towards their spirituality and to transmit solid truths based on the Word, and not on our own views;*
- *Sense of giving and receiving.*
- *Only by accepting that the poor evangelize us, we will be in conditions of being good missionaries.*

To evangelize as a community

- *An apostolic community made of men and women, single or married, and children, the ordained, etc.*
- *To be signs as evangelizing communities;*
- *What is read in the Gospel, assimilated and lived in community, acquires due coherence and becomes a solution for our concrete life-situations;*
- *Mutual help. Dialogue should be a constant, present in the whole formative process of a CLM and a means of solving the conflicts occurring among those who live with others;*
- *Help to formation and internationality,*
- *The presence of a coordinator in each group should be something habitual.*
- *We pretend a community life style sharing what we are, what we-live and what we have.*
- *It is important to maintain contact with the Church that has sent the CLM.*

How do we live (Lifestyle)

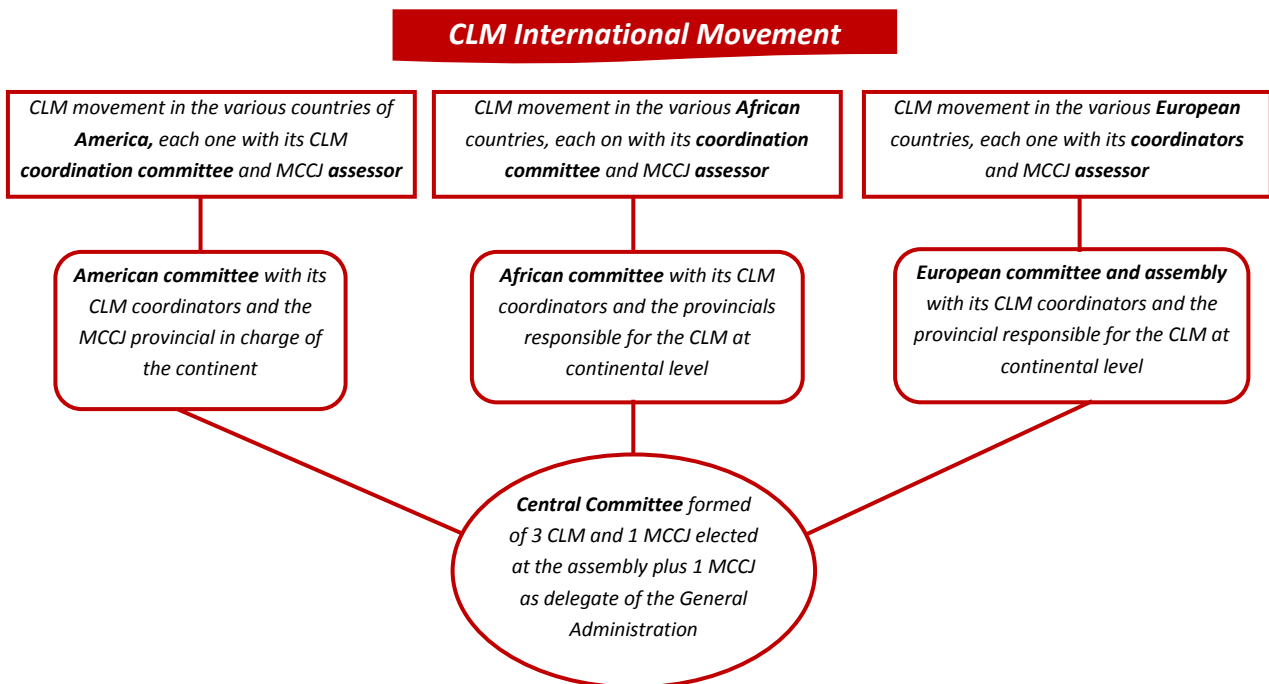
- *The CLM must be characterized by our availability, that is, putting ourselves at the service of the Mission.*

- To adjust the lifestyle to that of the people, to a sober and simple life. Without negating our own culture and identity.
- An evangelical lifestyle adopting poor means.
- A clear option in solidarity with the poor, demands of us to be with the poor, minimizing the gap.
- Austerity of means and structures should mark our lifestyle and our presence in the missions.
- The community should be the centre of the Mission and of our missionary style. Where there is a family it should be the first domestic community necessary to be taken care of and the place from where to evangelize.
- It is necessary to avoid that there are only two people in the mission posts, since it creates a lot of isolation. It would be convenient that to form teams.
- The intervention of the CLM as professionals should be framed clearly in an evangelisation context and be developed with a Christian spirit so that we may not be seen simply as technicians or helpers, but transmit the necessity of a person's complete development.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MOVEMENT

Organizational chart of the CLM

The directories of each country, the continental and international agreements define the distinct responsibilities



The International assembly

It is made up of delegates from the various countries where the CLM movement is established. Each country (or Comboni Province) is represented by two CLM and one MCCJ with voting rights.

The voting system in the Assembly:

Decisions should be taken, as a general rule, by consensus.

- The votes will be by raising the hand, except in the case where a member asks for a secret vote, absolute majority being required at the first vote and simple majority in the following votes.

- To elect the Central Committee there will be an attempt to reach a consensus, so that it may be possible to listen to the opinion of the assembly with regard to the viability of the composition and of the candidates. Afterward the candidates are presented and the vote takes place. The vote will be secret and absolute majority will be required in the first vote, while simple majority will suffice in subsequent votes.
- To vote on decisions that will modify the consensus of prior assemblies, the approval of 2/3 of the assembly is necessary.

The general assembly will meet every 6 years.

The commission will develop a working paper which will establish the groundwork to prepare for the general assembly so as to facilitate the maximum participation of all CLM.

Central committee:

The Central Committee will be made up by 3 CLM and 1 MCCJ elected by the assembly, plus 1 MCCJ as the delegate of the General Council of the MCCJ. From among the members of the Central Committee, the assembly will elect a coordinator and a substitute for the same.

Substitution:

- In the case that the delegate of the GC needs to be substituted, it is up to the GC to name another person in his place.
- If another member must relinquish his responsibility before the following assembly, a person who will seek the committee itself will substitute he/she.

To avoid excessive centralization of the movement, the continental Committees and the coordination teams of each country must be more active and implement their specific tasks.

Tasks of the Central Committee

The tasks of the Central Committee should be discussed and shared by the different members.

- Convene and organize the assembly.
- Internationalization of the CLM documents.
- Streamline the reflection of the challenges to encourage all at international level.
- Discern the challenges determined by the assembly.
- Encourage the implementation of the agreements reached at the assembly.
- Encourage the exchange of the experiences of all.
- Know the different reality of the different CLM provinces (people outside the country, training ...).
- Mediate between different provinces, realities, etc. to facilitate movement purposes.
- Prepare the operating budget of the Central Committee
- Try to raise funds to maintain ourselves.
- Encourage communication among all countries.
- Management of the website.
- When possible, the Central Committee should visit international communities if necessary.

Commissions

There is the possibility that at the international level there will be commissions created that will help the growth of the movement. These commissions would depend on the Central Committee.

In order to strengthen the country groups and the continental organization, we propose:

1. We should make more efforts to achieve autonomy in all fields.
2. That in his/her field of responsibility each CLM "assume what needs to be done and do it well;"

3. *Be aware that the journey towards self-sufficiency must undergo a strengthening of organization, economy and formation;*
4. *That both the CLM and the MCCJ advisors should know the international and continental agreements, as well as they should be included in the various directories;*
5. *After the continental and intercontinental meetings, each country group must get together to include and to adapt to their reality the commitments taken into the group's action plan.*

Continental Committees

The continental committees will gather at least every three years.

Each continental committee will have a coordinating team made up of at least two CLM and the MCCJ provincial responsible for the CLM on that continent. In the case of Africa, the committee is made up of 3 CLM and the provincials responsible for the CLM of English-speaking Africa and Mozambique, and French-speaking Africa. In the case of Europe, it is decided to hold an assembly every three years (where all the CMLs present in Europe can participate) and the European committee to be formed by a CML from each country group.

Responsibilities of the Continental Committee:

1. *To be organized with a coordinator, a secretary and a treasurer.*
2. *To call and prepare the continental meetings;*
3. *To focus on implementing the decisions made in the previous assemblies (whether continental or international); starting from the different topics treated by the Assembly itself (identity, organization, formation, communication, economics and Comboni family)...*
4. *To be in constant communication with the Central Committee and within the continent;*
5. *Promote communication among the different countries;*
6. *Promote meeting among the coordinators of the different countries to exchange experiences, formation, organization... in order to follow the agreements taken. These meetings could also be considered for the different services of the groups such as economy, training, communication, etc.*

CLM Country Group must have:

1. *A Coordinating Team made up of a coordinator, a secretary and a treasurer chosen by the CLM assembly and a delegate MCCJ chosen by the province. This team must send its reports to the Continental and Central Committee.*
2. *A person in charge of communications (blog, Facebook, Twitter).*
3. *A Formation Team which must: plan and prepare the topics of formation; ensure the follow-up and the evaluation of the formation given.*
4. *Each group must have someone from those in charge of formation who will be networking with those responsible at the national level.*
5. *As we have only one CLM group in each country, which includes local and expatriate members. We should have a common program decided in the assembly of each country, one coordinating team that shares the responsibilities and makes the important decisions together. Those CLM who live near one another, should also try to share some of the activities, prayers, meals, formation...*

6. *The CLM assembly of each country will gather at least every year.*
7. *The coordinating committee of the CLM of each country will gather at least twice a year.*
8. *The CLM living in the same country should meet at least once a year to organize and reflect CLM paths and share the work done by each community/group. We should also use Skype or any other tools to meet more often.*
9. *In those countries where there are both local CLM and CLM from other countries we suggest that little by little there be an integration of the activities and that the meeting of both be eventually held in common.*
10. *All the CLM who are in the same country or Comboni province are part of the same movement and therefore it does not make sense that they move along separately. This common journey must go along and respect the rhythm of the origin of the distinct CLM entities, working along a common line based on the international agreements and mutual help.*

FORMATION

As a group of Comboni Lay Missionaries, we opt for a formation that gives credibility to our vocation (holy and capable). This should be taken seriously and have enough time to mature into a vocation as God's gift to the service of the mission.

Formation must prepare the candidate for a commitment as CLM for life.

General objective of the formation

Provide a formative way, where people can discover, embrace and deepen their CML vocation following Jesus Christ in community according to the charism of St. Daniel Comboni and where we are all recognized as CLM regardless of our country of origin.

Stages of formation and objectives of the various stages

- **Stage of knowledge and first contacts (Length varies according the candidate).**
Objective: To welcome and facilitate mutual understanding
- **Discernment stage** (Around one year, minimum) to know the candidate and to discern their vocation, etc.
Objective: To accompany the candidate on the discovery of his/her vocation in a process of identification with the Comboni charism and mission.
- **Going in-depth stage** (it varies according to the Province, 1 or 2 years): it is developed in weekend encounters, seminars, retreats, etc.
Objective: To develop a sense of belonging and personal commitment with the CLM movement.
- **Permanent formation** (Includes those who have returned from mission).
Objective: To live in fidelity to the vocation of life, choosing a committed lifestyle and a lay missionary apostolate, strengthening the bonds among all members of the movement...
- **Specific preparation** (an ideal of a minimum of 6 months of community experience):
Usually the CLM candidate has a course with other missionaries of the country, and it is more intensive course with residence in a Comboni house: for the language preparation, study of the culture of the destined country, Comboni spirituality and charisma, etc.
Objective: Prepare the candidate in advance of his/her departure to mission.

- **Formation in Mission:** includes six-month period of enculturation (culture, language, etc.), specific formation for lay people and accompaniment of the community.
Objective: Follow a formation program to address the challenges of daily life, including participation in the local church and at social events, sharing experiences with local partners (CLM, Comboni MCCJ...).

We suggest that there will be personal accompaniment in all stages of formation. Each candidate in formation must have a CLM to accompany him or her during the process of discernment. If it were not possible, a MCCJ may also cover this task. This accompaniment must continue during his/her missionary service and in the first moments after his/her return.

When possible, add to our formation the possibility of a short-term missionary experience.

Do not hesitate to count on the help of psychologists and other professionals in the training programs.

We believe it is necessary to prepare more lay people who are able to guarantee the formation and accompaniment within the CLM in order to gain greater autonomy.

Guidelines to facilitate formation in different countries

These guidelines are not exhaustive, required or exclusive in content, but are offered to assist the various formation programs according to the agreed objectives.

BLOCKS:

1. Human maturity

- Conflict resolution
- Affectivity and feelings management
- Community life and sharing
- Self-awareness, personal integrity, authenticity, transparency, emotional maturity,
- Key issues in the field of sexuality ...
- Leadership, group dynamics, communication skills ...
- Administration. Finances and Management
- JPIC

2. Christian maturity

- Bible, sacraments, liturgical and community prayer.
- Social Doctrine of the Church.
- Introduction to Theology and Missiology.

3. Identity and charism

- Daniel Comboni
- Comboni Family
- CLM identity
- Internationality
- Inculturation [language, culture... (also those with whom we live in international communities)]
- Pastoral and social ministries

Important issues to be considered in CLM formation

Each province will adopt a formation program taking into account the possible topics and adapting the stages to the reality of each province.

- *In the case of marriages, we should work out the motivations and feelings of the couple; it has to be a calling of the two (the vocation of marriage should prevail before the missionary vocation ad gentes).*
- *While ones profession is not decisive, it is very important. "Holy and capable," said Comboni.*
- *Mission and community experience: candidates must have an experience of community life directed towards the mission and introducing them to the other CLM in order to know each other better.*
- *All steps must be scheduled, accompanied and evaluated. We stress accompaniment with capable people who know the area of mission.*
- *Training and lifestyle should be integrated into the local context.*
- *We believe that short mission experiences outside the usual environment help in the training processes.*
- *We need to pay special attention to people returning from mission. This return must be accompanied in order to face and to heal wounds, and if possible to facilitate their reintegration into their community and group at home.*
- *Dedicate a specific time for formation in international and continental assemblies.*

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Without a doubt, we all agree that financial autonomy is one of our greatest challenges. To reach it we propose the following:

- *We want to include the financial aspect in our spiritual life, in order to live a life based on Providence. In this context, we ask the groups to include the topic on their formation programs, on how we relate to money placing our stability and confidence in God.*
- *The International Common Fund is a fundamental tool for the CLM movement. Each group should make a regularly free contribution, annually and fixed in each country after a proper economic discernment.*
- *Knowing that we all belong to this family of CLM, we are called to be responsible for and to support the group. In this sense, all the CLM must contribute to the fund of the local group. From this fund, the group in turn should contribute to the international common fund, managed by the Central Committee (one can also contribute to it as CLM at individual level). We know about the difficulties and the differences between the realities of each country where we are present, but we believe too that everyone has some way to contribute. Each member must assume their responsibility for the sustainability of the movement. It can be done with money contribution, but also with goods or work. For example, a group may choose to cultivate something and after the crop, sell it to generate a fund. Someone may help with the seeds, other with the area, other with the workforce, other with the negotiation process, or with the transport. Other possibility may be sending handicraft from one country to another (for example, through missionaries that travel over there), and in accordance between the groups, share the results of the selling. Every country gather information and try to create an association or other type of juridical and/or ecclesial structure to get external financing according to each country reality.*
- *Do not wait until the end of the year to make the contributions and inform the treasurer of the Central Committee.*
- *The treasurer of the Central Committee will send the annual budget and the annual expenditure report to the different countries. Transparency is very important and motivates the increase in contributions.*
- *We must be co-responsible for the mission. We invite countries with more possibilities to help the CLM of other countries as we are a single movement.*
- *In the process of our financial autonomy, we also invite the various groups to include in their formation program the various economic aspects, such as the development projects based on the local needs, the search for funds, keeping the accounts, etc.*
- *We are also called to inspire the local Church and all people of good will to support our missionary activity.*
- *It is not enough to engage in projects, as we are also called to give financial reports with great transparency (ledgers, bank accounts with more than one signature...).*

All movements need financial means in order to operate.

International financial support:

We have an international common fund from which the Central Committee can draw to organize its activities.

From the budget prepared by the Central Committee each group will conduct an economical discernment on what to provide based on the reality of the different groups (it is up to the judgment of each country what will be contributed by the CLM and the MCCJ provinces where there are CLM, according to the means of each one).

CMLs may also contribute to this fund at a particular level as well as other benefactors.

It could be possible to present a project for this arrangement wherever it will seem opportune: CLM of some countries, the General Council, some Comboni province or some independent organization that can help.

Continental financial support:

It is important to see clearly how to take care of the expenses at continental level. This must be established with the criteria and respecting the different realities of each continental committee.

Continental financial support may be through the international fund, with a limit to each continental committee: to execute some continental activities, the Continental Committee may request to the Central Committee resources from international fund. Central Committee will analyze the viability of the financial support to the respective activity and the availability of the funds, and answer the request according to the possibilities. The request may be done with, at least, 1 month of advance. The requestor must send the report of the resources use with transparency.

Financial support in each country:

It is important to have a clear idea of how to cover expenses incurred in each country. This needs to be established with the criteria and being sensitive to the situation of each country. It is important to ensure the greatest participation of the CLM through a community financial discernment that will make it possible for a fair contribution to the expenses of the movement. It will also be possible to look for external means that will make possible the activities of the CLM in each country, the support of mission places and international commitments.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE COMBONI LAY MISSIONARIES

Without material food the body loses strength, without spiritual food the spirit also becomes weak. Our missionary life needs to be constantly fed. A food that we seek personally and in community. Food that we find in the Word, in Prayer, in Meditation, in the Sacraments,... in the Community.

In this sense...

1. The CLM has Christ as his/her master and guide us to go to meet the other and to live with consistency in what he/she believes.
2. Prayer and the Word of God lead us to make common cause with the poorest and most abandoned and to share the charism with the Comboni Family. Each group should establish a calendar of prayer, retreats, sacraments and community life review.
3. We have to transform our heart to transform the world, because the first evangelization goes through us (announcement and denunciation). The SPIRITUALITY of the CLM needs to be cultivated and deepened in the context of a path of continuous formation in the spirit of Saint Daniel Comboni in the light of the Gospel. A personal and community formation, through local and international meetings.
4. The center of the spirituality of the CLM is to be witnesses. That is why we encourage missionary animation in the churches of our territory (promotion of missionary awareness).

5. *Maintain fraternal meetings with CLM at the local level (spiritual retreat) to share prayer and the Word.*
6. *The CLM must live their sacramental and spiritual life with coherence.*
7. *We encourage all CLM to know and pray the prayer of the Comboni Family.*

Through these commitments, we are called to unite faith with life, walk and live in history knowing that God and the spirit of Saint Daniel Comboni live with us.

LIVING THE COMBONI CHARISM

We are the bearers of a great treasure, the vocation of lay Comboni Missionaries scattered throughout the world. And within this call and specific vocation for life, it is necessary to carry out a process of discernment of this vocation; assuming an identity of their own, creating a style of living the Christian faith in a personal encounter with Jesus and guided by the teachings of St. Daniel Comboni.

Therefore, we propose:

1. *Return to the Comboni sources, review the history, documents and teachings of Saint Daniel Comboni;*
2. *Strengthen or stimulate the creation of laity groups who wants to share the charism (named of "Comboni spirituality", "Comboni friends" or similar names) where we are present. Based on a work of Formation, Missionary Animation and the commitment of JPIC. Establishing national networks, encouraging commitment and effort worldwide, mission beyond our borders...*
3. *Offer a course on Comboni Spirituality of the Comboni Family where lay people can participate (face-to-face or online). Through an in-depth study of Comboni sources, the course should provide participants with the experience of being Comboni today in their life and mission. It is also time to reflect and give a new meaning to our Comboni heritage.*
4. *Publicize missionary experiences as Comboni Family.*
5. *Participation in meetings with other lay missionaries strengthens our identity and helps spread the Comboni charism.*
6. *We need common forms worldwide for identification: CLM Day (Third Sunday of Advent - Sunday of Joy), CLM logo, CLM song, CLM motto, CLM t-shirt... Remember our deceased CLM... Working in the countries in the identification of them.*

CLM VOCATIONAL PROMOTION

The mission needs missionaries who can bring the love of God to the farthest corners and the neediest people.

*We know that the best vocational promotion is the **testimony of life**. Therefore, to be present, as lay people, in the ecclesial and social realities of our environment must be an important part of our missionary going out.*

We know that it does not depend on us but on the Owner of the Harvest. However, it is in our hands to facilitate the vocation of those who are called to the mission.

*As indicated in the text "CLM Vocational Promotion" of 2015, we encourage to carry out a **systematic plan of vocational promotion** in our groups. With the possibility of starting from this proposal or from others that we can share.*

Concrete proposals:

1. *Share our vocational promotion plans and material in the training platform.*
2. *Collaborate with other missionary groups in vocational promotion and especially as Comboni Family.*

3. *Pray for vocations. Have patience and know how to wait.*
4. *That vocational promotion leads to involve young people in our activities.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING

Communications is the key in order to be able to grow as a movement. In this sense, we insist that each country group communicate its journey at the international level:

Invitation to personal responsibility:

What is the use of having so many communication tools, if we do not communicate? Communication is essential for the success of mission and it is a responsibility of all the CLM, as it has been for St. Daniel Comboni.

Internal communication

We propose to have a communication team or secretary for each country. Not only a person to publish in the blog or writes articles, but someone that motivates and stimulates the communication among CLM of its country as an essential part of our missionary being.

We recommend:

1. *Give more importance in training to communication.*
2. *Renew the list of volunteer translators (each country indicates people) and then share the translations with other countries...*
3. *Improve the work in network with the CLM in the international communities, with the continental committees, with the Central Committee and with the Comboni Family.*
4. *In order to facilitate the integration of new CLM in the local CLM groups, we must strengthen communications and networking between the sending group and the receiving group, the Central Committee, the Continental Committees and the MCCJ provincials.*
5. *To share regularly news and/or documents of the local coordinating team with the Continental and the Central Committees.*
6. *Implementing blogs on a local, national and international level and empowering the networking with social institutions, families, etc.; To share the local wealth of information by having each group send an article to the international blog every two months;*
7. *Filter and spread communication in a more rational way; searching for new forms of communication. It is important to send minutes and conclusions of meetings but they can be accompanied by summaries, video, or key ideas. People sometimes get tired of papers.*
8. *Check-up for available communication tools in every country and provide information uniformity (make sure that everybody receives everything that is published).*
9. *Subscription to the local and international blogs; updating other current communication tools such as Facebook pages, newsletters and so on.*
10. *According to our possibilities we would create new tools such as an App (to upload photos and other material), e-cloud, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Where the documents that appear on the website are linked and show links to blog news. In addition a thought or a daily phrase of Comboni... Having the information in the mobile today is fundamental.*
11. *Prepare a communication guideline as a tool to be used by the CLM to answer questions of communication procedure, structure, the dates when the reports and any topic relating to communication are due*

Of the individual countries:

It is fundamental to communicate the identity of the coordinating committee of each country, the activities of the movement in the country, the persons in mission or in formation, experiences of a missionary nature or of mission promotion of each CLM...

Of the committees and commissions:

Besides the meetings in person, it will be necessary to have communication between the members in order to favor a good flow of activity. It can be done by e-mail, Skype, phone, etc.

It is important to enhance communication between the various committees. Always informing about changes and news to the superior level (each country to the continental coordinating committee and to the Central Committee) and from the coordinating committee to the lower levels (from the Central Committee to the Continental Committee and those of each country and from there to each CLM in that country).

To have and maintain a website that would make us known at the international level, where we would have the important documents, the news from each country and each CLM, the formation, to be able to do mission promotion from there, etc.

External communication

- 12. To publicize our being CLM and the realities of missionary life through the social media, in order to help mission and vocation promotion. We recognize the importance of social networks but we warn about the data protection laws.*
- 13. To print information material to make it available to people who have no internet access, so they are able to know us.*
- 14. To create / improve a mailing list of contacts belonging to the fields of journalism, culture, dioceses, NGOs and other associations in order to reach more fields of our contemporary society;*
- 15. Check the Comboni missionary media in each country so that we may let our voice heard and keep in touch with local media beyond the Comboni Family.*
- 16. On extraordinary occasions (international meetings, etc.) to organize press conferences with local key-speakers from the fields of politics, dioceses etc. If this is not possible, at least send press releases to local journalists and bloggers for publication on local media.*

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

In a world where there are still many injustices, inequalities and violence, we are inspired by the encyclical "Laudato Si" of Pope Francis and our own Comboni charism in the commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation as one of signs of the times of the mission today.

In order of the CLM groups of each country to enter into a process of collaboration and articulation of the topics of JPIC progressively, we formulate the following proposals to be gradually adopted:

- 1. Encourage a debate and reflection in the different CLM groups to see how to organize the JPIC issues in each country, starting by questioning about our lifestyle.*
- 2. The CLM in each country could have a JPIC promoter, according to the needs and reality of our presence.*
- 3. Encourage the creation of a JPIC commission in each country as a Comboni Family (if it does not exist).*
- 4. Collaborate with the concrete work that already exists as a Comboni Family in each country and internationally (for this we can have a CLM promoter of JPIC at the international level, who may be our representative in the Comboni Network and responsible for connecting the different experiences of our*

presences). Likewise, we encourage to enter in the networks already created with other social organizations, since the work of JPIC is something that must be addressed in a global way.

5. Choose a specific theme of JPIC (for example: ecology, mining, immigration, violence against women...) and work to deepen it, but without forgetting that in JPIC a global thinking is necessary.

COMBONI FAMILY

Our dream as Comboni Family (Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, Secular and Laypeople) revolves around a closer relationship among all its members, working together and in co-responsibility; where we all feel brothers and sisters, living and sharing the spirit of Comboni.

To achieve this dream we propose:

1. Organize a meeting of the Comboni Family in each country, according to their reality.
2. Develop a common project as a Comboni Family in each country, where everyone works in co-responsibility.
3. Coordinate the work as Comboni Family in each country: prepare proposals, joint activities, prayers, retreats, training...
4. Where there are other lay groups that live the same charism, we must know each other and find ways to collaborate.
5. Celebrate as Comboni Family the day of Saint Daniel Comboni and organize a meeting in which we invite the members of the Comboni Family to participate. (During our CLM day could take place this meeting).

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Community in mission

11. In the mission, it is important for a family to have their own place, physically separated, with privacy to their family moments, but this may not avoid the community life with the other members. For that, could be helpful if the CLM community elaborates a community plan with common moments between families and singles. This may orient, but not limit, the common activities.
12. Once a family is in the process of preparation and is willing to leave on mission, the coordination must discern together with them about the most suitable destination, making a prior consultation on the attendance of the needs of children, especially school of age level in the neighborhood and possibility of pediatric medical follow-up, when applicable. In agreements with the province of destination, the needs of the children should be considered and the economical responsibilities be defined with the parents. For each case, the possibilities and viability must be evaluated. Children and adolescents before going to the mission must have preparation (including psychological preparation).
13. For pregnancy cases during the mission period, it is important that parents always maintain a dialogue with the CLM coordination from the country of origin and from the destination, and together find the best ways, especially for the prenatal care of the pregnant woman.
14. Community life is a blessing, but sometimes our personal attitudes can create difficulties. We should do our best to follow the international agreement on international communities and talk about all the

different issues that our missionary presence may involve as a community with openness and knowing the Lord have call us together to serve Its people.

15. *Each CLM community may elaborate an annual calendar scheduling common moments with the nearest CLMs. This may orient, but not limit, the common activities.*

International communities

In the international assembly of Maia it was approved that: "We are committed to ensure the continuity of the CLM communities, especially the international communities; therefore this will be our priority in our discernment".

Concrete proposals:

1. *Some of our international communities have a priority character, which does not mean that they are better than the rest of our missionary presences, simply that we commit ourselves to ensure "priority" for their continuity.*
2. *Let us try to internationalize our missionary presences. Give continuity where we have an international presence and bring to internationality the other places where we serve as CLM.*
3. *Continuity of missionary presence is a value for us, but we cannot forget that the need in the mission and professional skills are also important factors in choosing the country where the CLM has to be sent.*
4. *When possible, it is better to open a second community in the same country rather that open in a new country.*
5. *Decision about placement will be take through the Central Committee in dialogue with the CLM groups, MCCJ provinces involves and continental committees when possible.*
6. *We will try to review our agreements of collaboration with the MCCJ provinces where CLM should be presented as missionary agents with whom collaborate as Comboni Family. Involve in decision as a main part and with the possibility of giving continuity to our presence just communicating the sending of a new member to the MCCJ province.*
7. *Every CLM that is going to be sent to an international community should cover a period of community experience formation and study the "International Community Chart" in order to facilitate our missionary presence.*
8. *Decisions about international communities should involve, first of all, the community itself, the CLM coordinating teams of the country groups of origin and welcoming, the MCCJ provincials involve and the Central Committee.*
9. *We must be more careful with the transitions in the mission. The CLM should not be changed all at once. We must give some time for the newcomers to be together with those who have more time to introduce them to the culture and reality.*

Some important aspects to take into account in the creation and functioning of international CLM communities:

- *Introduction of the new Comboni Lay Missionaries*
- *Relationships between local and foreign CLM*
- *Existence of a common fund in the province, managed by the CLM according to each country agreements.*

- *Ensure the continuity of the project.*
- *Maintaining good communication*
- *Be aware of the work and reality of these communities to facilitate the involvement of all.*
- *The directory of each country should include the recommendations approved by the Continental Committees and International Assemblies.*
- *There should be annual meetings among all the CLM present in the province*
- *The coordinator CLM should be a layperson.*
- *A community project of the life of the international community should be prepared at the beginning of each year.*
- *If there are conditions, the plan of activities should be done together with the Comboni Family.*
- *The language spoken in the community should be the official language of the country where the CLM are operating, and the language of the people we serve should be spoken in our missionary service.*
- *There should be an ongoing dialogue among the provinces involved*
- *There should be a MCCJ representative assigned to the CLM in the province.*
- *We should take care that our work does not take the jobs of the local people, and we do not take on the leadership where local ministers are present.*

UPON RETURNING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Reinsertion

Reinsertion and evaluation is essential to complete the mission experienced and to prepare for further life. The return is a difficult moment, which should be taken care of and studied thoroughly.

Some elements to keep in mind:

- *To make an evaluation at the time of return.*
- *To provide a sum of money to facilitate the reinsertion of the CLM (enough for about three months...).*
- *To have somebody responsible for the welcoming at area or national level (an individual or the executive) to act as liaison and to mobilize the whole group in support of those who have returned (equally in the search for employment, etc.).*
- *The need to be helped in the process of social reinstatement, healing of traumas, and so on.*
- *It is advisable to have some time to oneself and for the family, to take part in some course of renewal, and so on.*

Commitment with the CLM and as CLM

1. *According to our vocation, it is expected that the CLM on their return continue to be active in their local Church and in the CLM movement.*
Our missionary vocation demands that after a period of readaptation we can discern what mission the Lord calls us in our new stage of life.
2. *Sectors in which they can be involved:*
 - *To join the CLM group of its country and collaborate with them;*
 - *To be involved in actions of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), working with immigrants, involve in actions of justice and social solidarity, etc.;*
 - *To share our experience with different groups, ecclesiastic or civic;*
 - *To participate in initiatives of Comboni family and of the local Church that aim at the animation and formation of society and of Christian communities on the reality and situations of the people of the impoverished countries with whom we had shared our time in the missions;*

- *To participate in missionary animation, in the field of vocation promotion;*
- *To participate in the coordinating teams, in the formation of new candidates, in their welcome and guidance;*
- *To collaborate with the Diocesan Missionary Centres;*
- *To collaborate with associations that support the missions and in particular the projects of the CLM.*

SOME PRACTICAL ASPECTS

Legal recognition

We must continue taking steps upon legal recognition, both ecclesiastical and civil, within the different countries and also internationally.

Insurances

All those who leave for the mission outside should have health insurance and social insurance respect of retirement but their modalities are different according to the situation of the country and of the group.

Contracts

1. *In all the missionary sending there should be contracts involving all the interested parties.*
2. *Fundamental points that should be part of the contract:*
 - *Project and work areas in which the CLM will be involved*
 - *Signatures of the people who are involved in the project (Provinces and CLM)*
 - *Economic aspects: participation of several parties (NGO, Province that sends, Province that receives, local Churches...).*
 - *Length of time.*
 - *That all the interested parts be involved and sign the contract.*
 - *Commitments, rights and duties of all parties should be specified.*

Involving everybody

- *Contribution of the same CLM*
- *Contribution of the CLM movement (coordinating team, NGO...)*
- *Contribution of the local Churches (the one of origin and the one that receives)*
- *Contribution of the Provinces (the one that sends and the one that receives)*
- *Contribution of official entities (NGOs, Government...)*
- *Contribution of friends and benefactors*
- *Contribution from the projects where the CLM are involved.*

Cooperation among agents

Role of the CLM Central Committee

- *Know the state of missionary communities.*
- *Accompany the missionary communities.*
- *Receive the demand from the different communities and the availability of the people at all times.*
- *Coordinate the sending of the new CLM to the communities*
- *Facilitate communication between the different participants.*

- Carry out mediation work in conflicts that may arise in the communities and of them with the CLM groups of each country and the provinces involved.

Role of the CLM country group who sends

- The coordinating team keeps the dialogue with the receiving provinces (and the people in charge of the projects) and looks for those that are convenient for the CLM.
- To prepare and to send CLM to the mission countries;
- To accompany their progress and to assist them in their needs in their destination and on their return.
- To keep up the missionary awareness and to publicise the experience of the CLM in their places of origin.
- To keep in contact with their families, parishes, etc. during the period of the CLM staying in missions.
- It finds an appropriate moment for the sending out (assembly, combonian feast...).

The Province that sends

- It collaborates in the preparation of the CLM as the main part of their collaboration with the CLM;
- It presents the CLM to the diocese of origin for their collaboration and sending;
- It presents the CLM to the Province of destination for the project worked out by common accord;

The Church of origin

- The CLM feel part of a missionary local church which constitutes the privileged and supportive atmosphere for their missionary endeavour, before they leave and when they return.
- It supports them both spiritually and materially.
- It expects in its turn to be continually animated by frequent communication (letters, pictures...), and their involvement in mission animation at their return.

The Province and/or CLM local group that receives the CLM

- Knows the candidates or have enough information about them;
- Welcomes the CLM whole-heartedly;
- Offers a programme of formation and inculturation to the CLM;
- Helps the CLM to know the people and to respect their culture;
- Puts a person in charge of the CLM in the province. Promotes collaboration between local or foreign CLM.
- Favours a simple lifestyle like that people;
- Guarantees their independence as a group and the communion with the Province.

With the Church that receives

- It is important that the project has been born of recognition of the needs of the Christian community and of the local Church where the CLM will work;
- For this reason it is important that people and leaders of the community be involved as much as possible, in the setting up of the project (objectives, local people's participation, economic participation...), as in its realization and evaluation;
- To avoid the paternalism and the over-dependence, the priority of the undertaking should be the use of the human resources and materials of the place itself, and the formation of local agents that can take the project ahead.

These elements should be kept in mind in the formative programmes (base and ongoing) and kept in mind also in the contracts.