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# REPORT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council of the OMAEC meets, via online videoconference, at 09:00 h in Bogota, on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfonso Giraldo Saavedra.

This Executive Council (EC) is governed by the statutes that were approved at the Extraordinary General Assembly of 10 April 2016, in Paris.

The following members of the Executive Council participate:

Name	Position	Online
GIRALDO, Alfonso	President	yes
LOPEZ, Héctor Julio	Ecclesiastical Assistant	yes
BATISTE, José Ramón	Executive Vice-president	yes
GARCÍA, Evangelina	Vice-president –UNAEC-America-	yes
MARIANO, Giuseppe	Vice-president –UNAEC-Europa-	yes
GOMEZ, Vladimir	General Secretary	yes
LATTUADA, Debora	General Treasurer	no
OLIVERA, Mariano	Young Forum	no

# AGENDA

- 1) Prayer or reflection. H. López
- 2) Greetings from the President. A. Giraldo
- 3) Approval of the EC Minutes of 15.09.2023 V. Gomez
- 4) Treasury Report. D. Lattuada
- 5) Approval for renewal / update OIEC OMAEC Agreement A. Giraldo
- 6) Review status of the SWOT Matrix evaluation J.R. Batiste
- 7) Status of revision of Internal Regulations regarding membership fees A. Giraldo
- 8) Organisation of the next General Assembly A. Giraldo
- 9) Speech of UNAEC Presidents E. García / G. Mariano
- 10) Other points (speaking time)
- 11) Date of the next Executive Council meeting

## 1. PRAYER / REFLECTION - H. LOPEZ

Send us, Lord, the Holy Spirit to unite us with the gift of communication, with the power of Your presence. May the light of Your presence enlighten us so that we may work according to God's will, to achieve a better education for the youth. Through the intercession of Mary, we say to you... Hail Mary...

## 2. GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT – A. GIRALDO

Special greetings to each and every one, we are pleased to have the presence of the Ecclesiastical Advisor, who puts us in contact with the Lord and guides us. A big greeting to Giuseppe, we are happy to see his improved health and his availability for work, not to mention Evangelina, a testimonial of dedication to the former students, greetings to José Ramón and Vladimir. Debora and Mariano are absent due to health reasons.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE EC MINUTES OF 23.04.2022 - V. GOMEZ

The Executive Council unanimously approved the minutes of our meeting of 15.09.2023.

#### 4. TREASURY REPORT. D. LATTUADA

V. Gomez: Unfortunately our Treasurer informed that she could not attend the Executive Council today due to illness, she will be asked for a treasury report at a later date. A. Giraldo: wrote to her a couple of months ago to remind her of the importance of the Paypal account. G. Mariano was asked to please remind D. Lattuada. Batiste: what is requested is a Paypal account in the name of OMAEC and to link it to the Paris account.

## 5. APPROVAL FOR RENEWAL / UPDATE OIEC - OMAEC AGREEMENT - A. Giraldo

A. Giraldo: V. Gomez emailed everyone the update of the OIEC - OMAEC Agreement, V. Gomez read it out. A. Giraldo discussed the background of the update, in relation to the last OIEC world congress, and the working meeting between J.R. Batiste, A. Giraldo and H. Lecomte (OIEC Secretary General), it was reported about our concern regarding our recognition by the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life. Br. Lecomte will try a process of rapprochement because of his closeness to the Holy See in order to advance in our recognition by the Dicastery. The previous agreement was signed in Brussels in 1975. Proposals were exchanged and a draft agreed by both organisations was achieved. E. García: very well drafted within the normal parameters of conventions. G. Mariano: UNAEC Europe is a member of the Catholic Education Conference of Europe, itself a member of the OIEC. E. Garcia: in Bogota (Colombia) there is the CIEC or the international office of the OIEC for America. A. Giraldo stated that the new updated agreement gives them the legal support to work together with ICCS America within the framework of the Convention.

A. Giraldo: H. Lecomte wrote yesterday and considers that we could sign the agreement in the framework of the OIEC Council in Rome on the 6th and 7th of December. He stressed the importance of signing the Convention. We are already due to hold our General Assembly in November. Ideally it would be in America, but we have to look at many circumstances and realities.

The Executive Council unanimously approved the renewal/updating of the OIEC - OMAEC Convention.

## 6. REVIEW STATUS OF THE SWOT MATRIX EVALUATION - J.R. Batiste

J. R. Batiste: It is a very useful organisational evaluation tool used in the business environment, so far only five (5) people have answered. With so few responses it is not possible to make an analysis, there are only nine (9) of us in the EC. We must start by being committed to the evaluation, I mention those who have done it so far. V. Gomez, forward SWOT matrix to the

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whole team and give until the end of the month. V. Gomez: resend, mention that it has already been discussed in the Executive Council, please elaborate it as soon as possible.

J. B. Batiste: After three years of experience with the Secretariats we must recognise that the fact that all the weight of the Secretariats falls on one person is a lot of risk, as it can be a very committed person or else everything is paralysed.

SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: It is not operational, it is actually run by the president, the delegate of UNESCO and the Vatican. It doesn't make much sense. Perhaps it could have been transformed into an accompaniment for correspondents, somewhat neglected, except for those in America, thanks to the action of UNAEC-America.

SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: it began with great enthusiasm with a very nice video on the theme, but it did not see the light of day, because it was to be in the three official languages and never materialised. Then its Director N. Moros had an interview in Rome with a De La Salle Brother General Councillor to support the work in favour of the Fratelli immigrants in Maicao, but then, due to changes in the leadership of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle) communication was interrupted. We know that Nelson Moros has had serious professional problems and perhaps this is the reason for the disconnection.

YOUTH FORUM: now with Mariano Olivera (Argentina), we would like to see more action, but it is going well, after some changes have been made.

LIFELONG LEARNING: Successful signing of an agreement with the Catholic University of Santa Fe, achieving the first cohort of our DSI diploma. The second cohort has not started, at least 10 students from OMAEC are requested.

COMMUNICATION AND ICT's: Irregular work, our new website in Spanish is almost complete, pending the English and French versions. We continue to follow up.

A. Giraldo: The SWOT analysis will help us to evaluate all these weaknesses of our secretariats. We all work here out of mysticism, faith, dedication, but sometimes we forget the commitment we have made. We must look to the future to solve them.

A. Giraldo: I have received a communication from F. Rossi in which he informs us that he wishes to retire, to resign from the delegation to the Holy See, giving way to new generations, and he puts forward the proposal of M. Russo to take on the responsibility. The idea is to accept his resignation but for the next period, not for this one, not to relieve or remove him from other positions, as in the specific case of the deputy secretary, who has dismissed herself, but we must wait for our next assembly.

E. Garcia: it is opportune to wait until November and December, to find people we know to fill the vacant positions. Write a few words of thanks to her.

G. Mariano: I spoke with F. Rossi, who in fact told her that she wanted to be replaced, M. Russo being the right person to replace her, very well known in the Vatican, he also writes for L'Osservatore Romano, but he agrees to wait until November or December.

#### 7. STATUS OF REVISION OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP FEES

### - A. Giraldo

V. Gomez gave the historical background, and all the opportunities that were given for working meetings or proposals to be put forward.

A. Giraldo: The President of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco was asked to support the new proposal, as well as the working team, without satisfactory results.

### 8. ORGANISATION OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY - A. Giraldo

A. Giraldo: assess what is practical and feasible. Ideally late November, early December. He asked the team for their opinions on the matter. As an idea, to hold an assembly in Rome on 6 and 7 December, taking advantage of the invitation from the OIEC council, to sign the agreement with the OIEC, to be able to hold it on those dates. That it should not be three days but only one day of election, that is the idea that we would have in the first place with another possibility of a mixed assembly, virtual and face-to-face. It is important to decide as soon as possible, also in order to be able to coordinate travel in time and save costs.

J. R. Batiste: it should be held this year, there is no special reason or motive for the General Assembly to be postponed, the second reflection is that when it is virtual there is greater participation. It should be held in 2023 in order to comply with the Statutes, giving the vote to member organisations that have contributed in 2022. In the participatory ones there are too many delegations and too few participants.

E. García: for her, the richness of a president in America should be used to the full, but it could be done in person, and she would like to do it in Rome. In her opinion, face-to-face is more valuable, however, a mixed Assembly (face-to-face/virtual) could be considered.

Monsignor considers the mixed form, those who cannot attend for some reason, would attend online, could participate by this means, but it is important to be able to meet.

G. Mariano: it is better in person, but it has been seen that the number of people attending is low, the mixed form is probably the best, although I know that the mixed form would reduce the number of people attending, there is the economic issue.

A. Giraldo: agrees with J. R. Batiste that for seriousness, we must work to hold the General Assembly this year, and secondly, shares the idea of E. García and G. Mariano that it could be mixed. He sees the signing of the Convention and at the same time our mixed General Assembly as opportune. He proposes the date Friday 8th December.

E. García: has the UNAEC-America report of May 13th from the Santa Fe Conference, where the challenges of the alumni of Catholic education were reviewed, in fact, he would propose it as a theme for our next General Assembly.

A. Giraldo: We must intensify the work meetings, J. R. Batiste could support us in the sense that it could be virtual, but with the section in Rome.

- J. R. Batiste: I would like to clarify that the HHEECC of La Salle charge almost 800 euros for the rooms, although we could get a discount of up to 600 euros, but we will not use such a large room. A small room could be used. In view of the changes in the HHEECC board, J.R. Batiste does not know anyone in the Generalate.
- J.R. Batiste: Suggest to check the reality of how many members of the Executive Board could attend a General Assembly, how many of our members could attend? In other words, evaluate the effort to be made vs. the expected attendance.

A. Giraldo: precisely, that is why it would be mixed, so that those who could not attend would attend. If we save the venue, we could invest in digital transmission.

J. R. Batiste: I emphasise that we should not mix the holding of a General Assembly with a Congress. The General Assembly is limited to: presentation of the statement of account, previous minutes, reports, and election.

A. Giraldo: to analyse and think, to discuss at the next Executive Council meeting.

## 9. SPEECHS OF THE UNAEC'S PRESIDENTS - E. García / G. Mariano

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Already during the meeting, the UNAECs presidents were advancing their words.

A. Giraldo: The UNAEC's presidents could organise the themes of the General Assembly, but he found interesting the suggestion of E. García to organise something similar to the 13 May meeting.

UNAEC-America: communicated with E. Langlois, delicate situation due to public threats, apparently of a political nature. He is interested in being the new correspondent.

# 10. OTHER BUSINESS (SPEAKING TIME)

A. Giraldo: pray a lot for Spain for those who have general elections coming up.

## 11. NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING DATE

Next EC meeting: Saturday, 5 August 2023.

Only point: General Assembly.

Secretary General
Vladimir Antonio Gomez Escartín