



FRANCISCAN YOUTH INTERNATIONAL REGULATION (*Ad experimentum*)

I. ORGANIZATION

1. The Franciscan Youth (YouFra) is an International Movement, born and inserted in the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), *“formed by those young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit to share the experience of the Christian life in fraternity, in the light of the message of Saint Francis of Assisi, deepening their own vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order.”* (FIOFS International Statute 69.1.C/GC 96.2)
2. YouFra is organized at different levels of animation: Local, National and International. It is the responsibility of each National Fraternity to establish, as suitable, the intermediate levels of fraternities between National and Local, such as Areas, Regions and Districts.
3. The Franciscan Youth (YouFra) at the international level is formed by the National YouFra Fraternities officially recognized by the corresponding National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) or by the Presidency of the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS) (Cfr. GC 96.5).
4. A YouFra National Fraternity is recognized as:
 - a. Constituted: when there are at least five established and active local YouFra fraternities, and a minimum number of 50 members who have made the pledge (except for very small countries or where Catholics represent a tiny minority); fraternal animation by the OFS and spiritual assistance by the competent superiors are ensured; and the other established requirements (Cf. Doc. Int. Guide for the Establishment of a new Franciscan Youth Fraternity, 10)
 - b. Emerging: when there are at least three established and active local YouFra fraternities.
 - c. Presence: when there exists one established and active local fraternity.
5. The Franciscan Youth at the international level is part of the OFS International Fraternity (FIOFS).
6. Its guidance and animation organs are:
 - a. The OFS General Chapter;
 - b. The CIOFS presidency;
 - c. The YouFra International Assembly;
 - d. The YouFra International Coordination Team.

7. The OFS General Chapter, after consultation with the YouFra International Councillors, the the conclusions of the previous YouFra International Assembly and the reality of the Movement at the International level, will establish YouFra's priorities.
8. The CIOFS presidency has the duty to:
 - a. forward actions to fulfill the guideline established by the OFS General Chapter;
 - b. indicate the criteria for the formation and preparation of the YouFra leaders and formators and fraternal animators;
 - c. care for the YouFra emerging fraternities whenever there is no constituted or emerging OFS national fraternity;
 - d. approve the International Bylaws for Franciscan Youth;
 - e. approve the national statute of a Youfra fraternity whenever there is no constituted OFS national fraternity;
 - f. form a YouFra Commission to support the service of the YouFra International Coordination Team.
9. The YouFra International Coordination Team is responsible for implementing the concrete actions decided by the CIOFS Presidency.

II. YOUNFRA INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

10. The YouFra International Assembly will be convoked by the CIOFS Presidency, at the request of the YouFra International Coordination Team, at least once every six (6) years. It is recommended that it be convoked every three (3) years to carry out the election of the International YouFra Councillors..
11. The YouFra International Assembly must be convoked at least one (1) year in advance, establishing the venue and date it will take place.
12. The objectives of the YouFra International Assembly are:
 - a. to share the experiences of the different national fraternities;
 - b. to evaluate the decisions taken by the previous Assembly and the work of the YouFra International Coordination Team;
 - c. to reflect upon the proposals of the General Chapter of the OFS and the CIOFS Presidency;
 - d. to establish priorities as an International Fraternity, which will be carried out by the YouFra International Coordination Team;
 - e. to present to the CIOFS Presidency and to the General Chapter the expectations and the needs of the YouFra and suggest to them initiatives and orientations;
 - f. to establish the guidelines for YouFra for the following years;
 - g. to receive and offer guidelines for formation; to elect the YouFra International Councillors of the respective Areas.
13. The YouFra International Assembly is composed of the members of the Coordination Team and the President (Minister, Coordinator, Animator, Servant) of each established National Fraternity, who will have voice and vote.
Only in case of impossibility to participate, the corresponding YouFra National Council will delegate another brother or sister in writing.

14. The YouFra International Coordination Team may accept the participation, as observers with the right to speak:
 - a. representatives of other YouFra national Fraternities, that are still not recognized;
 - b. representatives of OFS national Fraternities;
 - c. other members of the already represented Fraternities;
 - d. national YouFra spiritual assistants and national fraternal animators.
15. The YouFra International Assembly is presided the General Minister of the OFS, directed by the CIOFS Presidency Councillor of YouFra, which is the YouFra International Coordinator, and assisted by the Conference of General Assistants (CAS).
16. The decisions of the International YouFra Assembly shall be approved by an absolute majority, and shall be reported to the CIOFS Presidency.
17. In order for the YouFra Assembly to be held, more than half of those convoked with the right to vote must be present.

III. YOUFRA INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION TEAM

18. The YouFra International Coordination Team is made up of brother and sister members of YouFra who are professed Secular Franciscans and are called to service for the animation of Franciscan Youth in the world.
19. The YouFra International Coordination Team, is composed of:
 - a. the CIOFS Presidency Councillor, who coordinates it
 - b. the YouFra International Councillors
 - c. a fraternal animator appointed by the CIOFS Presidency
 - d. a general Assistant appointed by the CAS.
 - e. The responsible OFS for children and adolescents elected by the CIOFS Presidency.
20. The YouFra International Coordination Team distributes among its members the following services:
 - a. one vice-coordinator;
 - b. one responsible for formation;
 - c. one secretary;
 - d. one treasurer;
 - e. one responsible for communication;
 - f. one animator of franciscan children and adolescent groups;
 - g. one responsible for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).
21. The YouFra International Coordination Team will meet in person at least during the celebration of each OFS General Chapter.
22. Election of the members of the YouFra International Coordination Team:
 - a. The International Coordinator of YouFra is elected every six (6) years as a member of the CIOFS Presidency at the General Chapter of the OFS. The requirements to be elected are: perpetual profession, without a minimum of years

- professed. (Cf. FIOFS International Statute, 8.1b); be a member of YouFra; be under thirty (30) years old and speak at least one of the official languages.
- b. YouFra International Councillors are elected every three (3) years at the International YouFra Assembly. The requirements to be elected are: to be a member of YouFra, perpetually professed in the OFS, to be under thirty (30) years old, and to speak at least one of the official languages. YouFra International Councillors can only be elected for two (2) consecutive three-year terms. More than half of the eligible voters must be present to elect international councillors. The election of the international councillors will be made by absolute majority on the first two ballots and in the event of a third vote between the two (2) candidates with the most votes, in case of a tie, the oldest by profession will be considered elected.
23. The Areas of representation of the International Councilors are established by the CIOFS Presidency, taking into account the reality of the Movement at the International level and the proposals of the YouFra International Coordination Team.
24. The International Fraternal Animator is chosen from among the Councilors who are members of the Presidency of CIOFS, as well as the OFS Responsible for Franciscan children and adolescents.
25. The Spiritual Assistant for the YouFra International Coordination Team is elected from among the brothers who belong to the CAS.
26. In case of the resignation of the International Coordinator of YouFra, the Presidency will elect his or her substitute from among the YouFra International Councilors (Cfr. FIOFS Statute, 35.3).
27. In case of the resignation or removal of an International YouFra Councillor, the YouFra International Coordination Team will inform the Presidency of CIOFS. This councillor will be replaced by the substitute, and, if there is no substitute, the CIOFS Presidency may appoint a new councillor until the next elective assembly.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPETENCES

- A. Regarding the National Fraternities:
28. The established National YouFra Fraternities, in relation to the International Coordination Team, must:
- make a economic contribution to the YouFra International Coordination Team, to be determined by the Coordination Team itself, taking into account the needs of YouFra International and the reality of the National Fraternity. The time and method of payment are established by the same YouFra International Coordination Team. Emerging fraternities may contribute financially if they wish;
 - respond in a timely manner to the censuses and corresponding reports request by the YouFra International Coordination Team;
 - use this regulation as a guide for its activities, adapting its statute and documents;
 - know the YouFra International documents;
 - maintain constant contact with their Area Conselor.

B. Of the YouFra International Councillors

29. The responsibilities of the YouFra International Councillors are:
- a. to participate in the OFS General Chapter;
 - b. to speak on behalf of the YouFra National Fraternities that they represent, either constituted or emerging, during the General Chapter and to present all that had been entrusted to them by these Fraternities;
 - c. to present to the General Chapter, according to the modalities established by the Presidency, the information regarding his or her area, including the updated statistical data;
 - d. to inform their national Fraternities about the decisions and initiatives taken by the General Chapter;
 - e. to keep frequent and regular communication and dialogue contacts with the CIOFS Presidency, especially the Presidency Councillors of their area, the YouFra International Coordination Team and the YouFra National councils of their area.
 - f. encourage the priorities established at the YouFra International Assembly;
 - g. support, together with the corresponding OFS National Fraternity, the formation of new YouFra National Fraternities.

C. Of the members of the YouFra International Coordination Team

30. The coordinator:
- a. is a member of the CIOFS Presidency, representing the International YouFra Fraternity;
 - b. coordinates the activities of the YouFra International Coordination Team;
 - c. animates and guides the service of the YouFra International Councillors;
 - d. convokes, together with the Secretary and with the approval of the Presidency
 - e. of CIOFS, events for the YouFra International Fraternity.
31. The vice-coordinator:
- a. cooperates with the coordinator in his or her work and carries out the tasks attributed to him or her;
 - b. replaces the coordinator in case of temporary impediment in all his or her functions, keeping in mind that during the meetings of the CIOFS Presidency he or she would be able to participate having voice but no vote;
 - c. is also responsible for the organizational arrangements for the different meetings together with the coordinator and the national Fraternity that welcomes the meeting.
32. The responsible for formation:
- a. is in charge of the compilation and distribution of the appropriate formation materials;
 - b. prepares proposals and formation materials keeping in mind the needs and priorities arising from the OFS General Chapter and the International YouFra Assembly;
 - c. cooperates with the coordinator, the fraternal animator and the assistant in the preparation of activities that are related to formation and liturgy;

- d. supports formation opportunities proposed by the International YouFra Councillors and the different Areas;
 - e. promotes and supports CIOFS formation proposals.
33. The secretary:
- a. to write down the minutes of the Coordination Team and send them to the appropriate people;
 - b. to take care of the mail together with the coordinator;
 - c. to keep the Coordination Team archive updated;
 - d. has up-to-date records and reports submitted by the JuFra International Councillors and a general database of contacts;
 - e. has a record of the censuses of the National Fraternities.
34. The treasurer:
- a. administers the financial resources, budgets and statements related to the different activities of the Coordination Team;
 - b. presents an annual financial statement to the CIOFS General Treasurer and to the YouFra National Fraternities;
 - c. is responsible for the financial contributions of the YouFra National Fraternities, encouraging the commitment assumed by these fraternities.
35. The responsible for communication:
- a. takes charge of the web page and the contacts with the different national fraternities;
 - b. is responsible for social networks as a suitable space for the promotion of the Movement and the relationship between the National Fraternities;
 - c. must organize a virtual space to share formation materials proposed by the formator;
 - d. promotes the initiatives of the YouFra International Fraternity using the various available means of communication.
36. The animator of the Franciscan children and adolescent groups:
- a. promotes the knowledge of Franciscan spirituality prepared for children and adolescents among the YouFra national fraternities. (cf. GC, 25);
 - b. generates guides and proposals for the animation of Franciscan children and adolescents with the responsible OFS of Franciscan children and adolescents;
 - c. makes suitable formation proposals adaptable to the entire International Fraternity.
37. The responsible of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC):
- a. encourages awareness and commitment to the JPIC dimension of the Franciscan Charism;
 - b. works closely with the one in charge of formation on proposals for comprehensive formation of this dimension;
 - c. organizes, collaborates and disseminates actions of its own or of other entities in favor of life and all creation, especially together with the Franciscan Family.

38. The fraternal animator
 - a. cooperates with the Coordination Team in all its tasks, available to communicate his experience of evangelical life to the younger brothers and sisters, and helping them to progress in their human and spiritual growth;
 - b. supports the International Councillors in their functions and services and is attentive to the proposals made by the different services of the YouFra International Coordination Team;
 - c. is the link with the OFS;
 - d. participate in assemblies, conferences and activities organized by YouFra;
 - e. promotes YouFra in the Fraternities of the OFS and in the ecclesial and Franciscan communities where there are still no viable options for young people.

39. The responsible OFS of Franciscan children and adolescents.
 - a. collaborates with the Coordination Team and is willing to share their experience of Franciscan life;
 - b. collaborates with the YouFra Animator of Franciscan children and adolescents;
 - c. is responsible for ensuring that the CIOFS Presidency approves all documents and projects relating to service to Franciscan children and adolescents;
 - d. together with the YouFra Animator, promotes the journey of Franciscan children and adolescents in the National Fraternities where this service is not yet present.

40. The Spiritual Assistant
 - a. is the witness of Franciscan spirituality and the fraternal affection of the religious to the YouFra brothers and sisters;
 - b. promotes the YouFra fidelity to the Franciscan charism, the communion with the Church and the union with the Franciscan Family;
 - c. especially cooperates with the formation of the brothers and sisters.

41. The YouFra International Coordination Team can add specific services in case it is deemed advisable according to the international reality.

42. The YouFra International Coordination Team may appoint other brothers and sisters to be part of specific teams, commissions or roles to collaborate with the international service of the YouFra Movement.

V. INTERNATIONAL YOUFRA MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS:

43. The International YouFra Meeting will be convoked by the CIOFS Presidency at least one (1) year in advance, clarifying the date and venue of the same.
The objectives of the International YouFra Meeting are to:
 - a. generate an open and fraternal meeting time for all the brothers and sisters belonging to the International Fraternity of the YouFra Movement in the world;
 - b. share experiences at the international level;
 - c. foster links between the young people of the different countries through formative opportunities, work in groups, opportunities for prayer, mission and apostolate.

44. Other international gatherings (continental, areas...) will be announced by the International YouFra Coordination Team, at least six (6) months in advance. The convocation is the responsibility of the International Councillor of the Area and the International YouFra Coordinator. The organization and logistics of the meeting are

the responsibility of the International Councillor of the Area and the national fraternity that hosts the meeting.

VI. OTHER DISPOSITIONS:

45. Given the impossibility of foreseeing all situations, possible gaps and doubts will be solved by applying, with appropriate adaptations, the OFS General Constitutions, the Statute of the OFS International Fraternity and the Statute for the OFS Pastoral and Spiritual Assistance.
46. The modifications to the present YouFra International Regulation must be done by the YouFra International Assembly, duly summoned for that purpose, with the approval by an absolute majority (more than half) of those present with the right to vote. They must be approved by the CIOFS Presidency.

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