



STATUTE  
OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION  
OF THE PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO

Rome, 5 december 2015





*Præit ac tuetur*

*Guide and Protect Us*

**World Confederation  
of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco**

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## **Presentation**

Rome, 5 December 2015

Dear Past Pupils:

I am writing on the feast day of Blessed Philip Rinaldi. A man open for newness and was adept to recognise the needs of people and society. He gave particular attention to encourage the involvement of the laity.

Don Rinaldi uncovered the value of associations and gave significance to the role of the laity as diverse from clerical life. He promoted the Association from an embryonic, sentimental and loose group to a living active organisation with concrete proposals and clear objectives.

The founding of the Association as such was the work of Don Filippo Rinaldi, who gave it a juridical structure in 1911. Now, in the context of the bygone centenary of this foundation, I myself have the pleasure to introduce the new Statute of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco. I believe this is a providential coincidence and a very significant one too because it allows us to look back at the past and know what the original purpose was, and then address the present and the future to discern what God expects from an organization such as this. What matters is our creative, dynamic fidelity to Don Bosco's original inspiration and to the current situation of the world and the Church.

This Statute is the result of a long process of work throughout the World Confederation which ended in "5th World Statutory Elective Assembly" held in Rome between the 3rd and the 6th October 2015. That is, after six years of the approval *ad experimentum* where the Association has studied and lived the Statute before finally approved. Now, a new spring begins, in which the identity and mission of the Past Pupils will bloom profusely within the Salesian Family, in the Church and in the World.

I want to highlight some points which enrich this document. In Chapter 1 on the 'Identity and Origin', the new Statute inserted a biblical text where every past pupil is called to be "*the salt of earth and light of the world*" (Mt. 5: 13-14). You have also introduced a new chapter, Chapter 2 on "Belonging, Commitment and Formation in the Association" which is emphasising three key aspects of the Association to all present and future members of Local Associations, Provincial and National Federations. The sense of commitment and belonging are solemnly declared in the "Prayer-Promise of the Past Pupil of Don Bosco" which can be individually recited by members, in meetings and especially publicly when one decides to live his commitment as a past pupil in the Association as «a project of life, as a choice or as a mission».

Among the Past Pupils there is a natural diversity which has to be convincingly understood. The World Confederation, alternatively called The Association, affirms its belonging to the Church. However, there are other Past Pupils of different denominations and faith communities whom, by title and right, consciously accept and practice their own beliefs. It is Don Bosco himself, with his educational system and his mission who inspires unity in the Association and brings all its members together in communion.

Dear Past Pupils, at this particular historical moment, society, the Church and the Salesian Family is asking you to take to heart the protection and promotion of those values we all consider to be “non-negotiable”. They are indeed the guarantee of a truly human life for all. I refer especially to the values of life, freedom and truth.

You are part of the living fabric of society, and are called on to be the defenders of these values. In this mission you will show the world what it means to be “salt of the earth” and “light for the world”, by living out your life as lay people guided by a clear conscience, doing your work with thoroughly professional competence, and expressing your openness to today’s world through practical social involvement.

Don Bosco is calling you again to be “honest citizens and good christians”, to promote human dignity and the identity of the family, to exercise solidarity within the Association and beyond it, especially towards young people who suffer the most disadvantage, to keep in contact with young people who are concluding their education in Salesian houses, so as to invite them to become actively involved in the Association. This will make them feel they are always “Past Pupils of Don Bosco”, and it will offer them the opportunity for their ongoing formation, and be an effective group for their social involvement.

I would like to tell you that the Past Pupils' Association gains its true energy from the Local Unions. They are the natural field for the integration, formation and involvement of the members of the Association. Therefore, it is imperative that the Local Unions are strengthened in number and quality. Then we have the Salesian Delegate who accompanies them with perseverance and dedication, following an appropriate formation programme. Finally, they express their vitality through initiatives and projects that are significant in their own local area.

When leading and governing the Association, do not forget to use the tools that leaders and managers use which are synonymous with success, particularly “the strategic plan and the annual operating plan”, as rightly stated in your Statute (Art. 21f).

The “education you have received” in the past cannot remain a mere memory; you have to turn it into a force that draws the Past Pupils along with it, to influence the world, transforming it and making it more human.

Dear Past Pupils, I give you the Statute as a most valuable gift while invite you to study and put it into practice.

I entrust all of you, individually, your loved ones and your commitments to the care and maternal guidance of Mary Help of Christians!

With great affection and the same respect that Don Bosco had,

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime  
Rector Major



## Prologue

*«One thing for which we must gratefully thank the Lord, which forms my greatest consolation, is that wherever I go, I always hear good things about you: everywhere good words are spoken about my young of bygone days, everyone praises this meeting of ours, because it is a significant means to remember the warnings and words of advice I used to give you when you were of a younger age. Yes, let me repeat it, this gives me my greatest consolation; it is the honour and glory of my declining years.*

*I can see that many of you are already balding, with grey hair and forehead lined with wrinkles. You are no longer the boys I loved so much; however I feel that now I love you even more than before.*

*Continue along the good path as you have done for years, so that you can say you are happy to have come here; Don Bosco will also be pleased and can feel proud that the youths once so dearly loved by him, now fully grown men, have known how to maintain and practice the teachings they received from his lips. You were a small flock: it has grown, it has grown a great deal, but it will multiply yet more. You will be the light that shines within the world, and by your example you will teach others how to do good and how to detest and run away from evil. I am certain that you will continue to be Don Bosco's consolation. Dear sons, let the Lord help us with His grace so that one day we shall all meet again in Heaven»<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> Words of Don Bosco at the Convention of Past Pupils, 13th July 1885, Biographical Memoirs of Don Bosco (BM) 17,173-174.

## Preface

We know how much Don Bosco loved his pupils. Once they completed their educational programme he followed them, invited them, welcomed them, guided them, he admonished them when necessary, he worried about their wellbeing, above all, he was concerned about their spiritual life.

*«With your presence you assure me that the principles of our holy religion that I taught you are set firmly in your hearts and that these are the guidelines for our lives...»<sup>2</sup>.*

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<sup>2</sup> MB XVII, p. 173-4.

On another occasion, speaking to the Past Pupils, he said: «*One thing I urge you, my dear children, more than any other and that is: wherever you might be, always show yourselves to be good Christians and honest citizens... Many of you already have families. So, share the education you received in the oratory from Don Bosco, with your nearest and dearest*»<sup>3</sup>.

From a practical point of view, «Don Bosco offered his youths the possibility of making the “education received” bear fruit, either in the committed group of Past Pupils, or in the Pious Union of Co-operators, in the priesthood or religious life, or in his Salesian Congregation. What is interesting to stress, was the importance he gave to the richness of education in the Oratory»<sup>4</sup>.

In answer to the deep love of Don Bosco, on the 24th June 1870, on the occasion of the feast of Saint John the Baptist and Don Bosco’s name-day feast, «a dozen Old Boys officially met; they chose as their leader the kind-hearted and generous Carlo Gastini, who always considered the Oratory to be his second family; they were committed to find a greater number of members; then they appointed a commission to be better organised, for the future, the annual expressions of affection and gratitude»<sup>5</sup>.

Amongst the many initiatives achieved in direct contact with Don Bosco, for the benefit of the Old Boys, as they used to be called at that time, we recall a particularly significant one. It was

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<sup>3</sup> MB XIV, p. 511.

<sup>4</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *The Past-Pupils of Don Bosco*, in: “Acts of the General Council of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco”, LXVIII (1987) 321, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *op. cit.*, pp. 6-7.

the year 1878. «Don Bosco proposed a Mutual Aid Society to the Old Boys to face up to current difficulties, even financially. “*Make sure this advantage is not limited only to yourselves, but is extended to those youths of good conduct that you already know, or to all of you who are here at the meeting*”. Carlo Gastini, leader of the Old Boys, immediately took the organization into hand, using a statute drawn up several years before by Don Bosco himself for an identical institution amongst young workers»<sup>6</sup>.

«Little by little, especially after the death of Don Bosco, the Old Boys organised themselves into local groups, unions and societies, right up to the proper organisation promoted by Don Filippo Rinaldi»<sup>7</sup>.

From 1901 onwards, different stages of organisation followed one another. «The structure was formally created at the 1st International Congress of the Old Boys in 1911, as a Federation of the various local unions, clubs and societies. Until then they had been called “Old Boys”<sup>8</sup>; from that date onwards they were called “Past Pupils”»<sup>9</sup>. The creator and promoter of this initiative was Don Rinaldi himself. «Thus he was able to give an overall structure to a movement of affections, of gratitude, of life ideals, that made the ‘education received’ and experienced a more alive and working force»<sup>10</sup>.

Arturo Poesio, a late president of the Confederation, writes: «The eloquence of Don Rinaldi was simple, spontaneous, pater-

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<sup>6</sup> MB XIII, p. 759.

<sup>7</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *op. cit.*, p. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Today in Spain they are using again the term Old Pupils.

<sup>9</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

<sup>10</sup> LRM p. 10; E. CERNIA, “*Life of God’s Servant Fr. Filippo Rinaldi*” SEI p. 252.

nal and convincing. Only once he adopted a language of authority, by declaring, in his capacity as Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Frances of Sales, that the organisation of the Past Pupils must be included in those “*novas familias*” that have flourished in the Holy Church thanks to Don Bosco, which are alluded to the Saint’s own *Oremus*»<sup>11</sup>.

The foundations of this organization started by Don Bosco and completed by Don Rinaldi, the Association of the Past Pupils has been expanding ever more in all Salesian works through organised and coordinated structures. The various events held over the decades bear witness to this. The Past Pupils have always shown themselves to be affectionate children and with an ever greater commitment to operate in society.

The Past Pupil’s Association has over 100 years of life. It is a comprehensive institution through the efforts of past and present secular persons, laity, religious and Salesian Priests who were committed with a strong sense of belonging; who led and governed the Association according to established criteria of theirera; who were able to accept both the difficult and the good times without being discouraged, with audacity, steadfastness and dedication; people who were willing to offer their time and their work to consolidate this monument of thanks to Don Bosco, the World Confederation of Past Pupils, with people from generous families who have understood what it means to serve society, the Church, the Salesian Family and the Association itself without complaining<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> “*Congregation for the Causes of Saints*”, Positio, Rome 1972, p. 28.

<sup>12</sup> J. P. RAMÍREZ, “*Un passato glorioso, un presente impegnativo, un futuro incoraggiante!*”, Key note Speech presented by the World Delegate in the “5th World Elective Statutory Assembly” which took place in Rome between the 3rd and the 6th October 2015.

As a sign of gratitude and thanks, I think that it is appropriate to, at least, mention the Presidents and the World Delegates who have served the World Confederation with exemplary dedication.

The Presidents: Piero Gribaudo, Felice Masera, Arturo Poesio, José María Taboada, José María González Torres, Giuseppe Castelli, Antonio Guilhermino Pires, Francesco Muceo and Michal Hort who was elected on the 5th October 2015. The World Delegates: don Giorgio Gustave Seriè, don Guido Borra, don Luigi Fiora, don Umberto Bastasi, don Carlo Borgetti, don Charles Cini, don Henri Alen, don Mark Vellanganny, don Jerônimo da Rocha Monteiro e don José Pastor Ramírez Fernández. I wish to also remember Tommaso Natale, who for many years, served as General Secretary. To all these people, a deep and sincere thanks.

Various successive Rector Majors also gave their contribution in the animation of the Past Pupils, and with them, many other Salesians. Amongst them, which you cannot but mention, are don Luigi Ricceri and don Giovanni Raineri.

An authentic example is that of the late don Egidio Viganò who wrote a meaningful and stimulating letter regarding the animation and guidance of the Past Pupils by the Salesians of Don Bosco which will always remain a fundamental document for the Past Pupils themselves.

Don E. Vecchi offered a rich contribution to the Confederation in the “8th National Congress of Past Pupils of Don Bosco of Italy. Renew for Renewal” in Rimini on the 10th to the 13th October 1996 in his various interventions.

The former Rector Major, don Pascual Chávez Villanueva, during the various animation visits to the Provinces and in various meetings with the Past Pupils has shown interest in the Association inviting one and all to have «professional skill, moral conscience and social commitment». Further, he asks them to defend

their values at all costs, above all: those of life, freedom and truth.

The present Rector Major, Don Ángel Fernández Artime, whenever he meets the Salesian Family encourages members to live in communion, in collaboration, to grow in the spirit of belonging towards their own groups and the Salesian Family, and not to complain. «Our strength is to live a true life of communion and fraternity that is more evangelical in order to be more consultative, attractive in itself, offer our communal service within each of our institutions or groups, and within our same Family whom we speak the same language».

Don Artime comments: «continually encourages the Past Pupils, not to lament, no need to focus on the past, but project yourselves into the future considering the risks of the local associations, Federations and the Confederation. Dear Past Pupils, strengthen your commitment within the reality in which you work. Let's go back by being young at heart, offer help to those who need it, to leave a sign of our own existence. Truth must be shown, not only in written form, but to live with courage! It is your turn to act upon the consequences, your turn to save those who need your attention, it is your turn to build a sound foundation for a new future. I believe that all of you, Past Pupils, have the requisites to face these challenges as lay people in the world today, the ability to bring to reality what you received over the years, use them concretely. Furthermore, appreciate also what you are daily receiving in all the Salesian environments»<sup>13</sup>.

The Salesians' General Chapter XXII defines how the Past Pu-

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<sup>13</sup> V. MARTORANA, "I am the Father of all of the Salesian Family, Let's Create Communion. Not Complaints!", *Voci Fraterne*, XLVI (2015) 1, p. 18 and 19.



pils belong to the Salesian Family and endorses it in Article 5 of the Constitutions. It gives their “received education” as the reason of their belonging: this education actually causes to be born in them through different levels of participation in the Salesian mission in the world...

«The Past Pupils are, in themselves, particularly well prepared, thanks to the education and formation they received, to assume responsibilities of collaboration according to the proper objectives of the Salesian project. The choice of evangelisation made by many of them is not an alternative to the education they received, but a privileged expression of it: therefore it does not constitute a different title to be applied to a sort of new Group»<sup>14</sup>.

The purpose of living this “received education” caused various local centres to emerge which were grouped into Provincial and National Federations. These, together, constitute the World Confederation which is the structured body through which the sense of belonging to the Salesian Family is expressed.

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<sup>14</sup> “*Guide to reading the comments to the Salesian Constitutions*” p. 115.



# Chapter I

## Identity and Mission of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

### Art. 1 - Identity and Origin

*«You are the salt of the earth ... the light of the world»<sup>15</sup>.*

- a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils Don Bosco, also referred to as the Association, is a non-profit lay entity. It forms an integral part of the Salesian Family in which the Rector Major – the successor of Don Bosco – is the father and centre of unity.

**The Past Pupils are:  
~ the fruit of the Salesian Mission.**

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<sup>15</sup> Mt 5, 13-14.

~ **A gift of richness to humanity.**

~ **A powerful energy acting like leaven to the world.**

- b) In remembering the zeal of Don Bosco, the Past Pupils gathered for the first time, in a spontaneous and filial way, to express the need to unite and form the first foundations of a Movement.
- c) This association, inspired by Don Filippo Rinaldi and perfected over the years, is currently grouped into Local Unions or Associations, Provincial Federations, National Federations and other recognised Groups. These, together, make up the “**World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco**”, which is the recognised organisation through which a Past Pupil of Don Bosco is allowed to genuinely belong to the Salesian Family.

#### **Art. 2 - Types of Identity**

- a) The Past Pupils of Don Bosco are persons who because they attended an oratory, a school or any other Salesian Presence, received a formation for life, in various and diverse ways and according to: different cultures, religion, the educational experience of each setting, the ability to accept individuals<sup>16</sup>, pursue the principles of Don Bosco’s Preventive System<sup>17</sup> and to form persons by developing their individual authenticity.
- b) We can recognise four of types of commitment of the Past Pupil of Don Bosco which can truly define their identity:
  - ~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who build their identity as *a life project*, which encourages them to unite to continue their formation, to spread the edu-

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<sup>16</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *Gli Exallievi di Don Bosco*, in: “Acts of the General Council” LXVIII (1987) 321, p. 18.

<sup>17</sup> Article 1b of the Statutes issued on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1990.

cational charism of Don Bosco in society, and to develop specific projects for youth<sup>18</sup>.

- ~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as *a choice, a mission*, which they accept with all that it entails. They feel called to transmit the values received in their Salesian education: the spirit and teaching method of Don Bosco.
  - ~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as *a grace*, because they have been touched by the zeal and desire of Don Bosco, in his profound human and saintly experience; this leads the Past Pupil to be identified as a Past Pupil of Don Bosco wherever they are.
  - ~ For those who were students or having attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as *a fact of life*, an anecdote, which has not really touched their lives.
- c) This educational experience has formed a commitment of filial loyalty, gratitude, and witness to the values of Don Bosco's system, with an ability for service, communion and involvement in the family spirit.
- d) Gratitude leads the Past Pupils to participate in different ways and levels in the Salesian mission in the world.

### Art. 3 - Mission

- a) The Christian Past Pupil genuinely lives the promises of Baptism

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<sup>18</sup> J. E. VECCHI, *Past Pupil of Don Bosco towards 2000*, in: VIII National Congress of Past Pupils of Don Bosco. Conference proceedings, Rimini, 10-13 October 1996, p. 67 and 68 quoted by P. CHÁVEZ, *Inauguration speech of the Confederal President, Francesco Muceo, in the IV World Election Assembly 2010*, minutes of the IV World Election Assembly of the Past Pupils, 2 October 2010.

and Confirmation by imitating the original charisma of Don Bosco. This charisma is achieved in an apostolical committed lifestyle based on Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness, aimed at youth and in keeping with the Joy that results from being a disciple of Christ.

b) The Association of the Past Pupils participates in the mission of Don Bosco and the Salesian Family in various ways:

- ~ by taking care of the “permanent formation” of its members,
- ~ by giving primary importance and taking care of the family,
- ~ by undertaking the education of youth with commitment,
- ~ “by advancing the values within the human person and respect for the dignity of man”<sup>19</sup>,
- ~ by increasing active communion with all groups of the Salesian Family,
- ~ by showing care towards those pupils at the end of their educational curriculum<sup>20</sup>,
- ~ by promoting activities at the service of humankind involving anyone who, being guided and animated by good will, work for the global and integral growth of the human person and the family according to the Church’s Social Doctrine,
- ~ actively participating in the transformation of society.
- ~ by manifesting an updated ecumenical awareness amongst Christians and bestowing an openness to dialogue with other religions without ever forgetting to examine closely their own Christian identity and evangelising mission, thus challenging every form of ethical relativism,
- ~ by collaborating and or assuming responsibilities in educational centres.

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<sup>19</sup> P. CHÁVEZ, *Good night speech during the IV World Election Assembly 2010*, minutes of the IV World Election Assembly of the Past Pupils, 30 September 2010.

<sup>20</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *op. cit.*, pp. 29-35.

- c) A Past Pupil of another religion participates in the ideals of Don Bosco, sharing the cultural, spiritual and social educational values of his Educational System and recognising them as a natural and universal common heritage of the human family. He/she becomes a giver of these values in his/her life and work settings, and also supports them with whatever their own religion and culture suggest<sup>21</sup>.
  
- d) All Past Pupils, considering the urgency of the problems of young people, proactively respond, even on personal level, to the educational needs of all those cultural and learning initiatives that interest young people in helping them develop and take on more responsibilities at all levels.

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<sup>21</sup> Article 2 of the Statutes promulgated on January 31, 1990.





## **Chapter II**

### **Belonging, Commitment and Formation in the Association**

#### **Art. 4 - Belonging and Formation**

- a) For those who live their commitment as “a choice, a mission” or “a life project” the Association will provide them with a programme of formation which also responds to their personal needs.
- b) The Salesian Provincial, spiritual father of the Salesian Family in every Province, appoints a person to follow the spiritual formation of the Past Pupils at local and provincial level.
- c) To deliver the formation programmes to the members, the Association will consider enrolling qualified members within the Salesian Family.
- d) The sense of belonging of each member towards the Association

should be reflected through specific signs:

- ~ by actively participating in the life of the Association;
- ~ by promoting the sense of belonging to future generations of the Association;
- ~ by honouring the economic, ethical and moral commitments towards the Association;
- ~ by demonstrating favour and active participation in social and educative projects promoted by the Association;
- ~ by giving witness to the values of the Preventive System in the family, workplace and in society;
- ~ by involving ourselves in the mission of the Church.

- e) Enrolment in the Confederation takes place through the Local Associations and requires that the Past Pupil shares its aims and objectives according to the Statute and relevant National Regulations.

#### **Art. 5 - Commitment to the Sense of Belonging**

- a) From the moment a Past Pupil freely decides to commit himself in the Association, he confirms and upholds the Prayer-Promise<sup>22</sup> of the Past Pupils.
- b) The significance and meaning of the Prayer-Promise of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco is to express one's desire to live, every day, in profoundness the role of the laity in society and in the Church, and conserve Don Bosco's charisma wherever they are.

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<sup>22</sup> When Past Pupils from other denominations decide to adapt the Prayer-Promise for Past Pupils to other faiths, the Federations are to consult and seek approval from the World Delegate of Past Pupils.

## **PRAYER AND PROMISE OF THE PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO<sup>23</sup>**

**GOD, OUR FATHER, THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF YOUR SON, JESUS, AND  
THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO**  
give heed to the prayers of the Past Pupils all over the world.

### **WE THANK YOU**

for the invaluable gift of education which we have received,  
under the enlightened guidance of the Salesians,  
which have instilled our lives with the Salesian Spirituality.

### **WE ASK YOU WITH FAMILIAL TRUST**

- GIVE US STRENGTH AND COURAGE to live the human and Christian mes-  
sage in Society and in the Church;
- ENCOURAGE US to become “honest citizens and good christians”;
- HELP US to live together and promote solidarity in our Association and  
beyond it;
- STRENGTHEN our faith, hope and charity.

### **WE PROMISE YOU**

- TO FIGHT against injustice,  
blackmail, superficiality, indifference;
- and TO DEFEND AT ALL COSTS,  
the values inspired from Don Bosco’s teaching,  
especially life, freedom and truth,  
with a spirit of social, political and financial commitment;
- and TO BE, “the salt of the earth and light of the world”  
with a strong influence in the world and in the Church.

### **WE BEG YOU**

to watch over our Salesian Family, our dear ones and all of us. **AMEN.**

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<sup>23</sup> The Prayer-Promise can be recited by every past pupil and with their families. It can also be said in the beginning or at the end of meetings of local, provincial, regional or world level. It can be adapted to different situations as long as the content is faithfully respected. Each National or Provincial Federation may publish copies of the prayer to distribute among past pupils.



## Chapter III

### Aims and Objectives of the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

#### Art. 6 - General Aim

a) The general aim of the Association is to uphold those human values greatly to heart and defend them at all costs through social, political and financial commitment. In particular:

~ **life**: it is sacred, from birth until death. We have to help young people find meaning of life and be committed in safeguarding the quality of life, especially that of the poorest and most needy;

~ **freedom**: especially when governments appear to act more autarchic, although seem as if they are democratic, endangering the freedom and the common aim to build a better world where freedom is guaranteed for all;

~ **truth**: not only factual truth, but also the ethical and moral truth, especially when witnessing the transition from a healthy pluralism to relativism, which leads to nihilism and to the loss of any reference point, and consequently, the decline of society<sup>24</sup>.

b) The Christian Past Pupil authentically lives the meaning of Baptism and Confirmation, emphasising the spirituality of Don Bosco expressed in an apostolical committed lifestyle as a result of being a disciple of Christ. To this end:

~ Promote activities at the service of people involving anyone who, being guided and animated by good will, and is committed to the global growth of the human person and respect for the family<sup>25</sup>.

~ **Promote the spiritual life and the active participation in the life of the Church as a sacrament.**

~ Encourage an ecumenical spirit amongst Christians<sup>26</sup> and advocate for openness to dialogue with other religions.

c) Moreover, a Past Pupil of Don Bosco, either a Christian or of another religion, is called to express and develop the seeds that emerge from the “received education”, that is:

1. To carry out the mission with:

- a) Professional competence.
- b) Moral conscience.
- c) Social commitment.

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<sup>24</sup> P. CHÁVEZ, *Goodnight speech during the IV World Election Assembly 2010*.

<sup>25</sup> Article 3 of the Statutes 1973.

<sup>26</sup> E. VIGANÒ, *op. cit.*, p. 21.

2. To plan formation and educational experiences.
3. To keep the received education alive and present, as exemplified by the Preventive System, as a precious inheritance and rich synthesis of thought and method that is to be wholly promoted.
4. Promote human dignity; the respect for life; a more just society; a culture of responsible work; as a means of sanctification.

#### **Art. 7 - Educational Promotion**

The Association of Past Pupils, conscious of its own special responsibility, binds itself with animating and promoting the personal growth of its members and all young people in Don Bosco committing itself to:

- a) Plan experiences of permanent formation for the Past Pupils, designed to increase their on-going personal enrichment and update the received education, so they are able to face the demands of current times.
- b) Be present as experts in the spheres in which educational policies of the young are developed.

#### **Art. 8 - Family Commitment**

The Association promotes and bears witness to the values and dignity of the family, founded on the sacrament of Marriage, promoting therein the principle of its indissolubility, the sacredness of life, the equality of rights and duties between spouses, a Christian education and of other faiths in the preventive educational method, and show respect to natural methods and aspirations of having children.

#### **Art. 9 - Service to vocations and specific secular tasks**

The Association accompanies young people in the choice of their professional career, their inclusion in the world of work and culture, their socio-political formation, the achievement of specific competencies in social communication, in the healthy use of free time, and in their re-

sponse to their call. It looks after these factors through different involvement.

Furthermore, the Association also promotes the Vocation of other groups in the Salesian Family and the Church.

#### **Art. 10 - Volunteer Movement**

The Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco encourages participation in various Salesian volunteer activities and promotes the personal commitment in the missionary apostolate.

#### **Art. 11 - Attention to Young People**

- a) The Association looks after young people right from the first time they begin to attend a Salesian Presence, by promoting the Association and the advantages of joining the Movement as young members. It also promotes projects and programmes, with and for them, to suit their aspirations.
- b) The Association contacts young people registered in the centres and other Salesian Presence as they will be the future Association's action of assistance, renewal and involvement.

#### **Art. 12 - The Salesian Family**

- a) The Association increases active communion with the other groups of the Salesian Family by participating in new and existing arrangements that facilitate reciprocal appreciation, dialogue, collaboration and interaction of the different groups. Furthermore, it also participates annually in the World Consultative Council and the Spirituality Days of Salesian Family.
- b) The Association studies and plans activities and agreements with the Past Pupils of FMA, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters), thanks to the evident affinity of spirit and pedagogy which characterise the two Associations that share the same precious patrimony.



**Art. 13 - Friends of Don Bosco**

The Association is a point of reference and contact for anyone who “for any reason” feels committed to the Salesian work, shares its objectives and constitutes the vast movement of followers, including “the Friends of Don Bosco”, who for a long time have worked, and are still active in society.



## **Chapter IV**

### **Relations with the Salesians of Don Bosco**

#### **Art. 14 - Presence of the Salesians in the World Confederation**

- a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco recognises the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, as the father and centre of unity of the Salesian Family, and, as successor of Don Bosco, considers him the World Confederation's primary reference.
- b) In the Confederal Presidency and in the Confederal Executive Council of the World Confederation, the Rector Major is represented by the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and the Confederal Delegate.
- c) The World Confederal Delegate and the World Confederal Presidency are responsible, with the understanding of the Provincial,

for the animation and assistance where the Past Pupils Association is not yet established.

- d) At Province level, the Provincials and the Directors of Salesian Houses are responsible for the animation, likewise assisted by their respective Delegates in the National or Provincial Federations and in the Associations, Unions and Local Groups.
- e) At any level, the Delegate carries out his role in the name of his Superior. He participates in the planning and coordination of the Movement's educational activities. He is present, at all levels, in the governing and executive bodies, in the role of advisor while closely following the Past Pupils, valuing and providing leadership to the laity.

**Art. 15 - Salesian Animation**

- a) The World Confederation recognises, demands and considers the commitment of the Salesian Congregation in the role of animator of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco with the task of maintaining unity of spirit, stimulating dialogue, encouraging brotherly collaboration and promoting an enduring spiritual formation.
- b) This animation also involves the Past Pupils and Religious Past Pupils (male and female).

**Art. 16 - Autonomy in communion**

The lay character, the secular nature and the autonomy of the World Confederation, do not hinder the perpetual union with the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the other groups of the Salesian Family, but rather serves as a mutual enrichment and for an improved functioning of the Movement.

## **Chapter V**

### **Organisation and Composition of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco**

#### **Art. 17 - Organisation of the Association**

- a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils is a unique organisation, without ethnic and religious distinctions. As a lay association, it has a juridical personality and its own representation which is recognised, where applicable, by individual States. Enrolment in the Confederation takes place through the Local Associations and requires that the Past Pupil shares its aims and objectives according to the respective statutes and relevant national regulations.

The Association is composed of:

- b) Associations and Local Unions. These may be composed of:

- ~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco grouped around a Salesian Presence.
- ~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco who gather together but in their country are too far from the original Salesian House and show a desire to unite.
- ~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco who have immigrated from other nations or regions and show a desire to unite.

c) Provincial Federation

This is composed of all the Associations and Local Unions within a Salesian Province. Given the autonomy of each group of the Salesian Family, where there is the reorganisation of a Salesian Province, it is up to the members of that Federation to decide whether to keep the existing structure or otherwise adapt to the new reality of the Salesian Society.

d) National Federation

- ~ It consists of all the local associations and Provincial Federations within a country<sup>27</sup>.

e) World Confederation

This is composed of all the National Federations and also of the Provincial Federations in a country where a National Federation does not exist.

**Art. 18 - Composition – Structures**

The organising structures of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco are:

- a) General World Assembly.

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<sup>27</sup> When a Salesian of Don Bosco Province consists more than one country, that Province may have more than one National Federation.

- b) Confederal Presidency.
- c) Confederal Executive Council.

The National and Provincial Federations and the Local Associations must organise themselves autonomously in compliance with their own National Federation Statute.

The organising structures of the National Federation are:

- a) National General Assembly.
- b) National Presidency, with representatives from all existing Provincial Federations or in the absence of these, the Local Associations including those recognized Groups that are eligible to be part of.
- c) National Executive Council.

The organising structures of the Provincial Federations are:

- a) Provincial General Meeting.
- b) Provincial Presidency, with representatives from all the existing Local Association.
- c) Provincial Executive Council.

The organising structures of the Local Associations are:

- a) General Assembly of all the members.
- b) Local Presidency.
- c) Executive Council of the Local Association.

To start a Local Association the minimum requirement is that a considerable group of Past Pupils expresses a desire to unite.

#### **Art. 19 - Structures of the World Confederation**

- a) **World Confederal Presidency**

The General World Assembly is the highest body of the Confedera-

tion of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

It is composed of:

- ~ The Presidents of the National Federations.
- ~ The Presidents of the Provincial Federations, wherever a National Federation does not exist or where there is only 1 Provincial Federation.

**b) The World Confederal Presidency**

It is composed of:

- ~ The Confederal President.
- ~ The Senior Confederal Vice-President (appointed amongst the 4 Adults Councillors, one from each Region).
- ~ The GEX Confederal Vice-President (appointed amongst 4 GEX Councillors, one from each Region)<sup>28</sup>.
- ~ 4 adult and 4 GEX Regional Councillors.
- ~ Distribution of the region's representatives for the Confederal Presidency is as follows:
  - Europe: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.
  - Africa: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.
  - Latin America: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.
  - Asia: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.
- ~ The Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family.
- ~ The World Confederal Delegate.
- ~ The Secretary General, even when co-opted by the General World Assembly.
- ~ The Confederal Treasurer, even when co-opted by the General

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<sup>28</sup> The 4 Regions are: Europe, America, Africa and Asia-Oceania-Australia.



- World Assembly.
- ~ The representative of the Priest Past Pupils.

**c) The Confederal Executive Council**

It is composed of:

- ~ The Confederal President.
- ~ The GEX Confederal Vice-President.
- ~ An Adult Regional Councillor (appointed by the Confederal Presidency amongst its elected 4 adult Regional Councillors).
- ~ The World General Secretary.
- ~ The Confederal Treasurer.
- ~ Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family.
- ~ The World Confederal Delegate.

**d) Experts– Consultants**

In the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation, one or more experts – consultants but up to the maximum of 3 members can be co-opted to the Presidency, in subjects in which a special competence is required. Their appointments must expressly indicate their abilities and terms of duration.

The commission's reports are not the exclusive property of the Presidency. The members of this commission do not have voting rights.

**e) Special Commissions**

The Confederal Presidency can likewise set up a Commission composed of experts Past Pupils – up to a maximum of 3 persons – in matters on the agenda for discussion, to whom special authority will be given to particular issues.

The Confederal Presidency will establish in advance the tasks and duties of the Commission, the work and the submission of timeframes for proposals and recommendations, to be issued in a final report for the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation.

## **Art. 20 - Meetings and Reunions**

### **a) The General World Assembly**

- ~ The General World Assembly is organised by the Confederal Presidency. It meets every 6 years.
- ~ The convocation is sent by the World President and the Secretary General, at least a year before to guarantee the most possible participation, and will include the General Agenda.

### **b) Extraordinary General World Assembly**

The Confederal Presidency can decide to hold an Extraordinary General World Assembly:

- ~ To call for new elections in the event of resignation of the majority ( $\frac{1}{2} + 1$ ) of the Confederal Presidency, or of the entire Confederal Executive Council, or for any other reason.
- ~ At the request of at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ At the request of at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the National Federations or of the Provincial Federations, when a National Federation does not exist in that country.
- ~ In particular serious circumstances, at the request of the Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales, who also has the right to determine special procedural guidelines.

### **c) Meeting of the Confederal Presidency**

The meeting of the members of the Confederal Presidency takes place every year.

At the invitation of the Confederal Presidency, and with a valid reason, one or more persons, up to a maximum of 3, can be invited to attend. The invited persons shall only participate in those matters on the Agenda which are assigned to them and have no voting rights.

**d) Meeting of the Confederal Executive Council**

The meeting of the members of the Confederal Executive Council takes place at least 3 times a year.

At the invitation of the Confederal Executive Council, and with a valid reason, one or more persons, up to a maximum number of 3, can be invited to attend.

However, invited persons shall only participate to those matters on the Agenda which are assigned to them and they have no voting rights.



## **Chapter VI**

### **Tasks in the Organising Structures**

#### **Art. 21 - Tasks**

##### **a) The World Confederal Assembly**

- ~ Determines the general guidelines of the Confederal Presidency for the achievement of the aims and objectives of the World Confederation.
- ~ Approves the Report of the World President and the Secretary General.
- ~ Approves the World Confederal Statute; examines, arranges and approves proposals for modification and updating of the Statute.
- ~ Elects the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Approves the Financial Report of the Confederal Treasurer and be released of such responsibility for the audited period.

- ~ Listens to and approves the Reports of the National and Provincial Federations.
- ~ Approves any projects proposed by the Confederal Presidency.

**b) The Coordinator of the World Confederal Assembly**

1. Is the person responsible for the coordination and efficient administration of the General World Assembly.
2. It is expected that the Coordinator of the World Confederal Assembly to assume:
  - the competent direction of the Assembly in agreement with the World Confederal President;
  - the well-conducted coordination of the sessions during the World Confederal Assembly;
  - the proper functioning of the related offices and technical services;
  - the presentation of the daily matters on the Agenda to the Assembly;
  - the releasing of all communications and other eventual information issued by the Assembly Presidency.

**c) The Moderators of the World Confederal Assembly**

The three Moderators are elected during the World Confederal Assembly from a list of five names proposed by the World Confederal Presidency.

Regarding the Moderators' role, they should take it in turn, to regulate the debates in the assembly-hall, by following faithfully the relevant regulatory requirements thus, demanding all participants to abide with these regulations making sure not to permit any unauthorised interventions or discussing subjects not submitted in the daily order of the Agenda.

Until the Moderators are appointed, the Coordinator shall assume this role.

**d) The Presidency of the World Confederal Assembly**

The Presidency of the World Confederal Assembly consists of: the World Confederal President, the Coordinator of the World Confederal Assembly, the World Confederal Delegate, the three Moderators.

**e) Functions of the Presidency of the Assembly**

- ~ Opens and closes the General Assembly.
- ~ Ensures that the Assembly follows the Agenda set by the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Submit the Agenda of the Assembly including the dates and timeframes of the sessions.
- ~ Solving any doubt "*iuris et facti*"<sup>29</sup> regarding the implementation of the Regulations, subject to written of a least one third (1/3) of the effective members in the Assembly, and shall hear and deliberate with a 2/3 majority.

**f) The World Confederal Presidency**

- ~ Develops a Strategic Plan in accordance with the resolutions of the General World Assembly.
- ~ Approves the Annual Operational Plan proposed by the Confederal Executive Council with the support of the Regional Councillors.
- ~ Assigns specific tasks to the Members of the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Follows up on contacts with International Organisations.
- ~ Plans Conventions or International Meetings and reunions, General Consultations and, when required, National or Provincial Consultations in accordance with the operational plan.
- ~ Approves the budget and the annual financial report of the Confederal Treasurer.
- ~ Establishes the annual amount to be contributed to the World

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<sup>29</sup> By law or fact.

- Confederation by the National or Provincial Federation or by similar groups which hold a recognition by the World Confederation.
- ~ Examines the reports submitted by the National or Provincial Federations.
  - ~ Authorises and organises the conferring of merit awards on Past Pupils and other deserving persons according to the specific norms.
  - ~ Meets at least once a year.
  - ~ When necessary, draws the attention of the members of the Confederal Presidency to their statutory duties, when they do not fulfil them, and takes note thereof in the minutes of the meetings.
  - ~ Appoints and forms any Commissions that may be needed (electoral commission, financial commission, youth commission, editorial team, responsible for magazines and publications, ad hoc commission for specific issues).
  - ~ Co-opts consultants (specialists) for pre-defined purposes and with pre-defined terms (timeframes and tasks).
  - ~ On the recommendation of the Confederal Executive Council, approves the nomination of the Coordinator of the World Confederal Assembly.

**g) Confederal Executive Council**

- ~ Develops and implements the directives of the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Puts forward proposals to the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Draws up the draft annual operational plan with the collaboration of the Regional Councillors and to be approved by the Confederal Presidency.
- ~ Approves the regulations of the National Federation and any amendments thereof while communicates its own advice in the event of any controversy concerning the application of the Statute.
- ~ Approves the minutes of the meetings drawn up by the Secretary General and communicates them within 2 months to all



members of the Presidency.

- ~ Examines the financial accounts put forward by the Confederal Treasurer.
- ~ Meets regularly every quarter to review the progress and implementation of current projects.
- ~ Makes a list of the nominated candidates to be proposed for election, and their qualities and skills that they possess (including languages spoken, formation, available time etc...).
- ~ Can grant exemption, for one year only for documented justified reasons, from the fixed annual contribution from the Federations or to recognized groups which have made a request for same.



## **Chapter VII**

### **Duties and Tasks of the Members of the Confederal Presidency**

#### **Art. 22 - The Confederal President**

- a) Has legal representation of the Confederation.
- b) Maintains relations with the Superiors of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the leaders of the groups in the Salesian Family, the Civil Authorities, International Organisations and third parties.
- c) Convenes the General Assembly, other international events, the Confederal Presidency and the Executive Council, chairing them including through representatives.
- d) Convoques World, Continental and International Congresses authorised by the World General Assembly or the Confederal Presidency, presiding them directly or through representatives.
- e) Maintains links with all the National Federations and with their Representatives.

- f) Confers at his own initiative or at the proposal of the Confederal Presidency or of the National Federations, special awards of merit on Past Pupils, Salesians, or others who have distinguished themselves for special merits towards the Past Pupils Movement (Honorary Member, badge of merit with diploma, medals, diplomas of loyalty).
- g) Proposes to the Rector Major the promulgation of the Statute of the World Confederation as approved by the World Assembly and oversees its implementation.
- h) Maintains the unity, together with the Confederal Presidency, co-responsibility, spirit of initiative and main guidelines that ensure an active approach of the commitments of the Past Pupils, primarily the animation of young people.
- i) Performs the activities according to his mandate in close collaboration and in advanced consultation with the Confederal Executive Council.
- j) Presides over the meetings of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council.

#### **Art. 23 - The Confederal Vice-Presidents**

- a) Substitute the President in case of his absence.
- b) Receive specific tasks from the President and from the Confederal Executive Council, particularly within the ambit of animation, in certain geographical zone. These tasks are performed through the organisational structures that already exists.
- c) They can make use of experts to study and propose cultural, social, ecclesiastical projects to the Past Pupils, devoting their priority of attention towards young people.
- d) They help the President in promoting the unity and communion of all Federations with the Confederal Presidency.
- e) In particular, the GEX Vice-President animates the GEX Sector's activity in common agreement with the Regional Councillors.

#### **Art. 24 - The Regional Councillors**

- a) Are the witnesses, animators and the reference points of the Con-

federation in their own Regions. They make up the regional network of the Confederation and promote a close communication and communion with the Federations of its own Region while acting in accordance with the World Confederal Presidency.

- b) They receive specific tasks from the Confederal Presidency, especially for the mission of animation in their respective Regions, making use of existing resources and structures.
- c) They may resort to the help of experts in the study and preparation of proposals for the benefit of Past Pupils' cultural, social and ecclesiastical projects in their respective Regions, with special attention to the needs of youth.
- d) They assist the Confederal President and the Confederal Senior and GEX Vice-Presidents in their efforts in favouring the union and communion of all the National or Provincial Federations with the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- e) They assist the National and Provincial Federations in their respective Regions, together with all the members of the Confederal Presidency, in the work of animation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.
- f) If a Regional Councillor could not pursue his or her commitment, he or she should notify in writing to the World Confederal Presidency. If he or she does not, the Confederal Executive Council will proceed to do its verification of the service offered and consequently report the findings to the Confederal Presidency in order to proceed to co-opt another person.

#### **Art. 25 - The World Confederal Delegate**

- a) Is the other representative of the Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the spiritual animator of the World Confederation, in particular of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council. He carries out this animation through letters, personal contacts and visits in which he studies the different local situations of life and work.
- b) Animates the permanent formation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, with special attention to the young ones. He performs all of this together with the Regional Councillors in their Regions

- and with other qualified lay people.
- c) Edits publications and other aids for the formation and spiritual and cultural animation of the Past Pupils, and in particular of the members of the Confederal Presidency.
  - d) Informs the Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family about the situation both of the World Confederation and of the various National and Provincial Federations.
  - e) Receives his guidelines from the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family.
  - f) Is a member by right of the Electoral Commission for the renewal of the Confederal Presidency.

#### **Art. 26 - The Secretary General**

- a) Is an elected member of the Confederal Presidency. If no one is elected, he must be co-opted by the World Confederal Presidency but in such appointment he or she has no voting rights.
- b) Can propose the nomination of one or more additional secretaries to the Confederal Presidency and subject to its approval.
- c) Is responsible for the Secretariat of the World Confederation.
- d) Maintains good public relations with the heads of the other groups of the Salesian Family and with other organizations.
- e) Draws up an administrative report once a year together with the President and submits it to the Confederal Presidency meeting.
- f) Collaborates in drawing up the Agenda for meetings of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council.
- g) Draws up the minutes of all the meetings and sends them, within 30 days, to the members who were present and those who justified their absence, taking care of any necessary translations.
- h) Is responsible for the acts and minutes and submits them for approval.
- i) Takes care of everything that is necessary for the efficient running of the Secretariat.
- j) Is responsible for the archiving of all documentation and all correspondence received from the National and Provincial Federations and from other recognized groups.

- k) Is responsible for the organization and updating of a (worldwide) database of names and addresses of the members of the National and Provincial Federations and of the recognized groups.
- l) Is responsible for the creation and updating of a list of established National and Provincial Federations, Local Associations and recognised groups, and for publishing this list every year.
- m) Starts the procedures for elections, six months before the World Confederal Assembly, by announcing the date of the elections to all the National or Provincial Federation Presidents and requesting the dossiers of nominees.
- n) Is responsible for achieving the required level of organisation of the World Confederation.
- o) He is the President of the Electoral Commission for the renewal of the Confederal Presidency, unless he is a candidate to the Presidency.
- p) When the Secretary General is a candidate of the World Confederal Presidency, then, the Confederal Executive Council will appoint another person to act as President of the Electoral Commission.

**Art. 27 - The Confederal Treasurer**

- a) Is an elected member of the Confederal Presidency. If no one is elected, he must be co-opted by the World Confederal Presidency, but in such appointment, he or she has no voting rights.
- b) Is responsible, together with the Confederal President, for the Finances of World Confederation.
- c) Can propose the setting up of a financial committee to address specific problems.
- d) Is responsible for the World Confederation's bank account, and all other financial sources, together with the Confederal President and the Secretary General, and is moreover authorised to carry out financial transactions. Each transaction must be countersigned by at least 2 of the 3 mentioned persons responsible for the account otherwise considered as invalid.
- e) Draws up the annual budget and the annual balance sheet and submits them to the Confederal Presidency meeting for checking and

approval.

- f) Maintains the accounts up-to-date.
- g) Ensures that any extraordinary expenses not envisaged in the annual budget are specifically approved by the Confederal Executive Council and draws up the Financial Statements.
- h) Is responsible for all the assets of the World Confederation and prepares an annual inventory, which he/she sends to the Confederal Presidency.
- i) Collects the financial annual quota of the National and Provincial Federations in the month of January, after sending out an invitation to honour this payment.

#### **Art. 28 - Executive Secretary**

If the Association proceeds with the recruitment of an Executive Secretary, he will assume the functions currently assigned by both the Secretary General and the Confederal Treasurer but they will remain within their responsibility. He will support operational projects initiated by the World Confederal Presidency.

#### **Art. 29 - Internal Auditor**

The World Confederal Presidency will proceed to nominate an independent internal auditor, that annually undertakes the necessary verifications of accounts and processes, and report these to the World Confederal Presidency.



## **Chapter VIII**

### **Decisions**

#### **Art. 30 - Voting in the Presidency and in the Confederal Executive Council**

- a) All current members of the Confederal Executive Council and the Confederal Presidency have the right, on an equal basis, to express their opinions and to vote.
- b) Decisions are passed by a simply majority ( $\frac{1}{2} + 1$ ) of those present. If half the members are not present, no decision can be taken, unless by written authorisation.
- c) Voting by written authorisation (proxy) is permitted and valid with full rights. The proxy holder must be a member of the Confederal Presidency.
- d) Each member can hold only 1 written proxy.

- e) In case of an equal number of votes, the World President will have the casting vote.
- f) The World Confederal Delegate and the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family have voting rights.
- g) Co-opted members, invited persons, specialists or experts, do not have voting rights.
- h) The exercising of voting rights must guarantee the anonymity of the person entitled to the said right.

### **Art. 31 - Voting in the General World Assembly**

- a) The following have voting rights:

- ~ The President of each National Federation has 1 vote.
- ~ The President of each National Federation in which there are one or more Provincial Federations, has 1 vote of every 3 or fraction of this:
  - 1 vote: if there are 1 to 3 Provincial Federations
  - 2 votes: if there are 4 to 6 Provincial Federations
  - 3 votes: if there are 7 to 9 Provincial Federations
  - 4 votes: if there are 10 or more Provincial Federations.
- ~ The President of a Provincial Federation where there is no National Federation has 1 vote.
- ~ Each member of the Confederal Presidency has 1 vote.

- b) Proxy given to another member

- ~ Voting by proxy given to another member of the same organization is permitted. More than 1 proxy to the same member is not allowed. A proxy, signed by the plenipotentiary and by the person who authorises the proxy, specifying their identity and position, may be given to a member of its own Federation or to another person with voting rights from another Federation in the same regional area.
- ~ Exception may be made for Regional Councillors of the re-

gion who must be authorised by the Provincial.

c) Conditions for exercising voting rights

Conditions for exercising voting rights: subject to exception, any National Federation or Provincial Federation that has not made payment of its annual membership fee on regular basis shall not be permitted to exercise any voting rights.



## **Chapter IX**

### **Confederal Presidency Elections**

#### **Art. 32 - Electoral Commission**

10 months before the end of the term in office of the Confederal appointments, the Confederal Executive Council will appoint an Electoral Commission composed of at least 3 members including the Secretary General and the Confederal Delegate. The Secretary General is the President of this Commission.

The tasks of the Electoral Commission are:

- a) Draw up voting regulations.
- b) Call for nominations for the Confederal Presidency 6 months before the elections.

- c) In case of the Assembly being convened by post, carry out the final check and count of the postal vote received and proclaim a list of those elected, by means of specific declaration.
- d) Ask the elected persons to vote on the shortlist of three names to be submitted to the Rector Major.
- e) The members of the Electoral Commission cannot be nominated for the election to the Confederal Presidency.
- f) The Confederal Presidency will submit a complete list to the Electoral Commission of all those with voting rights. This list will be published on the Past Pupils' website, or through other social media, at least 1 month before the date fixed for the elections.

#### **Art. 33 - Nominations**

- a) Each National Federation can submit up to 3 nominations, 1 of which is reserved to a GEX (young past pupil); the approval of the President, the National Delegate, the Provincial for the territory of membership of the candidate is required and, if married, from his wife or her husband. The approved list will be disseminated by the Electoral Commission at least 2 months before the World Assembly.
- b) The approved list will be disseminated by the Electoral Commission at least 2 months before the World Assembly.
- c) No nomination which is submitted after the established date will be accepted.
- d) The GEX candidates must be between the age of 18 to 30 years at the time of their appointment.

#### **Art. 34 - Elections**

- a) Election of the Confederal President, the Secretary General and

of the Confederal Treasurer.

The President of the Electoral Commission, after the voting and counting of ballots are completed, he will immediately compile the complete list of the candidates and their respective votes gained by the World General Assembly. He presents a shortlist of the most three most voted candidates with their number of votes to the Rector Major. The Rector Major will decide on the appointment the World Confederal President.

The eligible voters will elect, from a specific list, the Secretary General and the Confederal Treasurer during the World Assembly. The candidate who obtains the highest number of votes will be elected to the position to which he presented his candidacy.

Candidates may be nominated for two posts. Once elected, the candidate is not eligible for other functions.

If a person is elected for two posts, the Electoral Commission asks him to proceed to choose an option. The person with the next highest number of votes is consequently elected to that function which was become vacant.

If no nominations are received for these executive posts, that of the Secretary General and the Treasurer, at the first meeting of the Confederal Presidency, then the newly elected members must co-opt a suitable candidate for each vacant post.

b) Members of the Confederal Presidency: The Regional Councillors

All those with voting rights who belong to a Region can vote for all the candidates of said Region (according to the votes attributed on the basis of Art. 31) to elect the members of the Confederal Presidency.

The members of the Confederal Presidency vote for the candidates of the Region to which they belong.

The Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and the World The candidate who obtains the largest number of votes in their own Region becomes Regional Councillor for that Region.

The young person who obtains the largest number of votes in their own Region becomes GEX Regional Councillor for that Region.

**Art. 35 - Term of Office**

- a) The Confederal President holds office for 6 years and may be re-confirmed once only, reckoning that any appointments previously taken up in the Presidency are not taken into account. The members of the Presidency hold office for 6 years and, ordinarily, may be re-elected once only.
- b) The same criteria for term of office apply to any members who are co-opted to the Presidency and to the Council.
- c) In case of the resignation or death of the President or the Senior Vice President, the Rector Major is informed respectively either by the Senior Vice President or the President, who will indicate alternative names from amongst the surviving members of the Presidency who will then appoint a substitute until the normal expiry date of the existing mandate.
- d) In case of the resignation or death of a member of the Confederal Presidency, the President will convene the Confederal Executive Council:
  - ~ For the official acknowledgement of the resignation or death of the Councillor.
  - ~ For the usual notice, in case of death, to the Salesian Family.
  - ~ To take the necessary action by way of following up such as the filling of the post of Councillor of the Presidency to the first of the non-elected persons (adult or GEX as the case may be) of the regional area to which the Councillor belonged; and similarly if he or she was a member of the Confederal Executive Council. The new Councillor will be appointed by the Presidency, as set out herein above.

In the absence of an available candidate on the list, the Confederal Pre-



sidency can co-opt a substitute.

- e) Past Pupils vested with important public and private roles, cannot carry out mandates, especially those of President. The Confederal Presidency is competent to assess any special cases.



## **Chapter X**

### **Information and Notices**

#### **Art. 36 - Information bodies**

- a) Through the Confederation's official site, the Presidency will publish periodical news and information for the National Federations and for anyone interested in the Association's activities. The website may be supplemented by the publication of a newsletter.
- b) Each National Federation is called upon to collaborate with articles, news, experiences, that are considered useful, to be made known at world level through the above mentioned bodies.



## **Chapter XI**

### **Banner, badge, merit awards, days of celebration**

#### **Art. 37 - Banner, badge, merit awards and days of celebration**

- a) The Confederal Banner is kept at the offices of the World Confederation. It shows the face of Don Bosco. It is placed on display at the time of solemn celebrations like anniversaries, international and world congresses, reunions and meetings.
- b) The Badge, together with the Banner, is the visible sign of the unity of the Confederation and of the commitment to the organization. Designed and cast at the request of the Confederal Presidency, it is deposited within the General Secretariat. It substantially reproduces the original design approved during the Second International Congress held in 1920.

- c) The gold badge of merit, other certificates of loyalty and special diplomas are awarded for outstanding services.
  
- d) The following annual feast days are celebrated:
  - ~ 31st January - Feast of Don Bosco
  - ~ 24th May - Feast of Mary Help of Christians
  - ~ 24th June - World Feast of the Past Pupils in commemoration of Don Bosco's name day and the birth of the Past Pupils Movement
  - ~ 5th October - Feast of Blessed Alberto Marvelli
  - ~ 5th December - Feast of the Blessed Filippo Rinaldi
  - ~ 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception and commemoration of the beginning of the Salesian Family.

The Past Pupils of Don Bosco also participate in the Salesian Family celebrations organised at national, provincial and local level.

## **Chapter XII**

### **Financing**

#### **Art. 38 - Funding Sources of the World Confederation**

The World Confederation receives its financial means from:

- a) Annual membership fees. Paid by each National Federation as expression of belonging to the World Confederation. The National Federations are obliged to contribute towards the sustainability of the World Confederation through fees fixed by the Confederal Presidency in relation to the number of members. The Confederal Presidency will annually decide upon the amount of the membership fee due from each National Federation by taking into account the national average per capita income.

The Confederal Presidency establishes the amount of membership fees

each year. In the event that the National Federation is composed by various Provincial Federations, the fee is due from every Provincial Federation. In the event that the National Federation has not been established, the annual fee is due from every Provincial Federation.

- b) Donations and projects. With these aims the Confederal Treasurer is allowed to organise activities and hold projects. The World Confederation is authorised to receive income and contributions from various sources for the aims prescribed in this Statute.

### **Art. 39 - Expenses**

On this basis of actual income and according to the budget put forward by the Confederal Treasurer, the Confederal Presidency can allocate a certain amount, each year, to a member of the Confederal Presidency for the implementation of a proposed and approved project.

The Confederal Treasurer shall settle the travel and other expenses of members of the Confederal Presidency and of the Confederal Executive Council or of other persons, only if there is a prior authorisation of the Confederal Executive Council. (All expenses must be accompanied by a relevant receipt).



## **Chapter XIII**

### **Disciplinary Rules and Penalties**

#### **Art. 40 - Disciplinary Rules and Penalties**

- a) Membership of the Association can cease through personal choice of the Past Pupil, or due to a considered decision of respective Presidencies at all levels.

After having proof of unbecoming conduct which is not in line with statutory rules and regulations, or that, is causing injurious damage to the organisation or community life, or due to other serious reasons, the respective Presidencies can decide with the consent of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of their members on:

- ~ A motion of no-confidence and a request for resignation.
- ~ The dismissal from office (in case of an official).
- ~ The expulsion of the Past Pupil from the Association.

- b) The decisions in the foregoing section may be appealed against by an immediately higher structure.
  
- c) If a written complaint is made concerning a member of the Confederal Executive Council or the World Confederal Presidency, the Confederal Delegate after holding consultation with the Central Delegate of the Salesian Family and the Rector Major, will take a decision concerning the requested sanction (suspension, expulsion) with a common understanding with the remaining members of the Confederal Executive Council and the World Confederal Presidency.

## **Chapter XIV**

### **Text - Interpretation and Amendments**

#### **Art. 41 - Official Text**

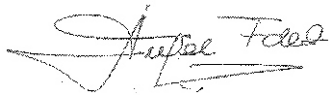
- a) The official text of this Statute is the one drawn up in Italian and deposited with the General Secretariat bearing the signatures of the Rector Major of the Salesian Society, the World President, the Central Delegate of the Salesian Family, the Secretary General and the World Confederal Salesian Delegate.  
The various translations into different languages must be authorised by the Confederal Presidency and must expressly show the approval obtained.
- b) Any controversies concerning the authentic interpretation and enforcement of this Statute and of the National Regulations shall be referred to the Confederal Presidency.

- c) The present Confederal Statute can serve as a model for drawing up the Statutes or Constitutions of National or Provincial Federations, and even those of Local Associations.
- d) The National or Provincial Statutes must be presented to the Confederal Executive Council for approval and they come into force after obtaining it. This also applies in case of future amendments.
- e) All the members of the Confederal Presidency and the National Federations may put forward amendments to this Statute. Definitive approval is the responsibility of the General World Assembly and requires a majority of 2/3 of the members with voting rights of those present.

#### **Art. 42 - Headquarters**

The headquarters of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco is established in the General House of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales, currently at Via della Pisana 1111, 00163 Rome, Italy.

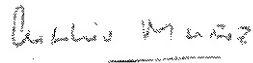
Promulgated on 5 december 2015  
Memory of the Blessed Filippo Rinaldi



Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime  
Rector Major



Michal Hort  
World President



Don Eusebio Muñoz  
Delegate of the Rector Major  
for the Salesian Family



Domenica Sapienza  
World Secretary



Don José Pastor Ramírez Fernández  
World Delegate



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Banner

*Published in the Bicentennial Celebration  
of Don Bosco's Birth*

