

**STATUTE**  
**WORLD CONFEDERATION**  
**PAST PUPILS**  
**DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FMA**





**GENERAL DIRECTION DON BOSCO'S WORKS**  
**Via della Pisana 1111 - 00163 Roma**

*The Rector Major*

Dear Past Pupils of the FMA, I congratulate you who, during the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth in Mornese, have approved your new Confederal Statute. It is a sign of fidelity to the Salesian spirituality and a strong sense of belonging to our Family.

This statute is the fruit of serious work, in cooperation and cohesion with all Federations in the world.

I congratulate you on the Statute as it clearly presents the historical origins of your Association; it shows its nature and aims, the spirituality and the service attitude of every Past Pupil, your care about education/training, which the Federations have to take on, and the educational/training opportunities that the Association shall provide them through training paths.

Moreover, it presents the organizational structures at Confederal, Federal and Union level, the roles of the board and the rules to participate in the life of the Association.

Your motto "Hands in the World and Roots in the Heart" is a beautiful and challenging synthesis of your mission in the world, in the way our father Don Bosco wanted. Moreover it is in line with the theme stressed by Pope Francis during the Vigil of Pentecost in front of the movement of New Communities, Associations and Lay Associations (May 18th 2013): "Lay believers, you are in the world, you do not belong to the world. This is the challenge for the Christians committed to testify the Gospel in the family, at work, in the economic and political life"

At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops about Family, Pope Francis founded a new Office for Lay people, family, and life, which will substitute the past Pontifical Council for Laymen and the Pontifical Council for family. The Pontifical Academy for Life will liaise with this new office (Oct. 22 2015).

My dear Past Pupils, today more than ever people are asking for a good education for children, for boys, girls, the young, following the methodology and spirituality of the Preventive System Don Bosco left us as a legacy. This will be a challenge for you in the light of your Statute, because family is the first place to humanize and convert.

The Statute of the Confederation is the Statute of each and everyone and you shall undertake to know it and make it known for the vitality of the whole Association. I wish all Federations in the world would examine it carefully. Successively assuming the Salesian spirituality as it mentioned in the Statute itself, in order that the unity in action and the fidelity to Don Bosco and M. Mazzarello's spirit will be visible and effective. Effectively sharing day after day the human and evangelic values you are holders of, thanks to the education received and kept as a life style.

Before approving the new Statute, we celebrated the Holy Mass in the Church of Mary Help of Christians: and to the Virgin Mary I have entrusted your Association; She has to be the guide along your path together with the Salesian Sisters, towards the communion and the witness of human and Christian values in and for the world.

Much love,

P. Ángel Fernández Artime, sdb  
RECTOR MAJOR



**ISTITUTO FIGLIE DI MARIA AUSILIATRICE**  
**Via dell'Ateneo Salesiano 81 - 00139 Roma**

*Mother General*

My dearest FMA Past Pupils in the world,

It is with joy that I am introducing the new Statute of the Association, with the changes approved in the 5th World Elective Assembly occurred in Mornese from 10th to 17th August 2015.

Accept it as a book for life, a system of signs for a common route inside the big Salesian Family, of which you are the nearest group to our FMA identity, as you are the fruit of the education received.

Let us admit that a great growing in laicity wanted by the Ecumenical Vatican Council II and in assuming autonomous personal responsibilities has marked these last years' path, among happiness and difficulties.

The Statute is a program document where you can find the guiding lines to live the dimension of the Salesian charisma in the spirit of the preventive system learned in our surroundings and further strengthened in the Association itself.

In this booklet the planning lines, the nature, the aim and mission of the Association are given. First, it is a mission of formation and growth in assuming the charisma and its spirituality. Moreover, it is a mission of awareness and responsibility for the gift received and last, it is a mission of care in delivering the charisma to the young generations with the original freshness and the richness of the experience lived in the different cultures.

As it is an ecclesiastical laical group, the Association is committed in living and testifying a different vision of the world, following the Gospel; in spreading the Reign of God; in supporting weak situations, starting from the members of the Association.

I wish every Past Pupil - through the associative experience and the Spirit pervading the Statute - might announce the joy of meeting the Lord, the happiness to belong to such a Family guided by Mary, accompanied by Her along the way towards the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

Be with Mary, near the lonely families, those needing care, attention and substantial help. Be a family yourselves, within the big Family of Don Bosco.

Feel our thankfulness for your closeness, your support, your precious cooperation, your advice.

Blessed Filippo Rinaldi, who wanted this association, and Saint John Bosco, our common father, of whom we have celebrated this year the bicentenary of his birth, may help you deeply assimilate the spirit of the Statute, so that the Association may be more and more alive and productive. Mary Mazzarello may lead you to live the responsibilities with the typical style of Mornese.

With all my heart, I bless you!

Rome, December 8th 2015

*Sister Yvonne Reungoat*

Sister Yvonne Reungoat  
MOTHER GENERAL FMA



**FMA PAST PUPILS WORLD CONFEDERATION**  
**Via Gregorio VII, 133 int. 4/sc. B - 00165 Roma**

*Confederal President*

Dearest Past Pupils,

It is with great joy that I am sending you the revised edition of the Statute of the FMA Past Pupils World Confederation.

This document is the fruit of an accurate long work, observations and suggestions by the Federations Councils all around the world, by the General Council of FMA, and approved during the V Elective World Assembly in Mornese last August.

The Statute points out the nature and aims of the Association, showing the organizing structures at all levels, the roles pertinent to the direction and the rules to take part into the association's life. In this historical period, lay people are more than ever called to participate in the Church and Society's life, bringing our own identity, spirituality and service attitude, which is peculiar to an FMA Past Pupil.

I invite you to read it, study and spread it in order to let our Association be more and more clear and coherent to the identity Don Filippo Rinaldi wanted for us.

Mary Help of Christians may go on being our inspiring guide, in order to have "our hands in the world and the roots in our heart" and in this way be "witnesses of joy in the peripheries of the world".

Rome, December 8, 2015

*Maria Maghini*

Maria Maghini  
CONFEDERAL PRESIDENT

**STATUTE**  
**WORLD CONFEDERATION**  
**PAST PUPILS**  
**DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**  
Approved by the V Assembly of the Confederation  
Mornese, August 14, 2015

**Foreword**

The World Confederation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), defined as Association later in this document, was established by Blessed Philip Rinaldi on March 19, 1908 in the FMA house of Turin.

Nevertheless, we find the same Don Bosco as creator at the root of the Association. In his biographical memoirs, we can read his confidence to Don Giulio Barberis on February 19, 1876: "I have already another project in mind which will mature in these two years; once assured the existence of the Salesian Cooperators, I will go for it. I could almost say that it is a third order for women, not joint to us but associated with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians" (BM XI, 73). In 1911, Don Philip Rinaldi himself would say in a meeting with the FMA directresses: "Don Bosco would have done it but the time was not yet ripe yet if this had not been the idea of Don Bosco, the Association would have not been founded."

Remember that, even before its official birth, the Association finds its beginning in some groups gathering spontaneously on important occasions: in 1881 the past pupils of Mornese and of Nizza Monferrato participated in the celebration of the thirtieth day after the death of Mother Mazzarello; in 1897 for the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the FMA Institute, the first "Committee of Past Pupils" was established in Nizza Monferrato and in 1904, the "Permanent Committee of Past Pupils" was born for the 25th anniversary of the FMA house.

However, in Valdocco, Turin, the Oratory of the FMA, which was opened in 1876 when Mother Mazzarello was still alive, was already being frequented by numerous Past Pupils who were collaborating with the Sisters in the educative work.

They wanted to continue their formation to be able to commit themselves in transmitting the Salesian values of the education they received in the style of Mother Mazzarello.

Thus, Don Philip Rinaldi, director of the oratory, with the intelligent collaboration of the directress of the house, Sister Caterina Arrighi, called the first meeting on March 8, 1908. He presented to the Past Pupils the proposal to set up themselves as an association in order to share and spread in their territory the values of an educative legacy destined towards the future generations of Past Pupils spread all over the world. A few days later, on March 19, 1908, the feast of St. Joseph, the Regulations were approved and the first "Union of Past Pupils" of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was officially constituted.

With surprising resourcefulness, the Past Pupils immediately organized concrete works of solidarity and education to reach out to the young people, children, mothers, workers, teachers, and farmers. They were conducting evening classes for housewives and for Italian emigrants, free professional schools for the working class, mutual aid societies, moving libraries, and theater companies.

This seed has grown and today, the Association is composed of 89 Federations and is present in 55 countries in four continents.

On October 29, 1988, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Don Bosco, the Association was officially recognized as a group of the Salesian Family by the Rector Major Fr. Egidio Viganò and his Council.

Being a Past Pupil is not simply a condition of having once attended a particular educational environment; it means more than that. It means knowing and assimilating the Salesian values in the Mornese style, living them in one's life.

Therefore, women and men join the Association who, educated within the FMA organizations, want to share, deepen and witness the human and religious values in which they were educated according to the Preventive System of Don Bosco and the style of Mother Mazzarello. Furthermore, anyone can join the association who have lived the experience of the Salesian values and share them regardless of their religious, cultural, social and ethnic affiliation.

The present Statute is the governing document containing all the rules that govern the life, the management and organization of the Association, as well as those regulating the relationship between the Association and its members and among the associates themselves.

It is the official text of the Association and frame of reference for the statutes and regulations of the Federations and the Unions. The Statute is a guide and orientation tool for the Association's life, a point of reference for reflections, evaluations and comparisons. The spirit that animates it, if understood and experienced, makes it a living document and gives a broad perspective for the Association and for the formation of its members, in particular, of those who have been chosen to carry out executive functions.

## **Title I**

### **NATURE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Art. 1 Definition**

**1.1** The Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) are all those who have been educated in an organization/school of the FMA, regardless of ethnicity, class, culture and faith.

**1.2** By virtue of the education received, the Past Pupils form a vast movement within which the Association was constituted with specific organizational structures and educational and apostolic targets. It stands as the animating nucleus of the Movement, which comprises the associated and non-associated past pupils.

**1.3** The World Confederation of the Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, is a lay, nonprofit association promoted by the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (or Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco)

**1.4** The Association is a group that since October 29, 1988 became part of the Salesian Family in which the Rector Major, successor of Don Bosco, is the head and the center of unity.

**1.5** It finds its place in the society as a leaven and transforming force, which develops the charism of the FMA in creative ways in the different socio-cultural realities and geographical areas.

**1.6** The Association is nonpartisan and apolitical.

**1.7** The Association was established in Italy, authenticated by a notary public on February 12, 1990, pursuant to Art. 36 and following of the Civil Code.

#### **Art. 2 Members**

**2.1** Members of the Association are those Past Pupils who freely request to join, get register, and commit themselves to observe the present Statute.

**2.2** Under the same conditions, the Association can be joined by those who, even if they were not educated in an organization/school of the FMA, learnt and have been experiencing in their own life the Salesian values after an adequate educational path.

**2.3** The Association welcomes members of all religions provided they adhere to the purpose of the Association itself.

## **Art. 3 Purpose**

### **3.1 The Association**

- a. participates in the educational mission of the Institute of the FMA and where it operates it follows the Salesian lay Mornesian style that characterizes it;
- b. is committed to the promotion and education of young people, of women, to the defense of life and of the family;
- c. supports the defense of human rights and of peace;
- d. fosters a constructive youth leadership by promoting initiatives and activities for young people, especially of those who live in situations at risk;
- e. is present as a pace-setter for dialogue with the socio-cultural reality, enhancing the social communication processes;
- f. is open to and promotes intercultural and interreligious dialogue;
- g. updates and ensures the ongoing training & education of its members;
- h. lives, promotes and sustains solidarity among its members, in adherence to its founding values;
- i. is present locally, and collaborates, according to its proper purpose, with other civil and ecclesial organizations in the territory;
- j. takes care of relationships with lay associations especially those within the Salesian Family.

## **Art. 4 Spirituality**

**4.1** The spirituality of the Past Pupils of the FMA is founded on the Preventive System of Don Bosco, which is expressed in three words reason - religion - loving-kindness. Today it re-proposes an integral educational project that responds to the authentic aspirations of the human being: the search for truth, the need for God, the openness to relationships.

**4.2** It is also enriched by the charismatic elements of the life-style and actions of Maria Domenica Mazzarello, who, with her “feminine genius,” shared the same educational project with Don Bosco.

**4.3** The spirituality of those who join the Association find expression in:

- a) the search for values that promote the growth of the person and contribute to the development of human and civil culture;
- b) loving kindness that strengthens the bonds of friendship, builds family spirit and creates solidarity;
- c) the care and preferential love for the young people;
- d) living everyday life with simplicity and joy;
- e) be part of the local reality, standing up for and promoting the culture of life and of solidarity;
- f) the simple and intense relationship with God, nourished by the sacramental life and deepening of the Word of God;
- g) welcoming Mary, model of a woman and of a believer, teacher and mother who helps, guides, protects and educates to become a gift for our brothers and sisters through our service;
- h) the knowledge and acceptance of the Magisterium of the Church.

## **Art. 5 Mission**

**5.1** A strong commitment to service is inherent to the spirituality of the Past Pupil of the FMA. Everyone contributes responsibly to the affirmation of the values that underlie the dignity of the human person operating in the different areas of activity in the Church, in the family, at work, in the political and social world, at school, at leisure, and social communication.

**5.2** Moreover, the Past Pupils, in the spirit of Don Bosco and of Mother Mazzarello, pay particular attention to girls, women, young people, especially those who are in situations of poverty and exclusion, to get them involved and make them protagonists of their own integral education and of their vocational choice.

## **Art. 6 education**

**6.1** The main purpose of the Association is education, both at personal level and for the association.

**6.2** Every level of the Association's structure, rich in Salesian values, promotes the education of its members, making use of the service of animation and collaboration of the FMA.  
Specifically:

- a) It updates and looks after the education of the associates both Catholics and of other religions according to the values of the education received
- b) for the Catholic members so that they can commit themselves, by virtue of their baptism, in a journey of faith that makes them credible witnesses in the light of the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church
- c) For the non-Catholic members so that in harmony with the education received in the Salesian environment, they may deepen the human and religious values of their own culture
- d) It takes care of the organization of courses, conventions, school camps, prayer meetings, social days.
- e) It proposes to the associate's open, progressive and continuous educational paths, with particular attention to their real-life situations and needs of the time.
- f) It pays particular attention to identifying specific itineraries for those who undertake leadership roles within the association at any level of membership.
- g) It promotes the dissemination of the association's publications and the use of social communication means for the enhancement of the human person.

**6.3** Every Past Pupil, aware of the gifts received for the good of all, promotes in oneself the growth of human values.

Deepening and experiencing in everyday life the values learnt during the period of her/his Salesian education, she/he becomes personally responsible for her/his own formation, continuous and ongoing, towards a full lay maturity rooted in the Salesian tradition.

## **Art. 7 Relationships of Communion**

**7.1** The Association recognizes the Superior General of the FMA as a point of reference. In the executive confederal bodies, the General Councilor for the Salesian Family represents the Superior General.

In the Federations and Unions, the Provincial Superiors and the Directresses represent the Institute respectively.

Their respective Delegates assist the General Councilor for the Salesian Family, the Provincial Superiors and the Directresses.

**7.2** The Association works in communion with the Salesian Family Groups, in particular with the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco with which it shares the common educational heritage.

**7.3** The Association also collaborates with other Catholic groups and civil institutions with which it shares values and goals.

## **Title II**

### **ORGANIZATION**

#### **Art. 8 Structure and Headquarter**

**8.1** The Association consists of the World Confederation, Federations and local Unions.

**8.2** The association's headquarter is in Rome in Via Gregorio VII, 133 sc. B int.4.

#### **Art. 9 World Confederation: Functions**

**9.1** The World Confederation consists of all the federations in the world:

- a) it represents and directs the Association of the Past Pupils of the FMA at world-wide level;
- b) it promotes, based on the final motions of the confederal assembly, the lines of commitment and proposes formative guidelines to every Federation;
- c) it harmonizes the activities of the association at all levels and evaluates their similarities with the general guidelines of the programmatic commitment;



- d) it takes care of the relationship with the Institute of the FMA, with the Salesian Family groups, with the ecclesiastical and civil institutions and associations;
- e) it is attentive in order that the members of the governing bodies of the Association may remain faithful to the Magisterium of the Church and the Salesian spirituality;
- f) it safeguards the unity of the Association's actions;
- g) it carries out all forms of intervention and activities necessary to achieve the objectives of the Association.

**9.2.** The Confederation can pursue their objectives even through participation in other associations or institutions. It can promote to set up structures appropriate to meet specific legislative, organizational and representative requirements provided that:

- a) the goals of such associations correspond to those of the Confederation and in no way the unity of action of the Confederation is compromised;
- b) the statutes of the entities and associations promoted are approved by the Confederal Council as being in compliance with the Statute of the World Confederation
- c) the Confederation maintains effective supervisory and control power on such associations.

## **Art. 10 Federation: Functions**

**10.1** The Federation is made up of local unions in the area of the Province to which it belongs with its headquarters usually in a house of the FMA:

The Federation:

- a) shares with the World Confederation the same spirituality, mission, and goal, in accordance with the dispositions of the civil and fiscal laws of the nation where it belongs;
- b) structures its organization according to the organizational model of the World Confederation;
- c) collaborates with the FMA, other groups of the Salesian Family, the local Church and civil institutions with which it shares values and goals;
- d) stands as a connecting body between the World Confederation and the local unions;
- e) supports and coordinates the activities of the local unions;
- f) presents the candidates for the nomination as Confederal Counselor, Auditor, and Arbitrators;
- g) takes initiatives to carry out operational choices arising from the commitment guidelines promoted by the World Confederation;
- h) promotes and organizes the activities of the association and the educational paths in its own territory;
- i) administrates its own economic resources; it is operationally independent and subject to the inspection of the Board of Auditors of the Federation;
- j) presents an annual written report on its activities as well as on its administrative management by sending a copy of the annual balance sheet to the Confederation.

**10.2** The Federation can pursue its objectives even through participation in other associations or institutions. It can promote to set up structures appropriate to meet specific legislative, organizational and representative requirements provided that:

- a) the goals of such associations correspond to those of the Confederation and in no way the unity of action of the Confederation is compromised;
- b) the statutes of the entities and associations promoted are approved by the Confederal Council as being in compliance with the Statute of the World Confederation;
- c) the Federation maintains effective supervisory and control power on such associations.

## **Art. 11 Local Union: Functions**

**11.1** The Union is the local structure of the Association. The Union represents at worldwide level a more direct contact with the members of the Association and at the local level; it is the point of reference and meeting for each member.

Normally its headquarters is a house of the FMA. When a work of the FMA is closed or a group of Past Pupils that convene in a particular place forms a Union, the Federation Council will guarantee the Union the service of animation and guidance through the FMA Delegate and the President. The Federation Council shall approve the choice of the headquarters made by the Union.

The Local Union:

- a) shares with the World Confederation the same spirituality, mission and goal in accordance with the civil and fiscal laws of the nation where it belongs;
- b) structures its organization according to the organizational model of the World Confederation;
- c) collaborates with the FMA, other groups of the Salesian Family, the local Church and civil institutions with which it shares values and goals; participates in the activities promoted by the Federation where it belongs;
- d) carries out with commitment the activities according to the goals of the Association in the local territories;
- e) administrates its own economic resources; it is operationally independent and presents annually a written report on the activities undertaken as well as on its administrative management sending a copy of the financial statement to the Federation where it belongs.

## **Art. 12 The World Confederation Bodies**

The governing and decision-making bodies of the World Confederation are:

The Confederal Assembly;

The Confederal Council.

The Consultative Body of the World Confederation is:

- o The Confederal Advisory Council.

The Regulatory Body of the World Confederation is:

- o The Board of Auditors.

The Judicial Body of the World Confederation is:

- o The Board of Arbitrators.

## **Art. 13 Confederal Assembly**

The Confederal Assembly is the highest authority of the Confederation of Past Pupils of the FMA; it is a sovereign body and is composed of the Presidents of the Federations who represent all the members who, as stated in Art. 2, are registered in the list of associates.

All members of the bodies of the Association can participate, without the right to vote but with the right to talk:

- Confederal Council
- Confederal Advisory Council
- Board of Auditors
- Board of Arbitrators
- Delegates of Federation
- Observers invited by the Confederal Council.

### **13.1 Convocations**

The convocations of the Assembly are made through letters, fax, e-mail to the e-mail address used by the Federation and communicated to the Confederation, or through any other appropriate means that gives return receipts, and sent to each member at least thirty days before the set date for the meeting.

### **13.2. The right to vote**

- a. Each Federation is entitled to one vote. To guarantee the representation of the associates, it is agreed that on top of that an additional right to vote will be given to a Federation for every 500 (five hundred) associates who are duly registered in the list of associates of the Federation, and so it goes for every multiple of 500 (five hundred) associates.
- b. Proxy participation and voting is allowed, provided it is given in writing with the indication given by the Council of Federation. The President of the Federation can delegate only one member of the Council of its Federation.
- c. During the meeting in first call, the deliberations of the Assembly will be accepted, with the presence, in person or by proxy, of half of the Federations having the right to vote and a favorable vote of an absolute majority of votes.
- d. During the meeting in second call, which should be held on a different day from the first call, the deliberations will be accepted with an absolute majority of votes, with the presence in person or by proxy of at least one-third of the Federations having the right to vote.
- e. Different majorities are required for the deliberations pertaining to the modification and dissolution and closure of the Association.

Specifically:

1. The deliberations to change a constitutive act and the Statute, both in the first and second call, should be approved with the presence of at least three-quarters of all who have the right to vote and a favorable majority vote of those who are present.
2. The deliberation to dissolve the Association should be approved, both in the first and second call, with a favorable vote of at least three-quarters of all who have the right to vote.

### **13.3 Ordinary and Extraordinary Assembly**

- a. The President of the Confederation convenes the Ordinary Assembly every six years.
- b. The Extraordinary Assembly is convened each time the Confederal Council deems it appropriate, or when a request is made in writing, justified, and properly documented, signed by at least one-third of the members of the Confederation Council, one-fifth of the Confederal Assembly and with indications of the topics.
- c. It is presided by the in charge President of the Confederation who appoints one or more secretaries to write the minutes of the meeting and one or more scrutineers.
- d. The Assembly shall approve the following:
  1. The organizational and administrative report and the financial report of the six-year period, presented respectively by those who hold the office of the President and that of the Treasurer of the Confederal Council, attaching the report of the Board of Auditors.
  2. The Assembly shall also deliberate with regards to:
    - the election of the Confederal Council;
    - the election of the Board of Auditors;
    - the election of the Board of Arbitrators;
    - any implementing Regulations of the Statute;
    - the policies guidelines for the implementation of the Association's own purpose;
    - other topics that are included in the agenda of the Confederal Council;
    - the criteria for establishing the membership fee according to the economic realities of the different countries.
  3. The Assembly is convened in extraordinary session to deliberate:
    - on the changes and updates of the Statute of the Confederation;
    - on the dissolution and closure of the Association.

The deliberations adopted by the Assembly must be reported in a specific book of minutes by the Secretary, who must sign it together with the President.

All deliberations must be brought to the attention of the associates who were not present, in the most

appropriate way.

All members of the Association, including those dissenting, absent or who abstained from voting, are obliged to abide by the resolutions approved by the Assembly in observance of the rules contained in the Statute.

#### **Art. 14. Confederal Council**

- a. The Confederal Council is the governing body of the Confederation. It is composed of a minimum of 9 to a maximum of 21 members, who remain in office for a period of six years. The members of the Confederal Council cannot be elected for more than two consecutive terms.
- b. During its first meeting, the Confederal Council, elected by the Assembly, arranges for the election, by secret ballot and an absolute majority, of those who should assume the office of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- c. Ex-officio members of the Confederal Council are the following:  
the General Councilor for the Salesian Family, with the right to vote;  
the Confederal Delegate, with the right to vote.
- d. The Confederal Council can arrange an appropriate internal regulation that, complying with the rules of the present Statute, will regulate the practical and specific aspects in the life of the Association.
- e. The regulation shall be approved by the associates who will deliberate with an absolute majority in the Ordinary Assembly.
- f. The members of the Confederal Council are not entitled to any compensation except the reimbursement of the costs incurred in the fulfillment of service and within the limits set by the Confederal Council.

#### **14.1 Termination of the Councilors**

- a. In case of termination of a councilor, the Council shall be empowered to replace him/her with the first one nominated from the nonelected list, for a maximum of three councilors, so as not to reduce the number of the members of the Council.
- b. In case where a majority of the councilors is terminated, the one who holds the position of the Confederal President shall convene the Confederal Assembly for the reconstitution of the Council immediately.

#### **14.2 Candidacy**

The candidates proposed to be members of the Confederal Council shall be credible and coherent with the values and principles of the Association and presented by the Councils of the Federations with the prior approval of the Provincial Superiors, or of the Councilor for the Salesian Family at Province level and of the Delegate.

#### **14.3 Incompatibility**

The office of the councilors is incompatible with any other elected office within the Association at all levels as well as in the associations promoted as prescribed in Art. 9.2 and 10.2 of the Statute of the same period.

#### **14.4 Convocations**

- a. The Confederal Council usually meets at the headquarter of the Confederation or in extraordinary cases at an FMA house for at least three times a year. The convocation is done by the President or by a request of at least one-third of the members of the Council itself, through letter, fax, email or other appropriate means that gives a return receipt, sent to each and every councilors at least two weeks before the date scheduled for the meeting.
- b. For the validity of its deliberations, the presence of the absolute majority of the councilors is needed.

- The Council deliberates by an absolute majority of those present.
- c. It is presided by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Vice President or by the senior Councilor
  - d. The councilor, who, without justified reason, does not participate in the Council meetings for three consecutive times, will be removed from the office and the Council can arrange for her/his replacement as prescribed in Art. 14.1.at the first following meeting,
  - e. The Councilor so appointed shall remain in office until the next Confederal Assembly.
  - a. All meetings of the Council are considered valid wherein all councilors participate with the presence of an FMA member of the Advisory Council, even in cases when those meetings were not formally convened;
  - b. The Council can hold meetings even by means of communication provided that all participants can be identified, are able to follow the discussion and intervene in real time on the topics to be covered, with the exception of the Plenary Council which is to be held at least once in a six-year term for which the presence in person is required. Once these requirements are met, the Council is considered to take place where the President and at least one-third of the councilors are present in person

#### **14.5 Tasks and Powers of the Council**

All powers are for the Confederal Council, both related to the ordinary and extraordinary administration  
Specifically, the Confederal Council:

- a. promotes the vitality of the Association of the Past Pupils at world-wide level, guarantees the continuous education of the associates and encourages the dialogue among different cultural realities;
- b. organizes study sessions to implement the programmatic guidelines deliberated in the Ordinary Assembly;
- c. elects internally those who shall take up the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary;
- d. assigns to the councilors their specific assignments with appropriate mandate with respect to their competences and attitudes,
- e. can nominate among its members a Confederal Committee with executive tasks;
- f. approves the annual budget, financial statement and the annual report of administration;
- g. transmits annually the financial statement to the Presidents of the Federations;
- h. promotes activities to support the institutional activities, non profit-making, in accordance with the current fiscal rules;
- i. implements the guidelines expressed in the Confederal Assembly on the membership fee, based on the economic situation of each nation, and the annual contribution to the Confederation;
- j. proposes the modification to the Statute of the Confederation and expresses the opinion of conformity to the statutes and any regulations of the Federations and Unions;
- k. prepares the election rules;
- l. promotes the official magazine, the website and the social network pages of the Association; indicates the editorial guidelines and appoints the director of the magazine and the person responsible for the website and social network pages;
- m. hires, in case of need, personnel and /or avails of independent services, preferably performed by associates who don't hold executive offices;
- n. deliberates the exclusion of an associate for serious reasons, at the end of the proceedings conducted by the Arbitrators.

#### **14.6. President**

- a. The President is the legal representative of the Association before the Institute of the FMA, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Groups of the Salesian Family and the ecclesial and civil authorities.
- b. The President represents the Association in legal matters and before third parties, with specific right to open, close, and operate bank and postal accounts.

- c. For individual acts or categories of acts, the President, after deliberation of the Council, can give a proxy to a third party even if not a Councilor.
- d. The President promotes unity and enhances the Association's initiatives in the different social and ecclesial realities.
- e. She/he ensures the compliance with the Statute rules and regulations and the adequate pursuits of the goals of the Association.
- f. She/he announces conventions, congresses, presiding them personally or through representatives.
- g. She/he carries out in particular the following tasks:
  - 1. Convenes and presides meetings of the Assembly and of the Council and makes the agenda in agreement with the Confederal Delegate
  - 2. Convenes at least once a year the Confederal Advisory Council in agreement with the representatives of the Institute of the FMA
  - 3. Presents to the Ordinary Assembly the organizational report of the Association and the activities carried out during the six-year term
  - 4. is jointly responsible with the members of the Council, of the press services of the Association, of the website and the social network pages
  - 5. Ensures the connection with the Federations taking account of the contribution of the other members of the Confederal Council
  - 6. If necessary, invites to the Assembly and the Council competent persons as consultants.
- h. The office of the President can be revoked by the Confederal Council only for serious reasons with a favorable vote of three-fourths of the members and with the opinion of the Superior General of the Institute of the FMA and of the Board of Arbitrators.
- i. At the end of the mandate as Confederal President, she/he becomes an honorary President and can participate, by invitation, in the Assembly and Council but without the right to vote.

#### **14.7 Vice President**

The Vice President is the first collaborator of the President supporting her/him in promoting the associative life. She/he takes over the President if she/he is prevented from attending, subject to consideration by the Confederal Council, carrying out the same duties and powers.

She/he fulfills the following tasks:

- a. promotes and follows up, in collaboration with the Confederal Delegate, the education of the directors of the Federations;
- b. in case of the resignation of the President, the Vice President temporarily takes the place of the President and initiates the process for a new nomination.

#### **14.8 Secretary**

The Secretary assists the President and is responsible for the office work necessary for the proper operation of the Association.

In particular, she/he carries out the following tasks:

- a. provides an accurate record and updating of the book of associates, official register in which the effective members of the Association are written, in accordance with the applicable existing legislation;
- b. writes the minutes of the Assembly and those of the meetings of the Confederal Council, the Confederal Committee, and the Advisory Council of the Institute in an appropriate register which is kept in the headquarters of the Association;
- c. writes the acts and the deliberations of the central body and the official documents of the Association;
- d. takes care of the general correspondence of the Association coordinating the work of the secretariat of the headquarter of the Confederation;
- e. offers operative guidelines to the secretaries of the Federations with regard to their task, in accordance with the President and the Confederal Council.

#### **14.9 Treasurer**

The treasurer is jointly co-responsible with the Councilor for administrative management of the Association. In particular, she/he carries out the following tasks:

- a. manages the income and the expenses of the Association implementing the budget approved by the Council; makes an accurate record and update of all accounts in accordance with the applicable existing legislation;
- b. proposes to the Council the budget plan, after hearing from the President and the Board of Auditors;
- c. prepares the statement of assets on a quarterly basis;
- d. prepares the annual budget and financial statement in agreement with the President, presents them to the Board of Auditors and submits them to the Council for approval;
- e. carries out the payments and collects the income, taking care of the registration and filing of every document;
- f. updates and keeps the inventory of the movable and immovable property of the Confederation;
- g. whatever further extraordinary administrative act should be carried out after deliberation in the Confederal Council;
- h. carries out with single signature all bank operations of ordinary administration while those of extraordinary administration shall be jointly signed with the President;
- i. offers operative guidelines to the Treasurers of the Federations pertaining to their task;
- j. coordinates the work of the administrative offices of the confederal headquarters.

#### **14.10 Confederal Delegate**

The Superior General of the Institute of the FMA appoints the Confederal Delegate. She represents the

Institute in the animation and educational support of the Association ensuring the charismatic legacy.

Specifically:

- a. reports to the Superior General of the Institute of the FMA and the General Councilor for the Salesian Family on the associative life both in the World Confederation and the different Federations of the Past Pupils of the FMA;
- b. supports the connection and the dialogue within the Association and the Institute;
- c. promotes the communion within the members of the Confederal Council facilitating mutual respect and deepening of the personal relationship;
- d. sustains co-responsibility and the spirit of initiative of the councilors;
- e. collaborates with the Vice President for the education of those in charge of the Federation;
- f. supports the communication between the members of the Confederal Council;
- g. maintains contact with the Delegates of the Federations and offers guidelines for their service;
- h. takes care and updates the historical archive of the Association;
- i. takes care of the spiritual education/training of the employees of the Central Headquarter;
- j. participates in the meetings of the Salesian Family and of the ecclesiastical organizations to which the Association belongs.

#### **14.11 Councilors**

The councilors collaborate in the service of animation of the Association. They make themselves available in offering to the Past Pupils their time and competence, personal and spiritual gifts, in a climate of sincere and fraternal collaboration.

They engage themselves in learning the values of the different cultures, attentive to the urgencies of time and to the needs of the Federation.

The councilors, in accordance to article 14.5 d, undertake within the Council specific tasks pertaining to the necessity of animation and to the organizational modality of associative life.

Specifically:

- a. Looks after the relationship with the Groups of the Salesian Family and the ecclesiastic and civil institutions;
- b. collaborate in the preparation of the congresses and of the conventions announced by the Confederal President and in the organization of any initiatives promoted by the Confederal Council;
- c. accompanies the Federations entrusted to them and ensures the connection with the Confederal

- Council;
- d. report twice a year to the Confederal Council on the activities carried out in their territory of jurisdiction;
  - e. visits the Federations entrusted to them at least once in the six-year term.

## **Art. 15 Confederal Advisory Council**

### **15.1 Composition**

The Confederal Advisory Council is composed of the Superior General of the Institute of the FMA, point of reference of the Association, the General Councilor for the Salesian Family, the Confederal Delegate, and the members of the Confederal Council.

### **15.2 Purpose of the Advisory Council**

The Purpose of the Advisory Council is to keep alive the relationship between the Institute and the Association.

Specifically it has the following goals:

- a. to guarantee the fidelity and implementation of the charism;
- b. to make use of the lay resources taking care of the mutual relationship between the Association and the Institute of the FMA in autonomy and in communion;
- c. to share the educational/training path and the activities in order to meet the objectives of the Association.

### **15.3 Convocations**

The Confederal Advisory Council meets at least once a year following a convocation of the President of the Confederal Council, or even upon the request of the Superior General or at least of one-third of its members.

### **15.4 Superior General of the FMA Institute**

Should there be a case of a resolution of the Confederation Council or Assembly in stark contrast to the goals of the Association, power is given to the Superior General to declare it invalid.

## **Art. 16 Board of Auditors**

**16.1** The Board of Auditors is the body for the financial control of the Confederation and is elected by the Confederal Assembly. It is composed of three members and two substitutes.

It remains in office until the approval of the financial statement of the sixth year. Its members cannot be reelected for more than two mandates.

The board elects one of its members to act as President.

**16.2** The auditors participate in the Confederal Assembly and the Confederal Council without the right to vote.

**16.3** If, in the fulfillment of its duties, the Board of Auditors finds irregularities in the management of accounts, it shall report immediately to the President and the Confederal Council.

**16.4** Every associate can refer to the Board of Auditors those acts by the Association, which she/he considers irregular so that the Board can assess the accuracy and may consider it in the fulfillment of its duty.

**16.5** In case of the cessation of the office as auditor by a member of the Board of Auditors, the first substitute will take her/his place, and will remain in office until the next Elective Assembly.



**16.6** The College of Auditors is invested with broad supervisory power on the economic-financial management of the Association

The Board of Auditors specifically:

- a. monitors the administrative and accounting management of the Confederation;
- b. monitors the accurate recording of the entries and the accounting documents;
- c. checks the accounts and funds, on a semester basis, writing the relevant report to be recorded in an appropriate book to be given to the Confederal Council;
- d. monitors so that the Council may operate in accordance with the Law and the Statute;
- e. presents to the Confederal Council, at the end of every year, the report on the financial statement;
- f. carries out every other task concerning the Law.

**16.7.** The office of Auditor is incompatible with any other office held within the Association at all levels.

**16.8**For the election of a member of the Board of Auditors, a specific competence, and administrative and accounting experiences are required, as well as an appropriate professional title.

### **Art. 17 Board of Arbitrators**

**17.1** The Board of Arbitrators is an advisory body for conciliation of any controversy pertaining to the Statute of the Association, among the associates, in the Association as a whole or among some of them. Moreover, the Board is in charge of the authentic interpretation of the Statute of the Association.

**17.2** The Board of Arbitrators is composed of the three members elected by the Assembly and two substitutes elected by the Confederal Assembly. The Board elects the President from among its members.

**17.3** The Board of Arbitrators remains in office for six years and may not be reelected for more than two mandates. The office of the Arbitrator is incompatible with any office held within the Confederation at all levels.

**17.4** The sessions of the Board are valid with the presence of all its members. The Board meets every time a request is made for its intervention or upon request of at least two of its members.

The Board deliberates by absolute majority of its members.

In case of suspension of one of its members, the first elected substitute will take her/his place.

**17.5** The Board of Arbitrators shall fulfill its office by criteria of equality and in the manner, it deems appropriate in accordance with the principle of an adversarial process and the right of defense without procedural formalities.

The appointment as member of the Board of Arbitrators shall be subject to the following conditions:

- the completion of its fortieth year of age and not exceeding sixty years of age;
- a proven credibility and experience in the associative life.

## **Title III Associative**

### **Relationship**

#### **Common Rules of Operation**

### **Art. 18 Membership**

**18.1** The effective associates of the Association are those who:

- a. ask freely to join the Association and submit a written request to the Council of the Union they refer to;
- b. know and accept the Association's Statute.

**18.2.** Every associate:

- a. signs the present Statute and commits to abide by it;
- b. gives an annual membership contribution at local level according to the amount approved by the Confederal Council and the criteria expressed in the guidelines of the Ordinary Confederal Assembly;
- c. upon registration, receives from the President of the Union or her/his delegate a copy of the Statute, the membership card and the document on the identity of the Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

**18.3** The membership fee cannot be revalued, that is, it cannot increase in value nor can it generate income of any kind; it is non transferable, that is, it cannot be given up, refunded, nor given in donation, nor become an object of inheritance.

**18.4** The relation to the association is for an undetermined time and will cease only by withdrawal, exclusion, or loss.

**18.5** Every associate exercises his/her rights and fulfills his/her proper obligations in the association through the intermediate representative bodies which are:

- a. the Federations in relationship with the Confederation;
- b. the Unions in relationship with the Federation.
- c. As provided in Art. 17.1 every single associate can appeal to the Confederal Board of Arbitrators to settle any controversy with other associates or the bodies of government of the Association.

**18.6** All associates have rights and duties, and enjoy fully active and passive voting; have the right to participate in the Assembly to vote directly or by proxy, to carry out the work previously agreed upon and to renounce her/his membership to the Association.

**18.7** The Association takes advantage of the activities done by associates who volunteer freely and without asking any recompense in order to carry out its goals.

The association can, however, in case of particular needs and within the necessary limits of its regular operation, qualification or specialization in its activities, hire personnel or self-employee, even among the

members of the Association who do not have executive positions, in accordance with applicable laws.

**Art. 19 Confederal Book of the Associates**

- a. It is the official register in which all the members of the Association are listed.
- b. Those who become effective members of the Association and gives the appropriate annual membership fee as prescribed in Art. 18, have the right to be registered.
- c. Every Federation communicates annually to the headquarter the registration and cancellation of the associates and members.
- d. The Confederal Council and the Confederal Secretary update the Book of the Associates at least every semester.
- e. The Book of the Associates shall also include the number of Associates for each Federation and for each Union.

**Art. 20 Termination of the Associative Relationship**

The associate ceases to be an effective member by withdrawal, loss or exclusion.

**20.1** The associate or past pupil ceases to be an effective member of the Association when she/he makes and explicit request to the Council of the Union.

**20.2** The associative relationship expires for not paying the annual membership fee to the Association a year after the end of the fiscal year. Following the payment of the annual membership fee the associative relationship will be automatically re-established.

**20.3** In case the associate has a behavior not in line with the Statute rules and regulations or detrimental to the associative life or for other serious reasons, after attempts to rectify and reconcile, she/he can be excluded from the Confederal Council after the declaration of the Board of Arbitrators and declared suspended from any office of the bodies of the Association.

**20.4** Pending the judgement of the Arbitrators, the associate is suspended from any office.

## **TITLE IV**

### **SOCIAL ASSET**

#### **Art. 21 Asset of the Association**

The asset of the Association is indivisible, both during the life of the Association and in case of its termination. It consists of the following:

- a. fund from the cash given by the partners at the time of the establishment of the Association;
- b. movable and immovable property which belong of the Association or those which can be acquired as inheritances and donations;
- c. contributions, supplies, inheritances and donations by agencies, and public and private individuals;
- d. any reserve funds from the budget surpluses.

#### **Art. 22 Economic Resources**

The Association's economic resources for its operation include the following:

- a. annual membership fees paid by its members;
- b. contributions offered by the associates or by private individuals;
- c. donations, generosity, and inheritances;
- d. refunds from conventions;
- e. revenues from commercial activities and marginal productions in accordance with the applicable laws.

All revenues will be used for the implementation of the goals of the Association.

The Federations and the Unions manage their own economic resources in full autonomy and responsibility.

The Confederation is not responsible for the acts of the Federations and Unions pertaining to their assets.

#### **Art. 23 The Fiscal Year and the Financial Statement**

**23.1** The fiscal year of the Association starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 of every year.

**23.2** Within one hundred eighty days after the end of the fiscal year, the Confederal Council shall approve the financial statement consisting of the patrimony, financial accounts, the President's report and the Auditor's report. Any surplus will be allocated solely to the institutional activities of the Association.

**23.3.** It is prohibited to distribute, even in indirect way, incomes and surplus, as well as funds, reserves or capital except when the allocation or distribution is imposed by the law.

**23.4** At the end of every mandate, the Confederal Council shall write a report pertaining to the entire period applicable and according to the scheme indicated above and shall submit it for approval to the Assembly.

## **TITLE V DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION**

### **Art. 24 Liquidation and Turn Over of the Social Assets**

**24.1** In case of dissolution of the Association, for whatever reason, the social asset shall be turned over to the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians or to another association having similar purposes.

**24.2** In case of dissolution of the Association, the President of the Confederal Council, assisted by the Board of Auditors and the Board of Arbitrators, shall fulfil the formalities in accordance with Art. 26.1.

**24.3** Once the activities stated under subsection 1 and 2 have been duly performed, the President of the Council will provide public information.

## **TITLE VI FINAL RULES**

### **Art. 25 Distinguishing Signs**

The distinguishing signs are the signs of belonging to the Association.

#### **25.1 The flag of the Association**

The flag represents every Past Pupil wherever she/he may go. The present flag approved by the Confederal Council of 2007 is rectangular, blue and pink in color. In front, it has the design of the membership card; Mary Help of Christians and her Son Jesus and at the back there is the logo of the hands on the world with the roots in the heart. The Federations and the Unions can make their own flag with the coat of arms of the Confederation and the caption: "Past Pupils of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians: Federation or Union of ..."

#### **25.2 Banner**

The Association keeps its own banner in the historical archive in Rome which has on one side, Mary Help of Christians with Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello and on the other side, the logo of the Association with the letters M A and on the sides are the flags of the nations where the Federations are set up.

#### **25.3 The Badge**

The badge is a sign of belonging to the Association and it is the same for all Past Pupils. The original is kept at the Headquarters in Rome.

### **Art. 26 Print Media**

The World Federation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians has its own official publication the editor of which is the Association itself. It is the means of connection, education/training, and information.

### **TRANSITIONAL RULE**

Agencies established before this Statute and which do not complying with it, remain in office until the end of their mandate.