



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS (ICYCW)



Activity Report 2016-2017

Prepared by the International Secretariat of the ICYCW

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Photo of participants to the 9th International Congress of the ICYCW held in Seoul, Korea in Aug-Sept 2016



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Abbreviations

YCW:	Young Christian Workers
ICYCW:	International Coordination of Young Christian Workers
IC:	International Congress
WYD:	World Youth Day
ILO:	International Labour Organization

Introduction

International Coordination of Young Christian Workers (ICYCW) is an International Coordination of autonomous Young Christian Workers (YCW) National movements around the world. It was created to be at the service of the national YCW movements all over the world. Its main objective is to help existing movements to grow and develop by remaining faithful to the fundamental objectives of the YCW and its founder.

The priorities of the period 2016-2020 were guided by the ICYCW future plan developed during the 9th International Congress of the ICYCW. The priority areas adopted were;

- Leaders development
- Representation
- Finances
- Chaplaincy

Juridical status

The ICYCW is a non-profit International Youth Organization for the evangelization and education of young people in the world of work recognized by the Holy See through the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life.

Presence in the world

The ICYCW is present in;

East Africa:	Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia.
West Africa:	Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast.
Central Africa:	Rwanda, Burundi, Chad, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Cameroon.
Indian Ocean Islands:	Madagascar, Mauritius, Rodriguez, Reunion.
Middle East:	Dubai, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Holy land – Jerusalem, Holy land – Bethlehem.
Latin America:	Dominica Republic, Paraguay, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru.
Asia:	India (South and Central), Cambodia, Philippines, China (Handan), South Korea
Europe:	Portugal, Spain, England & Wales, Italy, Malta, Hungary, France.

Work of the Coordination

a) Leaders development

Leaders' development is achieved through formation programs, trainings and exchanges which are organized at International, Regional, and National level.

International level

- ❖ ICYCW International Congress 2016

The 9th International Congress (IC) of the ICYCW was held on 19 Aug – 1 September 2016 in Seoul, South Korea under the theme, “**Work is the Way – Giving young people hope and responsibility for their future**”. The program which incorporated workshops, seminar, exchange sessions brought together 90 participants from 29 countries who

included young leaders from national movements, chaplains, members of the international secretariat, members of ICYCW commissions, and leaders, members and volunteers from YCW Korea.

The IC brought different realities and experiences of young people around the world in regard to their world of work, exploring different actions taken to improve the young people's world of work and laying down steps that would bring into reality young people's hope for their future.



The International Congress 2016 took important decisions to help in the development of the coordination and movements around the world with focus on leader's development, representation, finance and chaplaincy. The ICYCW structure was re-organized in order to promote growth and development of the movement while giving responsibility to more young people at regional and international levels.

The International Congress was an opportunity to give responsibility to new international leaders while bidding goodbye to the leaders who had served the International coordination in the period of 2012-2016.

❖ Celebration of ICYCW International Day and the birth of Cardinal Joseph Cardijn

The ICYCW celebrated its international day by commemorating the birth of its founder, Cardinal Joseph Cardijn on 13 November 2017. In the spirit of international solidarity and brotherhood, the young workers from different movements around the world carried out a global reflection on the importance of promoting solidarity and collaboration among themselves and the need to reach out to the marginalized and those in precarious situations. Individual YCW movements lived out this commitment by reaching out and having an exchange with movements that were from a different reality and context. This helped to foster a spirit of brotherhood and oneness among the young workers from different movements across the world.

Regional level

❖ Exchange programme of YCW movements in Europe

The first face to face meeting of members of the Europe commission was held in Manchester, England. The main objective of the meeting was to review the future plan developed for the region and identify key priority areas and propose new plans of actions which included preparation of the European presidential meeting, the appointment of the new commission members, strengthen the coordination of the region, follow up of the trilateral meeting, representation and chaplaincy.

❖ Trilateral exchange programme of YCWs Italy, Spain and Portugal

The 2017 trilateral meeting was held in Barcelona, Spain. This annual trilateral meetings are organized by YCWs of Spain, Italy, Portugal and Catalonia and it involves the meeting of the national secretariats of these movements in order to study the current situations of the movements, share their experience and propose joint actions for implementation by each movement.

❖ Exchange programme of National Movements in the Indian Ocean Islands

Young leaders from YCW movements in the Mauritius, Rodriguez and Madagascar met in September 2017 to review the regional future plan and propose concrete plan of action for the period of 2017 – 2018 with focus on forming young people at the local levels, strengthening leadership capacity of national leaders and extending the movement in places where it did not exist.

❖ Exchange programme of National Movements in East Africa

National leaders from YCWs Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Malawi came together in October 2017 to exchange on the different realities in regard to young people's world of work, review the work done by each movement in regard to the implementation of the regional plan of action, as well as identify priorities of work in the region for the period of 2017-2018. One key issue that came out of the programme is young people's role in employment creation through identification and developing creative forms of work by using available resources and technology in order to answer to present day employment gaps and challenges faced by young people.

National

❖ National training in YCW Kenya

The national movement organized trainings in October 2017 in two different dioceses and invited the participation of the international secretariat. The training under the theme, '*Young people: Actors for change*' brought together 80 young people from different dioceses to share their realities in light of taking up responsibilities to bring change in personal lives as well as in the society. Based on the backdrop of the election period in the country, the young leaders reflected upon the qualities of leadership aspired for, and identified parameters for accountability by leaders at all levels. The young leaders also made proposals for concrete actions at local level to bring change in the lives of young people in different localities.

❖ National training in YCW Ethiopia

From a training programme organized by the national leaders, the national movement made a financial development plan which made use of the available resources within the movement. The movement embarked on producing publications on themes that touched on the lives of young people for sale to the general public with the returns channeled back to the national movement in order to support YCWs programmes at national and local levels.

❖ National training in YCW Uganda

A training and exchange programme was organized for young workers in the archdiocese of Kampala and in the dioceses of Lira and Kasana Luwero. Since YCW Uganda had taken up responsibility as Coordinating movement at regional level, the young workers training focused on reinforcing leadership capacity at regional level and communication for strengthened regional cohesion. An exchange programme that involved young workers from Uganda, Malawi and Ethiopia gave a platform for the young leaders to evaluate the similarities and differences of the working conditions in the different countries. The need to encourage young people to pursue innovating forms of work was emphasized as a possible solution that would address the challenge of unemployment among the young people. An exchange meeting was also held between chaplains from YCW Malawi and Uganda and it helped to identify gaps that needed to be addressed in the accompaniment of young workers and young people generally through training and exchange of information materials between chaplains in the region.

At the end of the training the young people had identified their own needs on the following areas: regular leadership trainings, financial education (on resource mobilization and management), extension within the dioceses, chaplaincy training and representation and availability and training of lay adult companions at all levels.

❖ National training in YCW Tanzania

Trainings were organized and conducted in Tanga and Same dioceses and in the Archdiocese of Dar-es-salaam for young leaders in the movement. Under the theme of 'Work is the way: Giving young people hope and responsibility for their future' the trainings capacitated the young leaders with skills to organize and develop programmes that would promote leadership development and encourage active engagement and representation in different spheres of the world of work.

To promote spirituality among the youth in Tanzania the YCW members involved in different activities such as charity, pilgrimage, workshops, media- financial contribution and programs, night talents for the youth, participation in the beach mass and father, mother and children program. Currently, the young people are facing some challenges. Some of the challenges are temptation, bad use of social media, egoism/selfishness, lack of commitment, financial problem, unemployment and lack of good relationship among young people in the college life.

❖ Exchange program of IS with YCW Catalonia

A learning and exchange program was organized between YCW Catalonia and member of the International Secretariat. The exchange brought out the deep realities of young people in the country, the importance of developing leaders in young people, and the importance of young people's participation in the different realms of the society. The movement fostered good collaboration and partnership with other organizations for joint implementation of development programmes.

❖ National training and exchange program in YCW Madagascar, Mauritius, and Rodriguez

Training and exchange program in YCWs Madagascar, Mauritius and Rodriguez were organized by the International Secretariat, with the aim of identifying the common realities and challenges of the young people in the region, analyzing the common values to guide the development of plans of action that would impact positively in the lives of the young people.

❖ National Congress of YCW Italy

YCW Italy organized a National Congress in December 2017 in Breccia under the theme of *"Call by name"*. Young people, present and past young leaders, collaborators and chaplains engaged in different activities with the aim bringing increased awareness of the changing dimensions of work, family, social, and political lives of young people and identifying areas where young people's engagement and intervention was paramount. In its interventions plan, the movement aimed to reach out to young people in difficult and precarious situations and encourage their active engagement in making a difference in their lives. Young people's leadership capacity was reinforced by their willingness to take up responsibilities to spearhead the implementation of the identified interventions.

❖ National Event of YCW France

YCW France organized a national rally under the theme of *'Employment and Dignity'* for young people facing unemployment and precarity of work. Through different activities that included group discussions, musical performances, presentations and exhibitions young people explored the theme deeply identifying not only the challenges but also the opportunities that existed in the world of work. The importance of promoting and living in dignity was emphasized as not only a right but also a responsibility for the young people. The importance of having an international dimension and fostering international solidarity was identified as a means of learning from the challenges and successes of other young people from different parts of the world.



❖ National Workshop of YCW Spain



In April 2017, YCW Spain organized a national workshop for the young people from different dioceses of Spain.

Through the workshop, young people explored different aspects of their lives which included work, financial responsibility and spirituality. This helped not only to deepen their knowledge on the identified themes but also their commitment in promoting dignified work among young people, good management and accountability of financial resources

and deepening their spirituality by being a good role model in their daily lives.

YCW Spain enjoyed a good working relations with other Catholic action movements such as Young Christian Students (YCS), Catholic Workers Movement for Adults (HOAC), as well as the movement for Young Rural Workers (MIJARC). This collaboration brought out the importance working together in order to address common challenges and achieve common goals.

❖ Summer camp of YCW Portugal

YCW Portugal organized a summer camp in July 2017 in Penamacor targeting 100 young people from different parts of the country. Under the theme of 'Effective Relationships' the summer camp explored the different relations young people experienced in their daily lives at work, family, and society levels, how these relations affected and influenced their lives, and the short and long term impact these relations had in the lives of young people. The main message that came out of the camp is 'Love' and young people's responsibility in promoting love within the environment they lived in and showing that through love a lot can be changed for the better at personal level and at society level. Young people were encouraged to bear the message of Jesus' love and exhibit this through their daily interactions as well as through their solidarity with other young workers around the world.



❖ Formation programme of YCW Cambodia

150 young people participated in a national Workers Pastoral meeting in Phnom Penh in October 2017. The meeting aimed to encourage young people share out their realities. Through the interactions, video presentations and plays young people identified ways of improving the conditions of the young workers lives as well as different ways of promoting collaboration and joint actions.



The importance of chaplaincy was emphasized and an exchange and sharing session held between chaplains participating in the meeting brought out the importance of accompanying young people and the need for the church to give recognition to the existence of the YCW movement and its mission towards the young workers in the country. Identified chaplains gave their commitment to be more aware of the realities of young workers needs in the society and support their development as young leaders. The Christian faith was lived through Eucharistic celebrations held with young people living in shelters.

❖ National Training in the Holy Land



On the behalf of the ICYCW Fr John Marsland and Philip Callaghan from the YCW of England and Wales organised and led a training event for young workers in the Holy Land in collaboration with “JEC Palestine”. This involved three visits which were subsidised by “Friends of the Holy Land. February 2016: Preparation visit; October 2016: 2 day Training Event at the Caritas Centre in Bethlehem; January 2018: Follow-up visit.

“JEC Palestine” have now established 5 worker groups in the West Bank as part of their ministry. The JOC group in Jerusalem is being renewed and Fr Marwan is forming a JOC group in Bethlehem. Fr Marwan will follow up these developments in the West bank and in Jerusalem and also make new initiatives in Nazareth.

b) Extension

East Africa

Movements in East Africa adopted a regional development plan which included introducing the YCW movement to countries where the movement did not exist. Priority countries identified were South Sudan and Zambia. Through the collaborated efforts of the ICYCW International Secretariat, YCW Malawi and YCW Kenya, contact was established with the Bishops’ Conference of Zambia and communication initiated with the responsible priest in one parish. The planned work for 2018 involved visiting the proposed parish for the purposes of meeting young people, starting formation programmes for them and ultimately establishing the movement in Zambia.

Central Africa

The International Secretariat members in collaboration with YCW Portugal planning to introduce the YCW movement in Angola in 2018. Currently, the IS team held two preparation meetings with YCW Angola.

b) Representation

The ICYCW brings the voice of the young people to different institutions, organizations and forums at international and continental levels. The following has been achieved in the period of October 2016 to August 2017.

❖ The church

Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

As part of its function to represent the movements in the church, the ICYCW international secretariat that took office in September 2017 accompanied by the former secretariat held a meeting with Rev. Joao Chagas, the head of youth section in the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. The ICYCW had been involved in different programmes organized by the Dicastery and the meeting served to reinforce the working relationship as well as share about the developments within the ICYCW. It was also an opportunity to introduce the International secretariat that was taking office as well as bid farewell to the former secretariat. Specifically, the secretariat shared about the outcome of the international congress that had been held in August 2017. A synthesis of profiles of young workers was shared focusing on young people's realities, aspirations, actions, responsibilities and hopes for the future of their work life.

Chaplaincy and its importance in the formation of leaders among young people was emphasized with the ICYCW challenged to reach out to more clergy and lay people at local to international levels in order to help in accompanying the young leaders in their mission to serve other young people.

The participation of ICYCW in the preparation and evaluation of the World Youth Days was recognized and appreciated. The ICYCW was asked to show this same commitment towards the preparation for the Synod on Youth scheduled to take place in 2018. The theme of the Synod, "*Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*" was at the core of the mission of the YCW and thus the national movements of ICYCW were encouraged to share their contribution to the theme's reflections and continue with the good collaboration in order to ensure that the voice of young workers was heard at different realms.

Dicastery for Integral Human Development

A meeting was held between the new and outgoing ICYCW secretariats and Dr. Flaminia Giovanelli from the Dicastery of Integral Human Development. The ICYCW had enjoyed a good working relationship with the Dicastery especially in matters relating to youth unemployment and migration. The ICYCW had shared materials, testimonies and realities in different forums organized by the Dicastery. A proposal of future collaboration was shared with focus on dissemination of Pope's message to the young people around the world, participation and contributing to the organization of the World Meeting of Popular Movements, and lastly participation in youth ministry conferences around the world.

Religious Congregations

The ICYCW worked closely with several religious congregations in Rome especially in the development of leadership programmes for young people as well as in accompaniment. The congregations included Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers), Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa, Holy Union Sisters, Sisters of Holy Family of Bordeaux, Sisters of St Peters Clavers, Comboni Fathers, Congregation of Jesus, and Faithful Companions of Jesus. Several meetings were organized between ICYCW and the congregations especially to share the outcome of the International congress held in August 2017 as most of the congregations had supported the programme.

A plan of collaboration was developed between ICYCW and the Missionaries of Africa (white Fathers) on chaplaincy development and on promoting Social Justice themes in the lives of young people in Africa.

World Youth Day (WYD) Meeting

A meeting was organized in April 2017 by the Dicastery of the Laity, Family and Life to evaluate the World Youth Day event that was held in Cracow, Poland. The meeting which was attended by representatives and chaplains of different youth organizations, movements and bodies from around the world, including ICYCW, served also as the commencement for the preparations of the WYD scheduled for 2019 in Panama. The contribution of young people in the preparation for the Synod on youth scheduled for 2018 was emphasized with different youth organizations and movements urged to encourage their movements to take part in the reflections held at diocese levels.

❖ International Institutions

International Labour Organization (ILO)

a) Meeting with representatives from the ILO

In November 2017, the ICYCW through its secretariat in Rome welcomed two representatives from the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva; The visitors included Mr. Luc CORTEBECK the Chairperson of the Workers' group in the ILO as well as father Pierre MARTINOT-LAGARDE, who was in charge of partnerships and field support. This was an important occasion which served to remind, share and evaluate the works done by the ICYCW. The incoming secretariat was encouraged to continue carrying out ICYCW's representation function and and bringing the experiences of young workers to the ILO deliberations.



b) 106th session of the International Labour Conference

The ICYCW is represented every year in the International Labour Conference in Geneva. In 2017, the ICYCW participated in the 106th session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva in June 2017. The ICYCW represented by the international secretariat and two young leader each from YCW Spain and YCW Italy, took part in the following areas of the agenda; Labour migration, employment and decent work for peace and resilience, revision of the employment recommendation of 1994 (No. 71) on Transition from War to Peace, standard (standard setting, second discussion) and on Recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work under the follow up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008.

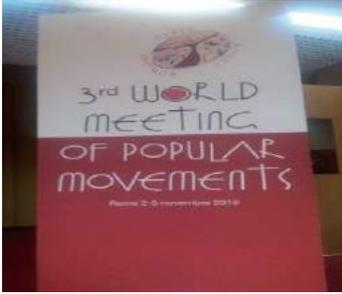
In addition to this, there were side events workshop held on 7th June 2017 on the theme “Labour Inspection as an Instrument to Protect Workers in the Informal Economy: Challenges, Opportunities and Responsibilities”. This workshop for Inspired Catholic Organizations was jointly organized by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG), Kolping International/the German Commission for Justice and Peace (GCJP), the International Coordination of Young Christians Workers (ICYCW), International Young Christian Workers (IYCW), the World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), Caritas Internationalis (CI), and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), with the collaboration of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). The meeting was hosted at the World Council of Churches (WWC).



On this workshop the ICYCW focused on young people in particular, who faced high unemployment rates of up to 50% in Latin America. ICYCW shared the individual labour inspection testimonies of four young workers from Paraguay and Rodriguez. Furthermore, ICYCW drew attention to the lack of confidentiality in the system of labour inspection, where employers are immediately informed of the contents of inspectors' reports, about the absence of formal contracts, which result in job insecurity and finally, about the reality that even in work arrangements with contracts, employers often disregard prior agreements. Finally, ICYCW concluded its intervention by advocating for the precision, expansion and reinforcement of laws protecting workers in the informal economy.

❖ International Organizations

World Meeting of Popular Movements



The ICYCW was represented in the 3rd Meeting of the World Popular Movements held in November 2016. The reflection during the meeting was how the world movements involved and addressed the issue of Land, Labour and Lodge. Pope Francis emphasized a lot on this theme during his closing remark. All the newly elected and former international secretariat members of ICYCW had the opportunity to participate in mass celebrated by His Holiness the Pope Francis at St. Peter's Basilica as well as in Pope's general audience in which the secretariat members greeted the Pope and gave him some gifts from the International Congress of 2016.

Cardijn Community International

The international secretariat of ICYCW held a meeting with Jocelyne MINERVE, the General Secretary of the Cardijn Community International (CCI). The discussions reviewed the outcome of a meeting of affiliate movements to the Cardijn Community International that had been held earlier on in 2016 while at the same time shared the planned actions that had been proposed to be implemented at international and national levels. The use of the SEE-JUDGE- ACT methodology was emphasized as a key tool in leadership development within the Church and Society. An update was shared on the beatification process of Cardinal Joseph Cardijn and the work done by both CCI and ICYCW.



International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) meeting

The ICYCW participated in the 2nd International Congress on Catholic Action organized by the International Forum of Catholic Action – IFCA. The ICYCW was represented the international secretariat and young leaders from YCWs of Rwanda, Spain and Portugal. The ICYCW participants had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 11 different international movements working as specialized Catholic action movements and gave ICYCW the opportunity to bring its realities from around the world to the international dimension. It was also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of working as a coordination of many national movements and how development programmes for Young People were organized from local to international levels.

The young leaders had the chance to interact with Bishops from different dioceses and shared with them about the importance of supporting the young people by entrusting them with responsibilities and allowing them to take responsibilities, while accompanying them. The founder of YCW emphasized this when he said that, “*Everything (in the YCW is done) for the Young People, by the Young People, and among the Young People, but nothing without the Chaplain*”.

The importance and relevance of the YCW methodology of See-Judge-Act was emphasized at it guided in the analysis of daily experiences and challenges, proposed reflections based on the shared Christian values, and aided in decision making processes. Pope Francis encouraged the participants when he said that, “*Members of the international lay organizations must continue to make their presence known in all areas of life, from the world of politics and business to prisons, hospitals and factories. The Church needs missionaries, not 'clericalized' laity*”. It was clear that the Pope was calling the young people to reach out to other young people who are isolated from the society.

International Trade Union Meeting



In November 2017, the ICYCW participated in a meeting of the International Trade Union under the theme, “*From Populorum progressio to Laudato si*”. The key elements of discussions focused on the reflections from the *Evangelii Gaudium*, the role of Trade Unions in bringing awareness on the reality of workers and their contribution to social science.

The theme, “*From Populorum progressio to Laudato si*” emphasized the need to have work and labour movements at the center of integral, sustainable and inclusive human development. It was noted that a lot of interventions were needed to address the injustices and inequalities in the conditions of work. While *Laudato Si* provided key contents of reflections and actions that may guide in developing proposals for sustainable development of Labour markets, the trade unions were identified as effective tools of bringing justice and equality in the world of work.

Catholic-inspired Organizations



A forum for Catholic-Inspired Organizations was organized and held in December 2017 in Rome under the theme “*Promoters of Humanity in a Transforming World*”. The forum was comprised of several international catholic organizations each dealing with different aspects of human development. The main objective of the meeting was to promote solidarity of action on human rights and social justice. The need for collaboration was emphasized as a means of pulling resources together in order to achieve greater impact.

It was noted that many important challenges in the society influenced the positioning of civil society and, in a particular way, the Catholic-inspired organizations. Considering that the world was in a state of profound transformation. It was evident that religion would play a more important role in years to come and that economic systems would have to develop new approaches to ensure better care for the common good. The forum committed itself to pursue deeply common interventions in migration, unemployment, political and economic crises in different parts of the world.

Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) social affairs commission

ICYCW was represented by YCW England and Wales in a meeting of Social Affairs Commission of COMECE held in Brussels in November 2017. The two days gathering brought together different organizations and bodies from Europe to explore the agenda of work and the need to protect employment as highlighted in the encyclical, *Laudato Si*.



Different speakers facilitated discussions on employment shifts in Europe, young people’s experiences in the changing labour markets, role of the European Commission in ensuring dignity of work, entrepreneurship and role of trade unions in a changing world. Brexit, Zero-hour working contracts, inability to find permanent work even with University degrees, and increasing cases of mental health concerns were some of the major concerns raised by the young people in England.

It was agreed that a document would be drafted and presented to the Members of the European Parliament. The document would incorporate all recommendations shared on addressing the future of work against the background of the Catholic Social Teachings.

International Specialized Catholic Action Movements (MIACS)

ICYCW was a member of a forum made up of Catholic Action movements which were working for and with a specific category of the laity. Just as ICYCW was a movement for the young working category of the laity, the other movements had their specific mission within the general laity. Every year this forum holds a meeting in order to evaluate their common challenges, identify resources that could be pulled together in order to address the challenges and then develop joint plans of actions. In a Meeting of the International Catholic Action Movements that was held in Paris on June 2017, the movements identified two areas of focus as essential for the future of the movements and they included diversification of financial resources and developing inter-generational transition programmes to help young people transition from youth to adult movements while keeping true to the methods and practice of Catholic Action Movements.

In order to build on the resource base, the movements committed to create a pool of experts who could support the movements on a case basis, share educational materials, share information regarding their activities in order to identify areas of collaboration and support especially at local levels, develop a media and communication strategy and foster a good working relations with civil society organizations and governmental organizations. A meeting with the Pope was also proposed as a way of sharing with his Holiness Pope Francis on the realities and future outlook of their mission towards serving different categories of the laity.

d) Chaplaincy

Accompaniment of the IS

The IS has had no international chaplain since 2014. However, the IS has had the presence of Fr John MARSLAND who is a former ICYCW International Chaplain as well as members of the Chaplaincy commission to accompany them in their mission. Together with Fr John, the International Secretariat organized several meetings and retreats to reflect on the work and life of the Secretariat's members and offered an opportunity to re-energize, be motivated, strengthen the bonds between the Secretariat's members and celebrate the successes achieved. Fr John's visits offered the Secretariat's members an opportunity to be accompanied in the work and personal life.



Several chaplains from different national movements from around the world also took turns in accompanying the secretariat members during their visits and stay in Rome. They included Bishop Lesanu Christos from YCW Ethiopia, Fr. Badie from YCW Holyland - Bethlehem, Sr. Christine who had previous experience working with the YCW and members of the Chaplaincy Commission.

Appointment of ICYCW International Chaplain

The International Secretariat identified potential candidates to the post of ICYCW International chaplain. Discussions are ongoing with the identified candidates and following the approval of their Bishops, their names and credentials would be submitted to the Holy See, through the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life, for the official appointment.

e) Finance

In the period between 2016 and 2017, the IS endeavored to identify different strategies to help stabilize the financial situation of the coordination. The financial responsibility of all the work done in the coordination was largely borne by the national movements which individually made a commitment to support the YCW mission at local, national, regional and international levels. In addition to contributions from the national movements, the ICYCW also received support from various funding agencies, religious congregations, individual donors and friends. However, the global financial challenges have not spared the ICYCW and the financial situation has not stabilized. As such, the IC 2016 mandated all components of the structure to endeavor to make the actions and presence of the ICYCW relevant and sustainable. In addition to this, the International Secretariat recruited a fundraiser whose task was to identify and diversify sources of fund to support different actions and projects of the coordination.

Organization of the Coordination

a) Training Commission

The international secretariat identified and identified two collaborators to the Training commission. The following are the members to the commission

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Jules Hounkponou | – Member and former ICYCW General Secretary |
| Amelie Peyrard | – Member and former ICYCW International President |
| Berhanu Sinamo | – ICYCW International President |



The commission held two meetings and in the period between September 2016 and August 2017 and focused most of its work on developing YCW leadership training materials to help in the development of existing and new movements. The international secretariat members were trained on international and cultural dimension of the ICYCW to support the work in the team and in the representation function. The commission supported the secretariat in their reflection on the ongoing dialogue between ICYCW and IYCW as well as in their preparation for the General Committee Meeting planned for February 2018.

b) Chaplaincy Commission

The International Secretariat constituted and appointed the following collaborators to the Chaplaincy Commission;

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fr John Marsland | – YCW England & Wales |
| Fr Simon Mbete | – YCW Democratic Congo |
| Fr Bernard Robert | – YCW France |
| Berhanu Sinamo | – ICYCW International President |

The commission held several meetings and focused on accompanying the members of the International Secretariat as well as identifying the actions required to address the challenges of chaplaincy in national movements around the world. The commission worked on developing materials for effective training and formation of chaplains and adult companions on their role in the accompaniment of young people and young leaders. Together with the members of the International secretariat, the commission members visited congregations and seminaries in Rome with the aim of introducing YCW to the priests and seminarians and encourage them to feel motivated to accompany young people. To date, the commission faced one challenge as it does not have one of its key member, that is, the ICYCW International Chaplain. Despite this challenge, the members of the commission work hard to ensure that the commission meets its targets.



c) Finance Commission

The first Finance Commission Meeting was held in January 2017 with the participation of the commission's members as well as members of the previous and current International Secretariats. In-attendance to the meeting was also a financial consultant who had been working with the ICYCW for the preparation of the International Congress of 2016. The International Secretariat appointed the following members to the commission;

Jacky Hocquet	– Member and former ICYCW International Treasurer
Anamaria Puscasu	– Member and former ICYCW International Treasurer
Rui Filipe LAVOURA	- YCW Portugal
Aida Valle	- YCW Catalonia
Idy Balberan	– ICYCW International Treasure
Arniel Iway	- Fundraiser and former Coordinator of ICYCW

The commission held several other meetings in person and through video conferencing in order to reviewed the financial situation of the ICYCW. The commission identified three priority areas of focus which included finance education for the young leaders in the movement, development of a database of training materials and close working collaboration with the ICYCW fund raiser.

d) Communication Commission

The international secretariat identified and appointed one collaborator to the Communication Commission and was working together with national movements to identify two more collaborators. The current composition of the commission is as below;

Monicah Wanjiru	– YCW Kenya, former ICYCW General Secretary
Subin Noella Song	– ICYCW General Secretary

e) Regional Commission

❖ Asia Commission

Collaborators were identified and appointed to the commission as below:

Than That	– YCW Cambodia
Arniel Iway	– Former ICYCW International Coordinator from PCYCW
Fr Christophe Berard	– Chaplain of the regional commission
Subin Noella Song	– ICYCW Coordinator for Asia

❖ East Africa Regional Commission

The East African regional commission held its first meeting in October 2017. As the Coordinating YCW Movement in East Africa region, YCW Uganda hosted the meeting of the commission. The members of the commission were;

Monica Agnes:	YCW Uganda – Chair of the commission
Chrispin Ngunde:	YCW Malawi
Monicah Wanjiru:	YCW Kenya, former ICYCW General Secretary
Berhanu Sinamo:	ICYCW Coordinator for East Africa
Fr Christopher Chisanga:	YCW Malawi – Chaplain of the commission

The commission prioritized its work for the region guided by the regional future plan that was developed during the 9th International Congress of the ICYCW. The commission also identified the strengths of YCW movements in the regions and developed a plan of action to address the challenges identified.



The following priorities were planned for implementation in the region;

- Regional leadership development with focus organizing a regional training and exchange programme in August 2018 which would be hosted by YCW Malawi,
- Chaplaincy development for chaplains and lay adult companions. A training programme would be conducted in August 2018.
- Extension of YCW Movement to Zambia initiated by YCW Kenya and Malawi
- Representation of YCW movements to the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA) as well as to social and civil organizations in the region which included the African Union (AU).

❖ Europe Commission

The international secretariat appointed the following collaborators to the Europe commission and was comprised of the following members;

Marc Besford – YCW England
Estibaliz Franca – YCW Spain
Solange Pereira – YCW Portugal
Noella Subin Song – ICYCW Coordinator for Europe
Fr. Joan Ramon-Chaplain

The commission focused most of its work in the preparation for the meeting of YCW presidents from the movements in Europe.

❖ Indian Ocean Islands Commission

The Indian Ocean Commission was constituted and held its first face to face meeting in August 2017. The commission composed of the following members;

Charlaine Perrine	– YCW Rodriguez, Chairperson of the regional commission
Jeremy Labonne	– YCW Mauritius
Prisca Labour Casimir	– YCW Rodriguez
Dessighers Mitantsoa Rochel	– YCW Madagascar
Idy Balberan	– ICYCW Coordinator for the Indian Ocean Islands



The commission started its work by first reviewing its tasks as mandated by the International Council of 2016. This was followed by the identification of resources that would facilitate the mission of ICYCW in the region. In order to foster the development of the movement in the region, the commission proposed the following as the main priorities of work; formation programmes for young leaders and chaplains, development of training materials on financial education, active involvement in ICYCW programmes at regional and international levels, and extension of YCW to islands where the movement was not present.

❖ Latin America Commission

The commission held several online meetings through Whatsapp and Skype social media. The meetings focused on reviewing the work done in the region since the 9th International Congress and making preparation for future work. The main priorities identified were strengthening communication between movements in the region and organizing a regional leadership programme for the movements in the region.

The commission was made up of the following members;

Christian David	– YCW Paraguay
Victor Antonio Burgos Villar	– YCW Dominica Republic
Camilo Escobar	– Former ICYCW International President
Crucito Ovalles Restituyo	– Chaplain of the Regional Commission
Idy Balberan	– ICYCW Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

❖ Middle East Commission

The International secretariat identified and appointed collaborators to the commission who communicated frequently through emails and Whatsapp social media to review the life and actions of the young people and the YCW movements in the region. The commission members committed to follow up on the regional future plan with major focus on development of the movement in the region and identify more young people to be appointed into the commission.

The commission was made up of the following members:

Issa Jamil DAADAA	- JOC Dubai (Coordinating Movement)
Fr John Marsland	– Former ICYCW International Chaplain
Fr Marwan	– Chaplain of the commission
Berhanu Sinamo	– ICYCW Coordinator for the Middle East

❖ Central Africa Commission

The following members were appointed to the Central Africa Commission:

Tchonchimbo Kada	- YCW Tchad (Coordinating movement)
Almand Guinael Madimba	– YCW Congo Brazzaville
Jean Claude Ndambaye	– YCW Rwanda
Fr Andre Ngoulsia	– C .R. Africa
Fr Wellars Uwamungu	– Chaplain of the Regional Commission
Subin Noella SONG	- ICYCW Coordinator for the Central Africa

❖ West Africa Commission

The commission met through online meetings through Whatsapp, Skype social media and emails to follow up on implementation of the future plan for the region which included organizing a regional training programme scheduled for September 2018. The main challenge that faced the commission was language barriers which hampered timely communication.

The commission was made up of the following members:

Djemis Jean Nguessan	– YCW Ivory Coast
Benedicte Lila	– YCW Benin
Justina Awele	– YCW Nigeria
Francois Xavier	– Collaborator from YCW Guinea Conakry
Fr Simon Pierre	– Chaplain for the regional commission
Berhanu Sinamo	– ICYCW Coordinator for West Africa

f) General Committee Meeting

The 9th International Congress of the ICYCW approved the formation of a General Committee Meeting that would meet yearly to review the work of the coordination and take decisions on matters relating to the work plan, budget and any urgent issue that may not be postponed until the next international congress. Due to financial constraints and the logistics involved in organizing the General Committee Meeting, the meeting was not held in 2017 but was postponed and scheduled to be held in February 2018. The outcome of the meeting will be reported in the 2018 annual activity report.

g) Conflict Resolution Committee

The International Secretariat identified collaborators to the Conflict Resolution Committee as follows:

- Nicky Pisa – Former ICYCW President
- Jean Philippe Manga – Former ICYCW General Secretary
- Bernard Schricke – Former ICYCW Coordinator

h) Fundraiser

The IS advertised for the post of ICYCW fundraiser. The advertisement which was run within the ICYCW movements attracted several applications and through a rigorous vetting process, the International Secretariat appointed the successful candidate. The fundraiser, Arniel Iway – former ICYCW Coordinator, offered to work for ICYCW on a voluntary basis and commenced with the work immediately after the appointment.

i) The International Secretariat (IS)

A team of three members of the International Secretariat was elected in September 2016 and started their mandate to serve the Coordination for a period of four years. The three members of the international secretariat were;

Berhanu Sinamo
(International President)



Subin Noella SONG
(General Secretary)



Idy BALBERAN
(International Treasurer)



The ICYCW also bid farewell to former international secretariat members who had served in the secretariat for a period of four years, 2012 – 2016. The two former international secretariat members were;

Amelie Peyrard
(Former International President)



Monicah Wanjiru
(Former General Secretary)



In the period between September 2016 and August 2017, the secretariat held three International Secretariat Meetings with the aim of reviewing the life and actions of the Coordination and movements around the world and based on these realities proposed actions to be implemented by the Coordination. The IS divided the work of coordinating the YCW movements around the world as follows:

Berhanu Sinamo: Coordinating the YCW movements in East Africa, West Africa, and in the Middle East.
Subin Noella Song: Coordinating YCW movements in Asia, Europe, and Central Africa.
Idy Balberan: Coordinating YCW movements in Latin America and the Indian Ocean Islands

Conclusion

In summary, the period of 2016 – 2017 saw a lot of development in capacity at individual and organizational levels. The coordination established new contacts that would support the development of young people into responsible leaders and citizens of the world. The different leadership programmes carried out around the world improved the capacity and ability of young people to take responsibilities at different levels while at the same time imparting positive values to their fellow young people.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of all the movements in the ICYCW, the international secretariat is grateful to all individuals, institutions and organizations who supported the mission of the ICYCW. It was a period of great learnings and we look forward to continue with the same collaborations for an improved living and working conditions for the young workers around the world.