



INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

2022-2026

CONCEPT NOTE: IDYM INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2023

1. Background Information: Prior to the International Elective Assembly, the National Coordinators decided to hold the Elective Assembly in the summer of 2022 and an in-person meeting in Lisbon in 2023. Therefore, the International Elective Assembly of IDYM 2022 legislated and gave an express mandate to the newly elected International Commission to organize and arrange everything appropriate for the realization of an Extraordinary Assembly. In the same way, the Assembly asked for a reflection leading to a reform of IDYM statutes.

2. General Information: As a result of this mandate, the International Commission using its statutory faculties as well as those emanating from the last International Elective Assembly, decided to convene this International Assembly to be held as follows. **Date:** Sunday, August 6 to Wednesday, August 9, 2023. **Venue:** Externato Sao Jose, Lisbon, Portugal – an educational institution of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena.

3. Why? This shall be an International Assembly, with the legislative and statutory authority attributed to it. However, it has concrete goals: to review our Statutes and celebrate together and in person the centenary of the entry into the Order of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati; as well as celebrate the 30th anniversary of IDYM. It is also important to make explicit an idea that underlies the intention of convening this Assembly on the date and in the place where it has been convened: that young Dominicans could have the opportunity to participate in this year's WYD.

4. How? Path and steps: The International Commission designed, according to the letter of convocation attached, to divide the process of the celebration in three stages: preparation stage (prior to the meeting, virtual), the Assembly itself (in person after the WYD in Lisbon, Portugal) and implementation of conclusions.

Preparation Process - Getting to Lisbon (logistics and finance): Due to financial issues, it can be complicated for the assembly members (national coordinators and *socius*) to attend Lisbon. Therefore, we propose a plan of generosity and solidarity that we have called the Frassati Project. Pier Giorgio was a selfless man, who taught by example and was willing to sacrifice his own life without hesitation to proclaim the Gospel and being a credible witness of his Lord.

Inspired by him, the International Commission thus proposes a plan to use IDYM funds to finance the Frassati Project: we would like to make a public call with its due terms and conditions to grant up to a maximum of 800 euros per person in order to encourage our young leaders to participate. We aim to cover a significant part of their travel costs with this. We are aware that this amount, while significantly covering the logistical costs of transport, is not sufficient. Therefore, it is not intended to be a total financing of expenses, but an incentive, part of a total mixed funding of costs (including personal funds of the assembly members, funds of the provinces of the Dominican Family and funds of each DYM).

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Eligible to apply for this grant are people who meet the requirements to be participants with active voice of an IDYM International Assembly, whose national movements are duly in good standing with the requirements of validity and legality collected in the IDYM Statutes (the Commission could ask for information or required for specific additional documents to make the verifications needed as a complement to the Registration Form). Also a letter of commitment signed by the Provincial jointly with the person applying for the grant will be required at the time of submitting the application (to be received only by submitting the Single Registration Form). This guarantees both seriousness and commitment so IDYM funds would not be lost if drawn.

But here is where our appeal to the solidarity, charity and generosity that characterizes the Dominican Family comes in: we cannot do it alone. We need their help. Even if we guarantee to each of our brother National Coordinators and their socius the grant, we need a little more to reach the goal and to be able to cover all the transportation costs, the registration to the WYD (in which context this event takes place) and the registration to the Assembly itself, as well as a pocket money that the participants can take with them in case of emergency or need. Therefore, we implore the Dominican Family to support our young people to make this dream come true.

- Preparatory meetings and start of work in Commissions: In order to fulfill the desire of the 2022 International Elective Assembly to make the process as participatory and broad as possible, we are going to have Preparatory Meetings for each of IDYM's 4 regions (North America and Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Statutes Art. 3.3) in which the requirement for participation is to be an active member of a national DYM or of a pastoral ministry accompanied by friars or sisters. As this is a consultative stage, even movements or pastoral groups that are not yet formally part of IDYM would be able to participate.

The goal is to have fraternal discussions on projects and ideas, make thematic proposals, recognize challenges and give ideas for the International Assembly through 4 thematic lines: Formation, Mission, Communication and Institutional Affairs (this include Statute Reform). These events will be online, in town hall format and will be moderated by a rapporteur appointed by the International Commission who will help to compile and organize all the contributions.

Once this stage is completed, all members who meet the requirements to be official Assembly members with active voice will be assigned to one of the four commissions (corresponding to the thematic lines) in which the work will be carried out, whether or not they will attend the Assembly in person. For this reason, the previous work of the Commissions is virtual, so even those who cannot attend can feel integrated into this joint work and participate in the preparatory/previous team discussions.

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The International Commission will seek to ensure that the working committees of the International Assembly are as diverse and balanced as possible, so that the greatest number of languages, cultural backgrounds and regions could be represented. For this reason, distribution in commissions will not be subject to appeal (there is no reason to worry since the final decisions will be taken by the plenary of the Assembly and everyone will be able to participate in it).

The idea of having the working committees formed and progressing in advance is to be able to move forward with part of the work of the Assembly prior to the arrival of Assembly members to Lisbon. It is expected that in this preliminary virtual work, the Commissions will advance the election of a secretary (the IDYM Commission names a Chairman for each one but they have to elect a secretary by themselves) necessarily one of their members who will attend in person meeting in Lisbon; as well as their work plans, the previous research and a limited and concrete selection of topics on which their conclusions will be based. The members of the International Commission will be distributed among them according to the specialty of their position, but the International Coordinator will be an *ex officio* member of all the committees.

This Committee work would not start from scratch since they will have two documents to help them begin with their undertakings: the *Relatio* from the IDYM Commission about the current state of the movement with a brief highlighting of themes and challenges for each theme and the report from the rapporteurs with proposals and ideas from all around the world.

Holding the International Assembly: Once that progress has been made with the Committees, it is expected that Assembly members will be arriving in Lisbon to participate in the WYD. The official agenda of the International Assembly will begin on Sunday, August 6th and will end at noon of Wednesday, August 9th. It will count with the participation of special guests and members of the Dominican Family from Portugal and the world who will accompany its celebration. They would be able to participate as advisors or observers in the different working committees. There will be cultural evenings, common and liturgical celebrations that will make this experience unforgettable.

The minutes of the meeting will be published later and the proposed amendments to the statutes approved by the Assembly will be sent to the Master of the Order for final ratification. A detailed agenda of the meeting as well as the detailed mechanisms of decision making (brief handbook of procedures) and on-site organization of the Assembly will be sent to the participants prior to the beginning of the Assembly, around May 2023.

Implementation of Conclusions: The International Commission will accompany and keep the members of IDYM informed about the process of implementation of the conclusions as well as the implementation of initiatives and projects that may arise as a result of this Assembly. The idea is that the fruits do not remain only in the meeting, but that a whole process of implementation and application in IDYM can also be accompanied to help us grow and develop according to the defined itinerary.

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