XIIth International Meeting
«To live the diversities is a must to build Peace! Children show us the way»

10 - 24 July 2008, Talagante – Chile
All the delegates give their heartfelt thanks to all the funding agencies which have supported us. We also thank the various speakers, the interpreters who worked on a voluntary basis, and also all those who were involved in one way or another;

We cannot name all of them for fear of forgetting some of them as they are so numerous!
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1. Introduction

For the second time in its history, IMAC organised its 12th International Assembly in South America with the theme "Living all forms of diversity, a necessity for building Peace; the children show the way". After Olinda (Brazil) in 1982, 61 delegates of which 7 were children representing the total of 36 member movements and observers came together to reaffirm their beliefs, evaluate the progress of their International Movement and to reorientation it for the future.

Chile as a choice was motivated by many reasons:

- Chile is a Latin American country that has been living with its diversities since its origins. Descendants of the Indians and Spanish colony, Chile has a cosmopolite population composed of Indians, Whites, and half-caste descendants of slaves.

- A number of people; children, youths, and adults work for peace in the region. After long years of military dictatorship, Chile is presently enjoying an unprecedented peace.

- To be in Chile for IMAC is also to be in an area where certain parts of the population are embarking on a historical battle for the recognition of the natives, the right to land, and for a true social justice. In fact there are many people in Central and South America in social movements fighting for social justice and equality.

- The South American region is the first IMAC region to have a regional team of children whose goal is to defend children causes in the regional sphere. They work to promote the rights of children. These children were present at the International Assembly and were spokespersons for all the children of the world.

The delegates experienced a great moment of exchange, of reflection and training whose principal objective was to reinforce the participation of children in the construction of a world were the fundamentals are Peace and Justice for all. This assembly had two important particularities: first, the participation of the Regional Commission of Latin American children who with their delegates shared how they live the forms of diversities and what they wished for IMAC. Secondly, the constitution of a commission charged to deliberate on the future of IMAC.

This is the report of the International Assembly. It will share the highlights, the big orientations taken and pay homage to the different participants, children, youths, adults, interpreters and translators, technical teams, the Church authorities, the State, and the media. It is for the use of all the member movements and those who want it. May it be a true work support for you.
2. The Participants and the Assembly

♣ The children:
They were present in the case that we were chaperons of the Movement. They were there by their numerous presentations: monographs, photos, songs, poems, speeches (the delegates were messengers). They were equally present in our thoughts and prayers. They were also represented by children from MOANI Chile and those of the regional commission of South American children some of who came from far. They took part in the opening mass celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Church and the unravelling of the Assembly.

♣ The regional commission of South American children:
Ciro from Bolivia, Diana from Venezuela, Andréa from Brazil, Robinson from Peru and Miguel from Chile came to the International Assembly accompanied by their team guides. They participated actively in the assembly with the children from MOANI Chile. Aged between 13 and 16 years, they formed a special group during the assembly and presented, with appropriate pedagogy and animation, the way children of IMAC live their diversities in the different continents. Together they reaffirmed that IMAC was their movement. A member of the International Secretariat specially accompanied these children during the assembly.

♣ The Delegates:
61 delegates from 36 member countries took part in this rendezvous. Each was a spokesperson for the children of his/her country, other countries and continents. Together they exchanged, shared and mapped out the future of IMAC for the next 6 years.

♣ The team guides:
Many team guides from MOANI Chile were present throughout the International Assembly and took an active part in its preparation and organisation. Their presence in the technical team, during the opening ceremony, during the cultural evenings, and the different visits was an attestation of their sincere wish for the success of the assembly.

♣ The interpreters and translators:
A team of 4 professional interpreters assisted by 4 translators for the groups put their competence to the service of the success of the assembly. By their support, we were able to overcome the linguistic barrier and communicated in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Korean. Their presence was a key factor in the success of the assembly. Their availability, sometimes beyond their work schedule, was also a sign of their desire for the success of this assembly. We express all our gratitude to them here.
♣ The composition team:

3 senior members of IMAC, Alfredo Gonzalez de la Lastra (former international chaplain); Ivan Lartiga (former vice President) and Oswaldo Diaz, member of MOANI Chile came to Talagante to help as facilitators in the synthesis of the documents. They contributed a lot in the process of the IA and in the culmination of the work. We would like to thank them again on behalf of all the delegates.

♣ The old members:

Many Chilean friends who have served IMAC on one level or the other honoured us with their presence. We mention particularly Ruben Salazar (former Secretary General), Sonia Donoso-Rubio and Ana Luisa Munoz Munoz (former Secretary General), Ivan Lartiga (former vice President) and their families. We express our gratefulness.

♣ The guests:

Many of the people invited could not make it due to scheduling conflicts. Some sent letters of best wishes and encouragement.

♣ The technical team:

Composed mainly of MOANI team guides, the technical team contributed greatly to the success of the IA. They helped greatly in making our stay in Talagante pleasant. They tirelessly took care of the reception, changing processes, the boutique, photocopies and posting of letters. We thank them.

♣ IMAC friends:

We received letters of good wishes from old members of the International Secretariat of IMAC; from the secretary of state to the Holy See, from Paul Yvon Blanchette (co-President of MMTC), Vincent Dingao (ex-President of IMAC), Monsignor Alain Harel (Bishop of Rodrigues) to encourage us and wish us success in the IA.

Accompanying some of the letters was exceptional financial support from certain agencies like the Canadian Agency for International Development (ACDI), some religious congregations, and friends of IMAC which were welcome. But beyond the financial aspect is the sign of adherence to the service of children and the construction of a world of Peace according to the design of God.
3. The Preparations for the Assembly

More than a year before the IA, on the initiative of the International Secretariat, preparatory work destined for the children and/or their guides were sent to all the movements. All the players in the Movement worked to attain the targets fixed by this assembly. We got numerous responses at the Secretariat General where they were collected in a synthesis which was used as the working documents for this IA.

♣ The participation of the children:
The regional commission of the Latin American children who took part in the IA had undertaken a big preparation work prior. They had several meetings with their team guides under the responsibility of the regional coordinator via internet. They met from 9 to 16 July 2007 in Santa Cruz in Bolivia. This preparatory meeting allowed the commission to work dynamically which helped them to participate effectively at the IA.

♣ The involvement of the national movements:
The national movements were mobilised for the preparatory work. A total of 14 preparatory works were sent to the movements. Each movement reacted depending on its reality to the different preparatory works. All the responses were used in the documents which formed the base for our deliberations during the IA.
4. The Highlights of the Assembly

a. Immersion into Chilean reality:
On function of the dates of arrival and departure, the participants were able to immerse themselves into the Chilean world. The average duration of this stay with Chilean families was 2 days. The goal of this was to allow each person to discover the Chilean cultural reality.

During the unfolding of the seminar, a day was devoted to the discovery of the history of Chile by visiting the Grimaldi villa and the meeting of children groups and young team leaders of basic teams from Conception. An IMAC delegation composed of the President, some participants and the regional commission of Latin American children met with the second Minister of Chile. These experiences of the local realities and the meeting with the Chilean authorities are evidences of how during the IA, before and after, we made use of the opportunities within our reach which contributed to the accomplishment of our IA.

We want to emphasise on the declaration of IMAC that was made and handed to the second Minister of Chile. (cf. annex).

♣ The opening ceremony:
The official opening ceremony of the IA took place after the opening Eucharist celebration at the Immaculate Conception Parish of Talagante by the assistant Ecclesiastical of IMAC, Fr. Jean Claude Seguin and concelebrated by the priests present at the IA and those of the parish. The Eucharist celebration was prepared and animated by the children themselves with the participation of Madam the Mayor of Talagante, the national chaplain of MOANI, Fr. Alfonso Baeza, and many civil and religious personalities. The children of the MOANI Chile and their team guides were also present.

The delegates, some dressed in their traditional costumes, gave the ceremony a diversity which showed the internationality of IMAC. The Eucharistic celebration was marked by two strong symbols: The passing on of the flame to the children by their coordinators of the different regions of IMAC and the transmission of Peace.

An activity was organised in the courtyard of the Padre Claret Centre. Among the addresses given was that of Catalina Diaz of MOANI Chile, Olivier Thouret, President of IMAC and Fr. Alfonso the national chaplain of MOANI Chile representing the Archbishop of Santiago. The President of IMAC in his speech placed emphasis on diversity and acknowledged the older members of IMAC. The ceremony ended with a cocktail in the neighbouring hall.

♣ The meeting of regional delegates:
On the request of certain movements and those in charge of IMAC, a whole day was consecrated to the meeting of the regional delegates. The meeting was under the responsibility of the regional coordinator who was assisted by a member of the International Board. Those countries which were not yet attached to a region also attended the meeting. This day enabled the delegates to share the experience of the Movement on the national and regional level since
the last International Assembly in Damascus. To discuss how they prepared for that assembly and the subjects of concern they brought to this IA.

It also enabled each delegate to improve regionally the preparations of the IA, notably the work on the future of IMAC and to choose the person for the ad hoc commission.

♣ The visit of Santiago town:  
Discovery and opening up more to the Chilean reality and Latin America is one of the objectives that we fixed when we visited Santiago town. The visit started with the Grimaldi Villa, a national historical site and a memorial for the Chilean people. Between the 1973 and 1978, this place was a centre of detention. It was one of the 1500 sites of torture which existed during the years of military dictatorship where numerous persons were held arbitrarily and locked up illegally.

♣ The reflection on the finances of IMAC:  
Giving each person the chance to understand the actual financial situation of IMAC so as to be able to take the necessary decisions to guarantee its future, was one of the principal goals of this IA. It is for this reason that the International Secretariat started the IA with the presentation of the financial report which culminated with the presentation of the propositions for the future.

An ad hoc commission which is supposed to work and make propositions for the future was thereafter put in place.

♣ The cultural evenings:  
The IA was also an opportunity to discover the cultural riches of each region. Many cultural evenings were organised. Some were led by the different regions of IMAC and others by MOANI Chile. It allowed each delegate to be immersed in the cultural territory of each country by songs, dance, tasting of dishes typical to them, and original games.

♣ Membership:  
Conforming to the statute of IMAC (Article 6), "The General Assembly decides the admission of new members on the Secretariat’s proposition".

Three countries: Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Martinique which have worked alongside IMAC these number of years as movement observers, presented their candidatures to become full members of IMAC. They each presented a monograph of their national movement.

The delegates were appreciative of the life of these movements in the three countries and they were accepted unanimously by IMAC. They are welcome.

♣ The meeting with the children of Concepción:  
The participation in the Chilean reality continued at the Saint Peter the Fisherman Parish with the meeting of the children from the diocese of Concepción who specially welcomed the delegates.

Together we shared great moments with songs, dance, and games and had a Chilean meal.

♣ Votes and elections:  
The IA was also the occasion to vote the important texts for IMAC and to elect a
new International Secretariat. In conformance to the texts in effect, the delegates voted the Action Plan 2008 – 2014, the financial report, the statutes of IMAC, decisions for the future.

The IA also elected the members of the International Secretariat: a President and 4 vice-Presidents.

♣ The closing celebration:

The IA ended with the Eucharistic celebration by the assistant ecclesiastic of IMAC and concelebrated with the priests present at the assembly. Here, the delegates celebrated the rich experience of the 12 days passed together. Then they left, sent on mission to the children and the world and as souvenir some grains to sow. The assistant ecclesiastic says:

*Your movements have instructed you to bring the voices of children at the international meeting. After 10 days, the assembly of IMAC sends you with the mission to share the experience of RI and its decisions within the action plan. Jesus sent his disciples on mission « go rather proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Visit to your national office, go to your bishops.*

*Be men and women of peace from your diversity.*

*Keep your listening skills, and also keep your ability to outrage against everything that hurt the child, everything that steals his childhood.*

*Have the taste for a strong spiritual life that gives meaning to your action.*

*This is a service, a mission entrusted to you by IMAC, as Jesus entrusted his disciples to present the kingdom among men.*

*You cannot do any thing: keep your commitments.*

*Share your worries with difficult days. You are not alone. We are in this together.*

*The former international office has just passed the torch to the new international office.*

*You received for free, give for free.*

*“By giving a glass of water to the littles in this world, you'll be true disciples” Jesus tells us.*
The opening ceremony

Meeting with the second Minister

Participants to the International meeting
5. **The Messages**

♦ **The speech of the President of IMAC:**

Dear children of MOANI,

Dear children and teenagers of the Commission of the Children of Latin America,

Dear delegates,

Dear members of the IS,

Dear members of the CA,

Madam Mayor of Talagante,

Mr Prefect of the province of Talagante,

Fr. Alfonso, the national chaplain of MOANI,

Mr executive secretary of the vicariate of the pastoral society,

Welcome to the 12th International Assembly of IMAC.

Five years ago, it was on the soil of the Middle East, in Syria that we met. This time it is the land of Latin America that welcomes the International Assembly. Thanks to Latin America for receiving all the members of IMAC for the second time in its history.

Thank you to the children of MOANI for receiving us.

Thank you to all the children of the Latin America coordination for being present. By your presence throughout the IA, you are the sign that shows that IMAC is really the movement for children. IMAC is because of you.

Thank you to all the delegates from the different movements. For most of you, the journey to get here was long. Some of you had to get used to the cold.

Just like the last assembly in Syria, we had to delay this assembly to make sure we had the necessary financing. It was the effort of each person that enabled us to get the needed financing. I would like to particularly thank all the movements that made big efforts in participating significantly to the financing of the assembly. Some of you had agreed to increase the amount of your contributions rather than sending two persons as was initially agreed. Thank you.

You showed by these actions that IMAC is everybody's concern. That is what IMAC is. As St Paul said "We are all members of the same body. The body has different parts. But the parts are nothing without the body. And the body needs all its parts."

Yes, IMAC is everybody's business. It is here because in the world, 40 years ago, children movements from different parts of the world wanted to create an International Movement to receive one another. It was created because each and everyone believed that each person in his or her own way no matter the origin, or the part of the world they live, has a brick to lay in this edifice. It was created because all believed that by working together, they could make the voice of the children heard, the voice of the children which tells of their capacity of changing the world, to participate in its construction to make it better. It was created because all of us, we wanted to be witnesses within our universal Church that the first apostles of children are the children themselves.

It is for all these reasons that we are gathered here today for the 12th International Assembly. The International Assembly is the general assembly of IMAC where we together take the decisions
which we wish to put in place. It is during this
time of general assembly that we are going to
arrive at an action plan of which we will all be
responsible. Without the commitment of each
person to put to work the action plan personally,
IMAC is nothing.

This assembly is extraordinary and at the same
time ordinary. It is extraordinary, because for the
first time in the IA we have a coordination of
children with us. Welcome to all of you. You are
going to participate fully in the assembly; you are
going to give, in your own way, your different
thoughts. We have been dreaming of this for the
past International Assemblies. Each person in his
own way, in the movements, the regions, has been
working for many years to see that the children
participate more, and are protagonists of their
movement.

Your presence tells us it is not a dream. It is
reality. A reality which each of the movements,
each of the regions, are progressively putting in
place taking into account the culture, the way the
orientations of the movement are lived. It is
extraordinary because it is the first time. It is
ordinary because since the beginning, IMAC and
all its movements say that IMAC is the movement
of the children.

This assembly is extraordinary because we will
have to take decisions together to” Make IMAC
differently”, to build together this international
movement that we are all part of.

For forty years, IMAC had the financial means to
have paid workers in the regions, at the
international level to make the project of our
movement work.

We will see together this Tuesday that it is not
possible to continue having these same advantages
because of lack of finance. If we do not take
decisions at this assembly to make IMAC
differently, we will be taking the risk of IMAC not
existing tomorrow. Make IMAC differently does
not mean making it less. It means that together,
we can give a new breath to IMAC by organising
ourselves differently. I would like to believe that
if together we feel responsible for this, we will
make IMAC grow by involving ourselves more,
no matter the part of the world you may come
from.

The International Secretariat supported by the
executive board – the legal authority of IMAC in
France – had proposed, that to be able to work in
depth the points we want to tackle, we should put
in place two working groups during our
assembly. One to work on the central theme
which has brought us together: "Living our
diversities, a necessity for building Peace, the
children show us the way."

The other group, which we called "the ad hoc
commission on the future of IMAC", will work
on a new organisation to run IMAC with the
present financial situation.

Before ending this opening address, I would like
to say some words on the central theme of our
assembly "Living our diversities, a necessity for
building Peace… The children show us the way".
It is a theme which seems banal. What is more
natural than to want to live all the forms of
diversities, to respect them, to receive them as
riches? If today we want to take this theme
seriously by taking the way the children are
indicating, it is because we know that in our
present world, acknowledging the different forms
of diversity is usually a beautiful speech which
does not translate into actions.

Let's take some examples which testify that to
live, accept diversities is far from being the case
on our planet.

Globalisation could be a good opportunity to live
all the forms of diversities, to exchange and to
each receive. But we get reports everyday that
rather there is the tendency of denying these
diversities, of listening to only one speech, of
taking decisions which do not take into account all the situations, especially those of the poorest.

To arrive here, a certain number of delegates were able to experiment that living diversities could sometimes stop at the border. A border which cannot be crossed because of being a native of a country; or that can be crossed because of being a native of another country.

In many countries, diversity is used by people who want to wield power. They use diversities in all its forms – ethnic diversity, religious diversities, and social diversities… to establish their power. If they can't do that, they use these diversities to cause violence, war.

At the economic level, living the different forms of diversities in a world where economic imbalance is huge, or the gap between economically rich countries and economically poor countries is sometimes synonyms of injustice. For example, when the price of wheat or rice doubles in the space of three months, economic diversity makes it possible that for some it is a difficult increase but can be overcome but for others, it is tantamount to hunger.

By these four examples, we can see how serious this theme is.

We are going to work on it together using our experience of children movements, with you, children and teenagers of the coordination of the Latin American Children.

With the way that the children are showing us we are going to see the difficulties we are all called to overcome to be able to live these diversities, so that they become riches for all and for it to enable us build Peace.

This reflection, we are going to organise it like the International Movement for the Apostolate of the child. It is in the light of our faith in Jesus Christ that we are going to take the road the children show us. It is a road which invites us to recognise and love one another for what we are.

I cannot end this opening address without mentioning all the "older" members of IMAC who contributed to make IMAC what it is today. In particular Bernadette Cantenot, a member of the Executive Board who is here with us, the former secretaries general of IMAC from Chile: Ruben Salazar, Ana Luiza Munoz, the former Vice Presidents also from Chile: Sonia and Ivan. I have a special thought for those who left us recently: Antoinette Prudence and Bernard Chevaucherie. Both of them would have been proud to see a regional commission of children participate fully in the IA.

To you all, children, adolescents and chaperons, have a nice assembly! May it be a meeting full of Hope, Hope to live diversity like a necessity, not only for our movement but for the world; the Hope to take together the decisions which will allow us to continue to make the enormous project of IMAC for which we are all responsible, live.

Olivier Thouret
President of IMAC.

Speech by the children delegates of Chile:
This is a great joy to see; living the diversity with all of you here present. May the Lord guide us on this road so as to construct a better world through the actions of each one of us.

We organised ourselves to prepare this assembly. We would like to thank those that prepared this event, the team guides who helped, the logistic
team, the international team and the commission of the children and youths of Latin America.

May we live the diversity in the best way possible and thereafter spread the news in our countries.

Catalina

Speech by Fr. Alfonso Baeza:

It is a blessing of God to live this moment in MOANI's history. It is a great thing that the children are here present and can participate in this IA. For MOANI and IMAC, we owe this meeting to the children. It has to be spread in the whole world. In this way we will accomplish the message of Jesus: "Let the children come to me, do not prevent them, because the kingdom of God is for those who are like them".

There are many who are suffering from hunger, those who are victims of exclusion, discrimination and all these gives us a bad conscience. As Christians we cannot accept these situations. May this assembly be the motivation to have more force to live the fraternity and to live the peace based on justice. I have a lot of joy in seeing many countries showing us the richness of the Church. We hope that these following days will be days of joy, of sharing despite the cold.

We are going to live a catholic cold.

Father Alonso, Olivier and Catalina
Moments of the Meeting

**Songs**

Amis amis,
Oui l i i !!
Venez on va danser eh
On va danser la danse de l’amitié

(X2)

Amis amis,
Oui i i !!
La danse est terminée,
Non !
On va danser la danse de l’amitié
6. Themes treated and documents voted:

6.1. - Appraisal of the Damascus Action Plan:

At the IA of Damascus in 2003, IMAC had vowed to vote an Action Plan based essentially on eight (8) points. It was put in place in all the member movements on function of the reality of each. Certain movements had to adopt it at the local level. Others centred their efforts on one or more points of this plan. Others tried to put it to work in its totality. IMAC started by assessing this Action Plan using the questionnaires sent to the movements by the International Secretariat. A synthesis was made of all the responses received which enabled the delegates to the IA to perfect the evaluation and make the way for the next years. This document which is not available here can be got at IMAC.

6.2. - The reflection on the central theme: "to live the different forms of diversity is a necessity for building Peace; the children show us the way".

The reflection on the central theme was done in divisions.

Two groups worked separately: the children's group and the adult's group. After each period the getting together allowed the children and the adults to exchange their points of view and their propositions.

Division N°1: Analysis of the present situation using the synthesis document on diversity

Objectives:
- Exchange of the different forms of diversity experienced by the children.
- Examine the present situation.

A transversal lecture on the way the diversities are lived by the children in the movement allowed each participant to draw on the realities of the diversities which is present in the different countries where IMAC is present. This analysis showed how the children live their diversities and how IMAC helps them to welcome and live the different forms of diversity positively. This work was done using the synthesis document which was composed from the gathered responses to the national movements' preparatory work.
Division N° 2: External intercession: Round Table

Objectives:

- To have an external experience and opinion to enrich the deliberations of IMAC.

Two mediators / contributors, consultants, mediators: The mayor of the town of Rancagua, Mr Carlos Arellano Alcalde and national overseer of the Chilean organisation of Mayors working for the rights of children and our friend Shirley Lal Wijesinghe, who teaches at the university Kelaniya of Sri Lanka and is regional coordinator of Asia working for inter-religious and intercultural dialogue in Asia, gave us their perspectives on the problem of diversities. This period ended with a debate between the mediators and the participants. It especially helped to structure 4 points: children participation; dialogue (learn to discover the other); taking into account the diversities when making decisions; children's rights.

Division N° 3: With the children: Panel

Objectives:

- Give the children the opportunity to speak so they can express how they live the different forms of diversity.
- Share with the children all that we have heard, read, understood on the problem of diversity.

The children of the Regional Commission of America presented how they live their diversities in Latin America and how they perceive the diversities in other countries. The exchange period continued with them. During which they were able to say why it was important for them and for IMAC to take part in their own way in the reflections.

Division N° 4: Group work

Objectives:

- To have a definition on diversity and a declaration of principles on diversities. From what was discussed, this work led to the development of the definition of what we mean by "diversities" in IMAC so as to be able to lean on it to establish the coming orientations.

Division N° 5: Work in group:

Objectives:

- Make propositions of action priorities at each level of the Movement to increase the effect of IMAC.

From the collection of the reflection done and what IMAC means by "diversities", each group revealed "calls" and proposed work priorities for the years to come for an international organisation like IMAC and for each of the associations affiliated.

Division N°6: Work in plenary:

Objectives:

- Define the course of action for the future which will allow the acceptance of diversities as riches and a "fundamental right", which contributes to a better "living together".
This gave us the opportunity to share the propositions of the working groups and to reveal the orientation propositions for each country to support the acceptance of diversities as a way of dialogue between everybody, in the respect of human rights.

What was revealed are:

6.2.1. – The different forms of diversities lived in the countries:

The children live different forms of diversity:

- Religious diversity
- Ethnic diversity
- Political diversity
- Social diversity (rich and poor)
- Cultural diversity
- Economic diversity
- Nationality diversity
- Linguistic diversity
- Work diversity
- Character diversity
- Talent diversity
- Age diversity
- Regional diversity
- Genre diversity
- Racial diversity
- Union diversity
- Traditional diversity
- Denominational diversity

⇒ Family diversity
⇒ Ideological diversity
⇒ Geographical diversity
⇒ Natural diversity
⇒ Tribal diversity.

6.2.2. How the children live those diversities in their various living spaces?

⇒ SCHOOL

Ivory Coast, at school children live the diversities quite well. They are not yet indoctrinated. Cultural diversity for them is a plus, they use it in their different games. They are not involved in politics.

Sri Lanka, the children live in peace, treating everyone equally at school irrespective of cultural, linguistic, religious and racial differences and show the way to build peace in society.

Niger At school jalousy can bring one to reject the other belonging to another ethnic group.

Senegal They live the diversity through actions of sharing, mutual help and solidarity, also through mutual respect.

Central African Republic (CAR) Diversities can have positive or negative influences on children's life. But they do undertake actions in order to fight against
those diversities that are prejudical to their growth. In some schools children meet

with the practice of bargaining for notes, with rackets and girls with sexual harassment. They do get organised either to denounce those practices or to conscientized the wrong doers. They share whatever they have with others, they work

and play together just to show the adults that they are against tribalism and exclusion. Members of Aita Kue subscribe in order to help their sick teacher to get treatment.

SPAIN In classes children are getting used to the fact that they have to cohabit with children of different nationalities and cultures. They do it without great difficulty

SWITZERLAND They live the diversities quite naturally, but sometimes there are verbal and physical violences. There is racism, contemp for others and even violences because of physical differences or academic performances. At secondary level the educational system does disavantage the weakest. So the adolescents are divided.

Madagascar, There is a diffrence between private (denominational) and public school. Rich children are sent to private schools and they have all their school supplies. Poor children are ashamed to speak up in class because of their poor, torn clothes. In the Mandritsara region girls between 13 to 15 years do not go to school, but are forced by parents to marry so as to get the dowry of 5 oxen.

After 2 or 3 years of marriage parents will advise their daughters to get back home so as to get a new husband and a new dowry. Rich girls are not treated like that.

RODRIGUEZ, Some children do not accept in their college those who have not passed their exams. They do not share easily their games. But they are quick to denounce when some children (teachers' offspring or brilliant children) are chosen for activities.

Lebanon, Parents tend to prevent their children to live with others. At school there is conflict because of political diversities.

Jordan, It is forbidden to talk about differences and to incite towards discrimination, so all the children are living in harmony and peace.

Chili, At schools boys and girls, handicapped children and those who are well work together.

Government promotes tolerance toward diversities, and favours integration for everybody. Diversity is a theme that must be adopted by every citizen as we can see that there is not much tolerance towards
migrants for example. The great challenge is to step up education in values and faith so that the child can see the other one as a brother having virtues, capacities and aptitudes.

⇒ FAMILY

C.A.R, There are a few problems: lack of dialogue between parents and children, the fact that children must be subservient to the adults, the fact also that guardians mistreat their wards now childrens do react in order to denounce those practices and to conscientize their parents.

“Aïta Kue of the parish of St John the Baptist of Zemio in the district of Bangassou have observed that Sylvie B (14 years old) is not going to school. She does the housework. They decided to register her in a school. Her elder brother refused and said “in our family there is no obligation for everyone to go to school, surely not a girl “they talked to him about the necessity for girls to attend school, finally he agreed and now Sylvie attends the CE 2 class.

Spain, Children live in different kinds of family situation, many families have only one parent, some the parents are not married… in 2006 statistics showed that child abuse has gone up mostly by young parents or parents of low classes.

Switzerland, We don’t hear much about the families. But there are various situations: families with one parent, reconstituted families… there are abuses and much suffering.

Sri Lanka, In the family they are very respectful, they love and obey their parents. They help in the housework. They are very united with their brothers and sisters. They have been instrumental in creating peace when there have been disputes among the parents.

Madagascar, Because of poverty some fathers and mothers will drink in order to forget their family problems, but by so doing they only increase their problems, because there is no money for food and children go to bed without eating.

Reunion Island, Life style will be different according to the financial conditions of the parents: difference in cultural level, in activities. Politics can cause conflict inside the same family.

Brazil, Children and adolescents are ok but adults do complicate things when they impose their own points of view on the young ones. We must help the families to accept the diversities.

⇒ QUARTER/VILLAGE

Ivory Coast, Diversities in the quarter or village are no problem at all for the children as far as the parents do not interfere.
C.A.R, Adults treat children as being ignorant and unqualified. In some quarters children are accused of being sorcerers, of being possessed, of being haunted who cast spell on their parents or neighbours. Because of this the poor children are often beaten with atrocity, being forced to accept the accusations so as to avoid being tortured or rejected and benefit from a support by society.

Rodriguez, Brilliant children at school do not mix with others in the quarter. Children from well to do families (father and mother have a job) want to be leaders in their groups. Nevertheless some children practise solidarity, for example they subscribe so as others can participate in their activities. Skin colour can be an obstacle to conviviality.

⇒ IN THE CHURCH

Senegal, Different people pray together, children, young and adults, men and women live together in harmony. They avoid disputes, they share God’ word and they invite parents to send their children to Church (Movement, mass, catechism…).

C.A.R, In the Church very often children are excluded. During celebrations they are driven away from the benches to give place to adults. One Aita Kue of 14 years old said "I don't know how a sacrament is celebrated, because we are driven away from church to give place to adults". In Basic Christian Communities or parish decisions are taken without their say.

Spain, Mosques have been built to allow muslim migrants to practise their religion. In JUNIOR many muslim children participate without any problem. Of course with their parent's consent.

Switzerland

Church is open to others. There are different communities in our Church : italians, portugueses, germans, french…

Rodriguez, In celebrations like first communion there will be preferences, because only children who can read, or "teacher's child who will be chosen to perform. Others react and ask for their right to participate. Poor children do not participate with others because of lack of means.

Jordan, Church encourages the children to welcome the others, but some parents incite them towards discrimination.

6.2.3. Some Actions of children

First Action:

Dominique succeeded the entry exam to 6th class but he then had to leave his village and go stay at his uncle's, a fervent muslim who lives in a big town; He is happy to attend the same college as his cousins. Very quickly also he resumes his christian
habits : mass, prayer at night, catechism, basic christian community.

But his uncle who is muslim does not appreciate his absences. And he says that all those church activities prevent him from studying. So the uncle forced him to follow him to the mosque, to study Islam. And in place of catechism and mass he had to do housework and go on errands.

Dominique is not happy. He talked to his catechist and the latter together with other church leaders decided to meet his uncle, who after a few negotiations finally concedes to Dominique his right to return to catholic church.

MONOGRAPH : Mboloros children of Djomo C.A.R

The beginning of March 2005 was particularly tough for the inhabitants of Djomo, a village situated at 100 Kms in the North West of Carnot. The "Laraginas" who are always blocking roads terrorized everybody; Nobody could go to his field or to the diamond mines. But those gangsters attacked particularly the Mboloros who were cattle breeders, they take their children as hostages and then ask for big ransom to free them. There was panic among the poor Mboloros. They were like fugitives, but nobody in the villages wanted to shelter them, because of the menace of the gangsters.

One evening, fleeing Mboloros families landed in the village of Djomo.

The children and the women were exhausted. It has been days since they were on the move.

But the villagers were very afraid also and wanted to drive away the poor families, because they feared reprisals from the bandits. Some village chiefs were already asking the Mboloros to go away.

When they saw the critical situations of the poor families, AITA KUE children met together to see how they can help. Josaphat, Marabas, Judicaël, Joanna, Eulalie,

Da Sylvie, Louise and Ingrid alerted the others and started to think about that situation.

Eulalie told the others that is was unacceptable to chase the Mboloros from the village. Marabas was against that form of discrimination that was expressed by the villagers. Others said that they can't help those that don't share their life style. For Louise the Mboloros children have the same rights as all the children of the world, we can't tolerate to treat them like that. Da Sylvie shared that this attitude is un-evangelical because the Gospel asks us to welcome the strangers and the poor, and he pointed out that the Movement for some years now has been working on peace; It was an opportunity to show people that AITA KUE are really messengers of peace.

What are we to do?

Eulalie : «Let us gather them immediately in the mission yard and give them water to drink»
Judicaël: «I am going to gather wood to help them to cook»

Tania: «I always knew that you were stupid»

Judicael: «It's not the time to have fun. I am talking seriously»

Tania: «And you think that I am fooling»

Eulalie: «Will you stop arguing. Let us reflect on their situation afterwards you can argue.

What Tania said makes sense. Good thing Judicael proposed himself to fetch wood, otherwise we would not know what to do with the fire»

Joanna: «Who wants to come help me fetch the water»

Louise: «I think that we should go to see Sister Donia before doing anything. She will advise us»

Da Silva: «Sister Donia is a grown up. She will say like the others» «Let us chase away the Mbororos» «We decide by ourselves»

Louise: «She is a nun. She can't react like that!»

Josaphat: «You are losing time, let us get the water for the children. Then we go see Sister Donia, and after that whatever her decision we come back here to get them food»

Everybody agreed

After fetching water, they all went to see Sister counselor. After discussion, all together, against the will of the villagers they went to look for houses to welcome the Mbororos families. Then they put together some money (7500 francs) to buy them food. Moreover many of them shared their clothes and mats with the little Mbororos.

In spite of the menaces of the grown-ups, the Aita Kue children stood firm. Some of them even told their parents that they will go with the Mbororos families if they are chased away.

In the end the whole village understood that the children were more courageous and that the Gospel is at the heart of their action.

Monograph 3 Diversity between christians and traditional religion

There is a small fishing village in Aranta Majunga, the population are muslims and are very poor. But they still have a king (Mpanjaka) and follow traditional customs.

One Saturday the Ibalita of Antanimasaja wanted to go and pay a visit to the children of Aranta, but according to customs they must ask permission from the king first. Ibalita’s facilitator made a appointment to see the king.
So Sunday afternoon all the Iblaita went to see the king.

Before entering, according to customs, every body must remove shoes, doff hat, kneel down and bow down before introduction.

Jacquis, our facilitator spoke and asked the chief’s permission to play with the Aranta children. There were 20 girls and 10 boys aged between 7 and 14 years. They were illiterate. Iblaita children wanted to know, how they pray so they knelt down and they touch the ground with their forehead.

Iblaita children them showed them how Christians pray.

Afterward the Aranta children wanted to know when they were coming back. But Iblaita told them to ask permission from their king to come and play with them in town. The chief refused. But that visit open up children with different religions and customs. At the request of the Aranta children, now almost every wednesday and sunday afternoon the children of Aranta and AntanimaSaja play and pray together.

15 Aranta children want to join Iblaita and also want to follow Catholicism, their parents agree.

The Aranta parents have also asked Jacquis to start a literacy course and even catechism course for their children. Now there is a small school at Aranta with 25 pupils and one teacher. The parents are paying for the teacher. The school is not even official.

6.2.4. What obstacles did they meet?

Ivory Coast, Parents are main obstacles because they are reticent, have superiority or inferiority complex, they are negligent, ashamed, they refuse to have their children mixing with others.

Senegal, To live the diversities we have met with a few difficulties

- People's opposition, not respecting our action
- Conflict between the facilitators themselves
- Conflict between the families

C.A.R, Aïta Kué do meet with some obstacles Economic crisis and poverty do not give us the necessary financial means to undertake proper actions. The weight of tradition according to which "Ears must not outgrow the head", meaning that children must submit to adults, they must not argue or contradict them. Parents and teachers do not take into consideration the advices of the children, because they are the
responsible parties and do not receive orders from the children.

**Sud Korea**, Children who are discarded by their parents or who have single parent have early childhood trauma.

Boo for focusing on appearance, slim body and plastic surgery cause children having ugly faces or being fat to be bullied.

The children Movement is blocked by excessive cram school classes and entrance exam centered school system.

**Madagascar**, In some places parents, especially those practising traditional religion will prevent heir children from coming to Ibalita. So far even if we are aware of that problem it has not been studied in depth.

**Rodriguez**, Poor children work during holidays. Some will play with older children. Some children receive a lot of pocket money. Some parents lack authority. Children prefer video games, some drink and smoke… some children find it hard to follow even technical classes and they fail.

**Lebanon, Congo Brazzaville, Brazil, Chile and Bolivia**, Obstacles are the parents, the neighbours and friends

### 6.2.5. How do those actions contribute to building up Peace?

- Children's actions overcome all obstacles.
- Children's actions sensitize adults towards living the diversities.
- Children are models of builders of peace.
- They do contribute to the building up of peace because they give examples by their own conduct and by their actions.
- In acting as christians.
- In being citizens of the world and acting in our living spaces.
- In learning to know our differences.
- Actions plant the recognition that children are the leaders in their lives and can do by themselves. So the members in the Movement can be active and help each other.
- Members in the Movement try to exchange between them, keep in touch and unite peacefully.
- Action plan lets them discuss peace at school, in the neighborhood and the family. And the children can put those values into practice in their lives.

Movement welcomes children of all races, religions and customs. It takes into account the real life of the children and it helps the children to see their situations and to transform the world in which they live, to overcome obstacles to their well-being. It's really God's will that all his children are happy. In transforming the world they put into practice values from the Gospel, thus they do build peace.
• Children choose themes related to peace. Protection of environment is a first step towards peace, because if we want peace we must start with respecting God's creation that we will leave for our descendants. Children must understand why they are undertaking such actions.

• Lebanon, To day there is war, we are witnessing the annihilation of the other. To establish peace we have to understand the other and cooperate with him. One small row, really not serious can degenerate in armed conflict, so to establish peace we have to accept the other.

• It is essential to know the other one who is different from us, we must identify the advantages and the disadvantages, this will help to accept him and respect him. Creating projects will promote cooperation - cooperation will breed sympathy and acceptance of the other. Thus to live diversity one needs to be open minded and friendly. It requires also that one rejects things and needs that create conflict and adopts what draws closer and unites people. Cohabitation needs love and respect.

• By being equals. By putting Jesus at the heart of our discussion. Teaching the values. MOANI by its actions shows to society how to respect and accept the differences (for ex the march for peace and non-violence in 2005).

• By sensitizing the children in their basic groups, through debates on different themes like violence, by participating in marches for peace along with other Organisations like "Cries of the excluded", through ENAC (Regional Meeting of Children and Adolescents) on the theme "Children and Adolescents are organised in their fight for peace and ecology".

• By creating unity and friendship. Through sharing of experiences. Through respect of others. Through wall drawings on peace, streamers, marches for peace.

• Through media, local radios; By loving one another in day to day life; By continuing with our meetings, children and adolescents, getting information, and undertaking actions or activities together with adults so that they may see how we are laughing, singing and playing together. Give adults an example of cohabitation so that they may know that violence leads nowhere.

When children in spite of their different identities live like brothers.

Then if this holy rule is not respected it can attack the basic principle of the right to life an live life primly, we, in IMAC, have the concept of working in Diversity taking these general principles as a base.
GENERAL PRINCIPLES HOW TO TREAT THE DIVERSITY IN IMAC

What we think about Diversity is based on the **Holy Rule of love**, the command of God living on us, for that reason we are invited to make life as the image of God, respecting, discovering and working for all people, without thinking over their cultures, religions or customs. In IMAC we understand to work in Diversity taking these general principles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUALITY</th>
<th>LIBERTY</th>
<th>UNITY</th>
<th>COEXISTENCE</th>
<th>HUMILITY</th>
<th>PROTECTION</th>
<th>SOLIDARITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of us are sons of God, without differences of races, ethnic groups, ages or sex. The equality is the first topic of our conception of how we understand our closeness to Diversity. So it is a reason to <strong>Justice</strong> to understand other people as we want to be understood or accepted, in the same way we are with our brother.</td>
<td>We have been created <strong>equally</strong> free men and women and the <strong>whole Earth</strong> was given to us to make use and take care of it as our home. All of us must provide and respect our liberty working and having respect for the freedom of others.</td>
<td>From the beliefs that all of us are one, we must have an attitude of sincere welcome to all people. This unity must be made and get strength along all the members of the movement and with all who surround us. The true way to get unity is to share the life of others.</td>
<td>The share of life for others must be made from the respect and the valuation of all individually from the culture they belong to. We seem that the best way to do it, is the dialogue among equal persons.</td>
<td>This attitude along with the simplicity are basic when we talk about Diversity. They will help us not to believe in being owners of the truth. This will be found by all and all the opinions will be taken in order to try getting through it. The acceptance of the differences will help us to understand each other, to accept others.</td>
<td>Our task in favour of the Diversity is the defence of that one who is rejected, used or no accepted by the present society. Not only we welcome different people from us, our principles and our faith make us to criticize those disdained attitudes and we are invited to help them and work for the task in order to make them live <strong>the protagonism</strong> of their lives.</td>
<td>To share our lives with the others and to unify with them is a matter of a necessary unselfishness that it asks us a disposition of assistance to others whoever they are. The solidarity invite us to get a commitment (or obligation) in the building of changing (or transforming) actions in the realities where the respect for others, specially to children, is not given. These actions will be encouraged in our movement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.3 The action plan 2008-2014

The evaluation of the Damas Action Plan, the reflection on diversities and the one carried out on the future of IMAC allowed the delegates at the International Encounter to elaborate a new action plan. An action plan is a whole of planned priorities to implement during the next 6 years by IMAC’s various structures: International Bureau, Regions, National Movements…

The current action plan revolves around 4 main points:

- **Consolidate the “living together” and acknowledge diversities as assets**

Diversities are often perceived as limitations to communication between people. They are sometime subject to manipulation and are factors of conflict between people, between different peoples. Children are the first victims. Intolerance developed by adults is sometimes transmitted to children.

IMAC believes that “living diversities” is a requirement to build Peace.

The starting point of our approach to diversity is the **commandment of love**. It relies on God’s commandment: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." We are invited to discover the other, to respect him, to receive from him, and to strive to ensure that all are respected regardless of culture, religion, social origin, family… Because of that and because the non respect can go against the basic principle of a **right to life** and of an “abundant life”, we at IMAC are willing to work diversity.

**Expected results**

1. Consolidate the “living together” between children and attendants of different social, religious, cultural, ethnic, familial… origins

2. Strengthen the construction of Peace

3. Development of solidarity actions

4. Greater openness to another with their differences and diversities

5. Accepting and enrich oneself in diversity
Means implemented | Who
--- | ---
Supporting the opening of movement to all children regardless of gender, race, religion, culture, social origin ... | Movements
Promote children actions that allow to live more diversity. | Movements
Promote activities, games, songs ... that promote knowledge of the culture, religion ... of the other. | Movements
Helping children to work for a solidarity between them and between different children. | Movements
Helping children member of a national movement to develop actions with those of another IMAC movement | Movements - Regions
Helping children from IMAC to implement actions in partnership with children from other organizations | Movements

Protection of Children’s Rights

Protection of Children’s Rights has always been a priority for IMAC.

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Children’s Rights. This is an opportunity to bring the voices of children at the international level and at all levels (regional, national). Beyond the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Children’s Rights, act and allow children to be actors for the respect of Children’s Rights will be central for the 6 years to come.

Expected results

1. Having visibility of IMAC at the 20th anniversary of the Convention at all levels (local, national, regional and international including Geneva)

2. Intensify outreach to children and adults of the International Convention on the Children’s Rights

3. Allowing children to be involved in defending their rights, their duties and responsibilities

4. Make the voices of children heard with international and national institutions responsible for defending the rights of children.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means implemented</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate with BICE and other international organizations invested in the field of childhood and present in Geneva for the organization of an event in Geneva on November 20 2009.</td>
<td>IO, SG, movements (including MADEP-ACE – Switzerland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider the presence of a delegation of IMAC children for the event to be held in Geneva to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Children’s Rights</td>
<td>IO, SG, movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of events at national and regional levels to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Convention on the Children’s Rights</td>
<td>Every movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each region will see how it may have visibility during the 20th anniversary of the International Convention on the Children’s Rights</td>
<td>Regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each movement will take appropriate means during the 6 years to come to popularize the International Convention on the Children’s Rights</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deepening the reality of children’s rights locally and nationally</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To inform the general secretary about the situation of children rights in his country, so that it can be spokesman with the competent international authorities, and will publish a document reflecting the achievements in children's rights</td>
<td>Movements, IO, SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To inform the general secretary about the actions led by the movement and by children for the promotion and protection of children's rights so that he can publish a document</td>
<td>Movements, IO, SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each movement will work on its level to get involved with other organizations to defend the rights of children in its own country.</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every movement shall find the appropriate means so that children can:</td>
<td>Movements, regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Analyze the situation of children’s rights in their country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be aware of this reality and the way they live it</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Act for their rights</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Each movement shall find the appropriate means to form the attendants to children’s right</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To inform through IMAC’s communication tools (website, children in movement, LEN, publication of movements) the work done by IMAC and all its members on protection and promotion of children's rights.</td>
<td>IO, SG, movements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
⇒ Participation and advocacy of children

That’s the fundamental belief of IMAC movements: we believe in the ability of children to be actors, to participate in the life of the city, to be protagonists of their lives, to be disciples and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

By this route, we want to support all initiatives enabling children to participate in decisions affecting them and to be protagonists in all their living places, and within the movement.

Expected results

1. Greater involvement of children in their movement’s daily life
2. Ensure that children are fully involved in society and the Church
3. Strengthen the capacities of attendants to support children in their actions
4. Demonstrate the ability of children to be actors in their various life environments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means implemented</th>
<th>Who</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening or establishment of diocesan commissions, national and regional children</td>
<td>Movements, regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding of national and regional children meetings</td>
<td>Movements and regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing the means to move towards the organization of an international children meeting</td>
<td>IO, regions, movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting up a training plan for the attendants</td>
<td>Movements, IO, SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the exchange of training materials between movements through the establishment of the website</td>
<td>Movements, IO, experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding of regional training meetings for the attendants</td>
<td>Movements, regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make known by IMAC’s tools of communication the actions led by children, and how they are actors and protagonists in all life environments and their movement</td>
<td>Movements, IO, SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the exchanges between children by setting up a forum on the website</td>
<td>IO, movements, experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each movement and region shall find the appropriate means to publicize the actions of children in society and in Church (using monographs or others)</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Building IMAC action capacities**

IMAC has a major challenge, given its extremely fragile financial situation. We will have to implement decisions taken during the RI which aim to ensure the sustainability of IMAC, highlighting the financial resources it has and its functioning.

**Expected results**

1. Restoring a financial balance in IMAC
2. Develop the visibility of IMAC
3. Promote and develop exchanges between movements
4. Greater involvement of movements and regions IMAC’s international life
5. Strengthening at all levels of IMAC the capacity of preparing and monitoring projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means implemented</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support the creation of a network of volunteers, &quot;experts&quot; from the movement and / or close to IMAC, able to support the General Secretary in creating a website, in assembling projects for funding, to be spokesperson for children at the international level ...</td>
<td>IO, CA, movements, close to IMAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the creation of a network of volunteers, &quot;experts&quot; from the movement and / or close to IMAC, able to support the regions in assembling projects for funding, to be spokesperson for children at the regional level ...</td>
<td>IO, movements, regions, close to IMAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and dissemination of educational tools enabling movements and coordinators to strengthen their capacity to develop and monitor projects.</td>
<td>IO, Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of all persons likely to develop and monitor projects (coordinators, SG, a network of volunteers ...), taking into account the requirements of agencies</td>
<td>IO, Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment for an annual fee of IMAC by all members’ movements and commit to each RI for a minimum amount paid annually or served several years if the bank charges are too high.</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing access via the Internet for all the communication tools of IMAC (children in movement, IMAC reflections documents on a given point, documents produced during visits to the Vatican or for a representation at the international level, speaking to audiences ...) to all movements that had paid their fee.</td>
<td>IO, Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development in all regions and movements of initiatives (financial transaction, collections ...) to finance IMAC or commitment on the part of members (children, attendants) to pay an annual amount to finance IMAC.</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a website</td>
<td>IO, CA, Ricardo, movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and distribution (through the site and / or by mail) of children in movement</td>
<td>SG, movements, regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompany all movement in implementing the action plan by (among other) sending at least three times a year a Letter to the National Teams.</td>
<td>SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each movement needs to integrate in its action plan IMAC’s action plan, and commit to inform the BI how it is getting implemented</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMAC visibility in the communication tools of national movements and more widely (dioceses, parishes ...)</td>
<td>Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with the movements of Catholic Action</td>
<td>Movements, regions, BI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each movement needs to be in relation to their bishops’ conference or with the bishops of their dioceses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IO, movements (including the movement in which there is the seat of one of the organizations)</td>
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Getting involved with United Nations bodies concerned with children’s lives (UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, Committee on the Rights of the Child)

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<th>Movements</th>
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<tr>
<td>IO, regions, movements</td>
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Implement other provisions passed by the movement to the RI on the future of IMAC

<table>
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<tr>
<td>IO, regions, movements</td>
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**Provisions passed by the movements with this action plan**

- During the preparation of projects, payroll and operating charges of the General Secretary for monitoring of the project will be included in the budget request for funding. These charges shall correspond to 20% of the total project. This provision applies to all projects developed at the international, regional or national level, if the General Secretary is involved.

- The frequency of RI will be 6 years. Between two RI will be held (mid-term) an expanded BI to all regional coordinators.
6.4 – The decisions for the future

During this international meeting a commission to reflect on the future of IMAC has been designated. Its mission was to make proposals for important decisions to ensure the future of IMAC. At the end of its works, many decisions were made and passed by the delegates. With this report we take again the main decisions:

The Website

- A decision was taken at the RI: giving a website to IMAC in order to be visible, get known, share our experiences and train each other.

Children in Movement:

The RI chose to increase the number of subscriptions and the cost of annual subscription at 15 Euros per year.

- A subscription form was submitted to participants at the RI to allow those who can to purchase their subscriptions already.

Regional children meetings

- Regional children meetings will take place only if we have the funding required.
- Promote the participation of children in their movement.
- Reflect within the region to organize a regional meeting.

Regional attendants meetings

- Exchange our meeting dates between regions.

- Invite each other (countries) to participate in our respective training sessions.
- Enable the deployment of training sessions.
- Share calendars of training sessions between countries.
- Send our respective invitations.

IMAC annual day

- Establishment of an annual day for IMAC, which content will have to be defined.

20TH Anniversary of the international convention on the children’s rights (November 20, 2009):

Delegates at the RI have decided that IMAC, at all levels, fully live the 20th anniversary of the international Convention on the Children’s Rights. We should:

- Give a strong voice of IMAC
- Invite national movements to mark the date of 20 November 2009.
- Publish the achievements on the on the rights of children.
- Share actions led by children
- Lead a delegation of children (international level) at the party in Geneva on November 20, 2009.

The international structure

With the aim of “MAKING IMAC OTHERWISE” it was decided to reduce the operating expense of the movement;
As of 1 January 2009, IMAC configuration will change. There will be at IMAC:

2 General Secretaries including 1 permanent employee

1 Ecclesiastical Assistant (half-time employee)

1 Administrative Secretary (half-time employee)

1 President, 4 Vice-Presidents and volunteering regional coordinators

For the operating of regions, it was decided that

The regions surround themselves with people who are able to help (eg re-reading funding projects before sending to the SG).

The regions present their operating budget fully funded

Regions appoint an alternate coordinator.

**The fact of non existence of some movements**

The International Meeting also found the non-existence of the movements of Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Mexico and Colombia.

**6.5 – IMAC news Statutes:**

IMAC adopted during the International Meeting its new statutes that meet the norms of canon law.

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**6.6 – Election of the new international office:**

The International Meeting was also an opportunity to elect a new International Office.

It is as follows:

**President :**

Anne Marie Froidevaux (Switzerland)

**Vice-presidents :**

Claudia Terrazas Terrazas (Bolivia)

Louise Paré (Quebec)

Romuald Soglo (Benin)

Claire Saïd (Lebanon)

**General Secretaries :**

Faviola Antequera Melgar (Bolivia)

Apollinaire BINSANGOU (Congo Brazza)

**Ecclesiastical Assistant :**

Père Jean Claude Seguin (France)
7. Resources given to participants to ensure the follow-up of the meeting guidelines

A CD was delivered to each participant with summaries (translated into French, English and Spanish) after each of the highlights and priorities for action for years to come. A special issue of "children in movement" and a related report will also be sent to each of the movements members of IMAC. These documents are being prepared. In addition, key information on the international seminar were compiled in Spanish on the website of our Chilean organization: www.moani.cl

Lebanon dance

Asian Delegation
- APPENDICES -

**Appendices 1:** Contribution of the Committee on Children in Latin America to the issue of diversities

**Diana:** I am 15 years old. I am in 11th grade. I am from Guyana Venezuela. I’ve been a delegate for 4 years. I am part of the national team and also of the Committee on children and adolescents in Latin America.

**Robinson:** I am 14 years old. I am in 10th grade and I live in northern Peru. I’ve been in the movement since I was 6. I have been a group delegate and then a national delegate. I also attended sensitization workshops for groups of children in Europe in 2005 and now I’m part of the Committee on children and adolescents in Latin America.

**Ciro:** I am 15 years old. I am in 10th grade and I live in El Alto de La Paz in Bolivia. I am a delegate and part of the national team. I am also part of the Committee on Latin Americans children and adolescents.

**Andrea:** I am 14 years old. I am in 9th grade. I have experience in the core team. I am a national delegate and member of the national movement. I’m from Recife, Brazil. I participate in the Basic Ecclesial Community. It's been 7 years that I am in the movement. I am a member of the Committee on Latin Americans children and adolescents.

**Miguel:** I am 13 years old. I am in 8th grade. I live in Talca, Chile. It has been 4 years that I am in the movement. I am a base delegate. I am part of the national team and I am also part of the Committee on Latin Americans children and adolescents.

We want to emphasize how we lived the diversity since we’ve been meeting and sharing our cultures, our languages, our experiences. We want to participate actively in the dynamics of the movement. We met in Bolivia in July 2007.

We have a great diversity. We are a multicultural continent. We live with diversity in language with the Portuguese in Brazil, in music, in physical types (phenotypes), ethnic diversities.

For example in Chile, the Mapuche : 6,500 children and adolescents, are organized in movements. In Bolivia, the Quechua, the Aymara, the Mestizos : 1,000 children and adolescents are organized similarly. This shows that diversity is inevitable and we agreed to live this reality.
If we look at our history, we realize that our countries are multicultural, with various ethnic groups, indigenous communities, different people, a mix of various dialects, different ways of thinking, different religions and ideologies.

In Latin America, we have been working for quite a while on this “diversity” theme. We left aside differences to adopt common in action and thus give more importance to working together.

The result of this work was the establishment of the Committee on children and adolescents in Latin America. A long process of working was necessary to achieve this result.

“For us diversity is the inevitable human condition. We must accept, unite and work together.”

We are also attending the International Meeting with the aim to be spokesperson for the children and adolescents of all IMAC movements.

In Africa, our friends live through religious, political and ethnic differences. These differences exist at all levels of society. Some of these differences cause intolerances which have led to wars and closures of schools.

In Asia, the differences are as many and varied as ethnicities and religions, which cause various situations such as lack of dialogue between parents and children.

IMAC defines itself as “Good News” for union and “living together”, which allows to help for actions and make proposals for change.

In Europe, immigration also brings its social and economic problems. There are also religious, cultural and social diversities. In schools, children have learned to live diversity by agreeing to live with other cultures, but in some places there is discrimination and racism. Single parent families have their influence on children. In neighbourhoods we observe vandalism to defend cultures. At the religious level, mosques are being built. We can see that children from different cultures live together without any problems.

In the Middle East, there are economic, cultural and political diversities. Families do not accept that their children speak to children from another religion. In Jordan, children are prohibited to talk about diversity. At the religious level, the various religions are often a barrier between neighbours, members of one same family. In addition, there is the fear of terrorism.

The region of the Indian Ocean is composed of four islands: Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues. The realities of these islands are different and distinct groups but the
activities are the same and are together. The diversity does not exceed the methodology used, the dance unites us.

In certain parts of Asia, life at school is more than dance and games, for others it starts with the history of Asia. We study at the maximum so that the future is only professional. In South Korea, aspects of the children’s lives are not taken into account. The movement wants children and adolescents to have a space to talk, share and play.

In Europe, despite the rejection of migrants, racism and discrimination, the Swiss movement welcomes all children.

In the Middle East, because of religious diversity, the movements accommodate all children regardless of religion.

The African songs often show the reality: poverty, different religions, street children and all these children come in the movement through an invitation which takes place from IMAC. Those who come in receive food. A major problem faced by some African countries is the trafficking of children: some countries sell children at the borders so families can survive. The actions of IMAC are aimed at changing this reality.

In Latin America, diversity and discrimination are similar to other continents. Loss of cultural identity in Bolivia, serious discrimination because of internal migration in the country... In Brazil, some parents encourage their children not to mix with children from another social background. There is a strong discrimination at the socio-economic level. The movement is against this situation. In Chile, the Peruvian children are often mistreated. The policy of Venezuela is very conflictual and this leads to political diversity and children are often manipulated. In Chile, there are urban gangs, which gave birth to styles and different types of clothing: Pokemon, Nazis etc. Some groups seek their identity, their style of music, their clothing style, which result in discrimination between groups.

The MENA wants to welcome everyone so that to rivalry between groups diminishes. We have to live diversity with tolerance. The rainbow would not be what it is, if there were not all these colours. Life in the world should be alike and we should live diversity as the colours of the rainbow as its beauty comes from there.
Appendices 2: Statement of the International Meeting

The International Movement of Apostolate of Children (IMAC) wants to express its appreciation to the people and the Chilean government for the hospitality and attention received during the International Conference held in the city of Talagante. It would like to demonstrate the important contribution made by IMAC to society. Children and adolescents need to be present in all local, national and international areas, in which are decided the various aspects that affect them.

With its experience of over forty years, IMAC wants to state that the advocacy of children is fundamental for them to take control of their lives and give effective responses to situations that concern them. IMAC wishes that the children who make up the movement have this opportunity to participate. That's why we're asking your country to develop a special attention towards children at the level of institutions that your government supports both at communal and national levels.

It also wants to share its willingness to support the integration of all children and adolescents, in particular those who suffer from exclusion. We hope that they can be hosted and accepted.

IMAC understands diversity as an asset for everyone, from the certainty that we are all equal and that we must live fraternally, based on our Christian conception of life.

We will celebrate together with other movements of children and other international forums the 20th anniversary of the international Convention on the Children’s Rights. We will make an analysis of the achievements and, to the best of our ability, we express our determination to make it progress. We hope that the government of Chile is involved with all those who want this Convention to move forward each day a little more, until its objectives are fulfilled.

Together, the children of the Committee on Latin America and the delegates from 39 countries members of IMAC, we demonstrate our commitment for IMAC to pursue its commitment so it can extend its work to other countries, the same way it did in Chile.

Talagante, July 22, 2008.
Appendix 3: Participants to the international Meeting

Central Africa:

Congo Brazza:
BABAKISSINA –NDZILA Jonas Benjamin

Gabon:
OWOUMBOU SIANGOYE Rodrigue

R.D.C:
INGUNI-BELESI Jules

Chad:
MAM-MBAYE Mbombaye

Coordinator C.A.:
MOROUBA Mathias

Occidental Africa:

Bénin:
ATINKPAHOUN Wadayi Opportun

Guinée Conakry:
HAOMOU Moïse

Mali:
TRAORE Alphonse

Niger:
DJANGBIKPO KOFFI Komi Abraham

Sénégal:
MINGOU Achille

Togo:
KOUDIFON Komla Léonard

Coordinator O. A:
SOGLO Romuald

Latin America:

Bolivia:
TERRAZAS TERRAZAS Claudia Melvy

MELENDRES FLORES Gloria

TRUJILLO VELASCO Ciro

Brazil:
PAZ DE ALBUQUERQUE Klaus

LOPEZ FERREIRA DE LIMA Andreia

RITA MARIA SANTOS

Chile:
MUNOZ LIBERONA Myriam de la Luz

CISTERNA BARRA Jonathan Edison

FUENTES Miguel

JARITZA Garces

DIAZ Catalina

Peru:
CECILIA RAMIREZ FLORES

Coordinator L. A.:
SOGLO Romuald

Venezuela:
GOYO GONZALEZ Gregoria Coromoto

CHEIFES SCHOUTEN Diana

Abigail Diana

Coordinator L. A.:
Patricia RIVERA GUERRA

North America:

Québec:
PARE Louise

Carabian Islands:

Haiti:
MATHIEU Dieudonné

Martinique:
DOLLY Francile

ASIA:

SUD Corée:
LIM YOUNGHEE Lydia

KIM AEKYUNG Lucia

LEE SANGBUM Simeon

KERMOAL Emmanuel

Sri Lanka:
COORAY Joseph B.D.
Coordinator Asie:
WIJESINGHE Shirley Lal

Europe:
Espagne :
FERNANDEZ HERNANDEZ Ricardo José

France :
ROUMIEU Patrice

Portugal :
FERNANDES DOS SANTOS Carla Cristina

Switzerland :
FRAUENKNECHT Patricia

Slovakia :
STEFANOVICOVA Jana

Middle EAST:
Egypt :
HUSSEIN ABD EL AALHUSSIN Hend

Lebanon
EL MCHANTAF Chadi
HADDAD Camélia

Syria :
ALMARI Takla

Coordinator M.E:
TALAB Hassan

Indian Ocean:
Madagascar :
FENO Eléonore

Mauritius
LARARAUDEUSE Marie Annick
CUPIDON Marie Louise

Réunion island
DA SILVA PALMEIRA Celina Maria

Rodrigues island:
JEAN LOUIS Marie Rogina

Coordinator I. O. :
RASSOONDRON Marie Noëlle

International Team:
THOURET Olivier (Président)
TALAB Hassan (Vice Président)
FROIDEVAUX Anne Marie (Vice Présidente)
RIVERA GUERRA Patricia (Vice Présidente)
MOROUBA Mathias, Barthélémy (Vice Président)
ANTEQUERA MELGAR Faviola (secrétaire Générale)
BINSANGOU Apollinaire (secrétaire Général)
SEGUII Jean Claude (Aumonier)

Board of Directors:
FRULEUX Dominique (Présidente)
CANTENOT Bernadette (Trésorière)
ANGER Isabelle (Member)

Technical Team:
MORALES Eduardo
ARAYA Gonzalo
ORELLANA Lilian
SEGURA Gemita
RAMIREZ Magdalena
SANDOVAL Alejandro
PEREIRA Maribel
LEIVA Roxana
WARS Ian
SILVA Andrea
PEREIRA Sebastian
DIAZ Tulio

Synthesis Team:
GONZALEZ DE LA LASTRA Alfredo
DIAZ ESPINOZA Osvaldo Antonio
LARTIGA Ivan Eduardo

Translators:
Jorge GONZALEZ
Jorge Munoz
Eugenia UHART
Gabriel CAYUL
News International Bureau

The International Meeting was also marked by the establishment of a new International Bureau composed a total 8 members

President

Anne Marie FROIDEVAUX

Vice-presidents

Claudia TERRAZAS
V.P. and coordinator L.A.

Louise PARE
V.P. and charge of the mission

Romuald SOGLO
V.P. and coordinator W.A.

Claire SAID
V.P. and coordinator M.E.

Apollinaire BINSANGOU
Secretary General

Faviola ANTEQUERA M.
Secretary General

Jean Claude SEGUIN
Chaplain International

This international team will work with the coordinators if areas

Lal Shirley WJESINGHE
pour l’Asie

Marie Noëlle RASSONDRON
pour l’Océan Indien

Jonas Benjamin NDZIL
pour l’Afrique Centrale
Mouvement International d’Apostolat des Enfants
International Movement of Apostolate of Children
Movimiento Internacional de Apostolado de los Niños

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