

## **COMPTE-RENDU**

### **CICT - COCTI – 13<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014**

#### **Impacts of Real Contexts in Doing Theology**

#### **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA - NAIROBI, KENYA**

#### **FACULTY OF THEOLOGY**

The 13th General Assembly of the CICT- COCTI held from 4 to 7 November 2014 at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, the Karen campus in Nairobi, Kenya.

#### **I. Presentation of the General Assembly**

The meeting was opened Tuesday, November 4 by Eucharist presided by the representative of the abbot Ferdinand Lugonzo, Secretary General of the Association of Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa, in the presence of the University Rector Bishop Pius Rutechura.

Wednesday 5 and Thursday, November 6, communications and reports were presented in the conference room of the CUEA.

Friday, November 7, the only members of the CICT-COCTI met to deliberate on: the management report, modification of the statutes, the election of the Board and the regional delegates, the next places of general meetings and their theme of work and joint projects.

The members were able to participate in a tour of Nairobi National Park to discover the richness of its wildlife. The General Assembly concluded with a banquet at the Bomas of Kenya in Nairobi Cultural Centre exposing the diversity of village communities in Kenya. The Board of Directors of the CICT- COCTI and participants are warmly thanked the organizing committee for the quality of its welcome.

The participants were accommodated in the home of the Franciscan family, the Portiuncula, a few hundred meters from the CUEA.

The CUEA organizing committee was chaired by Professor Richard Rwiza under the authority of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Professor Constance Banzikiza.

### **1.1. Participants**

32 participants, 15 of Deans and delegates, the Secretary-General of IFCU - IFCU, the President of the COMIUCAP, 15 teachers of the CUEA and Nairobi.

### **1.2 Communications**

The theme of the conference was "*The impact of real settings on our theology.*"

The conference was the subject of 12 papers , a statement by the FIUC - IFCU Secretary-General on FIUC – IFCU and a moral and financial report by the CICT – COCTI President.

The twelve papers were:

- *Contexts in doing theology: pastoral perspective and challenges*, by Dr. Nicholaus Segeja
- *Professional ethics for Pastoral Ministers*, by Dr. Louis Gendron
- *Place and characteristics of an African-American theology*, by Prof. Fernando Barredo
- *New Trends in indian christian theology After Vatican II*, by Noël Sheth
- *Transformative impact of the Bible on Africa*, by Dr. Peter Muema
- *Theological analysis of a new context*, by Prof. Clement Majawa
- *Socio-economic challenges facing women in East Africa: a christian-muslim perspective* by Dr. Lucy Kimaro and Dr. George Ndemo
- *Contextual philosophies as the essential tool for effective theologizing*; by Dr. Frederick Wanjala
- *The impact of the African context in african doing theology in the spirit of Vatican II*, by Dr. Richard Rwiza
- *The call of Vatican II for the renewal of catholic education and role of philosophy*, by Prof. Joao Vila-Cha
- Addition: - *Vatican as a theological style* by Professor Gilles Routhier.
- *The impact of the real-life situations of language on the learning of Sacred Scripture*, by Pr . Claudio Vianney

Other review

- Management postponement 2012-2014 by President Thierry-Marie Courau

## II. Amendment of statutes

At the General Assembly, it was decided, by unanimous approval, to amend the status of 14 December 2007 in the following terms:

### Title II: Membership

#### Article 5

##### *Modification clause 5.b*

Replacing " *We distinguish between members and associate members*" by "There are different categories of members: active members, associate members, associate members for two years and invited members".

Replacing " *Members are theological institutions ... to the next level*" by "The active members are institutions theology ... to the next level "

##### **New clause 5.c**

Membership, *as two-years associate membership* may be open to Catholic institutions of theology and religious studies with the characteristics described above, but issuing their degrees through a university affiliation, and not directly. This two-year membership, the terms of which are detailed in the admission file, is renewable. *Two-years associate membership* gives access to the rights of associate members.

##### **New clause 5.d**

Membership as *a guest membership* is open to various institutions, such as non-Catholics, specialized in studies or religious sciences etc. The terms of this membership are detailed in the admission file submitted to guest member. It is for a one-year period. This *guest membership* does not entitle invited to vote

#### Article 6

##### **is deleted and replaced with:**

The adherents of all categories are represented by the duly appointed head of the institution (Dean, Director, President) or any person acting under his delegation by the official.

## Title III Government

### A- The General Assembly

#### Article 13

##### **Change**

replacing " *every three years* " by " *every two years* ".

## **B- The Board of Directors**

### **Article 18**

is deleted and replaced with :

#### **clause 18.a**

The Board of Directors includes: President and many members as geographical areas as specified below, one of those members acting as Vice-President. The President, members and the Vice-President are elected by the General Assembly for four years.

#### **18.b**

The members of the Board are selected from representatives of the affiliated institutions (members or partners). At the time of their election, they must be regularly appointed by the authority (Dean, Director, President) of the institution they represent.

#### **18.c**

It is defined six geographic regions: Africa, North America, South America, Asia- Pacific, Europe and India.

#### **18.d**

The President shall propose for nomination to the Board of Directors a Secretary - Treasurer, Executive Board member, whose functions are defined below. The mandate of this will be related to the mandate of the President.

## **C- The Executive Board**

### **Article 23**

**is deleted and replaced with:**

The Secretary - Treasurer is in charge of the Secretariat including reporting, PV, etc. It manages the finances of the CICT- COCTI and reports on its management to the President. It assists the President in all its functions and performs all the duties that may be assigned by the latter.

*Note: For consistency, the COCTI or COCTI - CICT acronyms were all replaced in the statutes of 7 December 2007 by CICT- COCTI .*

## **III. Elections and decisions**

### **III.1 Election of Board of Directors**

Chairman: Thierry -Marie Courau was elected for 4 years, following the change of the statutes (from 3 to 4 years).

Continental delegates, elected for 4 years, members of the Board of Directors:

- Africa: Benjamin Akotia (Abidjan, Ivory Coast)
- Asia Pacific: Louis Gendron (Taipei, Taiwan)
- Europe: Roman Zaviyskyy (Lviv, Ukraine)
- North America: Gilles Routhier (Quebec, Canada)
- Latin America: Hermann Rodriguez Osorio (Bogota, Colombia)
- India: Not determined.

### **III.2 specific Mission**

The Asian continent (cf. paragraph 18.c) were subdivided in Asia Pacific and India, in the absence of a qualified representative for India, it is assigned a mission to Noël Sheth, Pune, India, to identify the network of Catholic institutions theology which the CICT- COCTI could partner.

### **III.3 Forthcoming General Meetings**

The General Assembly decides to change its frequency of 3 to 2 years. General meetings will be established four years in advance. They will alternate with regional assemblies, they also sometimes biannual.

A discussion took place between the participants on the benefit to graft the GA in an international symposium of Theology in order to increase the number of participants. This took place at a regional meeting in Nairobi (2010), with the Association of African theologians (ATA). It should be alert for the meeting of the COCTI is distinct in its theme and organization to enable deans has time to discuss their institutions. This proposal has nothing systematic.

*AG 2016: Javierana , Bogota, Colombia*

The exact date yet to be determined. It will be before or after a theological conference of Latin American universities on the model of what Francis is doing and give it a theological support (last in 2012 in Porto Alegre, for opening Vatican II) . The AG encourages organizers of the congress of theologians to provide an English translation, to welcome non-Spanish speakers members of the CICT- COCTI.

*AG 2018 Laval University, Quebec, Canada*

### **III.4 Decisions**

To make permanent the work undertaken by our cluster IFCU - IFCU, GA decided that any member institution of the CICT- COCTI should commit to four years, with payment of contributions every two years alternating rhythm with the General Assembly: either 400 euros every two years .

This commitment goes beyond the sole responsibility of the Dean or Director of the institution, must be taken at the University Rector or President , in the case of a non- academic institution.

The Dean or Director of the institution, eager to lighten its own load, can confer such relations with CICT- COCTI a delegate for four years.

For improving the flow of information, the information will be distributed to three or four parties (University Rector or President; Dean or Director and / or his representative administrative head of the faculty or university) whose details will be sent by the Dean or Director at the 2015 update document.

### **III.5 Joint Research and themes for the next AG**

We need prospects for the coming four years. Two goals and two research themes that will shape the next two general meetings are held

*Two objectives*

1 / Developing collaboration between our faculties.

2 / Introducing the importance of theology for the life of our universities and society.

*Two research themes and for the next two AG over 4 years*

1 / Know the new generations (cf.: FIUC - IFCU survey) and develop proposals to the university and our teachings.

- Schools must know the results of the study on youth by IFCU COCTI to better understand students.
- The study on youth can be pushed further: what can be the impact of the theology of the younger generation in the next two years? It is important to prepare students for the thought that they are adults and older than those who join us.

2 / How to integrate digital literacy in our teaching?

- New teaching methods of theology, exchanges of experience between us via the COCTI.
- Distance Learning, E-learning for priests, using other faculties to obtain degrees that they themselves help using the method.

Research topics officials are: Gilles Routhier, Hermann Rodriguez Osorio, Franz Wisjen.

## **IV. Development and recommendations**

### **IV.1 Development Cluster CICT - COCTI**

- The current situation is 32 active members (vs. 60 in 1990) and 164 institutions have been identified to date. There could be more. This requires that membership offers an advantage and publicize it.

Develop links between Catholic institutions of theology at all levels.

- **At local and national level:** each member must be concerned with the other institutions of the city and country and create links with them to the meeting once a year on behalf of the CICT- COCTI and thus facilitate their accession,

- **At regional level:** a meeting every two years, alternating with the GA. If the continent is too large, it is desirable to create assemblies for sub-regions.

- **At international level:** a general meeting every two years alternating with the regional assemblies.

For financial reasons, it is possible to consider sending delegates from local to regional and global levels.

### **Recommendations**

- The IFCU General Assembly shall provide for time to market industry groups with university rectors.
- To avoid double belonging, CICT - COCTI encourages the development of links with organized networks of theological institutions that remain to be identified.
- The cluster should be able to reflect on own ways of teaching disciplines, such as to the Holy Scriptures.