



International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements  
[www.FIMCAP.org](http://www.FIMCAP.org) | Fédération Internationale des Mouvements Catholiques d'Action Paroissale | [info@fimcap.org](mailto:info@fimcap.org)  
Federación Internacional de Movimientos Católicos de Acción Parroquial  
Kipdorp 30 | 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium | Tel: +32 3 231 07 95 | Fax: +32 3 232 51 62

## **XXV General Assembly FIMCAP Melchtal, Switzerland, August 2016**

### **Transforming our world: A child rights-based approach to the SDGs**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

##### **Introduction**

FIMCAP, a Catholic, intercontinental, and umbrella youth organisation, acknowledges that the Earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits, according to the encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, are meant to benefit everyone.

We have been working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a worldwide “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, seeking also to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom”<sup>1</sup>. Taking care of our “common home includes a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights”<sup>2</sup>. For FIMCAP it means in particular Children’s Rights.

Children and youth should be able to dream, to live without limitations; their freewill and personal choices should be respected. We recognise that children and youth are not passive recipients but agents of change, and that they play a crucial role in building awareness for, implementing and achieving the SDGs. Therefore they have the right to age-related information on global issues.

##### **SDG 1: No Poverty**

Poverty does not simply happen; it is human made. There is so much poverty in the world because of reduced or lack of social support by governments; global inequality, corruption, no access to employment or job opportunities for; no or low salaries and high costs of living; no awareness of poverty; brain drain; bad or poor governance; unstable governments; inadequate governmental policies; insensitivity; the vicious circle of exclusion and marginalisation, etc.

Every child and young person has the right to live in a world without poverty and inequality in any form. Every child and young person has the right to an adequate standard of living to ensure their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

---

<sup>1</sup> From the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<sup>2</sup> Encyclical Letter Laudato Si of the Holy Father Francis on care for our common home

Poverty needs to be resolved.

#### **SDG 4: Quality Education**

Education is important for all children and youth of the world because it allows them to become responsible and independent members of society. Promoting quality education all over the world is a high priority. We realise that there are different needs in different regions of the world, hence the need for a higher focus in rural areas.

We encourage all young people of the world to claim and use their right to education, including religious education.

FIMCAP focuses on non-formal education and works in different realities of the member organisations, such as the individual, the local group, the communities, and the national organisation.

Members of youth organisations learn and experience qualities such as providing leadership, self-confidence, social responsibility, commitment to the community and good practices among children and youngsters. Society and governments should recognise and support the non-formal education by youth organisations.

#### **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

FIMCAP promotes Gender Equality for boys and girls, men and women.

Gender Equality means in particular equal rights, equal opportunities, equal participation in decision making processes for girls and boys, women and men, as well as to avoid stereotyping girls and boys, women and men.

In FIMCAP and its member organisations and activities we want to educate children and young people so that they grow up with the idea of Gender Equality. We want to move away from stereotypes and raise awareness for Gender Equality within our organisations and in the communities we are active in. We encourage boys and girls, men and women, to take up leadership roles within FIMCAP and its member organisations.

FIMCAP, its bodies and the member organisations lobby for Gender Equality with politics and society.

#### **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption**

We have to ensure that the next generations have access to sufficient resources, so they can lead their lives in dignity, equality and in a healthy environment. Therefore we need to change our lifestyles and consider the social, environmental and economic impact of consumption, which makes consumption a moral act.

Responsible consumption means to consider if we need what we buy and consume; to buy fair, clean, organic and local products; to avoid companies that rely on child labour or exploit people or the environment; to use and reuse the products as often and as long as possible; and to recycle.

FIMCAP and its member organisations will raise awareness among their members about responsible consumption.

## **SDG 16: Peace and Justice**

FIMCAP promotes a peaceful and just world for children where young and old can unite and respect each other and everyone's opinion. We respect and promote the variety in visions.

In their diversity, FIMCAP's member organisations share the same Christian values. We live in a world working towards peace and fairness. We see ourselves as activists of the rights of children, youth and young adults. Scarcity of resources causes conflicts, which is why resources should be managed with care and equality for all humanity.

FIMCAP joins the United Nations, governments, companies, NGOs and the people in doing their best to give all the children the possibilities to reach their potential and strive for an inclusive society. We take a firm stand against violence, human trafficking, exploitation, corruption, discrimination and any other form of injustice. We yearn for the protection of humanity, especially of children and youth.

### **Conclusion**

Youth should be part of the solution in resolving poverty, providing quality education, reaching gender equality, practising responsible consumption, and having justice and peace in an inclusive society. We will achieve this with the children and youth, by the children and youth, and for the children and youth.

### **Glossary of terms**

Resources: food, water, energy, and natural resources

Peace is a continuum of non-violence and/or harmony in which freedom and tolerance allows all forms of expression on an individual or communal level. Peace comes forth by an active strive to reach this equilibrium of acceptance in a global community.<sup>3</sup>

According to the UN, recognising the dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Definition by FIMCAP, agreed at the General Assembly in Melchtal, Switzerland, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Universal Declaration on Human Rights