



Standing Order 18

GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING DYNAMIC APOSTOLIC TEAMS

1. Our life is essentially apostolic. The field of CLC mission knows no limits: it extends both to the Church and the world, in order to bring the gospel of salvation to all people and to serve individual persons and society.
 - 1.1. Each of us receives from God a call to make Christ and his saving action present to our surroundings. This personal apostolate is indispensable for extending the Gospel in a lasting and penetrating way among the great diversity of persons, places, and situations.
 - 1.2. At the same time, we exercise a corporate or group apostolate in a great variety of forms, whether through group action initiated or sustained by the Community. (GP8)
2. **Objective and Purpose:** The primary objective of this document is to provide a comprehensive framework for establishing and effectively functioning apostolic teams within the Christian Life Community (CLC). These guidelines aim to formalize these teams' roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures at global, regional, national, and local levels. By doing so, we seek to enhance the coherence, collaboration, and impact of our mission efforts worldwide.
3. **Rationale:** The rationale behind these guidelines stems from the CLC's commitment to fostering a structured and supportive environment for apostolic teams. During our 18th World Assembly in Amiens (3-12 August 2023), a clear commitment was made to continue promoting and supporting these teams as vital components of our mission strategy. Apostolic teams are instrumental in driving the mission's development, ensuring that our efforts are aligned with the Ignatian spirituality and the broader goals of the CLC.
4. **Apostolic team mission:** CLC may establish Apostolic Teams at several levels, including local, national, regional, and global.
 - 4.1. The Apostolic teams are entrusted with the mission of expressing CLC as an apostolic body within specific mission realms that the community identifies as priority.
 - 4.2. The number of teams and their specific missions are determined by the apostolic priorities set by CLC and by local, national, regional, or global priorities. These priorities are formulated during corresponding community assemblies and guide the apostolic teams' work and orientation.
 - 4.3. At each level, the community should remain attentive to reality and be open to suggesting the establishment of new teams between assemblies. These newly formed teams operate provisionally until an assembly officially approves their establishment and mission.

5. International Apostolic Teams (IATs)

- 5.1.** International apostolic teams play a crucial role in fostering the CLC's identity, mission, and values in our different Priorities. By providing leadership, oversight, and resources, these teams ensure that CLC's apostolic mission is effectively carried out across the Globe.
- 5.2.** The International Apostolic Teams are appointed by the World ExCo (W-ExCo), following the recommendations of the World Assembly and the W-ExCo's ongoing discernment.

6. Composition of the IATs: These IATs are made up of different people, taking into consideration unity and diversity

6.1. Unity:

- 6.1.1.** common expertise and discerned desire to contribute to that topic to achieve a common goal.
- 6.1.2.** Involvement in the apostolic priority within their personal context or in other CLC geographic levels. These individuals discern their calling to these mission priorities alongside their local communities. They are supported by the community at its different levels.

- 6.2. Diversity:** men and women, several nationalities or regions, ages, and so on, to represent CLC diversity.

7. Role of the IATs

They are supporting teams, so they will cooperate with the W-ExCo to:

- 7.1.** Connect, lead, and coordinate CLC's apostolic efforts at the relevant geographic level to effectively meet the mission's needs.
- 7.2.** Support the regional communities in raising awareness and promoting apostolic responses to address the needs of mission recipients within their specific contexts. This collaborative effort aims to enhance cooperation and coordination in the mission.
- 7.3.** Ensure that our apostolic mission aligns with our charism by fostering connections between existing regional and national responses.
- 7.4.** Discern how to implement the mission priorities established during the assembly
- 7.5.** Support communities and members engaged in mission deployment; the apostolic teams aim to broaden apostolic activity and generate more efficient responses across various contexts.
- 7.6.** Establish ongoing communication with the regional CLC communities facilitated by its discernment body, to seamlessly integrate its apostolic activities into the broader initiatives, formation, growth, and mission of the whole community. This ensures that the specific mission of the regional CLC aligns with the overall mission of the World CLC
- 7.7.** They may join social and/or ecclesiastical networks and/or other platforms that share the same goals and fundamental principles.

- 8. Team Organization:** International Apostolic Teams are structured to reflect CLC's commitment to Ignatian spirituality and collaborative leadership. We recommend having one common language for working together. Here's a general outline of their structure:
- 8.1. Team Coordinator:** The members of the Apostolic Team choose among them a coordinator or a coordinating team. His/her/their role is to help the team identify overall direction and vision for the team's activities. The Team Coordinator will:
 - 8.1.1.** Call meetings
 - 8.1.2.** Ensure that the team remains faithful to its call and its ongoing evaluation
 - 8.1.3.** Be the main (not exclusive) link with the respective CLC structure link person
 - 8.2. Regional Links:** These members are responsible for specific geographic areas, ensuring the team's initiatives are relevant and responsive to local needs and contexts. CLC has six regions (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the Middle East). Members may be a link to a region they do not live in. Each regional team may send up to two members, depending on the needs, with approval from W-ExCo. It is not compulsory to have representation from all regions, and teams can also be sent by the W-ExCo.
 - 8.3. Specialized Roles:** Within the team, individuals may take on specialized roles such as timekeeper, minutes taker, project manager, etc.
 - 8.4. W-ExCo link person:** This member will be the primary contact person for the IAT team and the respective CLC Structure
 - 8.5. Advisory Members:** Experienced CLC members or external advisors may be included to provide additional insights, mentorship, and support. W-ExCo link persons can do this role till the IAT is well established.
 - 8.6. Collaborative Networks:** The teams often work in collaboration with National CLC communities, other faith-based organizations, and social justice groups to maximize their impact. (See also 7.7. above)
- 9. The duration of service** for members within the IATs (International Apostolic Teams) is determined through discussions with the relevant CLC structure, such as the World Executive Council (W-ExCo) and the Regional Team. Ideally, this service period should not coincide with the renewal cycle of W-ExCo. To ensure continuity and sustained focus on the mission, members should serve a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years, with not all members being assigned in the same year.
- 9.1.** In joint discernment with W-ExCo: This means that the decision regarding the duration of service is made collaboratively with the World Executive Council, ensuring that it aligns with the broader goals and strategic direction of the CLC community.
 - 9.2.** In connection with the regional or national plans that contribute to the mandate of the World Assembly: This indicates that the service period is also aligned with regional or national plans, which are designed to support the fundamental objectives set by the World Assembly. This ensures that local initiatives are in harmony with the global mission and contribute effectively to the collective goals of the CLC.

10. Funding:

- 10.1.** The action plan should include a budget, which must be approved by the Assembly or the W-ExCo representing the community between assemblies.
- 10.2.** If international apostolic teams (IAT) are considered at the regional level, the region should seek funding from its regional structure. If critical needs or key priorities remain unmet, the regional structure should request additional funding from the W-ExCo, like other CLC structures, as per Standing Order 13.

In global issues involving IAT, the W-ExCo should be approached directly, as it oversees global mission initiatives and reinforces CLC's commitment to the mission.

11. Each IAT is called to try to embrace:

- 11.1. Mission Clarity:** The apostolic team should elaborate a mission statement based on the mission received from the CLC World Assembly and/or the W-Exco.
- 11.2. Strategic planning:** involves creating an action plan with clear objectives, actions, and people in charge to fulfill the mission.
- 11.3. Training and Formation:** Provide ongoing training and resources to empower team members and our CLC members with collaboration and coordination with the Global Formation Team to avoid duplication of efforts
- 11.4. Accountability:** Establish mechanisms for accountability within the team and with the respective CLC structure, including regular check-ins, progress evaluations, and support for personal growth and development.
- 11.5. Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration and teamwork among team members, other CLC members, and other ATs, fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation in achieving the mission objectives.
- 11.6. Communication:** Maintain transparent and open communication channels:
 - 11.6.1.** With each other
 - 11.6.2.** With Regional teams: by invitation to present at regional team meetings on at least a yearly basis.
 - 11.6.3.** With W-ExCo: by providing an annual report.
- 11.7. Implementation of DSSE as the way of proceeding:**
 - 11.7.1.** Discern: Encourage team members to engage in communal discernment
 - 11.7.2.** Send: Provide clear instructions and expectations for the team members as they are sent out to fulfill their mission, extending their participation in the common mission of Christ.
 - 11.7.3.** Support: Establish a support system for the apostolic team members, including emotional, spiritual, and practical support.
 - 11.7.4.** Evaluate: Use evaluation findings to adapt plans, refine strategies, and make informed decisions for ongoing mission Practice examen to assess how closely the IAT is following and participating in Christ's mission, ensuring alignment with the common mission of Christ
- 11.8. Confidentiality:** While maintaining open communication and transparency, respect the confidentiality of sensitive information.
- 11.9. Enjoy the journey**