



General guidelines for MCCJ accompanying the CLM in the different circumscriptions.

At the CLM American meeting of Guatemala (2014) the Central Committee was requested to indicate the basic functions of the MCCJ accompanying the CLM groups of each circumscriptions. In this sense, as an aid, we propose the following guidelines:

Regarding the CLM group:

Its primary mission is focused on encouraging and helping the CLM group to grow.

According to the commitment of the last international assembly of Maia 2012:

*"The Comboni Missionaries want to accompany the processes of **formation, organization and self-sufficiency** to strengthen the identity of the CLM as a lay, combonian and missionary family at the service of mission."*

Also in the MCCJ general Chapter of 2015 we can read in number 35:

"We acknowledge the journey travelled by the Comboni Lay Missionaries (CLM) and we intend to continue accompanying their processes of **formation, structuring and self-reliance** which help to consolidate their identity as a Lay Family, that is Missionary and Comboni, at the service of the Mission. In this journey we base ourselves on the agreements made by the CLM themselves in each Circumscription and at the international level".

We will focus on these three key aspects to guide the service to the CLM. It is therefore essential to know the history, documents and conclusions of the various meetings and CLM assemblies (starting with the country itself and continuing at continental and intercontinental level) in order to collaborate with the CLM to implement the decisions taken.

Structuring

There is a need for support in the practical aspects of structuring groups. In this sense, it is part of its mission to help the CLM groups to have their own organization, with a directory that establishes the guidelines of the CLM movement in the country; a national coordinating team, who starting from the resolutions of the assembly, coordinate and take the necessary decisions to walk as a group. All this while maintaining a fluid communication and coordination at international level.

It is good, as a province, to analyze the reality of the local group and based on international agreements establish a plan for the development of the CLM group considering the different aspects that are important to work and consolidate. Setting targets and deadlines that are measurable, help us maintain the appropriate course of work and facilitate the replacement of MCCJ advisers or provincial councils. The CLM should be involved in these plans as protagonist. Their involvement and responsibility will be more as the group matures.

In the organizational aspect it is necessary to remember that this is not a religious Institute and therefore the government cannot be understood in the manner of the religious but this organization is made in a lay way as it appears in several international agreements which are then adapted to the reality of each country.

Currently, in the country coordinating teams the MCCJ advisor is involved. Depending on the maturity of the group he should change his role. It is a fully Comboni missionary work, where we recognize the need for a presence that stabilizes the group in the early stages but should always seek the leadership and responsibility of the CLM in running the group. The idea is to get autonomous CLM coordinating teams where leadership and responsibility are in the hands of the laity themselves and they can eventually have an advisory council where MCCJ and other members of the Comboni Family can take part. We know this is the way forward.

Formation and Spirituality

Support in training is also essential. The general training program is established in international agreements (with stages and objectives thereof) and must be adapted to the local context.

It is important that the laity gradually take responsibility for the training of candidates and members. It is fundamental for the future autonomy of the groups to promote training of lay formators.

It is essential to encourage the charism of Comboni in all its aspects, especially as it relates to the *ad Gentes* mission. On the one hand, in new groups he or she will be the person with experience of mission and should convey the experience of the Institute to prepare people before sending them to the mission and the necessary organization (training, administrative, etc.) which makes possible their exposure to mission and their reintegration upon return. On the other hand, there is the task to fan the flame of charisma, which we share as a family, so that it is always alive. It is a fundamental task to understand that we share the same charism and help to discover it in its fullness to recreate and update it in the light of the times. We have to be aware that lay expressions of the charism are different in many aspects.

It is important to promote the knowledge of the figure of Comboni and promote the internalization of spirituality that emanates from it. Only in this way, the CLM movement will develop faithful to the charism. This is a great wealth for the family, and help growth of the charism from their lay perspective is definitely a great service to all the Comboni Family, the Church and the world today.

Self-sufficiency

Facing the sufficiency of the CLM movement, the organization and training, of which we have just spoken, are essential but we cannot forget the great challenge of economic autonomy.

In this regard it is also important to accompany the groups not only in finding resources but also work and transfer the knowledge of the Institute towards the creation of structures and finding ways to ensure the sustainability of groups at the local level, international coordination, and create a net of solidarity among the groups internationally. This is not something that will come by itself but needs a push and training of the CLM

In relation to the particular accompaniment of vocation.

A central role of the MCCJ adviser has to do with the spiritual growth of the members of the group. It is agreed internationally that in the various stages of formation it is good that there is the presence of an accompanier for every member of the CLM and this should be obligatory in the period of vocational discernment. In this period a Comboni presence is important to ensure the candidate's charisma. For this accompaniment it would be important that the groups also formed part of its members towards greater autonomy (although the relationship and collaboration with

the Institute will be always maintained). We must also consider that there are aspects that the laity themselves, well trained, may accompany with more experience such as marriages; also that from their lay perspective of the vocation may assist in the establishment of a genuinely lay movement.

Regarding the Provincial Council

The MCCJ adviser of the CLM is a delegate of the Provincial Council of each circumscription. This should appoint a MCCJ to accompany the CLM that are in the circumscription, either a local group or CLM coming from other countries.

In some countries there may be more than one MCCJ involved. When the CLM group is present in several regions of the country, usually there is a MCCJ as a reference for each CLM community. Coordination among all involved is essential.

One of its main mission is to serve as a bridge between the MCCJ of the circumscription (starting with the Provincial Council) and the CLM. It is not a matter of simply transmitting agreements but to encourage working together, publicize and raise awareness of the CLM vocation and foster ties as Comboni Family.

Regarding the International Coordination

Besides the CLM coordinating team of each country, the CLM have an international structure. It has a Continental Committee and a Central Committee in charge of international coordination.

This structure is at the service of the movement and therefore of the MCCJ accompanying the groups to receive support, advice and training in the sustenance of the groups.

It is a joint structure with the presence of CLM and MCCJ. At the continental level it is the provincial responsible for the CLM on the continent that accompanies it and in the Central Committee a MCCJ chosen in the international CLM assembly and a delegate of the General Council.

The MCCJ adviser of the circumscription participates with the CLM coordinator of the group in continental and intercontinental meetings of the CLM movement.

It is the responsibility of the MCCJ adviser to promote the CLM group communication worldwide and help to meet the international agreements.

CLM Central Committee. February 2015

Important reference documents to know

At international level:

- [CLM International Agreements Rome 2018](#)
- [Proposals CLM General Assembly Rome 2018](#)
- [International Communities Chart Rome 2018](#)

At continental level:

- [Conclusions IV American CLM meeting. Mexico 2016](#)
- [Conclusions III American CLM meeting. Guatemala 2014.](#)
- [Conclusions III CLM African meeting Anchilo 2017](#)
- [Conclusions II African CLM meeting Kinshasa 2014.](#)
- [Conclusions First African CLM Meeting Layibi 2011.](#)
- [Conclusions CLM Europe Viseu 2016](#)
- [Document Granada-06 Florence 07.](#)