



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
PRO LAICIS

753/09/AIC-53

DECREE

The *International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations* (F.I.A.M.C.) was founded on November 5, 1966, in Manila (Philippines), during the XI International Congress of the Catholic Doctors. The F.I.A.M.C. came into being as a result of the experience of association of Catholic doctors that had begun towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Subsequent to the congress of its foundation, the first Statutes of the F.I.A.M.C. were approved by the Holy See on November 30, 1966 (cf. Secretariat of State, Letter addressed to Professor Mariano Alimurung, Prot. n. 83649). The *International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations* has consultative status with Conseil Économique et Social de l'O.N.U. (ECOSOC).

As we read in the Statutes, "the first aim of F.I.A.M.C. is to promote an image of the doctor and a medical practice centered on the dignity of the human person, the defense of every human life and the promotion of health, according to the values and meaning of Christian anthropology, as it is proposed by the Magisterium of the Church" (*Statute*, art. 2, § 1).

The Second Vatican Council, together with the post-conciliar teaching, has given special attention to the importance of new forms of association of the Christian faithful and their participation in the life of the Church. Deep esteem and consideration has been shown to them (cf. Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity *Apostolicam actuositatem*, 18, 19 and 21; John Paul II, Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles laici*, 29). In his Apostolic Letter, *Novo millennio ineunte*, His Holiness John Paul II wrote about the great importance of "the promotion of forms of association, whether of the more traditional kind or the newer ecclesial movements which continue to give the Church a vitality that is God's gift and a true 'springtime of the Spirit'" (46).

The New Code of Canon Law of 1983 established a new juridical framework for the associations of the faithful. Consequently, the Pontifical Council for the Laity, in full accord with the Secretariat of State requested all International Catholic Organizations to reformulate their canonical status according to the new universal legislation of the Church (Letter of February 6, 2003).



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Consequently:

Having examined the request presented to the Pontifical Council for the Laity by Dr. José María Simón, President of the *International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations*;

After an in depth study of the text of the new Statutes;

In light of article 134 of the Apostolic constitution *Pastor Bonus* for the Roman Curia and according to canon 312, § 1, 1^o of the Code of Canon Law;

The Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees:

1. The erection of the *International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations* (F.I.A.M.C.), according to canonical normative in force, as a public international association of the faithful, with juridical personality, according to canons 298-320 and 327-329 of the Code of Canon Law.

2. The approval of the Statutes, that have been appropriately modified, duly authenticated by this Dicastery and deposited in our archives.

From the Vatican, September 8th, 2009, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

+ In. Clemens

✠ Josef Clemens
Secretary



St. Card. Rylko

Stanisław Card. Rylko
President