

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2022 World Assembly - Part 2 in Uruguay

1/ TYPICAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO HOLDING A WORLD ASSEMBLY

Why should I attend the World Assembly?

- Key event for the life of the movement that only takes place every 4 years
- Review of the previous 4 years (5 years in this case) and the impact on our work
- Opportunity to meet, hold debates and jointly develop our struggles/ Participate in the discussions and guidelines for major decisions for the movement/ Definition of our strategies to combat the causes of poverty.
- In addition to the specific responses of groups to situations of injustice, this will be an occasion to jointly reflect on the common structural causes of poverty and to promote alternatives, which is also part of our mission/the duty of Emmaus groups (refer to the universal manifesto)
- Democratic and decision-making space:
 - **Vote on the guidelines for the next 4 years**
 - **1 group = 1 vote**
 - Election of the Chair of Emmaus International (held during part 1 of the World Assembly)
- **It's the movement's first World Assembly in South America**

Why should I go to South America, and Uruguay specifically?

- Being a member of Emmaus means being a member of an international movement and for once it would be good to hold it in the Americas, taking into account that only one World Assembly has taken place outside of Europe (in Ouagadougou in 2003) + our failed attempt to hold the 2011 World Assembly in Brazil. We haven't been back to the continent since 1971, when we held the World Assembly in Montreal where the EI statutes were adopted.
- It's a chance to participate in an important advocacy event with other civil society organisations in the Americas
- You can take part in a symbolic act on the banks of Rio de la Plata to pay tribute to Abbé Pierre (Abbé Pierre's shipwreck on 13 July 1963 was the catalyst for creating EI.)
- Help make Emmaus' voice heard on the continent
- The 39 groups from the Americas are looking forward to welcoming us all
- Discover the work and struggles led by the Emmaus groups in Uruguay and the Americas
- Help to redefine the context of an international movement and make real human connections / Revive international encounters after a 2-year health crisis

How do the Emmaus groups struggle on a daily basis in very difficult contexts and at times facing extreme poverty? What initiatives do they put in place together at the regional level?

- There are particularly challenging contexts in many Latin American countries where our groups work and set up alternatives to combat situations of poverty:
 - Education initiatives: in the majority of Latin American groups (like in Africa and Asia)
 - Formal education (school, occupational training)
 - Informal education - citizenship
 - Urban Solid Waste project (training programme and bolstering salvage and recycling work)
 - Working community life to create solidarity economy alternatives
 - They work as part of a network/build alliances with other social movements

What will my group get out of this event specifically?

- Better understanding of the movement and how it works: an international movement where each group/each territory fights against poverty, and fights collectively to overcome its causes, which are the same all over the world (see the analysis from the World Forum of Alternatives in 2018).
- Participation in the movement's democratic processes, in the choice of global and collective guidelines, which each member is responsible for implementing, and in which he/she can/should be involved.
- Participation in important debates that will take place on self-sufficiency and its meaning today, on what makes us an Emmaus group, on how we want to develop the movement together and based on what shared vision, along with discussions on what the Covid crisis has taught us, on the challenges that we should take up as an Emmaus movement

Reminder to keep an eye out for information/emails regarding the World Assembly:

- Preparatory/working documents will be sent to you by email between end of February and mid-April. It is important that you take them on board and work on them collectively in your groups, in order to contribute to the debates and to express your group's position on the various key issues. In the governance of the movement, 1 group = 1 vote, so the opinion and position of each group is important.
- Need to register quickly from 21/02/2022 up to 4 April 2022 to ensure the smooth running of the organisational aspects (deadline: 31 March for those who wish to be included in the group flights reserved by Emmaus International)
- Need for them to be liaisons to mobilise other groups

How is travelling to the Americas to hold a World Assembly providing support for the Latin American groups?

Supporting local groups that lead struggles also requires political support with a strong local presence. A day in Montevideo to promote and raise awareness of Emmaus' struggles is planned in partnership with Uruguayan and Latin American civil society organisations.

How can you find out about the actions of local groups and the collective struggles of the region in such a short time?

As you can imagine, it will not be possible to organise visits to the 40 or so Emmaus groups in the Americas, spread over 8 countries from Uruguay to Colombia. But the region is already working on how to showcase and demonstrate the alternatives promoted by the groups in different forms. The aim is to understand how they work locally but also collectively.

Field visits to Montevideo are of course planned, either to Emmaus groups or to other places where they work in solidarity with the most excluded.

In addition, the programme is designed in such a way as to embrace the wider world through the organisation of events in the capital, Montevideo. We are preparing to organise a public event where various key players from Uruguayan and Latin American civil society will be invited to discuss the alternatives promoted by Emmaus and to forge links.

Finally, for those groups who wish to do so, it is possible to register without making use of the group flight we are planning from Paris/Madrid to Montevideo; you can then organise your trip to make a stopover either in Argentina, which is very close, or in Brazil, as some flights go from Paris-Fortaleza-Montevideo, or any other stopovers you may wish to organise before or after the World Assembly. The key is to plan ahead when buying your ticket, as with any journey.

What can we contribute to Latin American groups? How can we help them when in France we are unable to tackle poverty?

The groups in the Americas region wanted to invite the other groups in the movement, not to ask for their assistance, but to share their work in the region with the movement. The Emmaus movement is not about solidarity from privileged countries to less privileged countries, from Europe to the rest of the world, despite the very real increase in poverty that we are experiencing. Emmaus groups living in extremely difficult conditions have set up innovative alternative solutions, with very few resources, and joint solutions between groups to tackle them. This world assembly will be an opportunity for your group to learn, to discuss, to draw lessons from each other, to discover other ways of thinking and acting. Western European groups are not expected to come and help groups in need. You are expected to come and reflect, debate and work to build and defend common alternatives.

2/ POTENTIAL QUESTIONS ON PARTICIPATING IN PART TWO OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

What happened after the postponement of the 2020 World Assembly?

The organisation of the World Assembly is taking place in two parts:

- A virtual part over **3 half-days from 30 November - 2 December 2021**, which took place online using Zoom:
 - To ensure the democratic life of the movement, in particular with the election of the Chair and the taking up of duties of the new Emmaus International Board members (24 people + the Chair);
 - To identify initial guidelines for the future direction of the movement
- In person meeting in Uruguay from 9 to 13 May
 - To allow the groups to meet again after two years of a global health crisis, to debate, to have more in-depth discussions (which is not possible by videoconference), and to make important decisions for the coming term.
 - To learn about the struggles of groups in the Americas and participate in a public event in Montevideo

What was the purpose of part 1 of the World Assembly?

Many of you took part in the first part of the virtual World Assembly (from 30 November to 2 December 2021). The purpose of part 1 was:

- To be able to **meet after 18 months of crisis** for the first part of this important event in the life of the movement, which only takes place (in theory) every four years;
- To **take stock of the actions** carried out over the last 5 year-period from 2016-2021 and measure the impact of our collective actions and programmes;
- To look back at what the crisis has revealed within the movement, at our strengths and weaknesses;
- **To propose the initial guidelines** for the next 4 years, which will be further developed during the second part of the World Assembly;
- **To vote for the election of the Chair** and meet the new EI Board members from the four regions:
- An update on the launch campaign for the first **Emmaus International Global Report** on 17 October 2021;
- To have **time for discussion** and open questions,
- AND OF COURSE, to have **informal festive and cultural moments** albeit on Zoom!

What is the purpose of part 2 of the World Assembly?

- To go further, hold discussions, work together on what kind of movement you would like to see in the future: key internal and external issues have been identified following the various consultations carried out with the groups since 2019.
- **Essential issues to be discussed and decided on internally for the future of the movement:**
 - Training, communication, renewal of leaders and younger generations
 - Membership, the issue of self-sufficiency, economic models
 - Solidarity and sharing
 - Decentralised coordination of the movement
- **External challenges for the movement of tomorrow:**
 - Based on the Global Report: how can we make our alternatives and our voices heard in the fight against poverty

- Taking into account collective actions (water, health, education, migration, etc.) and drawing lessons from these actions: what objectives/strategies/roadmaps to implement, etc.
- ➔ A major challenge is to agree on our common basis for challenging policies and decision-makers, on the need to take joint action

What were the steps for making guideline proposals to the movement and drawing up proposals for the guidance report, submitted to the World Assembly?

The movement's guidelines for the next 4 years are being proposed following several phases:

1/ Two consultation steps launched with groups at the end of 2019:

- **Preparatory work: From November 2019 to March 2020**

First group consultation phase via questionnaires focusing on the four inspirational words:

- Four words: Exist - Commit - Communicate - Resist
 - Two levels, both local and international, where the groups put forward proposals for action
 - Organisation of group workshops within the groups to respond to questionnaires
 - **87 groups participated in the first consultation process/83 questionnaires were received**
 - Consultation halted due to global pandemic and decision taken in March 2020 to postpone the World Assembly
 - **Summary of group contributions** drawn up in a consolidation document by Almédio, which made it possible to identify needs for the movement (in terms of training, renewal of leaders, etc.) and work themes to be developed for the movement (fight against climate change, migration, etc.)
- **Preparatory debates: From June to mid-July 2021 on Zoom**

Second group consultation phase through online preparatory debates on two topics chosen by the movement's elected members following the crisis:

- 1/ The role and meaning of solidarity and sharing within the movement today
- 2/ Self-sufficiency (human, economic, political) as a criteria for membership of the movement (*see debate sheet for more information*)
- **187 participants from 132 groups in 17 debates**

=> A report on the results of these two consultation phases and the trends that emerged was made at part one of the World Assembly

2/ An evaluation by the elected members of the Board on the implementation of the 2016 World Assembly guidelines

3/ Online surveys during the 2021 World Assembly on the initial guidelines proposed

How can I register for the World Assembly?

- As with part one of the virtual World Assembly, you can register using the online registration form on our dedicated website (**assemblee-mondiale-emmaus.org**).
- You will find the registration form, an explanatory guide, as well as all the documents you need to get ready!

- Forms for administrative procedures: mandate, proxy, etc.
- The programme, preparatory documents, working documents, etc.
- Each participant must register by carefully filling in the registration form.
- If you have any questions, please send us an email: assemblee mondiale.emmaus-international.org

What documents do I need (passport, visa, health pass) to come to the World Assembly in Uruguay?

- A valid passport until at least 6 months after the trip, **i.e., up until 15/11/2022** that must have three blank pages.
- A visa (EU, Swiss and Canadian nationals do not require a visa)
- The health measures are similar to those applied in Western Europe. The Emmaus International Secretariat is monitoring developments on a daily basis, but as of the end of February 2022, it was still compulsory to be vaccinated and to have a health pass for Uruguay.

How can I vote at the World Assembly?

- Only **full member groups have the right to vote**, trial member groups are only present as observers, however, their attendance is very welcome as it is an opportunity for these possible future full members to get to know the movement and for training!
- The group must **be up to date with its subscriptions since 2012 (last 2 GAs: 2012-2020 for part 1 in 2021 of the World Assembly and 2012-2021 for part 2 of the World Assembly in 2022)**
 - Exemptions are possible and requests must be sent to the Emmaus International Treasurer (tresorier@emmaus-international.org) **by 7 March 2022 at the latest**.
- Fill in the mandate for the EGA AND OGA available on the World Assembly dedicated website (the group's board gives a mandate to a member of the group attending the World Assembly to vote on behalf of the group)

The group is in arrears with its subscription payments: how do I apply for an exemption?

Exemptions are possible and requests must be sent to the Emmaus International Treasurer, Pierre Dubois (at tresorier@emmaus-international.org) **by 7 March 2022 at the latest**.

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee will study the applications received and will suggest three types of exemption from payment of subscriptions, depending on the group's situation:

- A total exemption from subscription payments
- A partial exemption from subscription payments
- Staggered payment of subscriptions



What statutory changes will be put to the vote at the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA)?

As with part 1, an EGA will be held:

- In part 1, this addressed proposed statutory amendments regarding:

- Aligning the statutes and the internal rules with decisions made at the World Assembly and the Board since 2003, as some articles and rules had not been updated;
 - Aligning the statutes and internals in the event that it is not possible to meet physically (as was the case during the pandemic) to make it possible to organise statutory meetings online.
- ⇒ *No major amendment which required a debate was proposed for the virtual World Assembly in 2021.*

Matters requiring debate and discussion with the groups will be scheduled for the second session of the World Assembly in 2022.

- The points addressed during the EGA during part 2 of the World Assembly:

These will be presented following the work of the Board and a consultation of the four Emmaus regions which took place on these subjects during 2020-2021:

- **The role and position of national delegates in coordinating the international movement**
- **Wise Persons' Committee:** Should it continue or not, and if so, for what purposes?
- **Replacing Board members during their term of office**
- **Alignment of the calendars** (regions and international)

The group already attends lots of meetings, why should we attend one more?

- At first glance, it is possible to miss the clear and strong links between the local and international scale of the movement. However, the mode of governance and functioning of the movement emphasise this aspect: it is the local realities, the local work, the local initiatives to fight against certain forms of exclusion and their causes that shape, nourish and guide the movement as a whole.
- In this sense, the movement is not a 'top-down' organisation, but rather a **horizontal organisation** where the global strategies are guided by the realities that the groups and the people they work with experience all over the world.
- The member groups cannot fight alone against the systematic causes of poverty. Together we can try to stand up to the powers that be.
The movement is not the sum of local initiatives that transform society, but common strategies built on local initiatives
- The choices made at the World Assembly are then to be worked on by all levels within the movement (decentralised) and therefore the local groups have the responsibility to carry out this collective work decided together (participate in the life of the movement, take part in thematic meetings, communicate the positions of the movement within their area, speak out, etc.)
- The crisis has exposed flaws within the movement and crucial questions for the future are being asked: the place and meaning of our international solidarity, the inward-looking attitude of some, the challenge of our economic model based on salvaging and recycling, our choice of self-sufficiency, the place and role of the governing bodies in the movement, etc. It is important for each group to be able to express itself with regard to this crisis in order for us to assess it together and to look to the future; each group has a say in the direction the movement will take tomorrow.

Nobody is available to attend part 2 of the World Assembly. What should we do?

Send the completed **proxy form** to us as soon as possible stating to whom you would like to grant it (this is important so we can reach the quorum and be able to proceed legitimately in our deliberations).