



TOGETHER, MORE THAN EVER,
LET'S FIGHT TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

SUMMARY COMPILED OF THE FIRST GROUP CONSULTATION



I. WHY AND HOW WAS THIS DOCUMENT DRAWN UP?

In November 2019, as part of the preparation work for the World Assembly initially scheduled in October 2020, a consultation document was sent to 410 member groups of Emmaus International. The aim of this consultation was to prepare groups for the topics and debates at the next World Assembly in addition to feeding into the next guidance report. It consisted of a four-page questionnaire on the 4 inspirational words decided on by the Board - Exist, Communicate, Commit, Resist – along with a consultation kit and a letter from the Chair. The groups had until March 2020 to organise a group session to answer the questionnaires and send in their responses.

By the beginning of March 2020, we had received 81 questionnaires at Emmaus International Secretariat: 44 groups from Europe, 16 from America, 7 from Asia and 14 from Africa. But the Covid-19 health crisis cut short the period for collecting group contributions and postponed the date of the World Assembly.

The World Assembly working group, during its meeting on 2 April, opted for a consolidation document to be drawn up of all the answers received, in order not to lose this valuable information from the groups. Further work will need to be carried out to feed into a second group consultation phase for the World Assembly that takes into account the impact of the health crisis.

We turned to Almedio consultores, an external service provider working with us since 2016, to help us in this consolidation work and to suggest a methodology for continuing our preparatory work.

A small Emmaus International group was responsible for guiding their work and ensuring that Almedio's consolidation report was faithful to the questionnaires received by the groups.

A 38-page consolidation document was finalised, translated into the 3 languages of the movement and sent to the World Assembly working group members last September. During the World Assembly WG meeting on 16 September, the working group members discussed this summary and ways of capitalising on this consolidation work. We were asked to frame this consolidation work more generally, taking into account the various initiatives carried out by Emmaus International since 2016.

The document below presents a summary of this consolidation report, to make it more accessible and easier for elected members, and different members of the movement, to take ownership of it. This document is intended to serve as a reading grid for the continuation of the World Assembly preparation work and in developing the guidance report.

Two levels have been prioritised in this consultation and consolidation process: the local level, with the groups at grassroots level, and the global level, at the level of Emmaus International. The first level should serve as a source of inspiration for proposals made at the global level.





II. WHICH WORLD ASSEMBLY DEBATE DOES THIS REFER TO?

- Keeping our movement alive, the challenge of training and coordination of an international movement (see subject no. 3 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)
- Being actors of international solidarity at Emmaus (see subject no. 5 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)
- Communicating to inspire new generations and new groups to engage in our struggles (see subject no. 6 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

III. PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENT

At local level

1.1 Actions and proposals per inspirational word

EXIST

- ⇒ Welcoming the most excluded with dignity and training them (to acquire technical skills, for personal and civic development);
- ⇒ Developing social and solidarity economy activities;
- ⇒ Building alliances and denouncing injustices.

COMMUNICATE

- ⇒ Ensuring consistency between our actions and our values/living our values on a daily basis¹;
- ⇒ Offering in-house training and discussion sessions to make our values their own and enabling commitment and the assumption of responsibility within the group²;
- ⇒ Offering times for external meetings and exchanges to enable the involvement of new people and to communicate our values and our struggles.

COMMIT

The term "commit" has not been understood and interpreted in the same way by the groups, according to their cultures and languages, despite the definition given. Therefore, it is proposed that the answers be attributed to 2 of the other inspirational words, i.e.:

- ⇒ *Communicate: communicating to enable commitment ("Living and embodying our values on a daily basis" and "developing participation and involvement within the group");*
- ⇒ *Resist: commitment to resist ("Representing our group" and "Connecting local and global struggles");*

RESIST

¹Added to this inspirational word following the deletion of the word "commit".

²Added to this inspirational word following the deletion of the word "commit".



- ⇒ Carrying out solidarity actions, claiming our alternatives even if they are against the law;
- ⇒ Challenging decision-makers and involvement in the development of public policies;
- ⇒ Building alliances;
- ⇒ Connecting local and global struggles.

1.2 Difficulties encountered by the groups

The difficulties encountered by the groups at the local level are linked to certain fundamental aspects that can help to address these difficulties.

These difficulties are presented and formulated as challenges or constraints that must be addressed.

Staying the course in the face of market forces and competition

- ⇒ Aspects of support for the groups: self-sufficiency, campaign against impunity of multinationals, developing a truly ethical and solidarity-based economy.

Acting despite obstacles imposed by public authorities

- ⇒ Self-sufficiency.

Renewing and keeping our group going

- ⇒ Training, openness/communication/actions with the outside world via cultural events;
- ⇒ Diversifying activities.

Our values put to the test on a daily basis

- ⇒ Training, respect for our values.

At the international level

Two categories of international actions are presented:

- The international actions voted for by the groups in their questionnaire answers, and which we have reclassified by resolution: the idea is to be able to reclassify them according to the 3 main chapters of the resolutions from the 2016 World Assembly, i.e. "Keeping our heritage alive", "Acting against the causes of poverty" and "Strengthening our Movement", in order to make our reading grid more comprehensible since 2016 (the actions voted for at the international level resulting from these 3 resolutions). It also seemed useful to link these 3 chapters of resolutions with one or more words of inspiration.
- The groups' proposals for action at the international level with the 3 inspirational words: the idea was to categorise the groups' proposals for action at the international level resulting from the consultation process with the 3 words of inspiration (instead of 4).



2.1 Classifying the international actions favoured by the groups according to the 3 inspirational words and the 3 resolutions of the 2016 World Assembly

I/ KEEPING OUR HERITAGE ALIVE - *COMMUNICATE*

- **Facilitating knowledge exchange and dialogue between different local groups**
 - Act Emmaus digital platform
- **Nourish and keep our heritage alive**
 - Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Manifesto in Bern
 - The release of the book "Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small"
 - Publication of the collection of the 5 Fundamental Texts

II/ TACKLING THE CAUSES OF POVERTY - *RESIST*

- **Strengthening solidarity and exchanges between local groups**
 - Nokoué Programme
 - Emergency appeals
 - Container Programme
 - Annual solidarity sale
 - Solidarity Coalition with Brazil
 - Emmaus Ethical Fund
 - Mutual health organisations (Asia/Africa)
- **Facilitating knowledge exchange and dialogue between different local groups**
 - International work camps
- **Expanding our campaigns and advocacy**
 - Our 3 struggles
 - Global alliance on migration
 - Participation at ECOSOC at the United Nations
 - Stop impunity of multinationals campaign
 - World Forum of Alternatives

III/ STRENGTHENING OUR MOVEMENT - *EXIST*

- **Strengthen the movement's strategy**
 - Statutory meetings
- **Facilitating knowledge exchange and dialogue between different local groups**
 - International work camps
- **Communicate our actions and become better known**
 - Website and social media
 - Publications (Tam-Tam and activity reports)





2.2 Classifying proposals for action by the groups internationally according to the 3 inspirational words

The groups' proposals for action at the international level were taken up again and classified by area of action in order to feed into the next World Assembly guidance report.

The proposals made for the inspirational word "commit" have been grouped under the inspirational words "Communicate" and "Resist" (as at the local level).

EXIST

- **Strengthen democracy** by promoting the participation of all and **improving governance within the movement.**
 - Improve our working methods so that they are more dynamic, more collective and more participatory;
 - Organise annual meetings on each programme with the actors of the movement;
 - Develop meetings and presentations in groups.
- **Improving access to the information shared within the movement**
 - Better adapt our communication to the realities and cultural specificities of the actors in the movement;
 - Communicate more on the follow-up of international actions and on the impact of our solidarity and our actions
 - Develop more pedagogical tools;
 - Translate our tools into more languages;
 - Facilitate access to information and to the minutes of meetings.
- **Be an international solidarity actor**
 - Enable the members of the groups to be actors of solidarity: twinning between communities, increased number of summer work camps, development of salons (fairs), etc.
 - Ensure that our solidarity is directed towards the most excluded, supporting groups working in the most difficult contexts.
- **Enable/Improve the renewal of “leaders” and taking responsibility within the movement**
 - Set up spaces for reflection and research on self-sufficiency, campaigning, local/global coordination.

RESIST

- **Rethinking our international solidarity in the face of our common challenges**
 - Set up new solidarity programmes.
- **Increase our campaign capabilities**
 - Strengthen our alliances;





- Develop our ability to act and protest;
Make culture a vehicle for advocacy.
Organise an international Emmaus event (global march, peaceful resistance actions, etc.)
Set up a legal pool at the international level to defend our activists in court and to keep a watchful eye on the regulations related to our fields of work.
- Develop and make our political voice heard:
Reaffirm and develop our participation at ECOSOC.
Develop public advocacy and multiply our public speaking engagements.
Increase political awareness among the media and political decision-makers.

COMMUNICATE

- **Develop new communication formats**
 - Blogs, centralised hosting of local group websites;
 - Knowledge banks and best practices around group practices;
 - Emmaus International web radio, film series and press formats;
 - Creation of our own Emmaus publications.
- **Developing reciprocal knowledge and exchange of practices**
- **Train actors in the movement** on the movement's values, its history, governance and our struggles
 - Development of online courses (Mooc)
- **Developing an awareness-raising policy aimed at young people**
 - Through the use of social media
 - Through exchange programmes