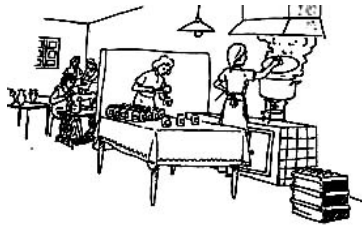


# Women Commission



**October 2005**

## A short history

1996	The International Women Commission was created in 1996, during the <i>General Assembly in Madras (India)</i> . During the <i>General Assembly in Madras</i> women analyzed their situation and clearly stated the lack of access to decision making of women within MIJARC and the society in general. In order to strengthen the participation of women in MIJARC and in the society the International Women Commission was created. It was also established that Women Commissions and it's activities will be integrated in every level and that the IWC had to send a written report to the World Coordination each year.
1997	The women representatives of Asia and Latin America met in Brussels and discussed the diagnosis worked out in the two continents about the situation of rural women.
1998	The women representatives of the different continents met in Brussels and evaluated the work of the IWC in relation to the general functioning, the economic level, the actions carried out and pointed out the negative and positive points. It was clearly underlined that the link to the World Team was missing as the World Team was only composed of men and the support from World Coordination was missing.
1999-2000	No meeting. The general Assembly 2000 elected a new World Coordination and World Team with one woman of each continent and a general secretary being a woman.
2001	The newly composed IWC met in Leuven after the World Coordination and established a first action plan and discussed the future participation of the Women representatives in the World Coordination. The World Coordination itself did not vote in favour of a future active participation of the Women Representatives.
2002	The IWC met in Brussels before the World Coordination, among other businesses the Women Representatives put again the right of voting within the World Coordination on the table. This time it was possible after revising again the statutes that women representatives participate with voting right in the World Coordination and this decision was taken also for the future.
2003	The IWC met in Recife before the International Seminar and World Coordination, established a new action plan with logical framework. The International Seminar was the first gender training organised by MIJARC including men in the discussions on how to improve equality between men and women.
2004	The newly elected IWC met in Petersberg, Germany, worked on an action plan and a declaration for the World Assembly. Main topic was how to improve the gender equity of the statutes of MIJARC World which afterwards have been revised by the World Assembly. The World Assembly then integrated the IWC in the statutes and clearly put the need of gender equity in the statutory bodies of MIJARC in the statutes.

## What is Women Commission ?

- The Commission was created by MIJARC to improve gender equity
- This Commission want to enrich women in their rights economically, socially and politically at all levels
- The Commission was created at international level but we want it exists at all levels to work together men and women and to have recognition, participation and commitment of women in MIJARC and society



## Tasks and role. These are for commissions at all levels

- ✓ To improve women activities
- ✓ To organize women's projects, seminars that will enrich them to development
- ✓ To educate men about women's rights and working together they can speed up development
- ✓ To help women's independency and autonomy
- ✓ Support women in technical trainings
- ✓ To evaluate action plan through a gender approach
- ✓ Advocacy for human and women's rights
- ✓ Strengthen the movement and its impact on society through increased participation of women
- ✓ To elaborate proposals to movement bodies to improve gender equity
- ✓ To elaborate proposals to have an influence on public policies and improve women's life
- ✓ To ensure a good communication between women representative at all levels

## Functioning

### At world level

- ✓ IWC is composed by one women of each continent and a member of world team
- ✓ The president of IWC is the member of world team
- ✓ The tasks of the president are:
  - ✓ Prepare the meetings of the IWC
  - Write and send the meeting reports
  - Follow up of the continental women commission
  - Contact other women organizations and see the possibility to work in network
  - Contact with donors, present projects
  - Send documentation



- ✓ The representative of each continent is elected by the continental assembly for 4 years
- ✓ 1 meeting per year

### At continental level

- At least 1 meeting in four years with 1 woman from each movement. If it is possible more meetings depending on the reality of each continent
- The IWC member is the responsible. Her tasks:
  - i. Prepare meetings
  - ii. Meeting reports
  - iii. Follow up of the national women commission
  - iv. Contacts with other women organizations
  - v. Contact with donors, present projects
  - vi. Send documentation

This responsible is also world coordinator in charge of gender and women issues, elected during continental assembly. Since the beginning, tasks between both coordinators must be clear and shared

- The women who participate in the meeting are elected by national movements through assembly
- Each continent decides how many women are in the Continental Women Commission, according to the reality



### At national level

- 1 team with a responsible elected in assembly. She is a mediator between national and continental level. The team is composed by representatives of dioceses, states, zones,....
- At least one meeting per year.
- The responsible is part of national board

