



CALL FOR CANDIDATES

2021-2025

CHAIR
OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL



emmaus

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



To all the Emmaus International member organisations
For the attention of Emmaus International Board members and regional secretariats,
national secretariats and national delegates

Montreuil, 24 August 2021

Subject: Call for candidates for Chair of Emmaus International

Dear friends,

As you know, following the postponement of our World Assembly, initially scheduled to be held in Uruguay in October 2020, the Emmaus International Board made the decision to organise this event in two parts:

- Part 1 via video conference from 30 November to 2 December 2021;
- Part 2 to be held in person in the Americas during the first half of 2022.

To hold elections for our bodies and ensure the democratic life of our movement continues, Emmaus International will proceed to **elect its Chair during the first part of this World Assembly held virtually from 30 November to 2 December 2021.**

In line with our statutory provisions, I would like to invite you to inform us of applications for this position. Please find enclosed a letter outlining the position of Chair (see also Chapter VI of the statutes) and a reminder of the statutory provisions: Article 27, Rules 51 and 52.

As the current Chairman, I would like to remind you of the importance of this election. Our movement, with the rich diversity of its 425 groups worldwide, its cultures, and often very different realities, needs democracy and representation. We hope many candidates will stand for this position!

The Chair's role represents a strong commitment to the movement and a responsibility which is both demanding and exhilarating. It allows you to experience the extraordinary diversity of Emmaus and the importance of its activists' commitment.

It is a role that requires a great deal of time spent visiting groups worldwide, participating in different forums within the movement and joining forces with other civil society actors. Ultimately and invariably, the Chair plays a key role as spokesperson at a global level in order to make the Emmaus alternatives visible and advocate our political position before government bodies.

We hope that the person who will guide our work over the next few years will be a unifying force, encouraging ever greater solidarity between us and ensuring that our movement remains a force for political awareness and commitment.



We look forward to receiving your applications!

In solidarity,

Patrick Atohoun
Chair of Emmaus International



CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR

The Chair of Emmaus International is elected by the World Assembly. S/he chairs the world assembly, board meetings and executive committee meetings and is a member with full rights of these two bodies. S/he is elected for a four-year term of office, renewable once, from one world assembly to the next.

The Chair's duties require him or her to be available to visit Emmaus groups worldwide and to attend the various international and regional meetings (such as the regional assemblies and regional board meetings). The Chair is also required to be available to play an active role at meetings with other international organisations (such as forums, summits, symposia, etc.), to make Emmaus's voice heard and plan and pursue work with networks of other organisations, which is now vital if we want to achieve our organisation's goals.

To do all this work appropriately, the Chair must have the sensitivity and capacity to ensure that all of the movement's different bodies play their part, and to listen, foster and boost participation, because the breadth and diversity of Emmaus require all the decisions taken to be handled democratically and transparently.

The Chair must also take care to encourage, and above all support, groups and individuals living in complex political and economic situations.

Lastly, s/he must remind us all that the goal of our work is to strengthen the Emmaus "structure", a task which is not an end in itself but must help us find better ways of making the voices of all those living in poverty and injustice heard.

> To apply to become Chair of Emmaus International, you need to have been an active member of the movement for at least five years. You also need to have the backing of your member organisation **OR** national organisation **OR** regional organisation **OR** from 5% of member organisations. Each candidate must write a cover letter, along with a curriculum vitae and a work programme, as well as submitting a declaration from the candidate's national organisation and regional organisation that they have no objection regarding his or her integrity and honesty.

> The Emmaus International head office needs to have been notified of all candidacies by 19 October 2021.

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THE CHAIR:





Excerpts from the Emmaus International Statutes and Internal Rules:

“Article 27 – Election of the Chair: The Ordinary General Assembly elects the Chair of Emmaus International by secret ballot by a majority of two-thirds of the member organisations present or duly represented at the first round of voting and by simple majority in the second round of voting. The term of office of the Chair runs until the next General Assembly. This term of office is renewable once.

Rule 51 - The term of office of the Chair runs until the next Ordinary General Assembly meeting, in accordance with Article 17 of the Statutes.

Rule 52 - The following provisions govern candidacies for presidency of Emmaus International:

- Rule 52.1 - Each candidate for Chair shall have been an active member of the movement within one of its member organisations for a minimum of five years.
- Rule 52.2 - The candidacy letter shall be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a work programme, as well as a declaration from the candidate's national organisation and regional organisation that they have no objection regarding his or her integrity and honesty.
- Rule 52.3 - Candidacies can be put forward either by the candidate's member organisation, or by its national organisation or its regional organisation, or by a minimum of 5% of the member organisations.
- Rule 52.4 - The candidacy must be received at the Emmaus International head office at least six weeks before the opening of the Ordinary General Assembly that holds the election.
- Rule 52.5 - The Executive Committee shall inform the entire movement of all candidacies received.

Rule 53 - If, owing to the withdrawal of one or several candidacies after the first round of voting, there remains a single candidate, a second round of voting by simple majority is required for the legitimate election of the Chair.”

“Article 48 - Public statements: The Chair of Emmaus International represents Emmaus International both within and outside of the movement. S/he has the right to make public statements relating to the ideals and the aims of Emmaus International.

Rule 83 - The Chair is entitled to speak out publicly about any issue related to the fight for the rights of the poorest throughout the world, or any issue concerning Emmaus International at the global level or affecting several regions.

- **Rule 83.1** - For a public statement on external affairs, the Chair takes into account as much as possible the diversity of tendencies within the movement.
- **Rule 83.2** - Before making a public statement on delicate situations (which could jeopardise the safety of Emmaus organisations or their members), the Chair shall consult beforehand, depending on the cases, with the member organisation or the regional organisation or the national organisation concerned.
- **Rule 83.3** - The Chair can also speak out on issues that are particular to one regional organisation, upon request by its Board members, or particular to a national organisation, upon request by the representatives of the latter.
- **Rule 83.4** - Finally the Chair can speak out to support a member organisation, upon request by the latter.



“Article 49 - Responsibilities: The Chair represents Emmaus International in legal matters, to third parties and before the courts. S/he carries out all the duties which the law and the statutes entrust to him/her. S/he is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the General Assembly, of the Board and of the Executive Committee and s/he signs letters on behalf of the association Emmaus International. The Chair, as the representative of Emmaus International, is entitled to participate in an advisory capacity in all the activities carried out by any regional organisation, and in particular in the regional assemblies.

Rule 84 - Qualities: The Chair of Emmaus International is, as such, the Chair of the Board and of the Executive Committee.

Rule 85 - Powers: The Chair acts in the name and on behalf of Emmaus International, of the Board and of the Executive Committee, and reports to them appropriately.

- **Rule 85.1** - S/he represents the Association in all civil affairs and holds full powers for making commitments in such affairs on the Association's behalf, within the framework of the guidelines given by the Board.
- **Rule 85.2** - S/he has authority to represent the Association in court, as plaintiff as well as defendant. S/he can be replaced only by a representative to whom s/he gave a special authorisation.
- **Rule 85.3** - The Chair can initiate any court actions and other actions, after approval by the Executive Committee. This preliminary approval by the Executive Committee is not required for urgent procedures such as summary proceedings, petitions, etc. The Chair must inform the Board immediately and, in urgent cases, the Executive Committee, of any procedure thus initiated.
- **Rule 85.4** - The Chair decides on expenditures and pays for them, within the framework of the budget adopted by the Board. S/he can delegate his/her powers to the Treasurer and the Chief Executive and, if need be, another salaried staff member of Emmaus International, regarding expenditures and payment, within a maximum limit set by the Executive Committee.
- **Rule 85.5** - As regards everyday affairs, with the authorisation of the Executive Committee and under his/her own responsibility, the Chair can partially delegate, in writing, his/her powers and signature to one or more members of his/her choice. These latter may be members of the Board or of the Executive Committee, or salaried staff members of Emmaus International. S/he can terminate the aforementioned delegations at any time.”

“Article 50 - Other responsibilities: S/he calls and chairs the meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee. S/he can grant a mandate to the Vice-Chairs or to any other member of the Executive Committee to represent him/her.

Rule 86 - In the event of absence or temporary impediment of the Chair, it is the first Vice-Chair who, in order of precedence, shall take on the duties of Chair and shall, among other duties, convene and preside the meetings. If the first Vice-Chair is unable to do so, these duties shall be taken on by the second Vice-Chair.”