



# Final Document

Loyola, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*“To exploit more fully the possibilities given us by being an international body, additional global and regional networks must be created. Such networks of persons and institutions should be capable of addressing global concerns through support, sharing of information, planning, and evaluation... Initiative and support for these various forms of networks should come from all levels of the Society”*  
(GC 34, d. 21, n. 14, 1995)

**November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 various networks from the Society of Jesus whose scope includes the promotion of justice have gathered in Loyola, Spain.<sup>1</sup>** More than fifty Jesuits and lay colleagues – men and women – representing the major world geographic areas the Society of Jesus works in, have dialogued over how to improve our response to the greatest global justice challenges in our time and have produced some tangible outcomes for networking in the future.

We know that humanity has increased its wellbeing in recent decades. We note, however, that we still live in a world characterized by exclusion and environmental degradation. Too many human beings live in extreme poverty and suffer from hunger, children are deprived of education, men and women go without health services, and communities without drinking water. On the other hand, the current development model punishes nature, exploiting our planet in an unsustainable way. For Pope Francis, this dual social and environmental crisis constitutes “one complex crisis which is both social and environmental,” (*Laudato Si’* 139), given that “the human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together” (LS 48).

Today, we feel an urgency to respond to these challenges, working for the *inclusion* of those that are excluded, experience poverty and to protect the *sustainability* of nature which is being threatened. Inclusion and sustainability have arisen as the two great tasks of our time. The Society of Jesus in 1975 received the call to promote a faith that does justice. This calls us first to share our lives with the poor. Today, our motivation and credibility surge from personal *accompaniment* of those on the periphery where exclusion exists. Accompaniment allows us to offer better *service* and offers a vital opportunity for *researching* the causes of injustice. In turn, this allows us to *raise awareness* among public opinion and *advocate* impact in areas where public policy is decided. Today we understand that the work of justice brings together these elements into the same process.

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<sup>1</sup> This group includes the **Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN): Migration Network, Right to Education Network, Ecology Network, and Governance for Natural and Mineral Resources Network.** **Xavier Network** has also participated, which encompasses the NGO’s for international development cooperation and Secretariats of Mission in Europe, Canada and Australia. **Jesuit Networking** has joined the conference collaborating by running all event communications. These networks consist of institutions that have aligned themselves with the Social Apostolate. All information about the event can be found at [www.networkingforjustice.org](http://www.networkingforjustice.org)

Globalization has altered the context within which justice is advocated for, leading to interconnections among economic, political, social, ecological and cultural dynamics. These characteristics of our present age render the local setting insufficient for understanding and confronting the basic causes of injustice. We need to pay more attention to the larger regional and international dimensions.

The Society possesses the necessary conditions to collaborate internationally. Research about the causes of injustice, exchange of good practices and the defense of the poor require broad *international* and *inter-sectorial* collaboration. This collaboration is being implemented now by the development of networks. Networks allow us to respond to the new conditions of mission while at the same time maintaining our contact with local realities, a contact that provides us with spiritual nourishment for our commitment to justice and the defense of human rights.

Therefore, networking in the Society develops regional or global collaboration of local institutions to offer joint responses to regional or global apostolic challenges that cannot be met by these institutions acting on their own.

Networks operate properly when there is *dialogue*, to open ourselves to other forms of work and ways of perceiving reality; when they practice *generosity* and *trust*; when they help toward *detachment from power*, relying on consensus and operating more horizontally; when the way of proceeding is *participative* through prayerful discernment in common; when they carry out their diagnoses *rigorously* and *with profound analysis*.

At the same time, networks provide *added value*. Local institutions broaden their horizons, making their mission more universal and achieve greater visibility and importance. They learn from one another and exchange information. Networks help the Society to generate a new sense of the universal body, strengthen its identity, and they build up a common vision regarding important apostolic questions. This leads to new levels of apostolic action, which are unachievable without them. Networks allow for political advocacy at the national and international levels.

## **SOME RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS**

- Support, strengthen and care for networks that already exist and create inter-sectorial networks at the province level in the areas of inclusion and sustainability
- Incorporate in the strategic planning of social centers these strategies of international networking
- Reinforce linkages of social centers with universities for networking; collaborating in areas of research, awareness and advocacy
- Offer the appropriate training for the way of leadership needed at this time: horizontal, collective, linked to other networks, open, with global perspective and capable of providing help and guidance
- Request provincials and presidents of the Conferences to foster this collaboration for specific apostolic challenges, establishing plans, follow-up and evaluation in order to draw lessons and identify good practices
- Devote the necessary human and economic resources to support and sustain these networks
- Request support from the central government of the Society for a proper selection of global apostolic challenges and facilitate the structure and advancement of these networks