

JESAM STATUTES

0.0 History

- 0.1 The first joint meeting of English and French-speaking Superiors was held in 1970. This was the foundation of JESAM. The first annual meeting of JESAM was held in 1977.
- 0.2 JESAM stands for *Jesuit Superiors of Africa and Madagascar*. It is the Conference of Major Superiors of the Assistancy of Africa and Madagascar of the Society of Jesus.

1.0 Composition

- 1.1 The ex-officio members of the Conference of Major Superiors are the Moderator as Chairman and the Superiors of the provinces and regions.
- 1.2 The Regional Assistant for Africa and Madagascar ideally attends all the JESAM plenary meetings.
- 1.3 As far as possible, Father General attends the JESAM plenary meetings.

2.0 Purpose

- 2.1 JESAM members form a consultative body which advises Fr. General on matters which pertain to the Assistancy. Fr. General confirms as binding on the members the decisions that are taken according to the procedures in 3.1 and 3.2.
- 2.2 JESAM helps the Major Superiors realize their responsibility for the Society and the Church in Africa and Madagascar and opens them to the universal dimension of the Society.
- 2.3 JESAM facilitates union, communication, common vision and effective leadership on formation and mission among the Major Superiors. They discuss, discern, decide and evaluate various Assistancy-wide policies, programmes, projects, appointments, planning and budgets.

3.0 Decision Making

- 3.1 Ideally all decisions will be made by consensus of a quorum of at least three quarters of the members by right. Consensus decisions are binding on all members.
- 3.2 If there is no consensus and if three members by right ask for a vote on any matter, then a two thirds majority of those members by right is needed for a decision to become binding on all members.

4.0 Meetings

- 4.1 JESAM will have one plenary meeting a year. Every second year the meeting will be held in Rome. The meeting in Africa will alternate between French and English-speaking countries, as far as possible.
- 4.2 The meeting will normally last for five days, from Monday morning to Friday evening.

5.0 The Moderator

- 5.1 JESAM will have one official, the Moderator,
- 5.2 The Moderator will be a Major Superior appointed by Fr. General for a period of three years renewable once. The terna for his appointment will be prepared by JESAM.
- 5.3 He will be the chairman of JESAM.
- 5.4 He will work closely with the Assistant for Africa and, together with the Assistant, be a link between Fr. General and the Major Superiors of the Assistancy for common matters affecting it.

- 5.5 Along with the other JESAM members, he will work at setting priorities for the Assistancy in accordance with nos. 4.1 and 4.2.
- 5.6 He will prepare the JESAM plenary meetings.
- 5.7 He will carry forward decisions of JESAM, animate the Major Superiors to implement these decisions and oversee common undertakings of the Assistancy.
- 5.8 He will foster all forms of cooperation and collaboration among the Major Superiors. For this it is of the utmost importance that he communicate promptly, regularly and clearly with all concerned on all important matters.
- 5.9 He will be responsible for the finances of JESAM. He will prepare the financial report and propose a budget for each plenary meeting of JESAM.
- 5.10 He will perform public relations on behalf of JESAM.

6.0 Colleges of Formation

- 6.1 The whole body of JESAM will be the Board of Governors of Arrupe College and the theologates of Hekima and Abidjan. JESAM will be responsible for the basic policies of these colleges.
- 6.2 JESAM members who attend board meetings will be appointed for each college.
- 6.3 The Moderator will be a Major Superior of these colleges. He will take the manifestation of conscience of the members of the staff only.
- 6.4 Each of these colleges will have its own Board of Managers responsible for the day to day running. The Moderator will be chairman of these boards. He will ensure that JESAM decisions are implemented.

7.0 The Executive Committee

- 7.1 There will be an Executive Committee composed of three members: the Moderator (ex-officio and chairman) and two other Major Superiors elected by simple majority in a secret ballot for a period of two years at an annual plenary meeting. These appointments can be renewed. As much as possible, assurance should be made that the two language groups are represented on the committee.
- 7.2 Normally, the Executive Committee will meet within three months after a plenary meeting in order to review the progress of decisions made at that time. The Moderator will convene the meeting. If there is need for other meetings, the Moderator will convene them.
- 7.3 When there is an urgent need for a decision or action to be taken on particular matters between plenary sessions, the Executive Committee acts on behalf of JESAM. It has the authority to make decisions on behalf of JESAM after having consulted as far as possible all the members by right.
- 7.4 The Executive Committee will help to coordinate planning for Assistancy meetings.
- 7.5 It will be in communication with all JESAM members on all its deliberations.

8.0 Finances

- 8.1 The normal source of JESAM finance is the annual levies asked from the provinces and regions.
- 8.2 The JESAM budget is approved at plenary meetings.

9.0 Support structures

- 9.1 There should be support structures for JESAM. At present, these are six: Education Apostolate, Social Apostolate, Province/Region Treasurers, Formation Commission, Novice Masters, AIDS Network.
- 9.2 Education Apostolate

- The members of this group are the education delegates for each province or region.
- One anglophone and one francophone Assistancy delegate are appointed by JESAM. They serve as coordinators, work together, and keep in contact with the parallel sector and with the personnel of the Education Secretariat at the Curia in Rome.
- The purpose of this group is to advise JESAM on educational matters affecting the Assistancy.
- The budget for this group is submitted each year to JESAM at the yearly meeting for approval and payment.
- Meetings of the education delegates from each province/region should occasionally be planned to coincide with a plenary meeting of JESAM.

9.3 Social Apostolate:

- Members of this group are the Social Apostolate coordinators of each province or region.
- The moderator of this group is appointed by JESAM, and an assistant, as far as possible, of the other language group will also be appointed.
- The purpose of this group is to advise JESAM on social apostolate matters affecting the Assistancy.
- An annual report should be submitted by this group at the plenary meeting of JESAM, including proposals and/or recommendations for approval by JESAM.
- Meetings of the Social Apostolate coordinators from each province/region should occasionally be planned to coincide with the plenary meeting of JESAM.

9.4 Province/Region Treasurers

- Members of this group are treasurers of each province/region.
- By a simple majority, they elect a chairperson from among their own members.
- A representative of JESAM, usually the Moderator, attends their annual meetings.
- With regard to the Assistancy projects and policies, this group is consultative to JESAM.
- When necessary, this group makes proposals and/or recommendations to JESAM for approval at its plenary meeting.

9.5 Formation Commission:

- The Members of this group are the formation delegates of each province/region.
- By a simple majority, they elect a chairperson from among their own members.
- The purpose of this group is to advise JESAM on formation matters. This means that it is
 - a) to give advice on Assistancy formation policy,
 - b) to promote communication and union in the Assistancy with regard to formation matters,
 - c) to propose strategies for implementing existing policies,
 - d) to propose plans for Assistancy meetings on formation when they are needed.
- An annual report, including proposals and/or recommendations for approval, should be made by this group and presented to JESAM at the plenary meeting.

9.6 Novice Masters:

- The members of this group are the directors of the novitiates of the Assistancy.
- By a simple majority, they elect a chairperson from among their members.
- The purpose of this group is to advise JESAM on matters concerning the initial formation and to share and reflect among themselves on formation of novices.
- An annual report should be made to JESAM.

9.7 AIDS Network:

- Delegates for this group from each province/region will meet at least once a year to exchange information.
- JESAM will appoint a francophone and anglophone delegate to help promote this important work.

- Annual reports and budgets for approval and payment and proposals and recommendations should be prepared by the delegates for presentation to the JESAM plenary meeting.

10.0 These statutes are approved by Fr. General. JESAM accepts to work under them for the next three years after which they can be reviewed. Should there be urgent reasons for a change in them, this can be effected at the plenary meeting with the absolute agreement of the members by right and with the approval of Fr. General.