



World Congress of Comiucap

Johannesburg
Nov. 13-17, 2013

General Assembly of Comiucap
«The Role of Philosophy in Catholic Context»

Order and Disorder in the Age of Globalization(s):

*Philosophy
and the Development
of Cultures*

Program & Abstracts

Programme et Résumés

Programa y Resúmenes



COMIUCAP
IN COLLABORATION WITH
ST AUGUSTINE COLLEGE
OF SOUTH AFRICA





World Congress of Comiucap



Welcome
Bienvenus
Bienvenidos
Welkom
Siyaalemukela
Kamogelo
Kamohelo
Sondzela
U amukeriwile
Vhoṭanganedzwa
Ulwamkelo
Ukwemukela
Benvenuti
Willkommen
Bem-vindos

Πάντες ἄνθρωποι τοῦ εἰδέναι ὀρέγονται φύσει.
σημεῖον δὴ τῶν αἰσθήσεων ἀγάπησις· καὶ γὰρ
χωρὶς τῆς χρείας ἀγαπῶνται δι' αὐτάς, καὶ
μάλιστα τῶν ἄλλων ἢ διὰ τῶν ὁμμάτων.

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΟΥΣ
(ΤΩΝ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΑ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ Α, 980^α.)



Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP

St Augustine College of South Africa, Johannesburg, November 16, 2013

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS

The Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP took place at St Augustine College of South Africa in Johannesburg on November 16, 2013. The Agenda of the Assembly was the following: 1. Report of Activities by the Acting-President; 2. Financial situation of the network; 3. Election of the President of Comiucap; 4. Revision of the Statutes of Comiucap; 5. Fifth World Congress of Comiucap; 6. Regional Issues and Activities: 6.1. Nomination of the Regional Vice-Presidents; 6.2. Regional Congresses of Comiucap; 6.3. Academic Issues: Ecclesial, Regional and Trans-Regional. 7. Analysis of concrete proposals: 7.1. Survey of the Members of the network; 7.2. Journal under the Auspices of Comiucap; 7.3. Creation of a Book-Series for Comiucap. 8. Other Issues of common interest (topics could be suggested to the Acting-President up to 24 hours before the start of the General Assembly in Johannesburg, that is, until 16:30 of November 15, 2013). 9. Final words.

The proceedings of the General Assembly started at 16:30 and lasted for almost two and an half hours. At the beginning of the General Assembly it was announced that the Executive Board of COMIUCAP had designated the following scrutinizers for any voting moment during the General Assembly: Professor Hubert Faes, of the Institut Catholique de Paris, and Professor Noel Sheth, of the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune-India. Both accepted the nomination and so proceeded to preside over all the voting processes that took place during the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP. It was also established that the Institutional Members of COMIUCAP in good-standing with proper delegates in Johannesburg, and thus able to fully exercise the right to vote, were the following: Australian Catholic University, represented by Prof. Janis Ozolins; Institut Catholique de Paris, represented by Prof. Jean-François Petit; Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, represented by Prof. Noel Sheth; Maynooth University, represented by Prof. Michael Dunne; Nanzan University, represented by Prof. Noboru Kinoshita; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, represented by Prof. Jorge Martinez-Barrera; Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, represented by Prof. Miguel Giusti; UNISINOS, represented by Prof. Álvaro Valls; Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, represented by Prof. Corina

Yoris; Universidad Católica Argentina, represented by Prof. Néstor Corona; Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, represented by Prof. Alfonso Flórez; Universidad Pontificia Comillas, represented by Prof. Miguel Garcia-Baró; Universidad Santo Tomás (Bogotá), represented by Prof. Rafael Antonio Antolínez Camargo; Universität Innsbruck, represented by Prof. Edmund Runggaldier; Université Catholique d'Angers, represented by Prof. Thomas Alferi; Université Catholique de Lille, represented by Prof. Stanislas Deprez; Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik, represented by Prof. Hoda Nehmé; Uniwersytet Kard. St. Wysznkiego, represented by Prof. Grzegorz Bugajak. St Augustine College of South Africa was also accepted as a voting member, being represented by Prof. Gerard Walmsley. Taking into account that the Institutional Members duly represented in Johannesburg were 18 and that the Regional Vice-Presidents have *ex-officio* the right to vote, the total number of ballots that possibly could be casted was the following: twenty two (22).

The Assembly started with the then Acting-President of COMIUCAP introducing the Report of Activities for the years 2009-2013 previously distributed to all the participants in the Assembly (all colleagues present at the World Congress of COMIUCAP were invited to attend, but expression in deliberative matters and the right to vote was granted only to the representatives of the Institutions mentioned above). The Acting-President of COMIUCAP introduced his REPORT for the years 2009-2013 with the following words:

Dear Colleagues: It is a great honor for me to be able to open the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP here in Johannesburg, at St Augustine College. As I begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Dr. Michael van Heerden who as President of St Augustine College welcomed the project of COMIUCAP bringing to South Africa its Fourth World Congress and General Assembly. I also want to thank Professor Gerard Walmsley who, during the break of a Meeting both of whom attended in Beijing (China) listened to my reasons why a Meeting of COMIUCAP should take place at St Augustine and, when I came to Johannesburg in November of 2012 shared some of his good thoughts and ideas on important issues related to the present and the future of Philosophy in a Catholic context worldwide. To be able to discuss and promote Philosophy in this Land of Africa is for me a source of joy. I am proud of the fact that after the great difficulties we had to face while trying to bring this dual event to the Capital of the R. D. du Congo we finally realized the vow of the General Assembly gathered in Manila in September of 2008 that the next one, the one we are now inaugurating, should take place in Africa. And so here we are, not in Kinshasa, but in Johannesburg, in the Republic of South Africa, the Land of President Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, two contemporary icons of

the need for Peace and Reconciliation in this world of ours. I want to thank the two Colleagues in Kinshasa, one from the Faculty of Philosophy Saint Peter Canisius in Kimwenza (Prof. Cyprien Bwangila) and the other from the Université Catholique du Congo (Prof. Georges Ndumba). But for all the efforts done on behalf of COMIUCAP here in Johannesburg I want to make it very clear that I owe a special debt of gratitude to both Dr. Jakub Urbaniak and to Mrs. Petru-Harrisson for their excellent, and most reliable, engagement both during the long preparations for this event as well as in the last few days. This expression of gratitude also goes to Dr. Wojciech Szypluła SVD and the other members of the academic family of St Augustine, professors and students, that in one way or another contributed with their time and energy for the good success of this important realization of our network. I trust that everyone felt welcomed here in South Africa and that all of us are taking home, should home be outside of this country, memories of beauty and a deeper sense of humanity. In this sense, I want to underline the beautiful contribution given to us by the Youth Group from the Jesuit Parish in Soweto, with their harmonious singing and beautiful dancing. Among the people towards whom I want to express sincere gratitude, and regardless of them being already included in the Thank You Note of the Booklet each one of you received, is Mr. Filipe Oliveira and Ms. Filipa Oliveira for the important contributions made during the process leading to the production of the images you have in front of your eyes and of the Booklet you have now in your hands.

Before going further, please, allow me two special thoughts. The first one goes to the victims and survivors of the recent typhoon that devastated vast regions in the Philippines, the country that hosted us the last time we gathered for a World Congress and a General Assembly (Manila, of September, 2008). In this regard, I suggest that we now spend a full minute of Prayerful Silence for the many victims and survivors of these tragic events in the archipelago of the Philippines. [One minute of prayerful silence took place]. Thank you! In this regard, I also want to inform you that, during its meeting here in Johannesburg, the Executive Council of COMIUCAP approved my suggestion that as soon as we are financially able to do so COMIUCAP will send through a reliable channel to the Peoples of the Philippines 1% of the amount corresponding to the total cost of bringing to Johannesburg the Fourth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP.

My second special thought on this occasion is once again one of gratitude towards two particular persons. In the first place, towards Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, founder and first President of COMIUCAP (1999-2008), a phi-

losopher and a thinker of today to whom we all owe gratitude not only for his highly relevant and pertinent thinking but also for his engagement with COMIUCAP and other institutional expressions of the ecclesial commitment to Intellectual Life. Taking into account the fact that Professor Capelle-Dumont is here present among us and that I am now a candidate to the Presidency of COMIUCAP, I would like to immediately pursue the recommendation that I myself did in Manila five years ago and so ask the present Assembly to approve the following submission of mine: that Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, should he accept it, be granted the title of Honorary President of our network. [The proposal of the Acting-President was received with a spontaneous applause by all participants in the General Assembly of Johannesburg]. The other person towards whom I would like to express gratitude in a special way is Professor Guy-Réal Thivierge the Executive Secretary of FIUC/IFCU both for his presence here these days as well as for the financial support granted to COMIUCAP for the realization of this dual event here in South Africa.

I express here my sincere gratitude to His Eminence Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the «Pontificium Consilium de Cultura» for having granted His Patronage to the Forth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. Furthermore, I also want to express my gratitude to the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in Pretoria for being so forthcoming and helpful in trying to solve the problem that arose in Doha with the transit of S. E. Mons. Barthélemy Adoukonou. We deplore greatly that in the end His Excellency was not able to take part in our Proceedings here in South Africa.

Last but not least, I want to express gratitude towards all the Institutional Members of COMIUCAP that pay their Membership Fee on time and, thus, grant a minimum of viability to our network. Without the Membership Fees paid by the Members of COMIUCAP none of this could have taken place. But here a special word of gratitude is also due to the colleagues that came from far away even in the absence of institutional support. Furthermore, let me also mention the joy I feel for the two Graduate Students from Nigeria that were accepted as Presenters in our Congress and diligently managed to take part in it. Thanks so much to all of you!

I invite you to read our REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, and regardless of the many imperfections you might find in it, as a confirmation of my commitment as Acting-President (and in the immediate future as President should I be elected in the election that is about to take place) to the following aims and goals: 1. Pursue

and develop all collaboration possible and/or desirable with FIUC/IFCU taking in particular advantage of the fact that I was elected to the Board of Directors of FIUC/IFCU during the General Assembly of the Federation that took place in São Paulo/Brasil in July of 2012); 2. Start a process of dialogue and communication with the Roman Dicasteries of the Holy See that are of particular relevance to us, namely, the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Congregation for Catholic Education, as well as with the Agency of the Vatican for Quality (AVEPRO); 3. Put the communication with the Deans of our Faculties, as well as Deans of other Faculties whenever possible, at the center of our communication strategy; 4. Pursue the goal of maintaining the Presidents-Rectors of Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning informed about the activities, as well as the needs, of our network; 5. Work as intensely as possible towards the enlargement of the number of Institutions that are members of COMIUCAP; 6. Consolidate and develop the activities of each Region, at the center of which, in concomitance with the corresponding Regional Conference or separately, shall be the plan to hold meetings of Deans of Philosophical Faculties in order to discuss issues of interest to our institutions and so foster the role and the function of Philosophy within the diversity of Catholic contexts around the world; 7. Consolidate and foster the financial development of COMIUCAP; 8. Start as soon as possible with the preparation of the Fifth World Congress of COMIUCAP; 9. Intensify the uses of our institutional Web-Page; 10. Apply all means available, including Facebook, to spread news and writings relevant to our network and/or to philosophy in general; 11. Encourage individual members (professors and graduate students) to be part of our network; 12. Be as present as possible, including with proper initiatives, whenever the Church is asked, or decides to contribute, to platforms oriented by goals such as the following: development of serious strategies for the achievement of true inter-cultural and interreligious dialogue; promotion of issues such as Freedom of conscience and of religion, as well as promotion of Justice and Peace around the world; intensification of the recognition of cultural rootedness and the hermeneutical dimension of Philosophy; affirmation of the crucial value of Philosophy when it comes to interdisciplinarity and the deepening of the relation between Faith and Reason, Philosophy and Theology.

The Report of Activities of the Acting-President for the years 2009-2013 was approved by show of hands with 18 votes. Immediately thereafter, the participants in the General Assembly were asked to approve both the Report of the Meeting of the Administrative Council of 14-15 November 2009 (which, among

other things, asked Professor João J. Vila-Chã to take over as Acting-President of the network effective November 15, 2009, and the Report of the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP that took place in Rome in January of 2011. Both Reports were approved by show of hands with 18 votes.

The Acting-President of Comiucap proceeded then with a Financial Report for the years 2009-2013. The Report was discussed in detail and was approved, by show of hands, with 18 votes.

The third point in the Agenda for the General Assembly was the election of the President of the network for the period 2013-2017. There was only one candidate proposed, namely, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP, Professor João J. Vila-Chã, SJ. The electoral process was done by secret ballot. After calling nominally each one of the delegates entitled to vote, the scrutinizers distributed the corresponding ballots. Once confirmed that the number of ballots was correct and corresponded to the List of the Institutions able to vote (besides the delegates of the Member Institutions of COMIUCAP, the Vice-Presidents also assumed their right to vote), the scrutinizers proceeded with the final counting of the votes and then announced that Prof. João J. Vila-Chã was elected President of COMIUCAP for the term 2013-2017 with 22 votes, that is by unanimous vote.

After thanking all the delegates present for their trust, the new President of COMIUCAP announced that among the issues to take into account in preparation of the Fifth General Assembly of the network was the eventual revision of the Statutes.

The Assembly proceeded to decide about the place and the hosting institution for the Fifth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. After the necessary deliberation, it was decided that the next World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP shall go to Latin-America. Moreover, taking into account that the Universidad Santo Tomás de Bogotá officially presented her candidature for the organization of the event, and not without recommending that the different neighbouring universities and institutions that are members of the network be invited to contribute as well, the General Assembly decided with 18 votes (by show of hands) that the Fifth General Assembly and World Congress of Comiucap go to the Universidad Santo Tomás de Bogotá, in Colombia.

Point six of the Agenda stipulated that the General Assembly should also deal with Regional Issues and Activities of the network. In the first place, there was the need to ratify the Nominations that each one of the Regions of the Network present in Johannesburg had made the previous day. The Nominations for Vice-Presidents presented for ratification to the General Assembly were the following: Professor Joseph Agbakoba, of Madonna University in Nigeria, as

Vice-President for Africa; Professor Janis Ozolins, of the Australian Catholic University, as Vice-President for Asia-Oceania; Professor Miguel García-Baró, of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas, as Vice-President for Europe; Rector-Emeritus Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, as Vice-President for Latin-America; Professor Brendan Sweetman, of Rockhurst College, as Vice-President for North-America. All five Nominations were ratified by 17 votes by show of hands.

Regarding the Regional Congresses of COMIUCAP it was made clear that each Continental Region of the network should organize at least one Regional Congress during the next four years, that is before the next World Congress and General Assembly of the network in Latin-America. It was also stated that the understanding now prevalent is that the Regional Congresses should be open to the participation of Members from other continents. Special emphasis shall also be given to initiatives capable of at the same time becoming occasions for Deans of each one of the Continental Regions of the network to come together in order to discuss issues of common interest, including administrative matters and methodological approaches to both teaching and research in the diverse fields of Philosophy.

The importance of the institutional website was anew emphasized and all the delegates were kindly asked to help the President of COMIUCAP in the tasks of fostering the usefulness and the relevance of our presence in the virtual space. It was said that any Regional issue with relevance for the aims and goals of the network should be promptly communicated to the President of COMIUCAP. Particular emphasis was thus put upon the need, and the importance, of each Member of COMIUCAP sending back to Rome, once filled, the ongoing SURVEY OF OUR MEMBERS. Information pertaining to initiatives of the Members of the Network that might be of interest to others was also kindly requested from all, namely in regard to initiatives such as congresses and major publications.

In point 7.2 of the AGENDA mention was made of the possibility of COMIUCAP having a journal under its auspices. In this sense, a suggestion was made that a journal originally published by the Australian Catholic University could eventually be integrated in the future activities of COMIUCAP. It was responded that such suggestions would be considered in due time by the Executive Board of COMIUCAP. There was also debate on some of the pros and cons of having a COMIUCAP Journal, whereby considerations were also made on the responsibility of Catholic Philosophers when it comes to the practices of Philosophy in contexts in which more and more academic life tends to be treated in a business-like manner and the focus of the university instead of being put upon the formative dimension shifts more and more to the immediate economic value of the

courses or of the university as such. Regarding point 7.3. on the possible creation of a Book-Series for COMIUCAP no further consideration, mainly due to the lack of time, was made. However, participants were reminded that COMIUCAP has already published a few volumes under its auspices and that all Institutions that are members of the network should have copies of these books in their libraries.

Before declaring its the Fourth General Assembly closed, the newly elected President of COMIUCAP presented to all the design of a Medal to be given to Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, founder and first President of the network, and to all the outgoing Regional Vice-Presidents as a token of gratitude for their service to COMIUCAP. However, since due to problems of logistics the medal was not available in South Africa for personal delivery, the President of COMIUCAP announced that it would be sent to the persons it is destined to around Christmas time.

The present REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COMIUCAP in Johannesburg was written by the President of the COMIUCAP, Professor João J. Vila-Chã, and counted with the contribution of Professor Noel Sheth, outgoing Vice-President for Asia-Oceania and one of the two Scrutinizers during the General Assembly in Johannesburg. What now follows is a complement in French to this REPORT written by Professor Hubert Faes, the first scrutinizer during the Assembly and in charge of taking note of any part of the proceedings that had taken place in either French or Spanish. The short *Compte-Rendu* offered by Professor Hubert Faes, outgoing Vice-President for Europe, is as follows:

Concernant point 5 de l'ordre du jour (le 5ème Congrès Mondial) de la COMIUCAP, le président Vila-Chã expose les propositions du Conseil d'Administration de la COMIUCAP relatives au prochain Congrès Mondial. Compte-tenu des lieux choisis pour les précédents congrès et de l'impossibilité d'organiser dans l'immédiat un Congrès Mondial en Amérique du Nord, le mieux serait d'organiser le prochain en Amérique Latine. L'université Santo Tomas de Bogotá (Colombie) s'est proposée pour le faire ; l'Assemblée Générale doit se prononcer sur ce point. Le professeur Antolinez Camargo, délégué de l'Université Santo Tomas informe l'Assemblée sur les conditions dans lesquelles le Recteur de son Université a donné son accord pour que lui-même fasse la proposition à l'occasion du Congrès de Johannesburg. Il indique aussi que sa Faculté est disposée à organiser le prochain Congrès en partenariat avec d'autres universités catholiques de Bogotá. Le professeur Alfonso Florez de l'Université Javeriana de Bogotá indique de son côté qu'il avait reçu du Vice-Recteur de son Université la consigne d'accueillir favorablement une éventuelle demande relative à l'organisation du prochain Congrès Mondial. Le professeur Philippe Capelle, Doyen Honoraire et Président Honoraire de la COMIUCAP

rappelle que la tradition, au sein de la COMIUCAP, a toujours été, quand il y avait plusieurs universités catholiques dispensant un enseignement universitaire de philosophie dans la ville où un congrès mondial était organisé, d'inviter les universités à collaborer pour l'organiser. Le professeur Jean-François Petit, exprime pour sa part le vœu que l'Université La Salle de Bogotá soit également partie prenante du projet. Le président propose donc à l'Assemblée de confier à l'Université Santo Tomas la responsabilité de l'organisation sur place à Bogotá du Congrès, à charge pour elle de l'organiser avec la participation des autres Universités Catholiques mentionnées. L'Assemblée approuve cette proposition.

A la fin de l'Assemblée Générale, un échange a lieu entre les délégués présents et plusieurs suggestions sont émises. Le Professeur B. Feltz, ancien Président de l'Institut Supérieur de Philosophie de Louvain, dit l'intérêt qu'il a pris à participer au Congrès Mondial. Il voit deux objectifs principaux pour la COMIUCAP: les rencontres intellectuelles d'une part, les rencontres institutionnelles d'autre part. Il souhaite que les deux objectifs soient poursuivis car ils sont également importants. Qu'une assemblée de philosophes chrétiens s'exprime au niveau international sur des questions institutionnelles, dans le domaine politique et social en général (par exemple sur la question de la démocratie et de ses rapports avec la religion), dans le domaine universitaire et dans le domaine ecclésiastique, cela pourrait avoir un impact significatif. Une telle Assemblée devrait, après avoir élaboré une position, s'exprimer sur ce que devrait être une université catholique ouverte sur le monde contemporain. Le président Vila-Chã rappelle que le souci de la Comiucap en ce qui concerne les Congrès régionaux est qu'ils soient ouverts, que puissent y participer des Institutions non catholiques et des intellectuels de tous bords. Le Professeur Jean François Petit souligne combien il est important que les philosophes des Universités Catholiques soient présents sur la scène publique européenne. Mais il estime que pour cela, les dites universités devraient être plus nombreuses à adhérer à la Comiucap. Un objectif essentiel est d'augmenter le nombre des institutions adhérentes. Le Professeur Hubert Faes remarque que si la Comiucap entrait plus avant dans les questions institutionnelles et affichait certaines positions, elle serait plus attrayante et gagnerait des adhésions. Mais il importe d'intervenir au bon niveau, en évitant les réactions d'humeur, sans se laisser prendre dans le jeu d'affrontements purement politiques. Il faut intervenir sur des questions majeures avec des arguments consistants. Il souligne aussi que le projet de permettre des adhésions individuelles à la Comiucap permettrait d'obtenir un investissement de plus nombreux collègues. Le professeur B. Feltz souligne que l'obstacle principal à l'adhésion des institutions à la Comiucap n'est pas financier, mais le fait que tout le monde manque de temps. On ne peut sacrifier plusieurs jours en déplacements et en colloques que si on a le sentiment d'un enjeu important, d'un intérêt majeur pour soi et pour les autres. Le président Vila-Cha tiendra

compte de ces différentes remarques ; il souligne aussi qu'il est important d'être là et de participer pour dire ce qui ne va pas.

After his final words, the President of COMIUCAP declared closed the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP and all the participants were invited to take part in the celebration of the Eucharist that followed immediately thereafter. The present document was completed in Rome on November 25, 2013 and submitted on the same date to Professor Hubert Faes and Professor Noel Sheth for revision and approval before being sent to the Members of the network. Upon approval by Professor Sheth on November 26 and by Professor Faes on November 28, we are now ready to publish it.

Rome, November 30, 2013

Prof. João J. VILA-CHĂ
(President of COMIUCAP)



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