



World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco
Report of the Secretary General
Extraordinary General World Assembly 2024
Turin
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Location: Turin

Dear Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco,

I am deeply honoured to present this report as we gather for our Extraordinary General World Assembly (EGWA2024) in the heart of our beloved Don Bosco's home – Valdocco – Turin. This Assembly is not just a meeting but a significant milestone in our collective journey. It provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our achievements, address our challenges, and chart a path for the future. Together, we embark on a new journey to strengthen the bonds among past pupils worldwide and to uphold the values that Don Bosco instilled in us. We are here to take a new journey together.

The main objectives of this Extraordinary General World Assembly are to review the progress and impact of our initiatives, to discuss strategies for enhancing global engagement among past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, to strengthen our network, share best practices among the different regions and finally to plan for the future of our association activities.

What are some of the main achievements since the Last General Assembly in 2021?

- **Membership Growth:** We have seen a very interesting increase in our global membership, with new countries in great numbers from the African region, reflecting our commitment to grow and to reach out to Past Pupils from all over the world. The growth in our association can be seen also in the increase in communication and interest to participate in EGWA2024.

- **Events Held:** Numerous regional events have successfully connected past pupils, fostering friendship and collaboration across the globe. Regional presidents' meetings both in person and online took place in the last three years with great participation and commitment.
- **Presidency meetings:** The World Presidency has been working tirelessly during the last three years on the strategic programme and main objectives of the World Confederation. Coming from the experience of Covid times, we implemented more periodical online meetings of the Presidency team along with personal animation meetings. In 2023, the Presidency visited Vietnam and participated in the regional meeting of presidents and delegates.
- **Executive Council meetings:** Under the same idea of effectiveness and work progress, the EC also started to meet more regularly in online space. Meetings of EC take place every two months Online and if possible two times a year in person to visit Past Pupils and to animate them in person. We have visited Egypt, Slovakia, Italy, Albania, Kosovo, and Tunisia in the last three years.

While we celebrate our successes, we must also acknowledge the challenges we face, including:

- Maintaining consistent engagement among members across different regions
- Adapting to digital tools for effective communication and collaboration.
- Addressing varying needs and expectations of our diverse membership and diverse cultural and spiritual traditions.

To address these and many more challenges I invite you all to reflect on our common goals and potential cooperation in the future.

- **Enhanced Communication:** Implement regular virtual meetings and updates to keep us all informed and engaged on local, national, and international levels.
- **Training and Development:** We should organize workshops and education activities aimed at leadership skills and community engagement practices.
- **Youth Involvement:** We need to develop programmes that specifically target young past pupils and friends who belong to the Salesian Family to ensure the continuity of our association's vision.
- **Local activism:** We should promote more local activism and local union life as the spirit of Past Pupils needs to be lived in everyday situations in our everyday lives.

As we move forward, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values instilled in us by Don Bosco. By working collaboratively and embracing the spirit of unity and synodality, we can build a vibrant and supportive global community of past pupils

and friends of Don Bosco. I look forward to the fruitful discussions and decision-making that will take place during this Assembly, confident that together, we can achieve great things.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all active member of the Presidency of World Confederation for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Special thanks go to the organizing committee of EGWA2024 for their outstanding efforts in bringing us together in Turin this year. This Assembly would not have been possible without your tireless commitment. And my thanks go also to all the participants – in person and online. We all create this precious community, and we all are part of the dreams of Don Bosco.

Peter Kováč
Secretary General
World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco