

**Report of the Secretary General AMI**  
**Given at the General Assembly in NAIROBI / KENYA**  
**on 25 September 2006**

**Excellencies, Generals, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends of AMI, Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ!**

**Mabibi na Mabwana!**

**Shikamoo. Hamjambo?! Karibuni**

Starting my speech I want to address to you a very warm welcome here in Nairobi. At the beginning I want to thank our Kenyan friends for their excellent preparations, their hospitality and cooperation.

First and foremost Military Bishop of Kenya His Excellency Alfred ROTICH deserves my gratitude with all his assistants of the steering committee and the organizing committee, both were especially established for this conference. Without this assistance and rendered support the organization of this year's annual general meeting (AGM) of the „Apostolate Military International (AMI)“ would not have been possible. In this context allow me to forward many thanks to the chairmen Lieutenant General Augustine S.K. NJOROGE and Major General Paul J. OPIYO, acting for all members of the steering committee and the organizing committee.

At last year's annual general meeting (AGM) in VILNIUS AUSTRIA was unanimously selected to take over the general assembly. A difficult, intensive but also honourable challenge was waiting. In December last year we have taken over the responsibilities for the general secretariat of my predecessor Colonel (ret) Jürgen BRINGMANN, who has decisively governed the destiny of AMI in the recent 40 years. You all will wonder why I am standing here in front of you as acting General Secretary. LTC Dr Josef SCHRÖFL, as designated representative together with me as his deputy, has handed back all his responsibilities because of private and duty reasons. He learned that during this conference his wife will give birth to a baby and with effect of autumn 2006 he will attend a one year lasting series of lectures at the Naval Postgraduate School of the Department of National Security Affairs in MONTEREY / CALIFORNIA. Therefore he finally decided to resign. He sends his best greetings to you hoping for your understanding as a happy father of a 2 weeks old alive and kicking son named Joseph-Victor.

So therefore I have taken over responsibilities of the General Secretary and I am proud to carry out my duty in explicit support of the Austrian Military Bishop His Excellency Bac Christian WERNER. Only teamwork is efficient. Taking this saying I see my

responsibilities for AMI. The General Secretariat consists beside me of WO II Markus STROMBERGER who is responsible for the conference office and for all other duties which were carried out by our German comrade LTC (GS) WITTKAMP. WO I Leopold GANSTER is responsible for financial issues for AMI and for all financial relations – strictly split from my duties as Secretary General. The past has shown that very often difficulties appeared because of the double load as General Secretary and Financial Administrator in personal union.

As AUSTRIAN officer I am also proud to inform you that the AUSTRIAN Military Bishop has promoted AMI's ecclesiastical assistant Monsignor Dr. Werner FREISTETTER in March this year to the bishop's curate, responsible for economics, research, theological basic questions and international relations. Allow me in our entire name to congratulate him.

Coming back to this conference issues. After long and intensive preparations we finally were successful to setup the annual general meeting here in KENYA. After several meetings and talks of the executive committee, hours of meetings and a preparation travel to NAIROBI in April this year took place to finalize all necessary planning's. Starting this time I daily conferred with Major Angela MUNJAO who has shown great competence and personal engagement beside her untiring efforts. Dear Angela thank you very much, my best thanks also to my point of contact within the organizing committee Col NDUN'GU.

As our president COL (GS) Reinhard KLOSS already mentioned the Holy See is very much interested that AMI is recognized throughout all International Organisations as NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (NGO) to show the catholic flag. I hereby want to take this opportunity to inform you more about its duties and responsibilities:

**A non-governmental organization (NGO)** is a non-profit group or association that acts outside of institutionalized political structures and pursues matters of interest to its members by lobbying, persuasion, or direct action. The term is generally restricted to social, cultural, legal, and environmental advocacy groups having goals that are primarily non-commercial. NGOs usually gain at least a portion of their funding from private sources. Because the label "NGO" is considered too broad by some, as it might cover anything that is non-governmental, many NGOs now prefer the term private voluntary organization (PVO) or Private Development Organization (PDO).

A 1995 UN report on global governance estimated that there are nearly 29,000 international NGOs. National numbers are even higher: The United States has an estimated 2 million NGOs, most of them formed in the past 30 years. Russia has 4,000 NGOs. India has 2 million NGOs. Dozens are created daily. In Kenya alone, some 240 NGOs come into existence every year.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the world's largest group of humanitarian NGOs. Though voluntary associations of citizens have existed throughout history, NGOs along the lines seen today, especially on the international level, have developed in the past two centuries. One of the first such organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, was founded in 1863.

The phrase "non-governmental organization" came into use with the establishment of the United Nations Organization in 1945 with provisions in Article 71 of Chapter 10 of the United Nations Charter for a consultative role for organizations that are neither governments nor member states – see Consultative Status. The definition of "international NGO" (INGO) is first given in resolution 288 (X) of ECOSOC on February 27, 1950: it is defined as "any international organisation that is not founded by an international treaty". The vital role of NGOs and other "major groups" in sustainable development was recognized in Chapter 27 of Agenda 21, leading to revised arrangements for consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

Globalization during the 20th century gave rise to the importance of NGOs. Many problems could not be solved within a nation. International treaties and international organizations such as the World Trade Organization were perceived as being too centred on the interests of capitalist enterprises. In an attempt to counterbalance this trend, NGOs have developed to emphasize humanitarian issues, developmental aid and sustainable development. A prominent example of this is the World Social Forum which is a rival convention to the World Economic Forum held annually in January in Davos, Switzerland. The fifth World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2005 was attended by representatives from more than 1,000 NGOs.

There are also numerous classifications of NGOs. The typology the World Bank uses divides them into Operational and Advocacy .

The primary purpose of an operational NGO is the design and implementation of development-related projects. One categorization that is frequently used is the division into 'relief-oriented' or 'development-oriented' organizations; they can also be classified according to whether they stress service delivery or participation; or whether they are religious and secular; and whether they are more public or private-oriented. Operational NGOs can be community-based, national or international.

The primary purpose of an Advocacy NGO is to defend or promote a specific cause. As opposed to operational project management, these organizations typically try to raise awareness, acceptance and knowledge by lobbying, press work and activist events.

NGOs exist for a variety of purposes, usually to further the political or social goals of their members. Examples include improving the state of the natural environment, encouraging the observance of human rights, improving the welfare of the disadvantaged, or

representing a corporate agenda. However, there are a huge number of such organizations and their goals cover a broad range of political and philosophical positions. This can also easily be applied to private schools and athletic organizations.

Another example of a NGO is Amnesty International, the largest Human rights organization in the world. It forms a global community of human rights defenders with more than 1.5 million members, supporters and subscribers in over 150 countries and territories.

Many international NGOs have a consultative status with United Nations agencies relevant to their area of work. As an example, the Third World Network has a consultative status with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). While in 1946, only 41 NGOs had consultative status with the ECOSOC, by 2003 this number had risen to 2,350.

NGO's are accepted as a part of the international relations landscape, and while they influence national and multilateral policy-making, they are, increasingly, more directly involved in local action.

NGOs are not legal entities under international law, like states are. An exception is the International Committee of the Red Cross which is considered a legal entity under international law, because it is based on the Geneva Convention.

In general, there is an overall positive view of NGOs across various literature sources

According my personal assessment I can detect only benefits which should motivate us that AMI is requesting this NGO status. I hereby ask you to take position for this request as to create your own thoughts and ideas so that finally on Friday, at the end of our conference, we can decide about this issue. Let me mention four important items to help you for your decision:

1. NGO status is a civil status which is obtained from the government where the AMI has it central office. This constitutes a category different from and independent of the canonical juridical personality "Lay Association" which may be accorded by the Holy See through the Pontifical Council for the Laity.
2. The advantages that come from being a civilly recognized NGO include having a recognized presence in civil society, being able to exercise influence as an autonomous organization either at the local level or at the level of international Organisms, such as the UN, which deal with human rights
3. As an NGO the AMI's projects and activities can apply for government support or subsidies from international organisms themselves.

4. Becoming an NGO does not guarantee more economic assistance from the Holy See. Due to the scarcity of funds, the Holy See must examine each project on a case-by-case basis before deciding which ones to support.

The Headquarters of AMI for the upcoming 3 years will be in Austria. To get the NGO-status AMI has to undergo the valid Austrian Law.

According to the Austrian Federal Law a NGO, which fulfils the Austrian Legal Basic requirements, can concede the Legal Status of an organisation by notification of the Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In my function as Secretary General me and a lawyer will check the prerequisites to, if necessary, apply for this NGO- Legal Status at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Of course this can only be carried out after a possible approval of the majority of the delegates on Friday this week.

The second important issue of this annual general meeting is to change or better said to correct the statutes of AMI in the way the Holy See asked about. In my opinion it is not necessary to present you now all statutes in the original version – we already prepared a version with all possible changes in different colours. I hereby request you to smoothly run through these papers until Friday so that we can vote on these changes like for the NGO Status.

Finally for all other administrative matters I want to stress that all your wishes and requests can be forwarded at any time. We will try our best to meet all your expectations in a professional manor. All administrative and organisational questions you can address to me. This includes also all the other assistants from the organizing committee, so that we can offer you a suitable solution.

**Basically I plan to inform you periodically about the order of events of this conference so to avoid any communication problems. In this context I thank you for your attention.**

**ASANTA SANA!**

**God bless you all.  
Mungu awabariki.**

*Michael JEDLIČKA*

Lieutenant Colonel  
AMI Secretary General