

**Report of the Secretary General AMI
about NGO-Status AMI
Given at the General Assembly in
MARIASTEIN/SWITZERLAND
on 06 September 2007**

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

I want to take this opportunity to give you some additional information to the lecture of Mr. Tony HILL from the “UN Non Governmental Liaison Service” in SWITZERLAND.

As we already mentioned last year at the conference in NAIROBI 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.

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 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.

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 after my short briefing we can decide about this issue. Let me mention some important items to help you for your decision:

- NGO status is a civil status which is obtained from the government where the AMI has its 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.
- 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 Organizations, such as the UN, which deal with human rights
- As an NGO the AMI's projects and activities can apply for government support or subsidies from international organizations themselves.
- To be an NGO gives you access to meet and cooperate with other NGOs and it gives you access to the governments of the member countries of the UNO, to build relationships to their offices and to gain an insight into their documents and analysis (for that you need to have the consultative status to the UNO; after possibly achieving the NGO- Legal Status in Austria it takes at minimum 18 months to establish consultative relations to the UNO)

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.

Just remember the words of Mr. Tony Hill. He told us that we should be aware of our strategic goal to achieve the NGO-status. I myself do not find until now this strategic goal concerning our organization?!

The Headquarters of AMI for the upcoming next year would 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 fulfills 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 of the member countries represented at this conference. It is up to you to decide.

God bless you all.
Michael JEDLIČKA
Lieutenant Colonel
AMI Secretary General