

**THE LAUDATO SI'
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER**

STATUTE

Vatican City, 2 February 2023

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STATUTE

TITLE I

NATURE, PURPOSE AND LOCATION

Art. 1

(The Laudato Si' Higher Education Center)

1. The Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, established by the Holy Father's Chirograph on 2 February 2023, is a new scientific, educational and social activity body, pertaining to the Governorate of the Vatican City State, in compliance with Law no. CCLXXIV, of 25 November 2018, on the Government of the Vatican City State, endowed with its own patrimonial, technical, administrative and accounting autonomy, which works for the integral formation of the person in the context of the sustainable economy and in compliance with the principles of the Encyclical "Laudato Si'".
2. Placed under the guidance of the Supreme Pontiff, who exercises it in the ways he deems appropriate, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center works in compliance with the laws, regulations, provisions and administrative directives issued by the governing bodies. It follows the administrative procedures required especially for negotiation, accounting and financial activities.
3. The governance of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center is entrusted to a Board of Directors.
4. The Laudato Si' Higher Education Center has its registered Office in the Vatican City State and its main operational location at the Pontifical Villas in Castel Gandolfo.

Art. 2

(Functions and Tasks)

The Laudato Si' Higher Education Center:

- a) is responsible - even by using technological innovations - for the integral formation of the person, with particular regard to young people and those who, for economic and social reasons, find themselves on the margins of society;
- b) in execution of the mandate and in accordance with the considerations provided by the Supreme pontiff, is responsible - even by elaborating and realizing specific projects fostering the integral development of the person - for the education in the economy of sustainability and for the ecological formation inspired by the principles of the Encyclical "Laudato Si'";

- c) works and cooperates, within the scope of its own competencies and activities, with the operational bodies of the Governorate and other scientific institutions of the Holy See;
- d) coordinates at the extraterritorial location of Castel Gandolfo the reception of visitors and organizes events, conventions, seminars on specific topics and study weeks on themes dealing with the integral human development;
- e) is responsible for the preparation and dissemination of its own publications;
- f) coordinates the visits to the natural, cultural and scientific heritage of the Pontifical Villas, by taking care of the relations with the public, managing reservations, welcoming visitors, welcoming and supporting visits by journalists and television crews. Specific agreements with the Governorate will regulate visits to the Apostolic Palace, including its sections and reserved areas, as well as the museum activity.

TITLE II OPERATIONAL BODIES

Art. 3 *(Governing Bodies)*

The Governing Bodies of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center are:

- a) the Director General;
- b) the Board of Directors;
- c) the Administrative Management Director;
- d) the Secretary.

Art. 4 *(Policy Bodies)*

The Policy Bodies of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center are:

- a) the General Council;
- b) the Committee for Sustainability.

TITLE III GOVERNING BODIES

Art. 5

(Director General)

1. The Director General is the Legal Representative of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center before third parties and in court, with the right to issue special powers of attorney to perform specific acts or categories of acts.
2. Pursuant to and for the purposes of art. 24 of the Government Law, the Director General has all the powers, duties and responsibilities indicated therein.
3. The Director General, without prejudice to the first appointment directly made by the Supreme Pontiff through the act of the erection of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, is appointed by the Board of Directors from among its members, by simple majority of its members, subject to the authorization (*nulla osta*) of the Supreme Pontiff, and remains in office for a five-year period, renewable only once.
4. The Director General is solely responsible for all the activities of the Laudato Si' High Education Center and ensures compliance with the directives of the Supreme Pontiff, as well as the norms and provisions of the governing bodies.
5. The Director General directs, guides and coordinates the work of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, outlining priorities for its activities.
6. The Director General promotes loyal cooperation among those working, in any capacity, in the activity of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, carrying out their task as an ecclesial service and in collaboration with other operational bodies.
7. The Director General, in compliance with the provisions of art. 27 and in implementation of the criteria established by art. 22 of the Governing Law, takes care of the organization of the structure for the most effective exercise of functions. He can issue service orders necessary for the operation of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
8. In compliance with the General Regulation for the Governorate personnel and following the hierarchical instructions, the Director General participates in the selection procedure for the hiring of administrative and support staff at the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, as well as personnel performing its work within the same location.
9. The Director General convenes and chairs the Board of Directors Meeting. The Director General may convene, when he deems it appropriate for specific issues, the General Council, presiding over the meeting.
10. The Director General ensures the execution of resolutions of the Board of Directors.
11. The Director General supervises the good administrative performance of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center and its compliance with the Statute, promoting its reform if necessary.
12. In case of necessity or urgency, the Director General adopts any appropriate measure, subjecting it to be ratified by the competent body in the first subsequent meeting.
13. The Director General, if necessary, may grant powers of attorney to the members of the Board of Directors.

14. The Director General takes any emergency measures, with the obligation to report to the Board of Directors as soon as possible.
15. The Director General convenes and chairs the Sustainability Committee.
16. In the absence or in the case of impediment of the Director General, the most senior member of the Board of Directors takes his/her place.

Art. 6

(Board of Directors)

1. The Board of Directors acts to achieve the institutional goals of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center. It oversees the institutional activities and determines the operational directives for the Administrative Management Director for a better coordination of the activities of Services.
2. The Board of Directors includes the Director General and at least two more members, all appointed by the Supreme Pontiff.
3. The members of the Board of Directors remain in office for five years, renewable only once. The office term expires upon approval of the annual budget relating to the last calendar year of the mandate.
4. If during the mandate, for any reason, one or more members fail or become unable to carry out their institutional tasks, replacements are appointed, according to the procedures set forth in paragraph 2 of this article, staying in office for the remaining time. Unjustified absence from three consecutive meetings of the Board will result in the removal from office.
5. The roles of the members of the Board of Directors are carried out free of charge, except for the reimbursement of expenses incurred and approved by the Board itself.
6. The Board of Directors is responsible for the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Higher Education Center.
7. In particular, the Board of Directors is responsible for:
 - a) electing the Director General, with the exception of the first mandate, whose appointment is directly made by the Supreme Pontiff;
 - b) deciding and implementing, if deemed necessary, the program guidelines suggested by the General Council, and in line with the proposal of the Director General appointing the members who are also collectively responsible for proposing and carrying out scientific and inNel caso in cui tutti i partecipanti alla riunione di Consiglio siano collegati per via
 - c) telematica e il Presidente e il Segretario non si trovino nello stesso luogo, il Consiglio
 - d) si considera tenuto presso la sede del Centro di Alta Formazione Laudato Si' (Città
 - e) del Vaticano).formation activities, fundraisers, as well as preliminary and executive activities;
 - f) deciding on the topics and acts suggested by the General Council;

- g) proposing to the Supreme Pontiff, with the favorable vote of a two-thirds majority of the Councilors in office, any changes to the present Statute and adopting, if necessary, the internal Regulations of the Institution, after consulting the General Council;
 - h) drawing up and approving the budget for the following financial year and the final budget for the previous financial year;
 - i) granting a mandate to third parties, as an independent and qualified entity, for the audit and certification of its financial statements;
 - j) establishing the general intervention guidelines and deciding on the provisions of the Higher Education Center;
 - k) setting up the guidelines regarding the investments of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center's assets;
 - l) delegating specific functions or the performance of certain acts or categories of acts to the Director General or the Secretary;
 - m) authorizing activities connected or ancillary to the statutory ones being supplementary to them, provided that are compatible to the nature of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center and carried out within the limits allowed by law;
 - n) deciding, in compliance with canonical and civil legislation, on acts which, due to the expense amount or other objective criteria, exceed ordinary administration, whose responsibility pertains to the Director General.
8. The Board of Directors meetings are valid if the majority of the members in office attends them. The secretarial function is usually carried out by the Secretary.
 9. The Board of Directors ordinarily meets at least four times a year, including those for the approval of the final budget and the programmatic document for the budget forecast.
 10. The Board of Directors meets ordinarily when convened by the Director General on his/her own initiative or at the request of at least two of its members. The Director General and the requesting Councilors must indicate the topics they intend to submit for discussion.
 11. The Board of Directors is convened either by letter sent by mail or by any other means proving receipt at least five days before the day set for the meeting. It is necessary to specify the place, day and time of the meeting itself and the topics on the agenda. In case of justified urgency, the Board of Directors may be convened with a two-day notice, after sending the agenda of the meeting, also by telegram, fax or email.
 12. The Board of Directors meetings can also be held via tele or videoconference, provided that all attendees can be identified and are allowed to follow the discussion and intervene in real time in the discussion of the topics addressed. Once these conditions are fulfilled, the Board of Directors is considered to be held in the place where the President and the Secretary of the meeting are located, to allow the drafting and signing of the minutes in the appropriate book.
 13. In the event that all the participants to the Board meeting are connected via telematics and the President and the Secretary are not in the same place, the Council is considered

to be held at the headquarters of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center (Vatican City).

14. The Board of Directors is chaired by the Director General or, in his/her absence, by the most senior Councilor. The resolutions of the Board of Directors are adopted by the majority of those in attendance. In the event of a tie, the vote of the person chairing the meeting prevails.
15. Minutes of all the meetings are drawn up and signed by the person chairing the meeting and by the Secretary taking the minutes.
16. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings are kept in special books under the Secretary's care.

Art. 7

(The Administrative Management Director)

1. An Administrative Management Director, appointed by the Supreme Pontiff and remaining in office for four years, renewable only once, is assigned to the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
2. The Administrative Management Director, pursuant to and for the purposes of art. 25 of the Government Law, assists the Director General, implements his/her guidelines and carries out the other functions delegated to him/her.
3. The Administrative Management Director directs, guides and coordinates the work of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, outlining priorities in the management activity;
4. The Administrative Management Director operationally acts in compliance with the provisions of art. 27 and in implementation of the criteria established by art. 22 of the Government Law for the best use of personnel, whose training and development are promoted, and adopts adequate operating procedures according to the criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, cost-effectiveness and simplification.
5. The Administrative Management Director assists the Director General whose provisions he implements and, with general coordination duties, oversees the offices and ensures their smooth running.

Art. 8

(Secretary)

1. The Secretary, except for the first mandate for which he is designated by the Supreme Pontiff, is appointed by the Board of Directors, that establishes his/her treatment and compensation. The Secretary remains in office for five years, renewable only once.
2. The Secretary implements the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors and supervises their specific execution.

3. The Secretary cooperates with the Director General in the preparation of the activity programs of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, in the presentation to the collegial bodies and in their subsequent control of the results.
4. The Secretary attends the meetings of the Board of Directors, the General Council and the Sustainability Committee, and draws up their specific minutes.

Art. 9

(Representation of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center)

1. All of the activities in which the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center is involved are signed by the Director General, who takes responsibility for them.
2. The Director General directly maintains relations with third parties. In addition to what is provided for in art. 5, 1st paragraph, he can grant special powers for individual acts or for administration sectors.

Art. 10

(Management Offices)

The Director General and the Administrative Management Director, in the exercise of their functions, make use of:

- a) the Secretary's Office of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center;
- b) the Administration, Planning and Control Office.

Art. 11

(Secretary's Office of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center)

- 1 The Secretary's Office is directly dependent on the Administrative Management Director, assists him/her and implements his/her provisions.
- 2 The Secretary's Office takes care of and manages the Archives of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
- 3 The Secretary's Office takes care of the Protocol following the unified criteria, established by the State Archives pursuant to art. 22 of the Government Law, by which it is coordinated.
- 4 The Secretary's Office assists the Administrative Management Director in the preparation of programs and activities, and monitors their implementation.

Art. 12

(The Office of Administrative Control and Coordination)

The Office of Administrative Control and Coordination is organizationally placed under the Administrative Management Director, but functionally reports to the Director General. This Office:

- a) oversees the activities of offices and Services, and checks on their compliance with the norms of the law, Statute and procedures in effect;
- b) coordinates activities involving transactions relating to goods and services, and participates, to the extent applicable, in the management of the appropriate procedures;
- c) verifies and coordinates, in accordance with the indications provided by the Administrative Management Director, the administrative and accounting activities of offices and Services making up the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center;
- d) supports the Services of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center in the assessment of administrative and management aspects related to the implementation of new activities, by interacting with the structures of the Governorate;
- e) contributes to the preparation of the budgetary, preventive and final budget projects within its competence, in collaboration with the Services of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center;
- f) verifies and forwards management charges coming from the Economy Directorate to the individual Services, according to their competence;
- g) manages the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center cash fund, within the limits set forth by the accounting regulations; verifies and checks on, according to the administrative accounting rules, the eligibility of credit card payments and transactions;
- h) verifies and ensures, according to the prescribed manner, the proper performance of the contracts relating to the services provided on behalf of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, as well as all the consequent and/or dependent contracts.

TITLE IV POLICY BOARDS

Art. 13 *(Policy Boards)*

For anything not provided for by this Statute, the General Council and the Sustainability Committee, the Policy Boards of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, are governed by a specific internal regulation, approved by the Board of Directors.

Art. 14 *(General Council)*

1. For the smooth running of the activities at the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center and for the effective performance of the planning activity of the general guidelines relating to the institutional purposes, a General Council has been established,

including personalities of outstanding moral, scientific and professional value, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center upon a proposal of the Director General.

2. The General Council consists of at least three members, and one of them has the office of Coordinator; another member is the Vice-Coordinator.
3. The members of the General Council remain in office for five years, renewable only once, and their mandate is carried out free of charge, except for any reimbursement of expenses paid by the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
4. The General Council studies and promotes the planning of activities of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center and supports the Board of Directors in making strategic choices affecting the definition of the mission of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
5. The General Council expresses its opinion to the Board of Directors regarding the budgets and Regulations.
6. The General Council develops strategic proposals and activity programs.
7. The General Council promotes and encourages the interaction with civil institutions in implementing projects of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
8. The General Council appoints, upon the proposal of the Board of Directors, the Scientific Collaborators referred to in the next art. 16.

Art. 15

(Sustainability Committee)

1. The Sustainability Committee consists of benefactors, natural and legal persons, sharing the purposes of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center. They cooperate in the pursuit of these goals and are economically committed to significantly supporting the activities of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
2. The Sustainability Committee is committed to supporting the pursuit of the objectives of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, as well as supporting and implementing the projects to be achieved, which have been approved by the Board of Directors.
3. The Sustainability Committee is convened and chaired by the Director General or by the most senior member of the Board of Directors, in case of his/her impediment or absence, at least once a year.

Art. 16

(Scientific Collaborators)

1. To carry out scientific and training activities, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center can establish a permanent group of Scientific Collaborators, appointing people with a high professional profile.
2. For specific scientific needs, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center can include other scholars as associate researchers.

3. For specific scientific needs, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center may resort to hiring Scientific Collaborators with a fixed-term contract, pursuant to art. 28 of the General Regulation for the Governorate Personnel.
4. The Laudato Si' Higher Education Center may also employ other scholars, technical experts and volunteers, pursuant to art. 33 of the General Regulation for the Governorate Personnel.

Art. 17

(Services)

1. The activities of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center are carried out with the following Services, and each of them is coordinated by a Manager who reports to the Administrative Management Director:
 - a) Formation and research;
 - b) Events management;
 - c) Tourism and cultural activities;
 - d) Hospitality;
 - e) Catering;
 - f) Traditional and innovative agriculture;
 - g) Livestock farming and dairy products.
2. Services, each in its own area, take care of the executive activities referred to in art. 2.
3. The ordinary maintenance of the buildings, spaces and systems used at the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center is delegated to it. The extraordinary one, regulated by specific operational protocols, is reserved to the competent Governorate Authorities.

Art. 18

(Administrative and Support Staff)

1. The Administrative and Support Staff of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, in compliance with the General Regulation for the Governorate Personnel, provides its work within the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center for functions corresponding to the assigned tasks and with flexibility of use in relation to operational needs and by following the hierarchical instructions.
2. The aforementioned operational requirements do not represent a change in the qualification or level attributed to the employed personnel, but they remain linked to the professionalism required, the complexity of the functions assigned and the responsibility connected to the tasks entrusted.
3. The Administrative Management Director is responsible for the operational management of personnel assigned to the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Governing Bodies and of the Personnel Office.

Art. 19

(Operational Procedures)

1. The Administrative Management Director, within the scope of his/her responsibilities, is responsible for adopting operational procedures for the exercise of the functions of the various divisions of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center. He sends to the Governing Bodies the discipline of formalized procedures, where each step of the process is specified, by making it attributable to each individual operator.
2. The procedures for the activities of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center are based on the principle of good management and the criteria of efficiency, efficacy, transparency, cost-effectiveness and simplification. The Administrative Management Director can issue service orders necessary for the operation of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center and its different components.

Art. 20

(Legal transactions and contracts)

1. Contracts and other commercial documents, duly authorized by the Board of Directors, are signed by the Director General and are solely attributable to the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center.
2. The Board of Directors, pursuant to art. 6, may grant the Secretary a specific delegation to sign legal transactions.
3. The acts referred to in the first paragraph are regulated by the provisions of the State Law.

Art. 21

(Partnership)

1. In order to allow the immediate start of its activities, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center will form a Partnership with specific financial operators, considered excellent in their own sectors of expertise.
2. For the subsequent choice of further skills, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center will proceed according to the Norms on transparency, control and competition of public contracts of the Holy See and the Vatican City State, and according to the Implementation Regulation of the Governorate.

Art. 22

(Assets and Budgets)

1. The initial assets of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, established at the time of its creation, were entirely paid.

2. The assets are eventually increased by the proceeds deriving from the Laudato Si' Higher Education activities, that will be implemented by the Services and by the specific operational agreements established with the Partnership. Nonetheless, the operating profits are destined to the Holy Father.
3. To carry out its activities, the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center may make use of any contribution and provision from third parties, in compliance with current legislation.
4. All properties, artifacts, structures, infrastructures (movable and immovable), systems and equipment must be considered just for use and are not assets belonging to the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center. Any future creation of artifacts or works, in any case, must be considered acquired in the unavailable property of the Vatican City State.
5. The Laudato Si' Higher Education Service is solely responsible for all the obligations attributable to it with its own assets.
6. The Budget of the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center, drawn up according to the criteria established by the Economy Directorate, does not contribute in any way to the Governorate budget, although it is mentioned in the consolidated one.