



Regulation

Approved by the General Definitory on 21st March 2025

Art. 1 - Nature, authority and competence of the Plenary Council of the Order (CPO)

§1. The nature and authority of the CPO are outlined in the General Constitutions and Statutes. Therefore, the CPO is governed by the law of the Order and by these Regulations.

§2. By its nature, the CPO is an advisory body, with an advisory vote, unless expressly provided otherwise (CCGG 195 §1).

§3. The responsibilities of the CPO are (CCGG 194):

- a) to offer assistance to the Minister General and his Definitory in governing and inspiring the Order;
- b) to encourage relations and communications between the General Curia and the Conferences, and between the Conferences themselves;
- c) to implement the decisions and decrees of the previous Chapter; to enact decisions and decrees proposed by the General Definitory even if they are contrary to the articles of the General Statutes; these are to have force until the next Chapter;
- d) to interpret the General Constitutions or General Statutes in accordance with article 15 par. 2-3 of the General Constitutions;
- e) to help prepare the next General Chapter and to offer advice regarding its location;
- f) to discuss the finances of the Order.

§4. The objectives and methods of study of each theme are established by the General Definitory before the celebration of the CPO and by the President's Council during the CPO.

Art. 2 - Preparation of the CPO

§1. In order to prepare the CPO properly, the Minister General and his Definitory must in good time:

- a) compile the list of issues to be dealt with in the CPO (cf. SSGG 146 §1);
- b) appoint the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the CPO and their Auxiliaries;





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c) appoint the Experts, Rapporteurs and Officers of the Council, referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of these Regulations.

d) send to the Councillors, well in advance, the forms for proceeding with the collection of data for consultation with the friars, for the study and processing of the data collected and their synthesis.

Art. 3 – Implementation and the task of the Councillors

§1. The task of the Councillors during the CPO is:

a) to present the summary of the work in its Conference, with the various means adopted for communication.

b) participating in the Groups by presenting ideas and helping in the formulation of proposals.

c) to respond to the considerations and questions that emerge from the work of the Group.

§2. In the Plenary Sessions, only the Councillors have the right to speak and vote, in accordance with the procedures of the law and of these Regulations. The Rapporteurs and Experts may intervene at the request of some Councillors.

§3. In the Working Groups and in the Plenary Sessions, the Councillors, on the topics previously studied at the Conference level, report the opinion of their Conferences. However, in the votation they will decide according to their conscience.

Art. 4 - Governance of the CPO

§1. The General Definitory directs the preparatory phase of the CPO and elects the Moderators.

§2. The Minister General presides over the CPO with the President's Council.

§3. In case of inability of the Minister General, the Vicar General takes his place or, if he is also impeded, the most senior Definitor General by profession.

Art. 5 - President's Council

§1. The President's Council is made up of:

- the Minister General
- the Vicar General
- the two Moderators





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- the Secretary General of the CPO.

§2. The Presidential Council of the CPO helps the Minister General in the governance of the Council.

§3. In the meetings of the President's Council, the Minister General, the Vicar General and the two Moderators have a deliberative vote; the Secretary General of the CPO has only an advisory vote.

§4. The President's Council, under the chairmanship of the Minister General, decides, by majority, on matters within its competence.

§5. The President's Council is responsible for:

- a) to take decisions on what it considers convenient for the smooth running of the Council;
- b) appointing the Commissions and defining their competences;
- c) appoint the Rapporteurs, if necessary, for the first presentation of texts and proposals to the Assembly;
- d) supervise compliance with the competence of the CPO and the completion of the planned work;
- e) to judge on the maturity, clarity and articulation of the proposals;
- f) convene the Plenary Sessions, establish the modalities and determine the topics that will be discussed in them;
- g) to direct the Plenary Sessions through the Moderators;
- h) distribute the themes or proposals to the Groups for specific study.

§6. The Secretary General of the CPO, in relation to the President's Council, is responsible for:

- a) distribute documents to Members;
- b) to provide Members with the requested information;
- c) draw up the Acts of the meetings.

Art. 6 - The Moderators

§1. After due consultations, the General Definitory will elect the two Moderators from among the Councillors at an appropriate time.





Art. 7 - Officers and their functions

§1. The CPO Officers are:

- a) the Secretary General of the CPO, with the powers listed in the second paragraph of this article;
- b) the Deputy Secretary, who assists the Secretary throughout and takes his place in the event of absence or impediment;
- c) Interpreters, who do simultaneous translation in the Plenary Sessions and, if necessary, in the Commissions;
- d) the Translators, who translate the texts of the Commissions and what is requested of them by the Secretary into the official languages;
- e) the Minutes, who draw up the Acts of the Plenary Sessions and of what is requested of them by the Secretary, as well as of the most important information;
- f) the Persons in Charge of Liturgy, Communication and the use of technical means.

§2. The Secretary General of the CPO, under the direction of the President, is responsible for:

- a) to promote everything necessary for the orderly and expeditious progress of the CPO;
- b) participate in the meetings of the President's Council and draw up the Acts;
- c) to draw up and, if necessary, revise the list of Commissions with an indication of their Members and Officers;
- d) to organize and guide the work of Interpreters, Translators, Minutes Takers and of the other Officers;
- e) draw up the notices to be given to the Councillors;
- f) ensure that the texts to be discussed are distributed to the Councillors;
- g) to prepare the agenda for the Plenary Sessions and propose it to the President's Council;
- h) announce to the Councillors the result of the votes in the Plenary Sessions;
- i) to record the decisions taken in the Plenary Sessions;
- j) to take care of the preparation of the authentic text of the documents and decisions of the Plenary Sessions;
- k) to assemble and order the texts for the volume of the "Acts of the Plenary Council of the Order".

§3. All Officers exercise their functions under the direction of the Secretary General of the CPO.





Art. 8 - Task of the Experts

The Experts are responsible for:

- a) investigate and deepen the issues for the collection of data in advance and which will have to be discussed in the Council;
- b) to help the Councillors both in the preparation of the CPO, in the mobile groups when requested, as well as in the Plenary Sessions;
- c) to offer the President's Council, when requested, information and opinions on the Council's issues.

Art. 9 - Scrutineers

The President of the CPO, at the appropriate time, will designate the Scrutineers, from amongst the Councillors, for the votes to be taken.

Art. 10 - Languages that may be used

§1. In the drafting of the documents intended for all the Councillors, the languages English, Italian and Spanish, chosen by the General Definitory in the preparatory phase of the Plenary Council, are used.

§2. In the Plenary Sessions, the official languages of the Order (English, Italian and Spanish) may be used for discussion.

§3. In the Working Groups, the languages most known by the members will be used.

Art. 11 - Group work

§1. Commitment to the Groups involves working in 4 Groups composed of 8 - 10 friars.

§2. The work to be carried out is that of a "community writing" of a text relating to the life and mission of the friars, having as a point of reference what was elaborated in the SC but also reformulating and expanding the choices on what seems to be necessary for the Order and to present it for discussion and expression of vote of the Assembly.

§3. The work of the Groups must then be assembled in such a way that similar proposals are unified by valuing every contribution, but also allowing alternative positions to emerge.

§4. The Groups are fundamental bodies for the study of the issues and the elaboration of proposals for the future.





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§5. 4 Groups will be formed for the careful study of the issues and data received by the Council.

§6. Without prejudice to the provisions of art. 4 §1 on the competence of the General Definitory, the Groups are organized by the President's Council counting on a "Coordinator" Councilor who will coordinate the discussions and another "Minutesist", who takes note of the summaries that gradually find consensus in the group and the final formulations.

§7. Within the scope of their competence, the Groups must:

- a) formulate and share their proposals and observations;
- b) discuss the Reports presented in the Plenary Sessions and in subsequent discussions.

§8. The Coordinator is responsible for:

- a) present the working methodology to the Groups;
- b) encourage the Councillors to active participation;
- c) facilitate communication in the group by inviting everyone to take action and to listen actively to others;
- d) propose the themes and/or questions;
- e) to coordinate discussions in the Group;

§9. The Minutes Reporter is responsible for:

- a) to coordinate the discussions in the Group;
- b) recall the methodology to be followed in the discussion, examination and elaboration of proposals;
- c) draw up a synthesis grouping the ideas by affinity and present them to the assembly.

Art. 12 - Plenary sessions

§1. Plenary sessions are convened by the President of the Council.

§2. As for the Plenary Sessions in general, the following things must be observed:

- a) the Plenary Sessions must be attended by the Councillors, the Secretary General of the CPO, the Minutes Writers, the Interpreters, the Experts in the matters dealt with in the Sessions and the Persons in charge of the operation of the technical means;





- b) the Minister General may admit guests to plenary sessions;
- c) the President's Council establishes the theme of each Session on the basis of the topics determined by the General Definitory or by the Council Regulations; to deal with other issues or discuss proposals not accepted by the President's Council, it is required that this be requested by one third of the Councillors (SSGG 146 §2) and approved by the majority of the Council, in accordance with art. 17 §§2 and 4 of these Regulations;
- d) It is permissible for the President of the Council to introduce in a plenary session a subject not yet approved by the Presidential Council of the CPO;
- e) if doubts arise as to the admissibility of any argument, the matter is to be submitted to the Council itself for the solution of the case;
- f) the most substantial observations presented in the Plenary Session are subsequently delivered in writing to the Secretary General of the CPO;
- g) the Minutes of the Plenary Sessions are published promptly to the Councillors. Then, if there are corrections to be made, they will be delivered in writing to the minutes before the respective session. In that plenary session, the proposed corrections are first read and, if necessary, discussed. Finally, the Minutes themselves, with the accepted corrections, are proposed for approval by the Council.

§3. The following should also be observed:

- a) the Moderator of the Session must ensure an orderly debate;
- b) the Councillors promptly obey the Moderator, without prejudice to the right of appeal outside the Plenary Session;
- c) the Councillors may comment on the Rapporteur's statement or the observations of any Speakers:
 - for the duration of five minutes, if they have been booked with the Secretary General of the CPO, at least half an hour before the Session;
 - otherwise, for a duration of three minutes;
- d) even if no rules are given regarding the time of the Written Reports, the presentation in the Plenary Session does not exceed the time established by the President of the CPO or by the President's Council;





(e) the Rapporteur, or any Speaker, may reply immediately and for a period of three minutes to the comments made on his speech;

f) the President of the CPO and the Moderator of the Session are not subject to time limits for their interventions;

g) it is the responsibility of the Moderator of the Session to ensure that the Speakers respect, even by removing the floor, the time limits and the subject of the discussion.

§4. The "quorum" necessary for the validity of the Acts and Resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of the CPO is two-thirds of the Councillors.

§5. The President's Council may organize plenary sessions with free debate on topics not included in the Agenda.

Art. 13 - Presentation and first study of the Reports

§1. The Reports of the CPO are presented in the Plenary Session.

§2. After the presentation of the Rapporteur there will be time for clarifications, without there being a discussion on the content of the texts and proposals.

§3. The Reports, following the necessary clarifications, can be discussed and studied in the Groups.

§4. Each Group presents the result of its discussion and study in the Plenary Session.

Art. 14 - Discussion in Plenary Sessions

§1. After being reviewed by the Groups, the texts and proposals are submitted to the Plenary Assembly for discussion and vote, following this scheme:

a) firstly, the Rapporteur presents and explains the new wording of the texts;

b) subsequently, the Rapporteur responds to new requests for clarification, if necessary;

c) follows the discussion of the texts revised by the Groups, with the presentation of observations and proposals for amendments;

d) when, in the opinion of the Moderator of the Session, the topic is sufficiently debated, the vote is taken.

§2. After the presentation of the Speaker, the Moderator invites the Councilors to speak according to the order: first, those who have booked; then, those who ask to speak, always





without prejudice to the right of the Relator or Speaker to respond immediately, or in another Session, to the observations made.

§3. If any proposal seems so immature as to render the discussion useless or if any subject seems sufficiently clarified, despite the fact that all the members have not yet spoken, the CPO, on the proposal of one Councillor, supported by another, may decide, by vote, to refer the proposal to the Groups for further study, in the first case, or in the second, to give the discussion as concluded.

§4. However, small amendments can be introduced during the plenary sessions, without referring the text back to the Groups.

Art. 15 - Voting in the Plenary Sessions

§1. In the Plenary Sessions, voting is done by ballot in elections and by run-off for the approval of texts or proposals.

§2. There are two votes for each issue:

a) in the first vote, the suffrage is expressed in the following formulas:

- consent
- *placet iuxta modum*
- *non placet*
- *Abstineo*

b) in the second vote, the vote is expressed only with the formulas:

- consent
- *non placet*

First vote

§3. In the first vote, the procedure is as follows:

a) The oral presentation of substantial amendments to the text is permitted; These amendments are called "ways". In voting, Councillors who support a "way" use the formula "*placet iuxta modum*"; This is considered a vote in favour, but it is not counted towards the qualified majority of the first vote.





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b) Whosoever proposes a "ways" must present it to the Secretary General of the CPO, as quickly as possible, in writing and in a clear and concise form.

c) The Secretary General of the CPO displays the "ways" (or "ways") in a public place for a period of not less than 12 hours and not more than one day, so that the Councillors who are in favor of it can sign it.

d) The "ways" that has obtained the favour of at least one third of the Councillors, with an indication of the number of those in favour, will be presented as an alternative text in the second vote.

§4. Proposals that obtain a qualified majority of two-thirds of the "*placet*" or "*non-placet*" are considered definitively approved or rejected.

§5. Proposals that are not approved or rejected by a two-thirds qualified majority return, without any change, to the plenary for a second vote.

Second vote

§6. No discussion is allowed in the Plenary Sessions for the second vote.

§7. The texts for the second vote will be presented with the approval of the President's Council as regards their clarity of formulation and articulation. If there are "*modes*", according to §3-d of this article, they will be placed as alternatives to the respective basic text.

§8. The Secretary General of the CPO will deliver the proposed texts to the Councillors and announce the day and time of the second vote at least one day in advance. In the last three days of the CPO, if time is short, the President's Council can dispense with any time limit.

§9. Each part of the text will be read to the Councillors in the Plenary Session by the Secretary General of the CPO. If any part is too long, just read the beginning and end. However, if there is a danger of confusion with the alternative text, read the words necessary for the due distinction.

§10. After the reading of each of the parts of the text, the Councillors give their vote. In the second vote, the texts are approved or rejected by an absolute majority.

§11. The Secretary General of the CPO will be responsible for the preparation of the authentic voting document.





Art. 16 - Re-examination of proposals already voted on

§1. If any Councillor considers it appropriate to re-examine a proposal that has been definitively approved or rejected, he or she shall submit a petition to that effect, signed by a qualified majority of two-thirds of the Councillors.

§2. The petition for a new examination, in addition to its due preparation, will be treated in harmony with art. 17 §4.

Art. 17 - Petitions

§1. Any Councillor may call upon the authority of the CPO through petition.

§2. The petition, in which the argument and its respective basis will be indicated, and which must be signed by at least one third of the Councillors, except for the prescription of art. 17 §1, must be presented to the President's Council.

§3. The President's Council is required to distribute the petition to the Councillors before the discussion in the Plenary Session, and must submit it to the Council for judgment in the same Session.

§4. For the discussion of the petition in the Plenary Session, the following procedure will be followed:

- a) the Secretary General of the CPO reads the petition and, if necessary, explains it;
- b) the Moderator consults the Councillors if the discussion of the petition is accepted;
- c) if the majority is in favour, the Councillors discuss the petition;
- d) at the end of the debate, the Moderator asks whether the content of the petition should be voted on immediately;
- e) if the majority is in favour of an immediate decision on the matter, the Moderator proceeds to vote on the content of the petition.
- f) if the majority of the Councillors are in favour of the proposal, it is considered definitively accepted; if it is opposed, it is considered definitively rejected.
- g) if the majority agrees not to decide on the matter immediately, the petition will be entrusted to a Commission or will be examined again in another Plenary Session convened by the President's Council.





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Art. 18 Suspension of the Rules of Procedure of the Plenary Council

If, in any Plenary Session, the President of the CPO or the Moderator of the Session, after consulting the President of the CPO, considers that the Rules of Procedure should be suspended in a particular case, he may immediately submit the matter to the final vote of the Councillors by a qualified majority. However, he is required to give any explanations that may be requested.

Art. 19 Expenses of the CPO

§1. The procedures for covering the expenses of the CPO will be submitted to the approval of the CPO itself by an *"ad hoc"* Commission, in charge of calculating the expenses.

§2. The members of this Commission will be: the General Bursar, the Vice-Bursar of the CPO and a Councillor elected by the CPO.

