

## **CHARTER OF COMMITMENT. IFCU NEWMAN BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK “USR LABEL”**

**BY THIS CHARTER, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES (IFCU) COMMITS ON ONE SIDE**

**TO:**

### **1) ENSURE THE RECOGNITION OF THE USR LABEL**

IFCU develops a communication strategy targeted at the main parties involved in higher education, namely: Catholic and non-Catholic higher education institutions, university networks, public authorities, national accreditation agencies, international evaluation networks, international organizations acting in the higher education field, the media and the general public.

Communication notably takes place through its website, press releases, press conferences, events organized by the Federation or by other actors, mailings, emails, social networks where the Federation is active, its regional associations and the networks it is a member of.

### **2) ENSURE THE VISIBILITY OF THE CERTIFIED INSTITUTIONS**

IFCU provides certified institutions with a performance Charter when granted with the label or labels, so that they can gain exposure on the higher education market.

IFCU may mention on its website and other communication materials the names of the assessed and/or certified institutions if applicable. However, it pledges to keep from broadcasting the results obtained by each higher education institution (HEI), or generate a ranking or similar form of HEI rating.

IFCU may also use some of the USR “good practices” of the assessed institutions for its training sessions and for any other USR-related event in the academic world.

### **3) REVIEW RESULTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

IFCU commits to reviewing the results obtained by a given HEI under exceptional circumstances, upon explicit and sufficiently motivated request, with supporting evidence.

IFCU reserves the right to respond favourably or negatively to this type of request, which in any case must remain marginal.

#### **4) DEVELOP THE SYSTEM**

IFCU reserves the right to develop the assessment method and its reference framework in accordance with major transformations affecting today's societies.

IFCU undertakes to keep HEIs informed of any change in the certification system.

#### **ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE ASSESSED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION COMMITTS**

**TO:**

#### **1) PROVIDE PROOF OF RECOGNITION BY THE CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

So as to become eligible to apply for the assessment system, the institution must provide written proof of its recognition by the Congregation for Catholic Education as a Catholic institution of higher education.

HEIs that are members of the Federation will no longer have to present this document, which will already have been provided in order to become a member.

Institutions that are not IFCU members will have to provide this document together with the assessment application form.

#### **2) IDENTIFY A PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The applicant HEI commits to identify a person who will be responsible for the smooth running of the assessment process (production of the data and documents required by the USR system), and who will be the sole person in charge of monitoring the procedure to correspond with the Federation.

The contact details of the said person must be provided at the time of the application by filing them in on the online application form.

#### **3) PROVIDE THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE ASSESSMENT**

The applicant HEI undertakes to provide all information necessary to the proper conduct of the assessment.

IFCU reserves the right to ask the applicant HEI for additional data or documents when these may prove necessary for the smooth running of the process.

#### **4) RESPECT THE DEADLINES OF THE SESSIONS OF ASSESSMENT**

The candidate institution undertakes to take note of the dates of the annual assessment session and to respect its deadlines. It may begin the process at any time as soon as the platform opens, but it is strongly advised not to wait until the last few weeks to do so, given the considerable amount of data and documents required by the system.

IFCU reserves the right to send follow-ups to the applicant HEI in case it has not provided sufficient data or documents by the closing of the assessment session.

IFCU deadline to communicate results and, when appropriate, award labels to the assessed HEIs may be extended if the HEI in question started the procedure at a time relatively close to the end of the session, or if a significant amount of data was provided shortly before the end of the session.

In the event that the information provided is largely insufficient at the closing of the session, and to the extent that the information provided does not lead to reliable results, IFCU reserves the right to cancel or postpone the assessment of the HEI in question.

#### **5) NOT DISSEMINATE THE INDICATORS OF THE BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK**

The assessed HEIs undertake not to make public the indicators that are part of the Newman Benchmarking Framework, which is protected by intellectual property rights.

The Newman Benchmarking Framework on which IFCU USR assessment system is based was developed as part of an international research project. This framework cannot be used independently from the assessment method developed by IFCU in partnership with the Swiss Think Tank GMAP Center and its analysis tool Mileva (advanced artificial intelligence system).

#### **6) RESPECT THE FORMAT AND GRAPHIC CHARTER OF THE LABELS**

The assessed HEIs will be free to include the label(s) obtained on their website or other communication media. They will, however, be required to respect at all times the logo and graphic charter of the original label, which must not be modified.

The distribution of the Performance Charter indicating the conditions for awarding the labels is the responsibility of each establishment.

#### **7) SETTLE ANY EVENTUAL DISPUTE AMICABLY**

The HEI that is a signatory to this Charter agrees to settle any dispute arising from or in connection with the use of this assessment scheme through discussion.

All information exchanged during the resolution process of the said dispute shall be considered « without prejudice » for the purpose of settlement, and shall be treated as confidential information by each of the parties and their representatives.

Failure to comply with the terms of this Charter will result in the exclusion from the assessment process of the HEI concerned.

**Signature and stamp of the assessed institution**

Name of the signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of the signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution of the signatory : \_\_\_\_\_

In \_\_\_\_\_ , on \_\_\_\_\_.