CHARTER OF COMMITMENT.
THE IFCU NEWMAN REFERENCE 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

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

This communication notably concerns its website, press releases, press conferences, events organized by the Federation or others, mailings, emails, the social networks where the Federation is active, its regional associations and the networks it is a member of.

2) ENSURE THE VISIBILITY IF THE LABELLED INSTITUTIONS

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

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

The 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 THAT WERE COMMUNICATED IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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

The 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

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

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

ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE ASSESSED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION COMMITS

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 application form for assessment.

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, and must also be filled 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.

The 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 anytime as soon as the platform opens, but it is strongly advised not to wait until the last few weeks do to so, given the considerable amount of data and documents required by the system.

The 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.

The IFCU own available deadlines to communicate the results obtained and, when appropriate, award labels to the assessed HEIs may be extended if the HEI in question started the procedure a 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, the IFCU reserves the right to cancel or postpone the assessment of the HEI in question.

5) NOT DISSEMINATE THE INDICATORS OF THE REFERENCE LABEL

The assessed HEIs undertake not to make public the indicators that are part of the Newman Reference Framework, which intellectual property has been protected through the legal system of copyright.

The Newman Reference Framework on which the IFCU’s USR assessment system is based was developed as part of an international research project. This framework cannot be designed independently for the assessment method developed by the IFCU in partnership with the Swiss Think Tank GMAP Center and its analysis tool Mileve (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 ____________________________.