

Uniting Rotarians
Across Borders

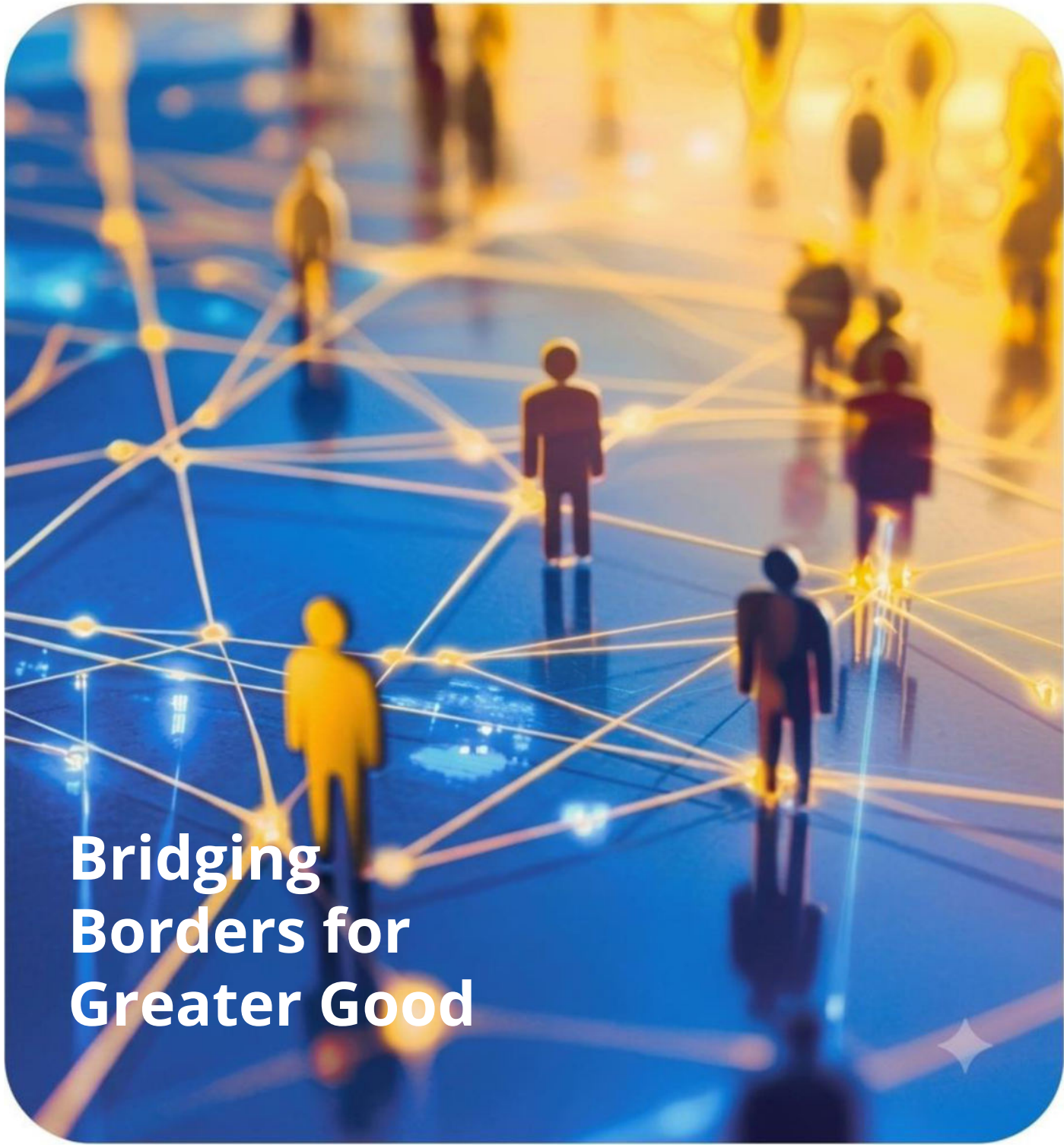


INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The BRIDGE

ICC UPDATE

1st Edition - July 2026

A large, abstract image showing a network of people silhouettes connected by glowing yellow lines, symbolizing global connectivity. The background is a gradient of blue and yellow.

**Bridging
Borders for
Greater Good**

rotary-icc.org

Rotary  

Healing in a Divided World
PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

How do you promote peace?

RI President Yinka Babalola

ICC: The Invisible Architecture of Peace

By Pierangelo Panozzo In conversation with
Annemarie Mostert, President ICC Executive Council 2026-2028

There are no headlines for friendship. No breaking news alerts for trust. And yet, these are the forces quietly shaping the future of international cooperation.

Within the global ecosystem of Rotary, the InterCountry Committees (ICC) remain one of its most powerful and often underestimated instruments. Not because of structure or scale, but because of something far more human: relationships.

Before any joint project is launched, before any funding is approved, there is a conversation. A handshake. A shared intention. ICC begins exactly there in the space where people choose connection over convenience.

At a time when geopolitical tensions and cultural fragmentation dominate the global narrative, ICC offers a radically simple alternative: build friendships first. The rest will follow.

A Leadership Rooted in Purpose

At the center of this evolving vision stands **Annemarie Mostert, President ICC Executive Council 2026-2028** a social entrepreneur, Rotary leader, and global advocate for education, empowerment, and peace.

Her trajectory is anything but conventional. With nearly three decades in Rotary, leadership at district and international levels, and involvement in global initiatives such as girls' empowerment and child protection, her approach blends strategy with humanity. But what truly defines her leadership is a concept she repeatedly emphasizes: **“positive peace.”**

Not the absence of conflict but the presence of relationships.

Speaking at international Rotary forums, Mostert has highlighted that peace must be actively built, nurtured through cultural understanding, language inclusion, and long-term engagement across communities.

In other words: peace is not an outcome. It is a practice.

Beyond Committees: A Living Network

To describe ICC as a “committee” is to misunderstand its nature.

It is a distributed global network over 750 intercountry connections worldwide born historically as an act of reconciliation and now evolved into a platform for cooperation across borders.

But under Mostert's vision, ICC is becoming something more intentional: a **District Resource Network**, where knowledge, trust, and relationships are not stored they circulate.

This is not about control. It is about enabling.

The Human Infrastructure of Peace

In ICC, peace is not negotiated only in conferences or formal agreements. It is built in everyday interactions.



Past RI President Francesco Arezzo and his wife Anna Maria



From Left to Right; PDG Jamil Mouawad (Lebanon) , RID Emmanuel Katangole(Uganda), ICC President Annemarie Mostert (South Africa), Past ICC President Andrzej Ludek (Poland) PRID Elizabeth Usovicz (USA), RI President Yinka Babalola (Nigeria), Past ICC President Mohamed Ghammam (Tunisia), PDG Hamadi Siala (Tunisia)

A joint club initiative.
A shared cultural exchange.
A message sent across continents to sustain a partnership.

These micro-connections often invisible form what could be called the **human infrastructure of peace.**

And this is where Mostert's philosophy aligns perfectly with ICC's DNA: relationships are not a byproduct of projects. They are the foundation.

Inclusion as a Strategic Choice

One of the most defining aspects of this new ICC narrative is inclusion.

Language, often a barrier in international cooperation, becomes instead a deliberate act of belonging. Cultural diversity is not managed it is embraced.

Mostert herself has consistently advocated for empowerment through education and inclusion, particularly for women and young leaders, stressing that opportunity and voice must be expanded globally.

In ICC, this translates into a simple but powerful principle: every Rotarian, everywhere, must have a place.

A Bridge to the Future

If ICC has a legacy rooted in post-war reconciliation, its future is being shaped by generational collaboration.

Young leaders especially Rotaractors are no longer observers. They are co-creators. This shift is not cosmetic. It is structural. Because a network that does not renew itself, does not survive.

Depth Over Numbers

In an era driven by metrics and visibility, ICC proposes a different model of success.

Not how many partnerships exist but how many truly matter.

One meaningful, functioning relationship between clubs can generate more impact than dozens of inactive connections.

This philosophy reflects a broader strategic maturity: depth over optics, substance over scale.

This Is the Moment

ICC enters the 2026–2028 cycle at a pivotal time.

Global challenges are increasing. Trust between communities is fragile. And yet, the need for authentic international collaboration has never been greater.

This is where ICC becomes essential.

Not as a formal structure. But as a living, breathing network of people who choose every day to build something together.

As President ICC **Annemarie Mostert's** leadership suggests, the future of ICC will not be defined by its past achievements, but by its ability to remain human in an increasingly complex world.

No spotlight required. No noise necessary.

Just relationships turning, quietly and consistently, into peace.



ICC President
Annemarie Mostert
is pleased to invite you
to attend the

ICC 3rd AFRICA PEACE FORUM CASABLANCA

Fri, July 3rd, 2026, Morocco

REGISTRATION: <https://rotarydistrict9010events.com/icc/>



Uniting Rotarians
Across Borders

TO VIEW
ROTARY DISTRICT 9010 EVENTS VISIT
<https://rotarydistrict9010events.com/icc>

ICC's Gathered in Taipei

ICC's were present at the Taipei Rotary Convention from 13 to 17 June 2026.

ICC Family gathered at the ICC Booth located in the House of Friendship, Breakout Session and ICC Dinner.

Charters signed between Japan & Ukraine, Philippines & USA, China & USA as Well as a twin Club Agreement between Türkiye & Australia Rotary Clubs. ICC Members Welcomed

Rotarians from all over the World and promoted Intercountry Committees.

Next ICC Event will be in Casablanca on 3rd June 2026. There, President ICC Nathalie Huyghebaert will hand over her Position to President ICC Annemarie Mostert.



ICC's Gathered in Taipei

The vibrant city of Taipei transformed into a cultural mosaic and a global hub of humanitarian inspiration as the 2026 Rotary International Convention successfully concluded. Held from June 13 to 17, 2026, across two of the city's most iconic venues—the Taipei Dome and the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center (TaiNEX)—the four-day event drew more than 38,000 Rotary members and participants from over 140 countries and regions, making it one of the largest conventions in recent Rotary history.

Marking the first time in 32 years that Taipei has hosted the global gathering, the convention showcased Taiwan's warm hospitality, starting with a thunder of traditional drums that opened the first general session. Outgoing Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo welcomed attendees by reflecting on the unifying nature of the organization, noting that while languages and cultures vary across the globe, the core "Rotary heart" remains identical.

Mayor Chiang Wan-an also highlighted Taipei's meticulous venue preparations and enhanced local transportation support, which allowed international visitors to seamlessly explore the city and its famous local night markets.

A cornerstone of the general sessions was a focus on Rotary's primary areas of service, particularly the final, critical push for global polio eradication. President Arezzo addressed the financial and political pressures surrounding the initiative, emphasizing that the global family must stand firm on its promise to the world's children until the paralyzing disease is entirely eradicated. The convention featured an exceptional lineup of world-class speakers, led by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai. Addressing

thousands of attendees during the second general session, Yousafzai delivered an emotional speech advocating for girls' education and mental health awareness.

Recalling how her own father was a dedicated Rotary member, she highlighted the 120 million girls globally who remain out of school, urging Rotarians to leverage their ambitious vision to support young female leaders at the community level. The audience also heard from youth representatives, including Salome Agbaroji, the United States National Youth Poet Laureate, who performed her poem "HOPE," describing Rotarians as the "engineers of small social revolutions that achieve measurable good".

To facilitate connections among a highly diverse delegation, the convention's volunteer committee introduced the *HOC GO!* app, providing real-time video translation services to overcome language barriers for non-Mandarin speakers. This emphasis on modern tools carried over into a series of dynamic breakout sessions, which covered topics such as *AI for Good: Empowering Rotary's Mission With AI*, *Anime Environmental Education*, and *Rotary Rising: Engaging the Next Generation*. Meanwhile, the expansive House of Friendship at TaiNEX showcased over one hundred humanitarian projects, giving attendees a firsthand look at grassroots solutions to disease prevention, water sanitation, and economic development.

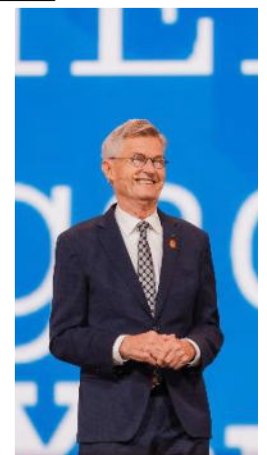
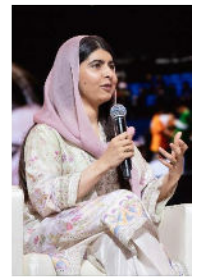
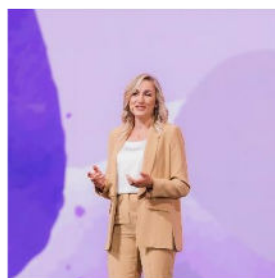


ICC's Gathered in Taipei

The final day of the convention marked a historic milestone for the global organization with the official introduction of Olayinka Hakeem Babalola as the incoming Rotary International President for the 2026–2027 term. Presented to the international delegation by President Arezzo during the closing general session, Babalola shared the stage with his family, sparking widespread celebration across global districts. His assumption of office signifies a monumental chapter, as he becomes only the second African leader to hold the highest office in Rotary International history.

The event concluded on a high note with a festive

closing ceremony featuring a live performance by world-renowned singer Leona Lewis, whose anthems brought thousands of delegates to their feet. As attendees departed the venues through a human corridor of cheering local volunteers, the shared consensus was clear: the Taipei convention successfully renewed a global spirit of trust, fellowship, and actionable goodwill. Rotarians are now turning their eyes toward the future as preparations begin for the 2027 International Convention in Barcelona, Spain.



Rotary Friendship on a Global Stage

The Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, brought together Rotarians from across the world for several days of fellowship, learning, leadership, and shared purpose.

From plenary sessions and leadership presentations to informal meals, cultural experiences, travel moments, photographs, laughter, and conversation, the convention reflected the warmth and diversity of the global Rotary family.

Among those attending was President ICC Annemarie Mostert for the Rotary Years 2026-2028, who joined fellow Rotarians in celebrating the relationships and shared values that continue to strengthen Rotary's work across borders.

The value of attending a Rotary International Convention lies not only in the programme itself, but in the people one meets along the way. It is a place where service-minded leaders from different countries, languages, and cultures come together, discover common ground, and return home with renewed energy for the work ahead.

This collection of some of President ICC Annemarie's photographs that capture the heart of that experience: friendship, fellowship, learning, and the joy of being part of a truly global movement.

President ICC Annemarie Mostert Recognised at the South Asia Reception in Taipei

A proud moment at the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, where incoming President ICC, Annemarie Mostert, was recognised during the South Asia Reception.

The evening brought together some of Rotary's highest-ranking leaders in a powerful display of unity, fellowship, and shared commitment to service. It was not only a celebration of remarkable achievements, but also a renewed commitment to growth, giving, and Service Above Self.

Congratulations to AKS MMM Trichy, AKS Nagesh, PDG Sridhar, PDG Subramanian, and Debasish on an excellent evening and for the continued leadership, generosity, and dedication shown within the Rotary family.

Moments like these remind us of the strength of Rotary's global network and the important role of ICC in building bridges of friendship, collaboration, and service across nations. Together, we continue to connect, serve, and grow.







ICC Fellowship Shanghai Event

Wonderful ICC China hospitality offered this evening in Shanghai to around 80 Rotarians from Russia, Italy, the US, UK, Germany, Poland and Belgium. Claudine Richard and Andrzej gave presentations on different aspects of the ICC network and our plans for 2026-28.

The Chinese side are clearly keen to engage! Many thanks to our gracious Chinese hosts ICC National Chair Richard Zi and Special Representative Ian!



ICC Peace Forum in Cluj-Napoca Showcased Rotary's Global Commitment to Peace

The ICC Peace Forum held in Cluj-Napoca demonstrated the vital role of Rotary's Intercountry Committees. Bringing together 230 Rotary members from 17 countries, the forum created a strong platform for dialogue, friendship, and collaboration across national borders. At a time when many societies face division and uncertainty, the gathering highlighted the power of choosing conversation over conflict and partnership over isolation.

One of the most symbolic moments of the forum was the unveiling of a Peace Pole in Cluj-Napoca. The installation now stands as a permanent reminder that peace is a shared responsibility belonging to every community. The official acceptance of the Peace Pole by Mayor Emil Boc on behalf of the citizens of Cluj-Napoca reflected the city's commitment to harmony, inclusion, and international friendship.

The forum also delivered concrete outcomes through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between District 2241 Romania and Moldova, representing the four countries of District 9400. The agreement elevated goodwill into structured cooperation, creating a stronger framework for future peace initiatives, accountability, and long-term partnership.

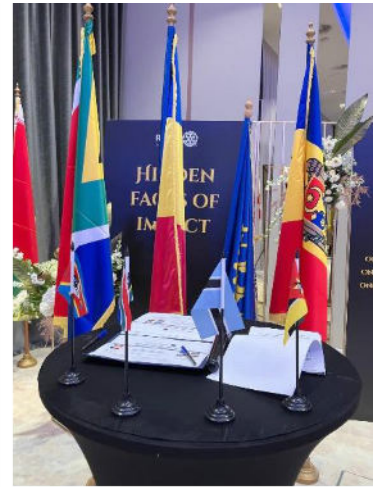
Intercountry Committee participants noted that the event clearly demonstrated Rotary's global capacity to unite leaders and communities around common humanitarian goals. Far beyond their local clubs, Rotarians were recognized as members of an international network capable of convening meaningful dialogue and fostering lasting change.

The leadership shown throughout the forum, particularly by President ICC Annemarie Mostert, was widely appreciated.

Perhaps the most enduring impact of the forum will be carried home by its delegates. Each Intercountry Committee member returned to their own club, district, and country as an ambassador for peace, extending the spirit of the gathering into local communities around the world.

The ICC Peace Forum in Cluj-Napoca ultimately reaffirmed that Rotary's vision of peace is not merely an aspiration, but a practical and community-driven reality built through friendship, cooperation, and sustained action.





Rotary ICC Conference in Poland highlights global cooperation and peacebuilding

This month, Rotary leaders and Intercountry Committee representatives from across Europe and beyond gathered in Lublin, Poland, for the ICC Regional Conference “Peace for Ukraine”, an international event focused on peacebuilding, humanitarian cooperation, cultural understanding, and strengthening relationships between nations through Rotary.

Hosted in the historic city of Lublin from 15 to 17 May 2026, the conference brought together representatives from countries including Poland, Ukraine, Japan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Germany, Slovenia, North Macedonia, France, Romania, Belgium and South Africa. Discussions centered around humanitarian response initiatives, international Rotary partnerships, peace initiatives, and best practice models for effective ICC collaboration.

The programme included presentations on ongoing Ukraine support projects, cross-border Rotary cooperation, charter agreements between ICC committees, and collaborative peace initiatives currently being developed across Europe. A further highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between District 9400 and Poland, strengthening the relationship between Southern African and Polish Rotary leadership.

South Africa was represented through Intercountry Committee in the ICC discussions and conference programme, reflecting the growing role Southern African Rotary leaders continue to play within international Rotary networks.



Rotary ICC Conference in Poland highlights global cooperation and peacebuilding

During the event, President ICC Annemarie also handed over two books to DG Greg and Preidend ICC Andrzej, marking a meaningful moment of exchange and friendship between Rotary leaders.

Beyond the formal sessions, the gathering reflected the deeper purpose of Rotary's Intercountry Committees: building friendships between nations that create opportunities for meaningful service and long-term cooperation. Moments shared between delegates from multiple countries, particularly in support of Ukraine, highlighted the powerful role Rotary relationships continue to play during times of global uncertainty.

One of the most moving moments President ICC Annemarie encountered during the conference was a deeply symbolic piece of art connected to Ukraine. President ICC Andrzej Ludek was photographed holding what first appeared to be beautifully painted artwork, but the pieces were in fact fragments of shrapnel from bombs that had fallen in Ukraine.

"For me, this was one of the most special and meaningful things I came across," President ICC Annemarie reflected. "These children take pieces of destruction and turn them into something beautiful. It is such a powerful reminder that even in devastation, hope, creativity and humanity can still rise."

What had once been part of war and destruction had been transformed by children into gifts, standing as a quiet but powerful testimony to resilience and the human capacity to create beauty from pain.

The visit also includes meetings with Rotary clubs in Warsaw, district leadership engagements, cultural exchange opportunities, and participation in the District 2231 Conference in Toruń later in the programme.





International Meeting of Intercountry Committees / RMB & Companies

«Peace is achieved through Projects»
9/05/2026

On Europe Day (May 9th), the Temple of Poetry in the Poets' Park in Oeiras was the venue for a meeting that united the international dimension of Rotary, through the Intercountry Committees, and the business aspect, with the Rotary Group "Rotary Means Business" (RMB) and some businesspeople. The Portuguese Section of RMB (no. 103) integrates Districts 1960 and 1970 and currently has 80 members.

The meeting began with a salute to the flags. Meeting was chaired by PDG José Carlos Estorninho, President ICC Nathalie Huyghebaert and the Governor of District 1960, Jorge Lucas Coelho. To his right were the Portugal National Chair of the ICC, Alberto Guerra, and Councilor Dr. Armando Soares, representing the Mayor Dr. Isaltino de Moraes, and to his left the President of the RMB of Portugal, Pedro Marques, and the Portugal National Co-Chair of the ICC, PDG Antonio Simões Pinto, and was concluded with speeches by José Estorninho, Alberto Guerra, Pedro Marques, and Councilor Armando Soares. The morning's work was divided into 2 blocks. The first session, dedicated to ICC in Action, began with a moment of silence in memory of Rui Matoso, President of the Intercountry Committee with Spain, who recently died in a car accident.

The presentation of the various ICC was made through the mention of their actions and projects and ended with a speech by the Chair.

India: its President, Miguel Sousa, highlighted the interest of nine Clubs from the former Portuguese India in twinning with clubs in Portugal, with some proposing concrete actions. Requests for collaboration were also received from the Rotary Club of Mumbai Bravehearts D. 3141 for GG projects in partnership with Portuguese Clubs.

Egypt: President Fátima Geada gave a very positive update, predicting a new twinning soon and the formation of a ICC with Portugal.

Turkey: President Lourdes Torres spoke about the twinning situation and the ongoing GG "Olive VTT Project" with several countries, with the R.C. Izmir as its promoter.



International Meeting of Intercountry Committees / RMB & Companies

Morocco: Member Isabel Lopes (twinning), spoke about the upcoming twinning between the Rotary Clubs of Vila Moura Internacional and Tethuan. Two projects involving schools and music are also underway.

Ukraine: President Simões Pinto spoke about the various projects and activities that have been carried out within the framework of this ICC and the existing twinning agreements, and urged the Clubs of District 1960 to be willing to twin with clubs in Ukraine, which are in dire need of support

Italy: Member Maria Edite Pereira mentioned the upcoming twinning in June between the Rotary Club of Vicenza and the Rotary Club of Faro.

Mozambique: President Elsa Salzedas reported significant difficulties in communication with Mozambique, especially because requests for help are not followed up by local Rotary clubs, making it difficult to mobilize them to respond. Currently, there is a project for the construction of a wall at a school in a port city.

This is justified for the protection of children because the school is being invaded by people who use it as a route. Awaiting the submission of data and photographs.

However, through the National Chair of ICC Mozambique –Portugal (Moz section), we received the GG project, which needs an international partner, "From the River to the Pump –Water for All in Manica," which proposes to drill 8 boreholes and has a budget of USD 75,000.

Macau and Timor: President PDG Vitor Cordeiro, after several years of contacts and attempts at twinning, the possibility of twinning between R.C. Macau and R.C. de Parede–Carcavelos is foreseen. Relations with the Rotary Club Dili Lafaek have been quite frequent, with a Timorese couple from this Club having been in Portugal taking courses in Portuguese, supported by R.C. ParedeCarcavelos and Oeiras. There is a planned project for a library for a school in Dili, but the process has been slow.

Lusophone West Africa –AOL: Vice-President Maria Sampaio mentioned the continued support for São Tomé through the "Associação Abraçar São Tomé" (Association to Embrace São Tomé). GG project with the R.C. of S. Tomé Ossobóto equip a school in Sta. Lúzia. Regarding Guinea-Bissau and involving the R.C. of Bissau, we have the appeal that comes to us from the "NGO Kadimi" for homeless children and the projects to support Buba, in the areas of health and education.

In this sense, we had the opportunity to hear the presentation of Sister N'Dira Cruz of the Religious Congregation of the Hospitaller Nuns of the Immaculate Conception (CONFHC) about a large-scale project that they intend to carry out in Guinea.



International Meeting of Intercountry Committees / RMB & Companies

The Chairs recalled the projects that emerged from the 3rd Seminar held with the African Clubs that are part of this ICC on April 23rd. Among others, he highlighted in Cape Verde, a hydroponic culture project to feed the residents of St. Cruz and create a source of income for the local population. In Angola, the project –Together for BENGUELA –requested by the Rotary Club of Lobito as "an emergency initiative to bring hope, resources and reconstruction to the more than 9,000 families affected by the intense rains in Benguela", is described in the link:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:9d41375e-7207-4ado-809d-eb9942010d7e>

This was followed by some information about absent ICC. Those of France, the USA and Great Britain will have a new President from July 1, 2026. The French one has ongoing projects for Angola in partnership with France and a twinning with the Rotary Club Cascais Es-toril is expected soon, after the visit of French Rotarians from the Moulin-Yzeure Club. There are ongoing projects for Portugal in partnership with US clubs, and the ICC of Great Britain also has one project for Portugal in partnership with several clubs and is developing another with the support of the MBIMB Foundation. The ICC of Belux is awaiting the establishment of the Belux section, the Intercountry Committee of Israel is experiencing the constraints of the current situation, and the ICC of Brazil has faced communication difficulties.

All presented compelling reasons for their absence.

The Chair's presentation began with a brief explanation of what Rotary is for the non-Rotarians present, and regarding the Peaceful Integration Commission (PIC), he highlighted, in addition to the history of its formation through the ICC CE video, that today the "Mission of the PIC is the construction of POSITIVE PEACE.

A better mutual understanding of International and Service relations, supporting Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation, allowing a rapid response to global challenges who-se solution fosters friendships from country to country, district to district and club to club, guaranteeing all Rotarians full participation in the advent of Peaceful Societies." and also the following aspects:

- * Currently there are 15 Intercountry Committees + 4 in formation (in 11/2022 we had 8 Intercountry Committees + 3 in formation)
- * How an Intercountry Committee is constituted and what keeps it functioning
- * The importance of twinning
- * The functions of the Chairs
- * Within the ecosystem of the District Resource Network available in each district to which the ICC belong, they act as a linking and coordinating force. The strategic role of the Intercountry Committees is to activate and strengthen the connections between all six nodes of the DRR.
- * The Intercountry Committee Coordinates — never controls.
- * He mentioned other aspects related to the new management of the ICC E.C. and its action plan, namely, the inclusion of Rotaract members



International Meeting of Intercountry Committees / RMB & Companies

The second block was dedicated to Rotary Means Business & Entrepreneurs.

The National President of RMB, Pedro Marques (RC Lisboa Benfica, D1960), emphasized the group's focus on qualified networking, leveraging skills and professional classifications to realize national and international social projects, including Global Grants, always aligned with Rotary's emphases.

The RMB format was present: each participant —Rotarian and non-Rotarian —introduced themselves, sharing their name, professional area of expertise, and motivations. Pedro Marques reinforced that joining RMB requires being a Rotarian, thus promoting the growth and strengthening of the social framework of the clubs.

Following this, a presentation of the professional activities carried out by one of the members of the Rotary fellowship group was given: Rotary Means Business (RMB).

In the afternoon session, the group met in the Camões room, where three working groups were formed. They reflected on the projects presented in the morning session by the ICC, sharing opinions and suggestions on them.

It was possible to identify the interest of the colleagues present in collaborating on some of the projects.

Thus, Dr. Alexandra Dias (from the P.S.A. Law Firm) expressed interest in the projects presented by Sister N`Dira(CONFHIC) and in projects in India. Regarding the projects in Guinea, the questions raised were clarified and the greatest difficulties that arise were identified.

At the level of:

-construction materials (very expensive in Guinea);

-sending containers (difficulties in finding sponsors) some of those present suggested contacting the Portuguese Navy regarding the transport of goods. Also speak with Comrade Filipe Raposo from the R.C. of Sines and member of ICC Portugal-AOL.

-regarding the land donation, which CONFHIC hopes to obtain for the construction of the Center, several reflections were shared on legal issues regarding the donation of the land.

According to Companion Carlos Pinto Machado from the Rotary Club of Caldas da Rainha, the legal concept in Guinea is cession (50 or 80 years or more) and not donation.

Regarding support in the health area (travel by doctors for short periods, (travel by doctors for short periods, similar to what some Rotary Clubs already do.

Rotarian Kelly presented a project by UBI with Guinea and the "ComunaNGO" in the health field, in which medical students do volunteer work/ internships and are confronted with the need to perform interventions beyond their skills (notably surgeries). From this we can infer that medical schools can be partners of Rotary in this area.

It seems that in this country the internet is very inaccessible.



International Meeting of Intercountry Committees / RMB & Companies

PDG Simões Pinto, regarding possible projects with India (Dr. Alexandra and Miguel Sousa from ICC India), highlighted that Brazil and India are countries with which we should work, as they are very active.

There is much to receive and much to give. He spoke about subsidies, highlighting a project between R.C. Montemor o Velho and R.C. Coimbra for albino children in Mozambique, which led to a campaign for eyeglasses and creams. These children, who were marginalized and mistreated, are now under the care of an institution. The project, crowned with success, is expanding.

He concluded that partnerships are very important. Pedro Marques spoke about R.C. Benfica's project with the S. Tomás de Aquino Social Cen-ter, which, during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided massage services and psychological support to seniors, ensuring the delivery of snacks to the elderly at home on Fridays. This practice continues.

Miguel Sousa from R.C. Maia spoke about possible projects with India. There is a lot of interest from Indian clubs in doing projects with our clubs.

In response to a question about the "My Body is My Body" project (a question posed by Dr.

Paula Guimarães –a non-Rotarian), Kelly O'Hara explained the project, stating that it originated in England and that manuals and training support are available in Portuguese, which she would send if interested. This project is aimed at children of both sexes.

Regarding the need to create dynamics between the RMB and the ICC, PDG Simões Pinto proposed holding a 2nd Meeting with the RMB, the ICC, and businesspeople, emphasizing the fundamental importance of ensuring their presence and that of representatives from all ICC.

Reinforcing this idea, Esteves Guerra suggested that the participation of the "Collaborative Professional Platform D.1970 –ROTARY PRO" would also be important, as they were invited to participate in this Meeting but did not attend.

Finally, Pedro Marques stated that the purpose of the Meeting had been achieved. At the end of this meeting, members of RMB, ICC, and businesspeople experienced a moment of camaraderie, promoting the exchange of ideas and the implementation of joint activities and projects.

The overall success of this important event was celebrated with a celebratory «Carcavelosde Honra» offered to all participants.



International Forum Rotary ICC | Italy 2026

Rotarians from across the world have gathered in Italy for the International Forum Rotary ICC, that started on 28 May and will continue until 31 May 2026 in Bergamo.

This important gathering has brought together Intercountry Committee members in the true spirit of Rotary, strengthening friendship, cooperation and peace across borders.

Events like these remind us of the unique role

ICCs play in building meaningful international relationships, sharing best practice, and opening doors for service projects that connect our beautiful countries, districts and communities.

A wonderful moment of fellowship, collaboration and global Rotary connection!



Bergamo, Como, Lecco, Milan – 28/31 May 2026 Final Report

From 28 to 31 May 2026, the International Rotary ICC Forum took place in Italy, between Bergamo, Como, Lecco and Milan. Promoted within the framework of Rotary's InterCountry Committees, the Forum culminated on Saturday, 30 May, in the ICC World Peace Forum.

The meeting brought together Rotarians from many countries, confirming the deepest vocation of the ICCs: to be places of dialogue, instruments of international friendship, discreet yet remarkably solid bridges between cultures, communities and peoples. At a time when the word “peace” often risks being consumed by rhetoric or weakened by a growing familiarity with war, the Bergamo Forum had the merit of restoring to it density, responsibility and concreteness. The event represented a moment of particular significance in the life of the ICCs: the conclusion of the mandate of Nathalie Huyghebaert, President ICC for the 2024-2026 biennium; the passing of the baton to Annemarie Mostert, President ICC for the 2026-2028 biennium; the election of the Chair for the 2028-2030 biennium; and a programme combining the General Assembly, the ICC World Peace Forum, cultural visits and moments of fellowship.

Welcoming participants to Bergamo
The Forum opened on Thursday, 28 May, in Bergamo, at Life Source, the venue for the meetings and the place where participants were welcomed. Registration and the welcome dinner represented the first concrete gesture of the gathering: not merely an organisational formality, but the beginning of a temporary community, brought together from different countries around the same idea of service.

From the very first evening, the true spirit of the ICCs emerged: the ability to turn distance into closeness, difference into richness, and mutual knowledge into a premise for cooperation. Every great project of peace begins in this way: not with solemn formulas, but with the patience of encounter, with trust patiently built, and with the willingness to listen before speaking.

The General Assembly and the continuity of ICC leadership Friday, 29 May, was devoted to the General Assembly of the ICC Executive Council,

a central moment in the institutional life of the InterCountry Committees. Within this framework, a significant step was taken in the continuity of the international leadership of the ICCs.

Nathalie Huyghebaert, ICC Executive Council Chair 2024-2026, brought her mandate to a close, leaving the mark of a chairmanship lived in the spirit of Rotary friendship, participation and international responsibility. Her leadership forcefully recalled the meaning of the ICCs as a living, non-bureaucratic network, capable of bringing people together before structures, and communities before acronyms.

The handover to President ICC Annemarie Mostert, for the 2026-2028 biennium, was one of the most important moments of the entire Forum. The new phase opening under her leadership stands in a line of continuity and renewal: continuity in the founding values of the ICCs; renewal in the need to respond to an increasingly fragmented world, in which international dialogue requires clarity, courage and vision.

Particularly significant was the election of Alessandro Pastorini as ICC President for the 2028-2030 biennium. Already National ICC Chair for Italy, Malta and San Marino, Pastorini has in recent years been a point of reference for the development and consolidation of the ICC network. His election took on a value that goes beyond the personal dimension: it is the recognition of patient work, of credibility built over time, and of an ability to weave international relations in the finest Rotary spirit.

The day then opened itself to the beauty of the territory, with the visit to Como and the dinner at Castello di Casiglio. These moments, too, had a fully Rotarian significance: not mere pauses in the institutional programme, but opportunities to strengthen relationships, deepen mutual knowledge, transform formal dialogue into friendship and friendship into future cooperation.

The ICC World Peace Forum: peace as a shared responsibility

The heart of the International Rotary ICC Forum was the ICC World Peace Forum held on Saturday,

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30 May, and dedicated to the theme of peace. The day gathered Rotarians and international guests around a theme that belongs to the very roots of the Rotary experience: the building of peace through understanding, listening, mediation, culture and cooperation among peoples.

The morning opened with the simple solemnity of symbols: the bell, the anthems and the presentation of the flags. It was a beginning of strong evocative value: flags, languages and national identities not as reasons for separation, but as signs of a plurality called to recognise itself within a common horizon.

Richard Knowlton guided the various moments of the morning with balance and authority, giving continuity to a particularly rich programme in which Rotary, institutional, philosophical, journalistic, spiritual and diplomatic voices intertwined.

The opening greetings gave the day a broad framework. Stefano Artese, Governor of District 2042, welcomed the participants by recalling the value of the ICCs as a concrete form of Rotary diplomacy: not a diplomacy of chancelleries, but a diplomacy of consciences, of bonds, of trust built over time. The Mayor of Bergamo, Elena Carnevali, brought the greetings of the host city, underlining the value of Bergamo as a community open to dialogue, civic responsibility and the daily construction of coexistence. Her address recalled that peace does not belong only to great international relations, but also takes shape in the life of cities, in the care of social bonds, in attention to people and in the capacity of institutions to promote inclusion and trust.

The Bishop of Bergamo, Monsignor Francesco Beschi, offered a reflection of profound spiritual value, recalling peace as a moral task before it is a political one. His words invited those present not to surrender to the logic of conflict and to preserve hope as an active responsibility. From this perspective, peace is born of concrete fraternity, of the ability to listen, to forgive, and to recognise in the other not a threat, but a presence to be welcomed.

The address by ICC President-Elect Alessandro Pastorini, National ICC Chair for Italy, Malta and

San Marino, brought attention back to the deep nature of the InterCountry Committees: a network capable of uniting clubs, districts and communities beyond national borders.

Pastorini interpreted the ICCs as a laboratory of international relations in which friendship is never an end in itself, but becomes a premise for service, cooperation and mutual understanding.

Nathalie Huyghebaert, speaking as President ICC for 2024-2026, gave the day the breadth of international continuity. Her reflection recalled the meaning of a mandate brought to completion, but also the strength of a journey that does not end. The ICCs live through the passing of batons, shared responsibilities, and leaderships that are not exhausted in the exercise of an office, but leave traces, orientations and examples.

Among the first thematic voices of the morning, Monica Napoli, journalist and Sky TG24 correspondent, brought the perspective of journalism from places of crisis and frontier. Her contribution, devoted to the Mediterranean and to the “borders of Europe”, recalled that peace cannot be understood solely through the categories of geopolitics. It passes through the faces, bodies, families, journeys, fears and hopes of those who inhabit the most fragile thresholds of our time. To report on war, migration and the fractures of the world means preventing suffering from becoming a number, tragedy from becoming habit, and indifference from becoming a second form of violence.

The panel “Rotaract/Rotary/ICCs – Together for Peace”, moderated by Emil Moawad via Zoom, opened a particularly significant intergenerational perspective. With Ezgi Batu, Laura Sasse and Elise Nassim, the Forum gave space to the voice of young leaders, of Rotaract and of a new called not only to inherit Rotary, but to renew it. Their contribution showed that peace cannot be entrusted solely to the memory of those who have already travelled a long road: it needs the energy, freedom and moral intelligence of young people. In this dialogue between Rotary, Rotaract and ICCs, one of the decisive challenges of the future became visible: making peace a language shared across generations.

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The lecture by Professor Donatella Di Cesare, entitled “The Responsibility of Peace. A Common Commitment”, was one of the highest cultural moments of the day.

The philosopher removed peace from the vagueness of good intentions and restored it to its most demanding dimension: that of responsibility. Peace is not merely the absence of war, nor a simple balance between opposing forces; it is an ethical, political and human commitment. It is the ability not to grow accustomed to violence, not to regard war as an inevitable destiny, and to preserve the word when the world seems to prefer the noise of weapons. Her intervention placed at the center the duty to recognise the other: because peace begins when the other ceases to be a threat and once again becomes a face, a story, a dignity.

After the break, Professor Giorgio Del Zanna, of the Community of Sant’Egidio, developed the theme “Mediation begins with us”. His reflection brought to the Forum the experience of a community that for decades has been active in processes of dialogue, reconciliation and international mediation. The message was powerful: mediation is not only a diplomatic technique, but an inner posture. It begins in the way we listen, in the words we choose, in the daily conflicts we decide not to fuel, and in the willingness to create spaces where only walls seem to exist. Peace, before becoming a treaty, must become a style.

The session “Peace in a Fragmented World. The Strategic Role of Civil Diplomacy and Global Networks”, introduced by DGN Michel Davoudian, further broadened the horizon of reflection. With Mazin Qumsiyeh, Shab Elawar, Peace Fellow Elise Nassim and Ambassador Daniele Verga, the Forum addressed the theme of civil diplomacy and global networks in a world marked by deep fractures. Peace, in this perspective, cannot be entrusted only to states or official negotiations. It needs vigilant civil societies, universities, local communities, associative networks, international organisations and leaders capable of generating trust. The ICCs proved once again to be a precious form of this civil diplomacy: perhaps less visible than institutional diplomacy, but often more

capable of preparing the ground for encounter.

The concluding part of the morning had strong symbolic value. With the ICC Peace Prize ceremony, conducted by Giuseppe Mosci, ICC Secretary, together with President ICC Annemarie Mouchet and ICC President Nathalie Huyghebaert, the Forum recognised the value of people and journeys capable of giving concrete embodiment to the ideals of peace. The prize was not merely a celebratory moment, but a reminder of the responsibility of example: peace needs to be narrated, but also recognised wherever someone practises it with consistency.

Michel Davoudian then led the ICC Special Awards, a further sign of gratitude towards those who have contributed to the growth and vitality of the InterCountry Committees. In an international community such as the ICCs, recognition also has a function that goes beyond ceremony: it preserves memory, makes service visible, and strengthens the sense of belonging.

President ICC Nathalie Huyghebaert’s concluding intervention, with the ICC Executive Council Team and the Past Presidents present called to the podium, offered the room an image of shared continuity. In that setting, the leadership called to guide the future of the ICCs was presented, with the recognition of the President-elect for the 2028-2030 biennium.

Finally, President ICC Annemarie Mostert, outlined the objectives of her mandate. Her address turned the gaze towards the future, indicating the need to strengthen network of InterCountry Committees, promote ever wider participation, value young people, support collaboration among districts, and make the ICCs increasingly effective instruments of concrete peace. Her vision gave the conclusion of the morning the sense of a new beginning.

The group photographs sealed this moment: not a mere ritual image, but the visible face of an international community gathered around a shared responsibility.

Bergamo and the gala dinner in Lecco
After lunch, the programme continued with a visit to Bergamo. To walk through Bergamo after a

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morning devoted to peace meant entering into dialogue with a layered city, made of walls, stones, squares and memories. Every place visited recalled that European history is at once beauty and conflict, heritage and responsibility, wound and rebirth.

In the evening, the gala dinner at the “Griso” restaurant in Lecco concluded the central day of the Forum. This moment, too, had a fully ICC value: fellowship as a space in which relationships are consolidated, words become friendship, and friendship becomes cooperation.

In Rotary, fellowship is never an ornament. It is part of its moral grammar. It is the place where people from different countries learn to recognise one another, to trust one another, and to imagine possible projects together. After a day dedicated to peace, gathering at table meant giving concrete form to what had been thought and said during the Forum.

Milan and the conclusion of the itinerary
On Sunday, 31 May, the programme concluded with a visit to Milan, the final stage of the Italian itinerary. After Bergamo, Como and Lecco, Milan offered participants the image of a European city, dynamic and international, in which history, art, economy and innovation coexist in an original way.

The visit completed a route capable of bringing together different yet complementary places: Bergamo as the venue of welcome and of the Forum, Como as a landscape of beauty and dialogue, Lecco as the setting for the gala evening, and Milan as a final opening towards a metropolitan and global dimension.

Concluding assessment

The International Rotary ICC Forum in Bergamo 2026 represented a moment of great significance for the international ICC community. The conclusion of President ICC Nathalie Huyghebaert’s mandate, the handover to President ICC Annemarie Mostert, the election of Alessandro Pastorini as ICC President for the 2028-2030 biennium, the participation of high-profile speakers and the richness of the cultural programme gave the event an institutional and human value of particular intensity.

The Forum showed that the ICCs are not merely bodies linking countries. They are living places of Rotary diplomacy. Places where peace is thought, narrated, discussed and prepared. Places where international friendship becomes method, listening becomes service, and relationship becomes a possibility for the future.

In a fragmented world, marked by fears, borders, conflicts and new forms of loneliness, the message that came from Bergamo was clear: peace is not born of naivety, but of responsibility; it is not born of the absence of differences, but of the ability to inhabit them; it is not born of solemn declarations, but of communities that choose to meet, to know one another and to act together.

This is perhaps the highest legacy of the Forum: to have reminded us that Rotary, through the ICCs, can still be a school of dialogue, a fabric of trust and a laboratory of international humanism.

STOP PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTS

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY. GLOBAL IMPACT.

Every year, millions of tonnes of plastic waste are shipped around the world. Much of it ends up in countries that lack the infrastructure to manage it safely – harming people, communities and the environment.

What we produce,
we must manage.
It's time to end
waste colonialism.

NEW EU LAW
Export ban outside EU
from
January 2027

The EU has taken a historic step by banning plastic waste exports outside the region from January 2027. The EU (and why not others?) can be expected to serve as good examples and frontrunners also in the future. Important in these times.

WHY is this happening?

- Virgin plastic is still cheaper than recycled materials.
- Weak enforcement and loopholes enable illegal or misdeclared exports.
- Waste is re-routed via third countries or trade hubs.
- Recipient countries face pollution, health risks and human rights abuses.

HOW waste is re-routed



WHAT is happening?

- Germany was the world's largest exporter of plastic waste in 2025, sending **810,000 TONNES** overseas.
- The UK was close behind, exporting **675,000 TONNES**.
- Much of the waste was sent to Turkey, Malaysia and Indonesia, linked to environmental damage, illegal dumping, burning and labour abuses.
- The EU has agreed to ban exports of plastic waste outside the region from January 2027 – a global leadership step forward. Other countries are encouraged to follow this example.

SOLUTIONS – What Rotary can do

- Promote Local Responsibility: "What you produce, you manage."
- Increase Transparency & Traceability: Support digital tracking and the "Plastic Passport" concept.
- Advance Circular Economy Solutions: Design for reuse, reduce virgin plastic and support innovation.
- Advocate for Stronger Law Enforcement: Close loopholes and criminalize illegal waste trafficking.
- Educate & Engage Communities: Make the invisible visible – microplastics affect us all.

IMPACT – if we act



TOGETHER, WE CAN END PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTS

- Keep waste on its own soil
- Protect people and planet
- Close loopholes
- End waste colonialism
- Build a sustainable future
- Inspire the next generation

END PLASTIC SOUP
The Rotary ESRAG Task Force to End Plastic Pollution

"The major problem is that freshly produced plastics are still much cheaper than reused and recycled materials. We have known about this market failure for years, but the solution is not more delay – it is leadership, responsibility and action."

– Sara Matthies, MEP
Greens/European Free Alliance Grouping

THE EU IS TAKING ACTION
The EU has agreed to ban exports of plastic waste outside the region from January 2027. This is a global leadership step forward. Other countries are encouraged to follow this example.

THE CHALLENGE IS GLOBAL
The solutions must be global. By working together across countries, sectors and communities, we can end plastic pollution.

THE ROOT CAUSE
Virgin plastic is still too cheap. Real change requires strong policies, investment in circular solutions, and responsibility across the whole value chain.

From regulation to transformation – Rotary can lead.
Together, Rotary can lead the way to a world free from plastic pollution – for people, for nature, for future generations.

HOW ROTARY CLUBS CAN ACT

- Raise awareness and educate your community
- Support transparency initiatives
- Promote local solutions and innovation
- Advocate for stronger laws and enforcement
- Partner globally for greater impact

GET INVOLVED

Join The Rotary ESRAG Task Force to End Plastic Pollution.
Together, we can end plastic waste exports and build a cleaner, healthier planet.

www.endplasticsoup.org



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE AND
TAKE ACTION

SOURCE: The Guardian, 30 April 2026 – "Germany was largest exporter of plastic waste in 2025, sending 810,000 tonnes overseas, analysis finds"
Analysis by Watershed Investigations and the Basel Action Network

#EndPlasticPollution

#LocalActionGlobalChange

#PeoplePlanetPurpose



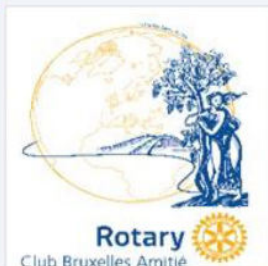
INTERNATIONAL FORUM · ROTARY ICC



EndPlasticSoup, the Rotary ESRAG Task Force

Azelio Fulmini PhD

Rotary Club Bruxelles Amitié
CIP IT/BE
EPS Director to ICC



28-31 Mai 2026 · Lecco - Como - Bergamo - Milano

Another brick in the wall against plastic waste

By Stavros Papagianneas, author of Embracing Chaos (2021), Rebranding Europe (2024) and managing director of STP Communications.

EndPlasticSoup(EPS) and Intercountry Committees (ICC) renewed their cooperation on plastic waste by signing the Cooperation Action Plan 2026/2028, in Brussels on 28 May 2026.

EPS and the ICC Executive Council refer to the Cooperation Agreement signed in London in 2024 to encourage collaboration between the two Rotary networks.

This initiative offers a platform for collaboration to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution on people of all ages, wildlife and the environment on our planet.

The Action Plan was signed by Dr AzelioFulmini, EPS Director to ICC, and President ICCAnnemarie Mostert, as pictured here.

EndPlasticSoupis a global Rotary initiative aiming to eliminate plastic pollution from oceans, rivers, and forests by 2050 through local action, in partnership with its worldwide network of over 60 Alliances.

It addresses the plastic pollution problem through awareness and education, action & projects, and alliances, to reduce, reuse, and recycle across the lifecycle, including improved waste management and reduced single-use plastics and microplastics.

In February 2024, the Rotary Intercountry Committees (ICC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EndPlasticSoupto mobiliseits international network in support of this cause.

Plastic waste is a significant environmental issue, with millions of tons produced annually, causing pollution, harming wildlife, and posing health risks. The EU is actively working to address plastic waste and improve recycling rates. The European Green Deal aims to transform the European Union (EU) into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy.

To achieve this goal, the transition from a linear to a circular economy in Europe will require major transformations in the plastics sector, particularly in light ofnew, ambitious recycling targets (e.g., a 55% recycling rate of plastic packaging waste by 2030, as indicated by the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive1).

However, of the 32.3 Mt of plastic waste generated in the EU in 2022, only 27 % is estimated to have been recycled after impurities and unsuitable substances were removed from the sorted materials.

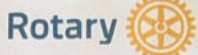
(Resources, Conservation & Recycling, Volume 215, April 2025)

Developing innovative recycling technologies is therefore key to increasing recycling rates and potentially improving environmental performance compared with existing treatment technologies.



Another brick in the wall against plastic waste




INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

EndPlasticSoup and International Country Committees Cooperation Action Plan 2026/2028

EPS and the ICC Executive Council refer to the Cooperation Agreement signed between them in London on 8 February 2024 to encourage collaboration between our two significantly and successfully growing Rotary networks.

- ICCs provide a platform for Rotarians to act without local boundaries, to enable and extend mutual understanding between countries and cultures.
- EPS initiatives offer a platform for collaboration to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution on people of all ages, wildlife and the environment on our planet.
- EPS and the ICCs see the benefits of plastic. Nonetheless, together we can support specific actions aimed at creating awareness and proposing solutions across the full cycle of plastics waste:

1. to reduce single use and unnecessary plastic
2. to use alternative products with less or no microplastics
3. to propose the implementation of best practices in waste management solutions
4. to support research and legislation to prevent toxic plastic pollution.

EPS and ICC agree on the present 2026/2028 Action Programme with the following aims:

1. **Build up a cooperation mechanism:**
 - a) Coordinate support and advice to Districts and Clubs through respective ICC and EPS networks
 - b) Confirm regular contacts between EPS and ICC, namely between the EPS Director to the ICC Executive Committee and the ICC National coordinators.
 - c) Organise bimonthly video-meetings to discuss common actions and new initiatives of potential mutual interest. Minutes to be shared.
 - d) Produce an annual summary report on common action and their impact.
 - e) Regular participation meetings organised by EPS and ICC.
 - f) Take advantage of specialist expertise in ICC, e.g. in the textile industry, to support projects aimed at specific high-risk sectors.
2. **Joint awareness-raising actions:**
 - a) Provide and share a guide for daily life in every household and club, as well as education materials for primary & secondary schools, with tips on reducing the use of single-use and unnecessary plastics, and microplastics.
 - b) Video conference organized in cooperation with ICC National Coordinators as training activities within their country and districts.
 - c) Grow the network of Supporter and Ambassador Rotary and Rotaract clubs, starting with 1-2 countries in specific regions.
3. **Actions and projects (proposals):**
 - a) "Waste to reward Agroforestry & Plastic recycling" in Ghana or the awareness project in Zambia.
 - b) Week of the Plastic-Free Mediterranean Sea to: (a) raise awareness (see note 2 below), b) share ideas and actions, c) create the local network (WhatsApp group) for follow-on actions. After the first event 2-9 November, this "Week of the Sea" will be planned every year.
 - c) Build a team for a joint initiative on 'textiles' to extend the knowledge base and define and support a realistic long-term action plan.

Azilio Fulmini
Azilio Fulmini PhD
EndPlasticSoup Director to ICC

Annemarie Mostert
Annemarie Mostert
President ICC Executive Council 2026-28

**Members of the ICC
Executive Council 2026-28:**
Richard Knowlton,
(Secretary General)
Giuseppe Mosci
Jenny Bohlin
Kutay Sartosun
Habiba Bennani
PDG Mohamed Ghammam

*e.g. in Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas.
*Eventually sharing the Musical and Theater play and how to use them for primary and junior high schools (age 10-14)

Uniting Rotarians
across Borders

rotary-icc.



Global Rotary Leadership Celebrates The Historic Chartering of The ICC Philippines-India Section

International observers and senior Rotary leaders are praising the highly successful conclusion of the official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing and Charter Ceremony for the Rotary International Intercountry Committee (ICC) Philippines–India Section. The landmark event, which took place at the St. Giles Hotel in Makati City, Philippines, has been widely hailed across the global Rotary network as a premier example of international fellowship and cross-border diplomacy in action. Attendees and Intercountry Committee members from around the world have expressed immense enthusiasm for the newly forged alliance, noting that the inauguration stands as a shining testament to the organizational power of the global Rotary network.

The formal chartering of the section on June 8, 2026, establishes a permanent, structured bilateral framework designed to spearhead joint humanitarian initiatives, foster deep cultural exchanges, and facilitate strategic club twinning programs between the two nations. Third-party observers emphasized the profound diplomatic significance of the proceedings, which were underscored by the high-profile attendance of His Excellency Shri Harsh Kumar Jain, the Honorable Indian Ambassador to the Philippines.

The Ambassador's presence demonstrated that Rotary's civic infrastructure possesses a unique ability to mirror, strengthen, and extend formal geopolitical ties directly into the realm of grassroots international relations.

A central focus of praise from international delegates was the exceptional vision and leadership demonstrated by Past Assistant Governor (PAG) MPH Anil Ghai, the ICC Country Chair for the Philippines–India. Observers noted that the successful realization of this bilateral committee was a direct result of his unwavering dedication, strategic outreach, and tireless organizing efforts. Representatives from all the districts around highlighted PAG Anil Ghai's extraordinary commitment to global unity, noting that his personal outreach successfully brought together senior Rotary leaders from Belgium, Türkiye, Italy, the USA, Malaysia, and India to deliver unified messages of solidarity and support.

This extensive coordination went far beyond simple ceremonial protocol, reflecting a deep, foundational belief in the power of collective global effort and setting a magnificent standard for modern Rotary leadership.



Global Rotary Leadership Celebrates The Historic Chartering of The ICC Philippines-India Section

Due to the flawless execution of the entire programme, senior international chairs are strongly recommending that the ICC Philippines-India inauguration be adopted as an official best-practice model for all new Intercountry Committee sections globally moving forward. The event showcased every hallmark of modern organizational excellence, utilizing a sophisticated hybrid format that seamlessly blended the physical stage in Makati City with active, high-level global participation via Zoom.

The programme won praise for its strict adherence to traditional Rotary International protocol, its diverse representation spanning eight different countries, and its highly effective pre-event public

image promotion.

The visual design and co-branding beautifully honored the national identities of both host countries while maintaining a presentation that perfectly balanced formal diplomatic protocol with genuine administrative warmth. By deliberately integrating an array of international congratulatory voices, the organizers gave the new charter a truly global character from its inception, establishing an inspiring new benchmark for the organization and proving that the true magic of Rotary continues to thrive through international unity.



Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger

Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger In Soweto, the Global Headquarters of the Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger is formally established. Rotary District 9400, Fresh Ministries and the incoming President of Rotary International converge on Vilakazi Street. **by Pierangelo Panozzo**

There is a street in Soweto that the world has come to recognise not for its houses, but for what those houses contain. Vilakazi Street, in the Orlando West neighbourhood, is the only road on earth to have sheltered two Nobel Peace Prize laureates: Nelson Mandela, father of the rainbow nation, and Desmond Mpilo Tutu, archbishop, civic prophet and moral conscience of post-apartheid South Africa. It is against this backdrop of extraordinary historical density that, on 15 May 2026, an act of both symbolic and operational significance took place: Bishop Tutu House was officially declared the Global Headquarters of the Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger. The ceremony brought together religious leaders, Johannesburg civic authorities and the highest-level representation of Rotary International. This was not a protocol event.

The content was concrete: a Global Grant of 94,000 US dollars —approximately 1.5 million rand —allocated to the installation of a state-of-the-art aquaponics greenhouse unit within the Vilakazi Street property, bequeathed by the Tutu family to the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg and long regarded as one of the nation's moral landmarks.

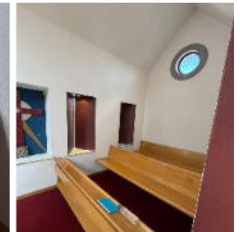
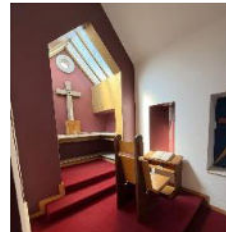
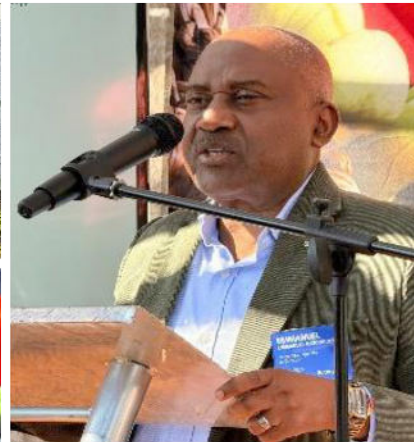
An African President for an Africa Free from Hunger Presiding over the ceremony was Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a Nigerian national and member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Rivers State, currently serving as President-Elect of Rotary International for the 2026–27 term, which formally begins on 1 July 2026. Babalola will be only the second African in history to lead Rotary International —the first was fellow Nigerian Jonathan B. Majiyagbe, who served in 2003–04 —and his physical presence in Soweto, mere weeks before his installation, already signals a clear geographic and thematic priority.

His presidential theme —Create Lasting

Impact —finds in Vilakazi Street a concrete and immediate embodiment. An engineer by training and former senior executive at Shell PLC across four continents, Babalola has built within Rotary a record of rare institutional solidity: District Governor (2011–12), Vice President of Rotary International (2019–20), member of the RI Board of Directors (2018–20), trustee of ShelterBox UK, director of the Safe Blood Africa project and Arch Klumph Society member. He is also the architect of the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. His approach to hunger is systemic —not charitable, but transformative. “This greenhouse aquaponics unit will create not only jobs for the people of Soweto but will bring dignity, prosperity, food security, sustainability skills and will be a learning platform for the people of Soweto,” Babalola told the assembly. The address was measured, direct, free of rhetoric —the right register for a man who has spent decades distinguishing between interventions that change things and interventions that merely change photographs. President ICC t Annemarie Mostert: The Institutional Architecture of the District In the construction of this event —and more broadly in the operational fabric that made it possible —one figure stands as an indispensable reference point: President ICC Annemarie Mostert, Past District Governor of Rotary District 9400 for the 2020–21 term and one of the most influential Rotary personalities in southern Africa. A founding member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400 and former president of the Johannesburg, Northcliff and E-Club of Southern Africa clubs, Mostert has over nearly three decades built an institutional network capable of operating across every scale —from the club, to the district, to the zone, to the global stage.

Her profile is that of a systems operator: member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Ambassador for the Empowering Girls programme in Zone 22, Africa, Team Plan Lead, Rotary International President's Personal Representative for the District Conference in Egypt and Nigeria (May 2023 and 2025), member of the organising committee for the RI Convention in Calgary 2025, and past board member of Rotary Africa magazine. In November 2016, at the Rotary Day at the United Nations in New York, she received recognition as one of only six.

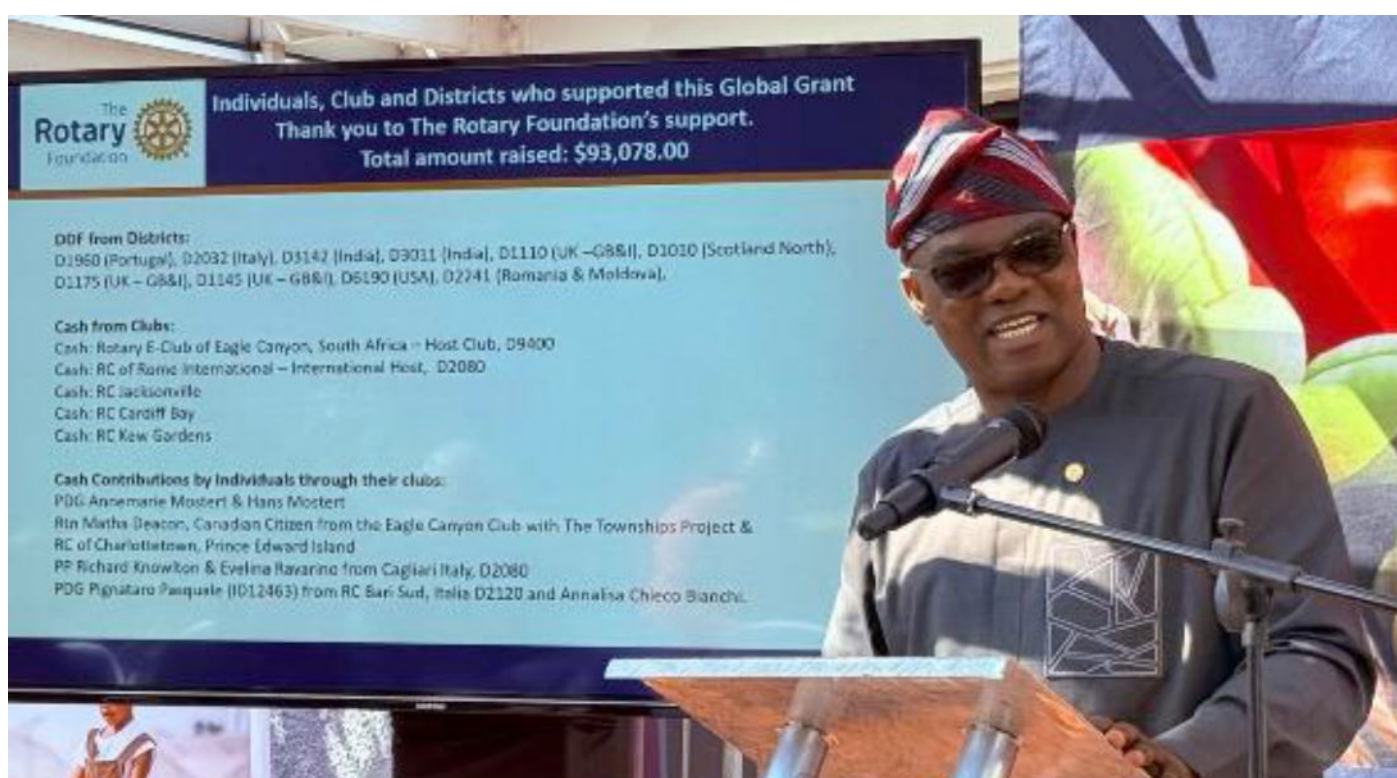
Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger



Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger

Business Honourees world wide —an award that attests to the convergence of private enterprise and civic service that defines her trajectory. Mostert is also CEO of Mila Cleaning Services and founder of the Sesego Foundation —a South African non-profit dedicated to economic empowerment in vulnerable communities. She has personally contributed to the funding of numerous Global Grants, having introduced over 52 members to Rotary and mobilised more than 25 million rand across various initiatives. She is a Major Donor 2, Benefactor, Paul Harris Society member and Bequest Society member. She is the woman who built the foundations without which events such as that of 15 May simply do not happen. Programme: From Jacksonville to Vilakazi Street The Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger did not begin with this ceremony. Its roots lie in Jacksonville, Florida, where Fresh Ministries Inc. —an international humanitarian organisation recognised as a Jubilee Ministry of The Episcopal Church, led by the Rev. Dr. Robert Vernon Lee III —developed an urban aquaponics model that Archbishop Tutu endorsed personally, recognising its transformative potential. “Your programme is quite exciting and has such great potential for helping to eradicate poverty,” he wrote to the founder. That letter is today the moral foundation of an initiative

present on four continents. In South Africa, the programme already has an operational history: the first aquaponics centre was inaugurated in Randburg, Johannesburg as a training facility, in collaboration with The Rotary Foundation, followed by units at Hoedspruit and Shalati, Mpumalanga. The stated objective is the deployment of 198 harvest hubs across eight African countries within three to five years — Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania —with Soweto as the central, symbolic and operational hub of the entire architecture. Aquaponics as a Structural Response The technology selected is not accidental. Aquaponics is a closed-loop food production system integrating aquaculture —fish farming in tanks —with hydroponics —the cultivation of plants in water-based nutrient solutions, without soil. Nutrient-rich water produced by the fish nourishes the plants; the plants filter and purify the water, returning it to the fish. The result is a system with water consumption estimated at 90 to 95 per cent lower than conventional agriculture, capable of producing fresh vegetables and animal protein in urban, peri-urban or climatically stressed environments. For a continent confronting expanding arid zones and rising urban hunger aquaponics offers a response that integrates environmental sustainability, food



Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger

autonomy and local economic development within a single operational framework. At Soweto, the unit will be installed within Bishop Tutu House, transforming the property into a community-facing demonstration and legacy centre. Not a museum of the past, but a laboratory for the future. This is the reading offered by the Rt Revd Dr Sepadi Moruthane, diocesan bishop and custodian of Tutu's legacy: "Bishop Tutu would have been very proud for his home to be used in ending global hunger. These Headquarters are a testimony to the great work and legacy of Bishop Tutu." Johannesburg, Africa and the Regional Dimension The Speaker of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, Ms Margaret Arnolds, expressed the city's full institutional support: "Today marks a celebration of collaboration and the enhancement of dignity for the people of Soweto. The legacy of Archbishop Tutu lives on through this project." The declaration was not a formality: Johannesburg carries the highest urban inequality index in South Africa, and hunger — even in the continent's wealthiest metropolitan area — cuts across growing segments of the population with structural force.

Rotary District 9400 organised around the event a four-day mission — from 15 to 18 May 2026 — encompassing Botswana, Eswatini, southern Mozambique and northern South Africa. Activities included diaspora mobilisation, institutional diplomacy and the development of corporate partnerships. The message was unambiguous: the fight against hunger in southern Africa is not won through isolated individual projects, but through transregional cooperation networks capable of scaling replicable solutions. In this perspective, the choice of Vilakazi Street as global headquarters carries a weight that transcends the operational. It is simultaneously a diplomatic and communicative act: it places at the centre of the global conversation on food security a universal African symbol, anchors it in a specific community — Soweto, with its history of resistance and renewal — and projects it towards a future in which Africa is not merely the recipient of assistance, but the author of models. Archbishop Tutu once said: "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." The house that sheltered him is becoming something more than a place of memory. It is becoming a place of action.

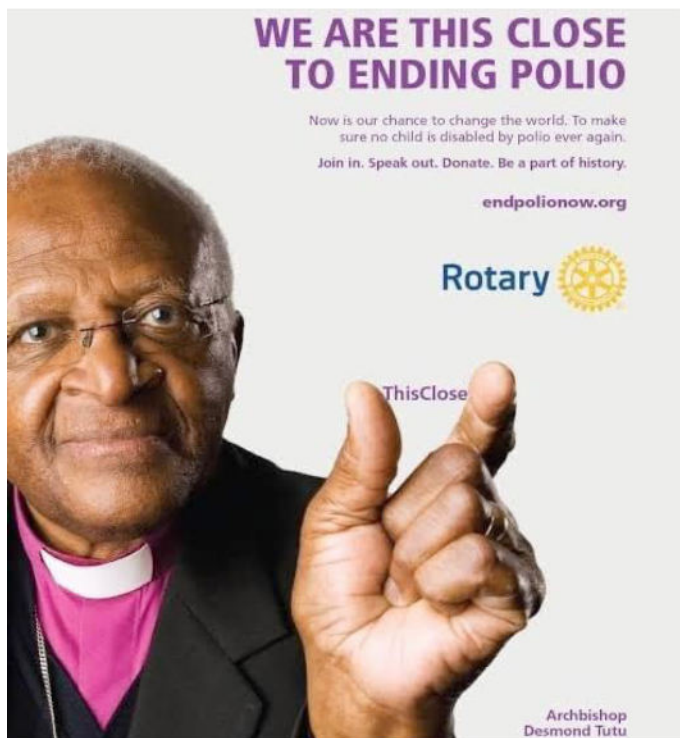


**Arch Tutu Greenhouse Soweto / Aquaponics
Rotary E-Club Eagle Canyon, South Africa**



TRF Global Grant 2570539

Tutu's House Becomes the World's Headquarters Against Hunger



Meet The Teams: The Digital Innovation Workgroup

The Digital Innovation Workgroup has created an ICC NotebookLM instance that serves as a knowledge hub to support the other five workgroups. This hub contains the complete set of governing documents, including the ICC Strategic Plan 2026–2028, the Strategic Summary and SWOT analysis, the Executive Council Integrated Structure, and the Workgroup Brief.

This allows workgroup members to pose questions about the strategic framework in natural language and receive well-grounded, source-linked responses.

NotebookLM functions as a closed-corpus environment, meaning the underlying language model only responds to questions based on the documents uploaded by the workgroup. Each response includes an inline citation to the specific passage in the source document, which enables users to verify the information and access the original text. This source-linked approach is particularly advantageous in a governance context, where workgroup members need to base their operational decisions on specific provisions of the Strategic Plan, the Executive Council Integrated Structure, or the Workgroup Brief, rather than relying on generalized or paraphrased information.

Additionally, the closed-corpus design ensures that responses do not incorporate general web content, supporting ICC's governance compliance as outlined in the Rotary Code of Policies Article 21.020.

Link To Code of Policies June 2026

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/a691421c-cf07-4a4b-a339-7e1fd531d0d5>

Link to Notebook LM

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/a691421c-cf07-4a4b-a339-7e1fd531d0d5>

The Rotary-IEP Partnership offers free, data-driven peacebuilding training to Rotarians and the general public. Through the Rotary Positive Peace Academy, individuals learn the eight Pillars of Positive Peace to sustainably reduce conflict and improve development in their communities.

Link To IEP -Sign up for free directly at the Rotary Positive Peace Academy

<https://share.google/BMYjngOua7RDsYbDg>

Link to Rotary Blog

<https://share.google/dx8jHCRBUqr8KqxbD>

Meet The Teams: Strategic Partnerships and Events Working Group

Partnerships and Events Working Group As Allies in Action and Partners in Peace, our group is committed to advancing the principles of Positive Peace by promoting collaboration, inclusion, and sustainable development. Guided by the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace, we recognize that lasting peace is built through strong institutions, equitable opportunities, free flow of information, respect for the rights of others, and active engagement across communities. Together, we are working to foster resilient societies and create a sustainable future where peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, opportunity, and shared prosperity for all. (By group member Roy Stanley)

Meet The Teams: Communications Workgroup

As we prepare to enter the 2026–2028 Rotary term, the InterCountry Committees (ICC) Communications Working Group has established a comprehensive operational strategy designed to champion visibility, storytelling, and organizational accountability. Operating primarily under Strategic Imperative 5, our team is dedicated to building an inclusive, transparent, and brand-compliant global network. By focusing on public relations, impact reporting, website administration, and close collaboration with key arms like Rotaract and Digital Innovation, we are setting the stage for a highly visible and interconnected organization.

Our most immediate milestone is the July 1 launch, which requires shifting from broad planning to a concrete, minimum viable communications package. To achieve this, we are finalizing a global ICC core message, standard descriptions, and informative flyers to give District

Meet The Teams: Communications Workgroup

>>> leaders and clubs a clear, unified understanding of our value proposition. Hand in hand with this messaging is the historic rollout of the first official ICC newsletter system. Backed by a structured six-month publication calendar, this new platform will deliver project highlights, Rotaract updates, and quarterly impact reports directly to our community, preceded by a pilot issue as a proof of concept.

To sustain this ecosystem, we are introducing a global success-story submission pipeline designed to capture robust project data, preserve institutional memory, and feed content directly into Rotary magazines and our digital media channels. Concurrently, our technical team is building out a streamlined website architecture to house basic resources, leadership toolkits, and archives. For seamless operations, we have established a clear governance model to handle editorial approvals, brand compliance, website publishing, and translation coordination efficiently.

Looking ahead through the 2026–2028 cycle, our targets focus heavily on global reach and inclusivity. We are committed to publishing multilingual quarterly impact reports, starting with the official Rotary languages in our first year and expanding to over fifteen languages by June 2028. This directly supports our broader strategic goal of achieving at least 30% participant engagement in non-English languages. Furthermore, youth leadership remains at the heart of our strategy, as we aim for 60% Rotaract co-leadership participation across our communication initiatives. By securing the necessary technical access and administrative support from the Executive Council, our working group is fully prepared to deliver a sustainable, professional storytelling framework that amplifies our peacebuilding impact worldwide.

Meet The Teams: Future Vision Workgroup

Giuseppe Mosci, Walter Ebner, Alberto Guerra, Nada Ghanem, Andrei Botez, Sridhar Jagannathan, Edgard Cyr Tougouma

STRATEGY PARAGRAPH for “THE BRIDGE” #1 –July 2026

As for any kind of activity or professional filed, to be able to give at least an idea of what they may be and look at in the “future” it is in our opinion mandatory to know about the history and more relevant the perception of the item under analysis.

This has to apply to ICC too.

As far history is concerned there is a great number of documentation concerning ICCs.

A roadmap to inform and divulgate this treasure may be arranged together with the WG Public Image & Communication and WG Expansion.

Stated ICC is compliant with R.I. rules (COP) the “core” point in basically the awareness past and current by the Rotarian world.
And about non-Rotarian world?

The question then is: are Rotarians, at large, aware of ICCs?

From the brainstorming within the WG Future Vision, integrated with the WG Expansion action plan and presented outside ICC by the WG Communication following the coordinated image new approach, a survey is under its definition and will be shared shortly.

The action is to establish a Roadmap starting from this base, enlarge awareness, get to basic Rotary behaviours to maintain members, get new ones, as per the Rotary International Action Plan.

Multicultural Convention

A PRIVATE ROTARY CRUISE
ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA



An experience
not to be missed
in **MAY 2028**



Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

3000 Rotarians

Chance for collaboration between 70 districts

Rotarian Fellowships

Giant "End Polio" Flashmob

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Dear Rotary Leaders, dear Rotarian Friends
What makes this cruise a journey worth joining for you?

- Unique setting for fellowship - Strengthen Rotary friendships while enjoying the related and inspiring atmosphere of a cruise.
- Networking with leaders - Connect with Rotary Governors and members from around the world in a dynamic, informal environment.
- A blend of learning and leisure - Enriching Rotary sessions combined with unforgettable travel experiences.
- Cultural discovery - Explore new destinations together, sharing experiences that create lasting bonds.
- Celebrating the Rotary spirit - Live the values of Rotary in an exceptional setting that combines service, fellowship, and fun.
- Unforgettable memories - Create moments with fellow Rotarians that go far beyond a traditional conference hall.
- Inspiration at sea - Let the beauty of the voyage inspire fresh ideas and renewed energy for Rotary projects.

Together we can make history!

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

What are the benefits?

- Accommodation included - Comfortable cabins with all the amenities you need for a relaxing stay.
- Full board dining - Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included, with a variety of international and local cuisines.
- Onboard activities - Access to entertainment, shows, fitness and wellness facilities.
- Rotary events & sessions - Inspiring meetings, keynote speeches and workshops with Rotary leaders.
- Excursions & cultural discovery - Organized shore trips to explore destinations along the route.
- Networking opportunities - Daily chances to connect with fellow Rotarians from around the globe.
- Leisure & relaxation - Pools, spa, lounges and plenty of time to recharge.

ALL IN ONE PACKAGE
Travel, fellowship and fun in a single unforgettable experience.

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Rotary Moments & Events

- Social Dinners**
Evenings of friendship and networking
- Community Projects**
Impactful initiatives supporting local communities
- Celebrations & Anniversaries**
Events marking special milestones
- Joint Club Meetings**
Collaborative gatherings with other clubs
- Awards & Recognition**
Acknowledging achievements
- Honors & Distinctions**
Honoring members' achievements

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Rotary Fellowships on Board

- Art & Culture Fellowship
- Running Fellowship
- Photography Fellowship
- Tennis Fellowship
- Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors
- Entrepreneurs
- Wine Appreciation Fellowship
- Golf Fellowship

And more other that will be provided in the final program

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Fun & Entertainment on Board

- Karaoke
- Creative Workshop
- Table Tennis
- Talent Show
- Volley on Deck
- Card Games
- Live Music
- Photo Contest
- Movie Night
- Rotary Project Exhibition

Every night we enjoy competitions, music and fun moments TOGETHER

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Estimated Cost

The costs have been calculated per person, based on double occupancy (two guests per cabin). This means that each participant will share a cabin with another guest or his / her partner. If you prefer to have a cabin for single use, the cost will be doubled, except for the participation fee, which remains unchanged.

The approximate prices at this time are:

- Inside Cabin** - 1100 places x € 794 /person
- Outside Cabin** - 750 places x € 934 /person
- Balcony Cabin** - 1050 places x € 1064 /person

+ € 700 participation fee

Optional services

- Internet** - € 100 / person
- Upgrade Package** - € 200 / person

In the near future, we will determine the exact prices and send them to you

For reference, participation at an international Rotarian event may involve certain costs, including accommodation in the range of €100-150 per night, a registration fee beginning at €500 per person. Individual districts typically price between €10-50 per evening, and national meeting social events, estimated at approximately €100 per person, per night.

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

Join us on Board!
"Rotary is not just about meetings, it's about meaning."

- This multicultural convention at sea isn't just a cruise.
- It's an opportunity to connect with Rotarians from around the world, to learn, to relax, to grow.
- New ideas are born here.
- Friendships are strengthened here.
- Together, we build a stronger future for our clubs and our communities.

Set sail with us. Unite in purpose. Celebrate in diversity.

Rotary
2021 Rotarians & Rotarians Meeting

SCAN THE QR CODE TO:

- View this brochure in digital format
- Watch a short video about how the boats are made
- Join our WhatsApp group
- Save our digital business card
- Pre-registration

MBIMB March -April Newsletter

Click to Read

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/1c911038ce.html>

Under MBIMB -edited programme by ICC, in an agreement signed in 2024 in London

We're # asking you to do three simple things with our latest MBIMB Foundation

#Newsletter that can make a real difference

#Read it—See the impact for yourself

#Download it—Keep it, use it, share it

#Share it—Help these life-changing messages reach even more children.

Our latest My Body Is My Body newsletter is now live —and it's filled with powerful, real-life stories from people just like you who are helping children stay safe, confident, and heard. Be part of something life-changing. Be part of building safer futures for every child.

#BuildingSaferFuturesTogether #ChildSafety #Safeguarding #Prevention #ProtectChildren #MBIMB
#TogetherWeCanPlease

visit <https://www.mbimb.org> & <https://share.google/k5Uzcu95orlykJYN7>




**AFRICA
RISING**
Grow to Serve

Rotary 
Zone 22

7th ALL AFRICA
ZONE INSTITUTE
UGANDA 2026

**SPEKE RESORT
MUNYONYO - KAMPALA**
Thursday, October 1 to
Saturday October 3, 2026

**OVER 1000
ALREADY
REGISTERED**

Extended rates from June 1, 2026, to July 31, 2026.

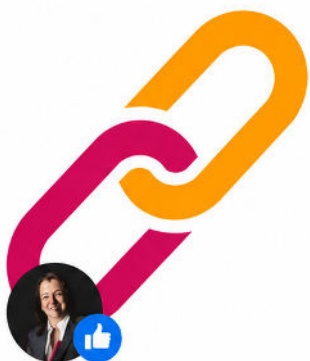
380 US\$	220 US\$
Rotarians Spouses Guests	Rotaractors

Secure your seat NOW.
Register on:
africazoneinstitute.org

**UP TO 31
JULY**

Rotary

European Action Summit



TO BELONG
THE POWER OF
CONNECTION AND ACTION
ROTTERDAM 2026