



Document No.14

Cancellation of WAGGGS Membership

Agenda Item No.7

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WAGGGS Constitution states that, "If a Member Organization of the World Association ceases to comply with any of the conditions mentioned in Article 8 or 9, its continuing Membership shall be considered by the World Board. Membership may be suspended by the World Board between meetings of the World Conference and may be cancelled by the Full Members' meeting at the next World Conference" WAGGGS' Constitution, Part II, Membership, Article 13.

The World Board, through the Regional Committee, works with Member Organizations to ensure that they provide quality Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to their members. However, if the Member Organization concerned continually fails to meet the criteria and conditions as laid down in the Constitution and Bye-Laws of WAGGGS, the World Board will recommend suspension and ultimately cancellation of its Membership to the World Conference.

The Western Hemisphere Regional Committee has proposed the cancellation of one Member Organization to the World Board in accordance with WAGGGS' Suspension and Cancellation Policy. The Association has been under suspension for over three years. There is not a functioning organization in the country and the Western Hemisphere Regional Committee is satisfied that appropriate efforts were made to support the Member Organization without any success. The decision to present an Association for cancellation of its Membership is not taken lightly. The Western Hemisphere Regional Committee has followed the progress of this Member Organization and has taken this decision based on a comprehensive evaluation by both Regional Committee and regional staff. The Cancellation of Membership is the last step in a series of actions outlined in the Suspension and Cancellation of Membership Policy, W.B. 3378 Appendix 1.

ASOCIACIÓN GUÍAS SCOUT DEL URUGUAY

Description

Uruguay is located in southern South America, between Argentina and Brazil and it borders the South Atlantic Ocean. With a population of 3,316,328 (of which 1,715,601 are female) the country is considered one of the most progressive countries within the subcontinent in terms of political and labour conditions. Uruguay has a population of 378,499 individuals between the age of 5 and 19 which is the age bracket WAGGGS would consider as potential members. At birth the rate of boys is slightly higher than the rate of girls (1.04/1). The country is characterized by its high public spending, which even during a recession, allowed GDP to grow by 6% in 2011. The work force is highly educated and the literacy rate is 98%. School life expectancy for young women is 17 years (primary to tertiary education) while for males it is 14.

Report

Guiding: Background Information

Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting activities started in the country in 1924 and the Asociación de Guías Scout del Uruguay became members of WAGGGS in 1966 (they changed their name to the current one in 1974).

From the beginning of the year 2000, the work and membership of the association started to deteriorate. Through this period the Western Hemisphere Regional Committee and the Development Executive supported the association through visits and remote support. The Regional Committee proposed a development and recruitment plan to the Member Organization. In 2006, after having evaluated the performance assessment of this Member Organization, it was evident that no progress was made despite the support given. The Western Hemisphere Regional Committee informed Uruguay about their concerns and in 2007 the Development Executive visited the Member Organization. During the visit, agreements were made with the Association to define a renewed development and recruitment plan. However after the visit the MO never sent any plan or communication related to the agreements taken with the Development Executive. At that point in time the Association had 71 members.

In 2008 the Regional Committee submitted a report to the WB during their residential meeting (2 –

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3 October 2008) and the 10 November 2008 the World Board Chair wrote to the Member Organization to inform them that they were suspended. In this letter the possibility to cancel the Association during the 2011 World Conference was mentioned.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011 there were a few exchanges with the Association which was functioning and communicating through a temporary national board. The Association reported never having received the letter of November 2008 and refused to be suspended. After further exchanges in March 2011, the International Commissioner accepted suspension by email. During its meeting in February 2012 the Regional Committee decided to send another letter to Uruguay informing that they would recommend cancellation to the WB according to the Suspension and Cancellation of Membership Policy, W.B. 3378 Appendix 1.

Country indicators suggest that there is great potential for the development of Girl Guiding, Girl Scouting and WAGGGS in Uruguay. However the current WAGGGS Member Organization from the beginning of the year 2000 has not shown any interest in developing this potential.

Conclusion

The WH Regional Committee has done all it can in order to support the Member Organization remotely and through visits. It is evident that nothing more can be done. The Association is not in a position to comply with the constitutional requirements for Full Membership as outlined in WAGGGS Constitution and should have its Membership cancelled.

Upon the decision of the 35th World Conference to cancel Membership, the Region will need to ensure the individuals will not be allowed to continue using WAGGGS emblems, logo and image in the country as efforts to start a new organization and develop WAGGGS membership could be undertaken. The country's female population and level of social development indicates that WAGGGS could optimistically plan efforts to start Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting again in Uruguay.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Membership of the <i>Asociación Guías Scout del Uruguay</i> , the National Organization of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, be cancelled with immediate effect.
