

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

DOCUMENT

8

35th
WORLD SCOUT
CONFERENCE

35^e CONFERENCE
MONDIALE
DU SCOUTISME

SOUTH
AFRICA
1999



The World Scout Bureau has received an application for membership of the World Organization of the Scout Movement from the following National Scout Organizations:

Albania
Besa Skaut Albania

Bhutan
Bhutan Scout Association
(Bhutan Scout Tshugpa)

Bosnia and Herzegovina
The Council of Scout Associations
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mozambique
Liga dos Escuteiros de Moçambique

Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Scout Association of St Vincent and The Grenadines

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the World Organization, the World Scout Committee considered these applications at its meeting on 20-21 March 1999, and recommended that they be accepted.

The corresponding vote by the World Scout Conference will be taken on Monday 26 July during the Preparatory Session. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required.

ALBANIA
BESA SKAUT ALBANIA

Albania is situated in the Balkan area on the Adriatic sea. Its total population is approximately 3,3 million; the capital city is Tirana. Albania has a very low GNP per capita which was estimated by the World Bank in 1996 at US\$ 820.

Albania was a member of the World Scout Movement from 1922 to 1939 when its activities terminated as a result of political events on the eve of World War II. Scouting re-started in Albania when political changes and the introduction of democracy made it possible to create on May 18, 1991 the first Scout troop in the country.

The National Scout Organization bears the name of Besa Skaut Albania. Its present membership is 1150. The Association is open to both sexes and comprises Scout troops both multiconfessional, and confessional linked to the different religions present in Albania, all with the same rights and duties.

The first Constitutional Congress of Besa Skaut Albania was held in 1992, and the first National Jamboree in 1994. Until 1996, when a second National Jamboree was organized, the Association developed its training programme as well as its activities all over the country. During the years 1997-1999, it was very difficult to organize Scout camps and activities in nature because of the political riots and total devastation of the country. Besa Scouts and leaders tried hard to keep the Movement going during that period. They contributed to the implementation of projects linked to the emergency situation such as "Instead of Bullets - Flowers", "A Friend rather than an Enemy", "Challenge for Rehabilitation of Children under Stress". In September 1997, the Association was invited by the Ministry of Culture to organize the national activity in memory of Mother Teresa, who was of Albanian origin.

Besa Skaut Albania has been regularly assisted by the European Scout Office and the World Scout Bureau since 1991, as well as by European WOSM members.

BHUTAN
BHUTAN SCOUT
ASSOCIATION
(BHUTAN SCOUT TSHUGPA)

The Kingdom of Bhutan is situated in the eastern Himalayas, bounded on the north by China and on all other sides by India. Its total population is approximately 715,000. The capital city is Thimphu. Isolated for centuries, the Kingdom of Bhutan is gradually opening to the world, while protecting its traditions and untouched nature.

Although the first contacts with Scouting took place in the late 70's thanks to the initiative of the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Office and the neighbouring Indian Scouting, the decision to create real Scout troops in Bhutan was only taken in the early 90's. A first winter Scout camp started in 1991 and with the support of the government it has become an annual event. The further development of Scouting took place under the leadership of the Youth Welfare Association, and in 1996 the Scout youth programme was introduced to the schools of the Kingdom.

Presently, the Bhutan Scout Association has 1,145 members, boys and girls, mainly school-based. Due to the special geography of the country, Scouting's expansion is progressing slowly to the different Dzongkhags (districts). Leader training courses have been organized during the past two years with the assistance of the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Office and several WOSM Member Organizations in the Region. In the religious field, the Association is guided by the Dharma (mainly Mahayana Buddhism), but Scout groups composed of members of other religions can operate on an equal level. Health festival celebrations and trekking activities have been undertaken on a regular basis since 1997.

Bhutan Scouts and leaders have taken part in Asia-Pacific regional activities in the past two years as well as in the 19th World Scout Jamboree in Chile.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
THE COUNCIL OF SCOUT
ASSOCIATIONS IN
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina is situated in the Balkans in the south east part of Europe. It borders Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Bosnia and Herzegovina comprises two entities: The Republic of Srpska with Banja Luka as its main city, and The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Sarajevo and Mostar as its main cities. The capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina is Sarajevo, which hosted the winter Olympics in 1984. The population of the country is estimated to be about 3 million people with approximately half a million in Sarajevo.

Scouting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, remained active for a period in the former Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, and it used to be the most popular youth organization in that part of the country. Following the dissolution, in 1991, of the socialist State into a number of sovereign entities, Scouting was reorganized and structured on the basis of the newly independent State of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1992, the activities of the association were brought to a standstill by the tragic war in the country. During the war a considerable part of the equipment and premises were lost, however, immediately after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in Paris on 21 November 1995, Scouting resumed in the two entities defined by the agreement.

Technically, the Council of Scouting in Bosnia and Herzegovina comprises two Associations each active in one of the entities agreed upon in the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Associations, The Scout Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Scout Association of Republic of Srpska, have in close cooperation with the World Scout Bureau developed identical constitutions and signed a contract which constitutes a temporary federation. This federation will be dissolved and one proper Scout association created as soon as the political circumstances allow for it.

Due to the extreme complexity of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the World Scout Committee has been very careful in the recognition process of Scouting in the country. Over the last two years several visits have been made to Bosnia and Herzegovina and representatives from the Associations have been invited to meetings in Switzerland to work on the constitutional aspects.

Now Scouting in Bosnia and Herzegovina has approximately 8,000 members equally distributed in the two entities. The activities of the Associations are designed to meet the needs of young people and to assist the development of the society. Scouts in Bosnia and Herzegovina have recently assisted in setting up refugee camps for the people from Kosovo coming to Sarajevo and the Associations have developed a very useful land-mine awareness programme for young people.

The Associations organize regular training courses in the fields of programme implementation, management and the development of the Movement. The Associations are still struggling with infrastructure problems in the country such as the lack of efficient telephone lines and other communication channels. These problems will hopefully be overcome over the coming years with the general development of the country.

MOZAMBIQUE

LIGA DOS ESCUTEIROS DE MOÇAMBIQUE

Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, is an African country located in the southern cone of the continent on the Indian Ocean. Its total population is estimated at approximately 18 million. The capital city is Maputo. Mozambique is one of the least developed countries. With an estimated GNP per capita of US\$ 80, it is considered, together with Ethiopia, the poorest country in the world according to the 1996 World Bank ranking of economies based on GNP per capita.

Scouting in Mozambique started in the 60's and became a territorial division of Portuguese Scouting. In 1975, the Central Committee of the FRELIMO ruling Party decided to disband all youth associations in the country in favour of the unique Mozambique Youth Organization. It was only in 1994 that Scouting was again allowed to exist and on 6 November of that year a Constitutional Assembly decided to create the *Liga dos Escuteiros de Moçambique* (LEMO).

LEMO has a present membership of 17,000 members, boys and girls, divided into 371 groups all around the country. It is a multiconfessional association. Its National Headquarters is located in Maputo where the association also runs a sea base in the suburb of Catembe. The 16 square kilometer island of Xefina, located 30 minutes cruise off Maputo, has been given by the State authorities to LEMO to be used as their national Scout campsite.

LEMO is one of the few nation-wide Youth NGOs which is respected not only by all administrative and traditional authorities but also supported by the government and the private sector. It is also praised by United Nations agencies, in particular by UNICEF and UNESCO for the efficient and regular involvement of the Scouts in social, health, post-war rehabilitation, and environment protection projects.

Over the past years, LEMO took an active part in the Southern Zone Scout Co-ordination, led by the Africa Scout Office in collaboration with the South African Scout Association. LEMO has also developed an efficient co-operation link with Portuguese Scouting and with the Portuguese speaking Scout community. A patrol of Mozambican Scouts participated in the 19th World Scout Jamboree in Chile.

**SAINT VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES
SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF
ST VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES**

St Vincent is an island of the Lesser Antilles, situated in the Eastern Caribbean between St Lucia and Grenada, from which it is separated by a chain of small islands known as the Grenadines. The population is approximately 112,000 and the capital city is Kingstown.

The Association enjoys the status of Accredited National Scout Organization since 1990 when the World Scout Committee reported to the 32nd World Scout Conference its decision to include, in accordance with the WOSM Constitution, the Scout Association of St Vincent and The Grenadines in the official list of Scout Organizations

With a current membership of 1,017, the Association of St Vincent and The Grenadines now satisfies the conditions for WOSM membership. The World Scout Committee, after having investigated the corresponding application by the Association, considers that the requirements laid down by Article V of the WOSM Constitution are fulfilled, and recommends to the World Scout Conference to grant it WOSM membership.