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INTERAMERICAN POLICY OF
REGIONAL NETWORKS



SCOUTS
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INTERAMERICAN POLICY OF REGIONAL NETWORKS

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INTERAMERICAN POLICY OF REGIONAL NETWORKS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Interamerican Scout Region was the first to be constituted in the perspective of the World Organization of the Scout Organization (WOSM). It was created in 1946. It emerged from the clear conscience of the leaders of their National Scout Organizations (NSOs) that it was necessary to establish a close collaboration between them to spread Scouting more successfully in their countries.

In this way, the first step was taken in the evolution of the integration process in the region at the political level. Its Regional Constitution was formulated, its regional bodies were created and regulated, which have been updated and nowadays they are maintained. This model was then reproduced by the other Regions of the Organization.

This process of integration continued its evolution, and in the 90's it resulted in the need to generate spaces to address issues of common interest, considered before only as technical, which are now closely linked to the strategic areas of the task of our region. This requirement was met by the Regional Committee who adopted the agreements that created the first regional networks and its Terms of Reference, defining their scope and their way of operate. Since then, the Regional Networks have operated almost uninterruptedly, carrying out tasks and contributions such as the preparation of educational materials and instruments for measuring the performance of NSOs, as an example the Route to Excellence, among many others.

The positive assessment of the NSOs in the integration process of the Region at a technical level, expressed in the work of the Regional Networks, brought as a consequence that the Resolution 02/16 was promoted and approved in the 26th Interamerican Scout Conference held in Houston, which recommends to the regional team the elaboration of a policy that provides a framework for their strengthening, that is, to institutionalize them definitively as a space for exchanging information and experiences for the NSOs and the regional bodies, for the addressing of issues related to the strategic areas or that are transversal to the work of the region; which has been fulfilled with this instrument.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to institutionalize the work of the Regional Networks, which address issues of a technical nature directly linked to the Strategic Areas: Youth Programme, Adults in Scouting and Institutional Development; and with cross-cutting issues, as Youth Involvement, Communications, among others.

Recognizing and valuing the work in networks as a process of learning and collective construction among NSOs, involves the need to regulate and systematize the working characteristics and methods for the exchange of experiences generated by each one of them.

3. SUBJECTS

The present policy involves all the NSOs recognized by WOSM that make up the Interamerican Scout Region and its regional organizations: Regional Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau – Interamerican Region.

These subjects will have representation in the Regional Networks in accordance with what is expressed in the content of this policy.

4. PRINCIPLES

- **Alignment and Coherence**

The focus, work and products generated by the Regional Networks will be totally and perfectly aligned with the regulatory framework of WOSM, the Interamerican Region and all current plans, policies and programs.

- **Technical Nature**

The Regional Networks have as their only axis the approach of technical issues related to strategic areas: Youth Programme, Adults in Scouting and Institutional Development. The Interamerican Youth Network is an exception to this principle, since it deals with a cross-cutting theme of the whole region, such as Youth Involvement.

- **Collaboration and Exchange**

The work in the Regional Networks promotes the permanent exchange among its actors, sharing information, documents, tools, experiences and good practices, promoting the construction of collective knowledge in a collaborative way and processes of continuous improvement.

- **Participation and Equality**

All subjects of this policy have the right to participate in the Regional Networks. Their participation is carried out under conditions of equality, understanding that they are all actors of the same level, although with different roles and approaches, but with the same make-decision power. The participation process must be educational, with continuous enrichment and feedback.

- **Use of Technology**

The Regional Networks will try at all times of their work to incorporate and make use of the available technologies.

- **Innovation**

The work developed by the Regional Networks will seek to be innovative and creative, will be aimed at identifying developments and opportunities that occur within or outside the institution and will seek its best application in it.

- **Continuity of the Process**

The exchange of information and experiences in the Regional Networks has no beginning or end, it is a continuous process. For this reason, the Regional Networks, as a space for this process to occur, must operate in a constant and uninterrupted manner, systemic and interconnected, so that the values, maturity and institutional intelligence become strengthened, promoting that its members transmit the information to the internal levels of their respective NSOs in a constant and fluid way.

- **Synergy**

All the Regional Networks must work in a cooperative and complementary manner, understanding that the work of each of them represents an important and significant contribution to the NSOs and that the final sum is greater than the sum of its parts.

- **Growth Orientation**

The work in the Networks will be aimed in generating inputs and tools that favor the sustainable growth of the NSOs of the Region and their institutional strengthening by sharing good

5. IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

WOSM, its member organizations, its global and regional bodies, the processes and relationships that develop between each one of them, weave an institutional framework, which forms a network.

Networking is generated through communication and the collaboration that takes place between its different actors. Communication allows to inform, share knowledge and interact with other individuals, generating collaboration among them, learning, the generation of new experiences and the exchange of good practices.

The NSOs share the Mission and the Vision of WOSM, however, their environment, history and culture is particular, this means that in each one of them valuable experiences are generated for the other organizations. Networking favors exchange and strengthens the ability to respond to the challenges presented by the environment.

Regional Networks allow NSOs to save resources. Being able to share experiences and their successful results or not, is valuable information that can be used in the decision-making processes to better evaluate the possible alternatives, which initially may seem viable, but in practice have not turned out to be; all of which results in the saving of resources and efforts, especially time.

6. NETWORKS PURPOSE

The purpose of the Regional Networks is to create a place for the exchange between the NSOs in conjunction with the Regional bodies, on technical issues related to the strategic areas; in order to share information, documents, tools, strategies and their outcomes, experiences and best practices, as well as contribute to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Regional Plan, all aimed while promoting the sustainable growth of NSOs and their institutional strengthening.

7. STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

Each of the Regional Networks is made up by the representatives of the NSOs who will be known as National Representatives, and by the members of the Coordinating Core of the Network.

- **The National Representatives**

Those who hold a position at the national level will be appointed by their respective NSO (whether volunteer or paid staff) that is directly linked to the theme of the Network in which they participate. Each NSO must designate one National Representative in each of the Regional Networks. The designation must remain in force for at least one year. Other person (s) that the NSO considers as valuable contribution to the operation of the network may be integrated into the network, however, this person (s) is/are not considered as national representatives.

Functions of the National Representatives in the Networks:

- Maintain contact with the Coordinating Core of the Network and with the rest of the National Representatives that are part of the Network.
- Participate in the meetings, whether these are in person or virtual.

- Perform the tasks to which they have committed themselves in agreement with the Coordinating Core.
- Disseminate the materials and documents received from the Coordinating Core of the Network within its NSO and promote its use.
- Serve as a communication channel between his/her NSO and the Network transmitting the contributions, comments and opinions that are generated about the materials or topics developed on the Network.
- Make contributions and/or participate in the construction of the products and tools that the Network has proposed to generate.

- **The Coordinating Core**

In each of the Regional Networks, it will be composed of: a representative of the Regional Committee appointed by this body, a representative of the Regional Office, designated by the Regional Director, and a Volunteer National Representative of any of the active NSOs in the corresponding Network; which will be proposed by the Regional Office and ratified by the Regional Committee. The designation of the members of the Coordinating Core of the Networks will be made at the beginning of each triennium and will remain in effect for the entire period.

Functions of the Coordinating Core in the Networks:

- Generate and manage communication and meetings between the National Representatives together with the Regional bodies.
- Be the secretariat of the Network and, based on this, propose the working agenda, coordinate the work of the members of the Network, follow up and assist it and periodically report its performance to the Regional Committee.
- In close coordination with the Regional Office, formulate the Network program of activities, in accordance with the approved regional budget.
- Be a guarantor that the Network works in accordance with the principles of this policy and the Scouting values.

8. WORKING METHODS

- **Meetings**

The Regional Networks will organize periodic meetings; these meetings can be face-to-face or virtual. In the same way, meetings may be held at the level of the entire Interamerican Region or at the sub regional level. The Coordinating Core of the Networks will be responsible for organizing these meetings, taking into account the opinion of the National Representatives and always proceeding in close coordination with the Regional Office.

- **Communication and Channels**

The communication between the members of the Regional Networks will be horizontal, fluid, free and permanent. Each of the Regional Networks will decide the communication channels that will be used, which will be duly informed to all its members.

- **Information repositories**

Because one of the fundamental purposes of the Regional Networks is to share information, the Coordinating Core will be responsible for the creation of repositories of information, where the information shared can be concentrated, cataloged, consulted and made available to the members of the Network.

9. THE INTERAMERICAN YOUTH NETWORK

▪ ***Sui Générés* Nature of the Youth Network**

Understanding that Youth Involvement is a cross-cutting issue throughout our institution's work; therefore, it is not limited to only one or several of its strategic areas but to all equally, the Interamerican Youth Network is considered a special case and different from the rest of the Regional Networks, especially in what has to do with its objective, structure, constitution and functioning.

▪ **Objectives**

- Facilitate and stimulate the interconnection and exchange of best practices among its members and promote experiences of shared work, as a permanent process of shared knowledge construction at the regional level.
- Participate in the preparation of material that promotes the exchange of information among young people, international cooperation, and youth participation in decision-making processes as the develop of their capacities and leadership.
- Provide the tools for young people to influence in the decision-making within the Scout Movement.

▪ **Structure**

The Interamerican Youth Network is a network of networks; therefore, it is made up of all national youth networks. The coordination of the Network is carried out through the participation of its national representatives and a Coordinating Core.

The Coordinating Core of the Network is made up of a Coordinator and a Communicator who are elected during the Regional Forum, an executive of the World Scout Bureau - Interamerica Support Center and a member of the Interamerican Scout Committee. The Coordinator and the Communicator of the Interamerican Youth Network will exercise their functions for the period that elapses between the Interamerican Youth Forum in which they are elected and their next edition.

▪ **Functions.**

The Youth Network can be defined as an open place for participation, in which, various topics, projects and activities are treated. Similarly, it encourages collaboration between associations for the development of projects and to strengthen the Scout brotherhood. It has the flexibility to create specific working groups according to the needs and / or projects emanating from the Network.

The activities and projects of the Network can be developed at the local, national or regional level, as long as they meet the objectives, Mission and Vision of the Scout Movement. The activities of the Network will be defined by the members of the Network.

The Network keeps in touch through newsletters, email groups, blogs or any electronic means that will allow everyone to be aware of what is happening.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Of the National Scout Organizations**

The NSOs of the Region are responsible for making the designations of their National Representatives in the Networks, and in the case of the Youth Network to give the necessary support for their youth representatives to participate in the Regional Youth Fora, and to support their active participation in the Regional Networks to which they are integrated.

- **From the Regional Committee**

The Regional Committee, as a governing body, is responsible for appointing its representatives in the Coordinating Core of the Networks, ensuring that they fulfill their role as a link between each Network and the Regional Scout Committee, see that their contribution is significant and receive the reports that they present, obtaining from them all the information and usefulness that is possible.

- **From the Regional Office**

The Regional Office in its role as executive and technical body is responsible for being a permanent actor in the functioning of the networks, making a significant contribution in its management and providing the necessary support, as well as supporting with the resources allocated to this purpose; all this through their executives appointed to join the related Coordinating Core and in the accompaniment of the Interamerican Youth Network.

11. REVIEW AND UPDATE

Networking is a dynamic process adjusted to the needs, priorities, developments and NSOs challenges in accordance with the regulatory and strategic framework of the organization. For this reason, the operation of networks must be flexible and constantly adapting to respond to changes in the environment.

The present policy will be constantly reviewed and updated, since it is part of a process of continuous improvement. A thorough evaluation will be carried out within a period of no more than nine years, beginning from the approval of this policy.