



**33.27**  
**May 2008**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**TO: Member Organizations**  
**Members of the World Board**  
**And all other Conference Participants**

We are now sending you documents relating to six countries that are applying for Full Membership of WAGGGS and three countries whose Associate Membership needs ratification by the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Conference. The World Board will be presenting these nine countries to the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Conference in July 2008.

We hope that the documentation is clear but if you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact us before the World Conference. Such requests should be directed to Mary Mc Phail at the World Bureau, to arrive no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June. We will respond directly to you or, if necessary, provide clarification in the relevant plenary session at the World Conference.

Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Conference.

**ELSPETH HENDERSON**  
Chairman, World Board



Document 4

# MEMBERSHIP

Agenda Item 7

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Associate Membership: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</b> .....	2
<b>2. Associate Membership: Lithuania</b> .....	5
<b>3. Associate Membership: Syria</b> .....	8
<b>4. Full Membership: Burundi</b> .....	11
<b>5. Full Membership: Chad</b> .....	14
<b>6. Full Membership: Dominica</b> .....	17
<b>7. Full Membership: Hungary</b> .....	20
<b>8. Full Membership: Malawi</b> .....	23
<b>9. Full Membership: Russia</b> .....	26

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) formerly known as Zaire, is the third largest country in Africa with a population of 64.5 million people and 60 per cent of this figure are young people. It shares borders with Sudan, Central African Republic, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola. Formerly a Belgian colony, DRC became independent in 1960 and soon after, civil war broke out. The country has experienced internal strife for over 40 years with an estimated 3.8 million people killed and many thousands displaced. With the signing of the peace agreement in January 2008, the country can now concentrate on building the much needed infrastructure and economy, and address the many needs of its people. During the conflict years girls, young women and women were subjected to sexual violence and abuse which increased numbers of HIV/AIDS cases among the youth as well as adolescent pregnancy. The young people face many challenges such as unemployment, HIV/AIDS and other health issues including malnutrition, malaria, sexual violence and early marriages.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

Guiding was introduced to DRC by Catholic and Protestant Missionaries as early as 1928. The first official unit was opened in Elisabethville in 1937 and Guiding quickly spread to other towns and rural areas. In 1950, Lady Baden-Powell visited DRC and met Guides and Leaders in Leopoldville. In 1963, Leslie Whateley, the former Director, World Bureau, visited DRC to assist the country in its preparation for Membership of the World Association. L' Association des Guides du Zaire was accepted into Associate Membership at the 21<sup>st</sup> World Conference held in June 1972. Five months after acceptance into Membership, the then government banned all youth organizations and created one youth movement under the government. Guiding was restarted in 1991, 23 years after suppression. Between 1992 and 2007 the Association has been rebuilding itself with support from the Africa Region. Today Guiding can be found in schools, cultural meeting places, parishes, other religious groupings and structures where there are youth activities. The activities offered through Guiding give girls and young women an opportunity for self-development as well as responding to the needs of their immediate communities.

#### **1. Educational programme**

Through the support given by the Africa Region, les Guides de la République Démocratique du Congo (GRDC) updated their educational programme in line with WAGGGS' Guidelines. The Association appointed a National Commissioner responsible for the educational programme and there is a team of Commissioners (representing the provinces) working together with the Commissioner for Programme. There is a programme for each branch; the Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

The programme offered is attractive with clear progression and responding to the needs of the community. For example, the Province of Nord Kivu which experiences a lot of difficulty due to the war, offers a programme on building peace based on their "Amahoro-Amani" experience. Girls and young women have camping opportunities and undertake many community development projects.

#### **2. Training**

There is a Team in charge of training and a National Commissioner for Training. Because of the long distance and difficulty in transport, most of the trainings are organized in provinces. Neighbouring provinces team up and are pulled together using their

respective Trainers. There are also visits within the province by the Commissioner and Trainers. There are: introductory, pre-warrant, warrant and specialized trainings.

GRDC also benefitted from training opportunities offered by other national organizations and international agencies, for example:

- Training for peer education on HIV/AIDS prevention, organized by the Réseau National des Associations Congolaises des Jeunes.
- Leadership and management training, organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in partnership with UNICEF.

### **3. Membership**

Guiding is open to girls and young women from all ethnic groups and religious backgrounds the three branches: Les Bengalis (5 to 11 years), Les Guides (12 to 17 years) and Les Ainees (Rangers) (over 17 years old).

GRDC has made tremendous efforts in relaunching Guiding in the country. Today there is Guiding in nine of 11 provinces in DRC, two more provinces than in 2005. Members are recruited through schools, churches, the Salvation Army and Kibanguistes. Some girls are Muslims recruited through community-based Guiding. Former Guides were recruited to assist in publicizing and supporting the Guide Movement (in Kasai Occidental and Lukala). The total number of 7,784 (census 2006-2007) is still a low figure compared to the total female youth in DRC, but this number shows a steady increase for the last two years. The bigger challenge for the Association is to ensure that there are both financial and human resources to support the growth.

### **4. Relationship to society**

GRDC is recognized by Government and invited to take part in activities organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Planning, the municipality of Kinshasa (8 million inhabitants) and in various provinces.

GRDC has developed partnerships with UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children, MONUC (UN in DRC); UNDP. GRDC produced a bulletin called "echos de l'AGC" with information and training programmes for the members.

GRDC in partnership with the "Association pour la Protection des Droits de la Femme" (Rights of Women) (APRODEF) which advocates for the rights of girls and women, provide informal education and training for income generating activities. They have developed programmes on self-esteem, security and social justice. The booklet is in French and in Kiswahili. There is a health centre in Kisenso which offers adolescent health care, education on HIV/AIDS, family planning, immunization and other health issues with the support from the government.

### **5. Structure and management**

The National Executive Committee which is responsible for the management of the Association, is made up of women from different age groups, backgrounds, experience and religion, meets once a month. The dynamic participation of the Provincial Commissioners and the Trainers during the assessment confirms the decentralization of the GRDC structures. There is good coordination despite decentralization, and a strong sense of belonging to one National Association and desire to be recognized officially as part of WAGGGS' family. GRDC's communication with the World Bureau has greatly improved. GRDC has developed a Strategic Plan for 2005 to 2008 with a budget. There is effective participation of young people at all levels in the Association.

## **6. Finances**

Apart from the membership annual fee, there is no steady source of income. As a result, a number of handicrafts have been introduced such as basket-making, crocheting and dressmaking as income generating activities. GRDC needs to develop a forceful fundraising strategy coupled with a clear financial policy (WAGGGS' Guidelines). Their strong relationship to society could be an opportunity for funding on projects such as HIV/AIDS, peace education among children, adolescent health and advocacy on the rights of the girl child i.e. campaign against Female Genital Mutilation, or child labour.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

### **Proposed Motion**

That the application of Les Guides de la République Démocratique du Congo, the National Organization of the Democratic Republic of Congo, be ratified by the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Conference for readmission as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## Lithuania

### INTRODUCTION

Lithuania lies in Eastern Europe, on the coast of the Baltic Sea. It borders with Latvia on the north, Byelorussia in the east and south and Poland and the Russian Federation in the south west. It lost its independence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and became part of Russia. It regained its sovereignty in 1920. It is the largest and most populous of the Baltic States. On 11<sup>th</sup> March 1990, the Republic was again proclaimed after over fifty years of Soviet occupation. Lithuania won international recognition and was admitted to the United Nations in September 1991. In 1993 it became a member of the Council of Europe and in 2003, joined the European Union. Lithuania is a country with a high average income. The country boasts a well developed modern infrastructure of railways, airports and four lane highways. It has almost full employment, with an unemployment rate of only 2.9%. The capital, Vilnius, is modernized and will be the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2009.

### REPORT

#### Guiding: Background information

Guiding was first introduced to Lithuania in 1926 and was banned during the Soviet rule. Immediately after Lithuania declared independence in 1990, Guiding was restarted with the help from Lithuania Girl Guides in exile. The Lithuanians in exile had formed Scouting and Girl Scouting as a vehicle to pass on the language, history and culture of their country. They followed the programme from the time before 1940 but lived without contact from other guides in the host country. They were reunited with their fellow country men and women when they came back to Lithuania.

Lithuania was among the first countries in Eastern Europe where WAGGGS and WOSM worked together to re-establish Guiding and Scouting. The idea was to form a SAGNO, bringing all the four Associations together. The formation of a SAGNO was not realised; instead WOSM created an Association admitting both males and females. A group of female leaders that did not join the Scouts formed a female-only organization, Lietuvos Skauciu Seserija-Lietuvos (LSS). The Europe Region maintained contacts with LSS, providing support through visits and training events.

#### 1. Educational programme

There is a programme available for each age section. The programme places emphasis on outdoor activities, Lithuanian folk art, but through the consequent use of the patrol system, they also try to strengthen partnership, responsibility and democracy.

The Promise and Law are clearly the base of the programme, and further developed using previous programmes as well as adding new elements. The programme has all the elements of a guiding educational programme and it appears to be having an impact on the girls and young women who are part of the Association.

#### 2. Training

The Associations' leader training is organized when needed. Training is always a part of leaders meetings. The Association does not have a Training Scheme yet. Some leaders can attend training in Denmark (The Danish Guide and Scout Association, DDS) and at a European Level, with Girl Guides/Girl Scouts from NATO countries based in Germany. The Association plans to invite more adults to experience Girl Guiding and involve them in the Movement. To establish a formal training scheme, the Association needs

assistance from experienced persons. The help of DDS and the Europe Region is valued and necessary. An exchange with Associations that are on a similar level within the European level would also be beneficial.

### **3. Membership**

The Lietuvos Skauciu Seserija-Lietuvos (LSS) is open to all girls and young women in the country without any distinction. There are groups in many regions of the country and most of the groups have all age branches. Only in the very small villages, children can not be divided into age categories. There is a good balance of numbers between girls and young women and leaders and the membership is still growing. As in many European societies, Lithuania has fewer children, but up to now, this fact has not affected the growth of LSS. The Association has 1400 members. As a strategy for recruiting new leaders, the Association has the idea of running a camp for adults who want to experience Girl Guiding.

The leaders are mainly teachers and seem to have good contact with each other. They meet regularly for organizational meetings and for training purposes.

### **4. Relationship to society**

LSS have good network with at least two female groups and some educational institutions. Girl Guiding is frequently mentioned in newspapers mainly on regional level. The Association also has a good relationship with schools and the schools administration. One of its members was recently honoured by the Ministry of Education for her Guiding activities. The Girl Guides have also formed a good relationship with the Ministry of Defence and have often used their equipment for camping.

Many groups play an active part in the small towns and villages, organize youth days and open events for young adults which are widely accepted. A new means of open communication is the website of the Association which has an open discussion-forum and has seen many visitors.

### **5. Structure and management**

The Association does not own headquarters or training centres, but it is recognised by the government so children meet in schools or youth centres or rooms offered by the parish of a village.

The LSS has no official office but members meet at the Chief Guides' apartment and at the house of the International Commissioner. The National Board usually meets at the Chief Commissioner's house or other Board member's house.

As regional leaders form a second circle with the National Board all information goes directly to all groups and the regions are involved in the decision making process. The Association has a flat management structure and this seems to be working well for the moment.

### **6. Finance**

The Association manages its finances reliably and are creative in fundraising. Money is raised from its members (quota) to cover their expenses. Costs are reduced as they do not pay a rent for offices and most of the equipment is loaned to the Association from schools or youth centres. The International Commissioner has looked into the possibility of obtaining grants, for example encouraging people to dedicate part of their taxes for LSS, which is possible in the tax-system of Lithuania. She also created a partnership with a printing company. There are many people involved in finance, in book-keeping, controlling, and fund raising.



**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

**Proposed Motion**

That the application of Lietuvos Skauciu Seserija-Lietuvos, (Girl Guides of Lithuania) the National Organization of Lithuania be ratified by the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Conference for readmission as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## Syria

### INTRODUCTION

The Syrian Arab Republic is located on the coast of the Mediterranean, bordering Turkey to the north, Iraq on the east, Palestine and Jordan to the south, and Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea on the west. The total surface area of the Syrian Arab Republic is 1,817,971 hectares, of which one third is agricultural land; the rest of its space consists of mountains and desert.

Syria is populated mainly by Arabs, who constitute about 90% of the population. The total population is about 18 million. The largest non-Arab minorities are Kurds, most of whom are concentrated along the Turkish border, and Armenians, who dwell chiefly in the larger cities. In terms of religion the overwhelming majority of the Syrian population is Sunni Muslim. Of the non-Muslims in Syria, most are Christians, primarily Greek and Armenian Orthodox. Other religious minorities include the Druze who follow a religion related to Islam.

Syria is primarily an agricultural country, and most workers engage in crop farming or herding for livelihood. Syria is heavily dependent on aid from the major Arab oil-producing states.

Women comprise about 27% of the labour force which is primarily concentrated in agriculture, medicine and teaching. The role of women is further restricted by constraints on funding, which is more readily allocated to men.

### REPORT

#### **Guiding: Background information**

Guiding and Scouting has been in existence in Syria since the 1950s. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Regional Conference was held in Damascus in 1970, followed by the Arab Committee Meeting in 1976. (This was the time when the Arab Region was still called the Arab Bureau) The dominating political party, the Baath Arab Socialist Party, banned all Youth Organizations, as they were influenced by extremist groups and could become a threat to the National security. As a result, the Guiding/Scouting Movement ceased to be officially recognized from the 1980s. Syria entered a new phase following the election of Bashar Al-Assad, the President of Syria and in July 2000 Guiding and Scouting was again allowed to operate.

There is a strong National Board Team that works well together. Their commendable and outstanding effort to re-launch Guiding/Scouting Movement in the Syrian society has not only been successful in recruiting new members, but also in gaining the full trust and credibility of the people. There is big potential for growth within the Association and this will have a great impact in shaping, developing and improving the position of women in the society. There is very good and strong cooperation between Guides and Scouts and many events and trainings are carried out jointly, however, most of their units are single-sex.

#### **1. Educational Programme**

Most of the Guiding/Scouting groups are single-sex units with mixed adult leadership. The Guides branch have recently developed their educational programme using the methodology and programme of the "Scouts et Guides de France" as a reference. There is a programme for each branch (Brownies, Guides, Senior and Ranger Guides). The programme is currently being closely monitored to ensure that it is fulfilling the needs

and aspirations of all members. Camping is very popular and is carried out regularly in all Regions.

A Committee has been formed to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the revised programme.

## **2. Training**

The training programme that is already in place is mostly carried out by the Scouts. The Guides Training Commissioners and Leaders are in need of WAGGGS' training. Regular training takes place for new and existing Leaders and is mostly carried out in camps.

There is a strong link between Programme and Training as it is the same team that is responsible for both. The Arab Committee will be working closely with the Association to provide the much needed training for the Leaders as well as work on the Training Scheme of the Association. The Committee is also looking at other ways of supporting the Association in adult training by involving countries such as Lebanon and Tunisia.

## **3. Membership**

Restarting Guiding/Scouting in Syria has proven to be exciting and rewarding for many former Scouts and Guides Leaders. The current membership figure is 1020 but a big increase is expected within the next triennium.

Guiding is open to girls and young women from all ethnic groups and religious backgrounds. The four main branches are: Brownies (7-11 years) Girl Guides (12-14 years), Senior Guides (15-17 years) and Ranger Guides (18-23 years).

Guiding is mostly carried out in clubs and local communities and includes a cross section of girls and young women from various backgrounds and faiths. Muslims and Christians work in good harmony. The former Guide/Scout Leaders are playing a pivotal role in the growth of the Association. Their dedication, hard work and true Guiding/Scouting spirit is very refreshing and rewarding to witness.

## **4. Relationship to Society**

A clear strategy has been developed to restart Guiding/Scouting and to regain the respect and popularity that the Movement once had within the Syrian community. The result is already very apparent as one can clearly see that Guiding/Scouting is rapidly gaining a high public image. Guides and Scouts take part in all national activities.

The Association has contact with other NGOs and other national charitable societies and has started some joint community projects, especially in awareness campaigns for issues affecting girls and young women. As the Association develops, attention will be given to developing contacts with the media as well as internal magazines.

## **5. Structure and Management**

The National Board comprises nine Members headed by the Chief Scout and includes two female Leaders. Their responsibility is leading and managing the organization in all its affairs. There are set roles and job descriptions for each Member of the National Board. Meetings are held very frequently. A good working relationship with all Members of the National Board has been developed. There is good communication between the organization and the World Bureau. The Guide Leaders attend all events of the Arab Region and are actively involved in all its work. They have shown great interest to host one of WAGGGS events and the next Arab Committee Meeting in 2009 will be held in Damascus.

The Arab Committee is committed to supporting the Guides in building a strong structure as a matter of priority. The Committee will also work with the Association to develop a focused Strategic Plan that will deliver high quality Guiding to all members.

## **6. Finance**

The rapid development of the Guiding/Scouting Movement at national level is largely due to the strong support it has from the Ministry of Youth.

At national level the organization has a steady income from the Ministry of Youth. However, each Guiding/Scouting group organizes its own fundraising and does not receive any subsidy from the Government.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

### **Proposed Motion**

That the application of Scouts of Syria (Guide Branch), the National Organization of Syria, be ratified by the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Conference as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## **Burundi**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Burundi is situated in central Africa and shares a border with Rwanda in the north, Tanzania in the east and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the west. It is a small country with 7.5 million inhabitants, 60% are young people under the age of 30 while 54% of the population are female.

Burundi was a German colony from 1896 to 1916 and then it was colonized by the Belgians until 1962. It became independent in 1962. For five centuries the country has been torn by ethnic and economic struggles involving the Hutu majority and the Tutsi. The country has experienced political unrest ever since it became independent.

Years of fighting have devastated a historically fragile economy that depends largely on subsistence agriculture.

Women's initiatives are encouraged and women are found in government posts. The majority of the population are Christians and there is a small percentage of Muslims. Burundi is one of the poorest counties in the world.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

Guiding was officially introduced in Burundi in 1955 and the Belgians in the country formed the first units and companies in Bujumbura and Gitega. The Association became autonomous in July 1962 when the country became independent and it took on the name of "Guides Catholiques". Between 1964 and 1970 WAGGGS supported the Association by sending a trainer to promote Guiding and work with national leadership in the creation of units and companies as well as the training of Leaders. In 1972, the Association was accepted into Associate Membership at the 21<sup>st</sup> World Conference held in Canada. During the years between 1974 and 1983, Guiding flourished and membership grew until the Movement was suspended due to the conflict between the church and the state.

Guiding was restarted in 1990 by a group of university students who invited young women from other faiths other than Catholic. In 1993, the socio-political unrest destabilized the structure of the organization and Guides were involved in community service projects in the hospitals and in the camps of the internally displaced persons. L'Association des Guides du Burundi was the first female organization in Burundi and today it brings together girls and young women from all faiths, ethnic and social groups. The Association works with girls and young women to address critical issues such as violence against women and building a culture of peace in a community that has been torn by fighting.

#### **1. Educational Programme**

The educational programme is developed by the Programme and Training Commissioner with the assistance of three Branch Commissioners and members of the Training Committee. The educational programme takes into account the needs and expectations expressed by the grassroot units, social and environmental realities. Field visits and meetings with officers in the regions enable the Educational Programme Team to collect all the necessary data.

Activities are organized according to age groups based on the participatory method of learning by doing and revolve around the six points of personal development.

The Guides do not yet have learning materials due to the effect of wars and other problems encountered by the Association. They use the WAGGGS Guidelines and the experience of Leaders and other senior officers of the Association. Particular emphasis is placed on citizenship and peace education at all levels. The Burundi Girl Guides Association also has rural Guiding units.

## **2. Adult Training**

In Burundi, the Programme and Training Commissioner is in charge of the adult training policy. She works closely with the National Trainers and specialists in the various areas covered. The Training Scheme is nearing finalization. It targets all women over 18 years who have responsibilities in the Association. It also targets young women wishing to learn and those considered as having potential and willing to take up responsibilities in the Association.

Identification of needs and appraisal of the adults is done through consultations and visits to the units. There is already a policy document on the management of adult human resources.

The smooth collaboration and constant consultation between the Educational Programme Committee and the Training Committee, which are actually coordinated by the same person, provide the Training Team with adequate material to offer a suitable Training Scheme to those in charge of delivering the educational programme.

## **3. Membership**

Following the latest count in January 2008, the membership figure had risen to 11,539 ranging from Wagtails (Brownies) beginning at age seven, to Senior Guides (up to 25 years) and including adult members.

The membership is therefore growing and the Association is hoping for a further increase from 2008 to 2011. A new recruitment and retention strategy has been launched and this includes a card system, an appeal to former guides, setting up youth committees open to guides as well as non guides and working with rural women.

## **4. Relationship to Society**

The public, political and administrative authorities, the women's network and parents recognize Burundi Girl Guides Association as the largest organization offering early learning opportunities to youth and children. This demonstrates the confidence that the Association enjoys in the community. The Girl Guides are the founding members of the Collective of Women's Associations and NGOs of Burundi (CAFOB). Thanks to their dynamism, they have been entrusted with the leadership of the Peace and Health department which fights violence against women.

The Association des Guides du Burundi enjoy partnership with almost all United Nations Agencies operating in the country; especially UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, ACOR Burundi and other local NGOs. The Association is part of the Forum of Organizations for the Strengthening of the Civil Society (FORSC).

It also has a strong relationship with the Scouts and Guides of the Great Lakes (Congo, Uganda and Rwanda) with the peace project 'Amahoro Amani' and participants in youth exchange visits with Guides from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. It also enjoys international partnerships with Scouts et Guides de France and the Swedish Guides and Scouts Council (need to check correct title of Federation).

## **5. Structure and Management**

The General Assembly holds annual general meetings in which all the decisions and policies are made. The National Council, whose members serve a term of three years renewable once, is the organ that monitors the decisions of the General Assembly. The National Team with a term of four years, also renewable once, is the Executive Body. The youth as well as adults are involved in all aspects of the life of the Association. It is also a requirement that all adult members of the National Team should have a young woman as a deputy.

In addition to the young members of the National Team, there is a Youth Committee that comprises girls aged between 18 and 30 years, who are either undergraduates or have completed high school. They are the ones being prepared for succession. The Association des Guides du Burundi is a strong Association with a strategic plan providing a clear long term vision.

## **6. Finance**

The current team set up a system of renting out traditional costumes and cutlery in order to kick-start income generation. To supplement this income, they also receive grants and subsidies from some NGOs. In the long term, the Association could also make profits and generate income from cyber cafés that they plan to set up (one is already running).

Funds received for specific projects are managed by an ad hoc Committee which regularly reports to the National Team.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

### **Proposed Motion**

That L'Association de Guides du Burundi, the National Organization of Burundi, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## Chad

### INTRODUCTION

Chad is a landlocked country, in the centre of Africa, bordered in the north by Libya, in the south by the Central African Republic, in the east by Sudan and in the west by Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. It has an estimated population of 9 826 419 inhabitants with 52 per cent of Muslims, 36 per cent of Catholics, eight per cent of Protestants and four per cent of Animists.

Women represent 52 per cent of the population with a school enrolment rate of 39.3 per cent. Girls and young women are not given the same educational opportunities as boys and young men. Chadian women have to face issues such as a low enrolment rate, and having to leave school early because of early marriages and pregnancies. Social, economic and cultural traditions prevent their empowerment. Chad has been unstable since its independence in 1960 due to internal conflict. There are only a few women in the decision-making institutions.

Farming and animal rearing are the main activities.

### REPORT

#### **Guiding: Background information**

Guiding was started in Chad in 1957 by the Nuns of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, first in Guera and then in Moundou. The State recognized the Association in February 1963. The Movement grew quickly and spread to many parishes. However, when the civil war started in 1979, all Guiding activities had to be suspended as foreign nuns had to leave the country for security reasons. Girl Guides came together in 1982 when peace came back and re-launched the Movement with Chadian trainers.

Links with WAGGGS were re-established and the World Association helped to restart activities. Les Guides de France reinforced this support by providing two successive full-time trainers. Today the Association is present in six parishes out of seven. The Association became an Associate Member of WAGGGS in 2002, at the 31<sup>st</sup> World Conference held in Manila, Philippines.

#### **1. Educational programme**

There is a committee responsible for the development and implementation of the educational programme. The educational programme is interesting and attractive for the girls. It has recently been reviewed and has been in use for the past three months. The Programme Committee has planned meetings in the regions in order to promote its use. We have also noted that several WAGGGS documents were available to Leaders in the regions and basic units.

The programme promotes the development of each girl and young woman focusing on physical, moral, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects. Emphasis is also given to service and community development projects. Wherever possible, girls and young women are given the opportunity to experience the international dimension of WAGGGS.

#### **2. Training**

The Association des Guides du Tchad (AGT) has a Training Committee led by the Training Commissioner. The Training Scheme has been finalized and sent to the World Bureau for accreditation.



As a result, all regional trainers have been trained. The AGT aims to have three potential trainers in each region by the end of 2008. At the beginning of each year, regional commissioners organize new and experienced Leaders and other volunteers in the Association.

### **3. Membership**

According to the 2006 Census, the AGT has 6,450 members. It has a Recruitment Committee. A recruitment form has been developed and is available to the Leaders in all the regions. Units are found in parishes and districts.

Some meetings are held in people's homes, public spaces and headquarters. One of the assets as far as retention is concerned is the availability to the Leaders of an attractive educational programme. From comments by Brownies and Guides, wearing a uniform and activities also play an important part in retaining membership.

The training and implementation of the educational programme is effective at grassroots level. There is potential to reach more girls and young women especially in schools.

### **4. Relationship to society**

The AGT has enjoyed good relations with the Ministry for Youth and Sports. The Ministry provides technical support as well as resource materials for the training of Leaders. The Minister is committed to play an important role in establishing Guiding in schools in order to facilitate the integration of all girls, irrespective of religion. AGT has initiated a successful 'Fight HIV/AIDS' project with UNICEF, and project funding has been increased.

The ongoing project on refugees is 600 km away from N'djamena. The aim of this project, is to reach refugees by providing them with moral support, education and teaching them a craft (weaving – embroidery) and to promote Guiding among them.

Relations with the Catholic Church are very good with the participation of nuns and priests as advisers and chaplains. All parties are working for the inclusion of all religious denominations. However, social and cultural facts have been a barrier.

Relations with the media have evolved since the media covered the official launch of the Fight against HIV/AIDS programme and the celebration of Thinking Day in 2007.

### **5. Structure and management**

The Association has a National Team of 13 members. There is a Youth Committee which works closely with the National Team through its representative among the National Board. Members meet at least once a month and whenever required. Technical Committees work between two meetings of the National Team. There are six Regional Teams.

As the regions are far away from each other, working documents are distributed through the communications system of parishes. Communications are good between members and Regional Leaders. The Association has a Strategic Plan for 2006 to 2009 which incorporates WAGGGS' six development areas.

The Association's headquarters is in N'Djamena and the building is on land which belongs to the Catholic Church. Two other meeting places are used by the Guides in N'Djaména. Each region also has local headquarters.

### **6. Finance**

The Association has been self-financing for some time through monthly income-generating activities, shows, sale of items, membership fees and other local donations. It also has a strategy for collecting fees.

Trainings are funded by participation fees and other funds from donors. The Association aims to be self-financing in the implementation of its Strategic Plan. The Association has formed a Fundraising Committee to look at other fundraising possibilities.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

**Proposed Motion**

That L'Association des Guides du Tchad, the National Organization of Tchad be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## **Dominica**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dominica is the largest and most northern of the group known as the Windward Islands. It is commonly known as the "nature island of the Caribbean" because of its lush rain forest. The island has a population of 68,635 of which 34,086 are women. The population is mainly of African descent, with a small number of English, Scottish and French descendants. Among the population is a group of Carib Indians who are the direct descendants of the first inhabitants of the island. The agriculture is mainly banana growing, it has been the mainstay of the island but in recent years this has been on the decline. The country is now focusing on developing its eco-tourism to fill this gap in the economy. In 1995, Government changed its focus from the status of girls and women to one of gender, which strives for gender equality and a balance between the sexes. Presently a number of women are holding important positions in a male dominated government. These include the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Attorney General and the Chief Magistrate.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

The Girl Guides Association of Dominica (GGAD) was established in 1929 and has been an Associate Member of WAGGGS since 1987. Today, it is the largest organization for girls and young women in Dominica. Its structure ensures the use of the democratic process and protects against all types of discrimination.

The Association is run by volunteer Leaders and administrators with one paid staff member. There are parents and community representatives in various groups on the organizational chart.

#### **1. Educational programme**

The Educational programme demonstrates that the needs and aspirations of girls and young women have been considered. The Programme Committee conducts training for new Leaders and offers all Leaders support through focused training, regular visits and additional materials to accompany the programmes.

International education is an important aspect of the programme and girls attend camps and sessions abroad and take part in planning and celebrating Thinking Day.

Service is stressed at all levels and the girls and young women are involved in various types of service.

In 2006/7 a Skills Training Programme (dressmaking and tailoring) funded by the European Union and the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit was introduced to train girls in life skills. This group is responsible for making the uniforms for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers but the venture still needs to be further developed before it can become a viable fundraiser for the Association.

#### **2. Training**

Training is organized and monitored by a Training Committee. It is continuous and is available at all levels. A wide range of topics are covered to ensure proper presentation of programmes, self-development of members and efficient running of the Association. Members also attend sub-regional and regional trainings provided by the Western Hemisphere Committee.

The Training Scheme has recently been revised and accredited by WAGGGS. Monthly trainings for targeted groups are conducted by the Training Team which consists of three Caribbean Link Trainers and six prospective trainers.

An instrument for measuring the performance and progress of units has been presented to the Executive Body. When this is approved and implemented it will further help to improve the standard of Guiding in the country.

### **3. Membership**

With the support of Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada, the Girl Guides Association of Dominica now has a young Guider working as a paid Field Support Officer responsible for membership growth. This has done much to improve the membership status of this Association. The Field Support Officer has prepared a recruitment strategy which seeks to revive dormant units and open new units throughout the island while working to strengthen existing units through training and support. There are now units in urban and rural areas, including two units in the Carib (indigenous people) Territory. Units are both school and community based. Figures for all branches have increased although Rainbows and Brownies have increased at a faster rate than Guides and Rangers.

However, though numbers are small, Ranger units exist in both urban and rural areas and interesting programmes have been planned to retain and attract this age group.

Total membership figures now stand at 758 and there is a projection for 850 members by the end of 2008.

### **4. Relationship to Society**

The Association with several partners including: The Women's Bureau, the Dominica Council of Women, Dominica Environmental Youth Organization, and the Youth Division. The Movement is affiliated to the Dominica Council of Women and takes part in their many activities.

The women's groups have worked with the Guides in providing HIV/AIDS training and the Guides are seen as a meaningful partner in dealing with gender issues such as violence against women and teenage pregnancy and incest.

The Environmental group has organized camps and taught map-reading, hiking skills and care for marine life. Guides have taken part in beach clean-up, sand watch projects and are in the process of working on a water project based on the Thinking Day Theme, called "Adopt a River". Dominica has 365 rivers and in this project girls will maintain a river, clean it up and take part in water quality testing. These all help to improve the science skills of the girls as well as offering an opportunity for them to give service.

The PR Committee ensures that Girl Guiding is kept in the public eye. Through this Committee, GGAD has established links with all the media houses in Dominica. Since 2006 there is a half-hour weekly programme on the leading television station, the Dominica Broadcasting Corporation, called "Guides in Motion". It includes talks by former Girl Guides as well as discussions on topical issues. There is also much coverage in the print media for the various activities staged by the Movement.

### **5. Structure and Management**

The office of the Association is now located in the heart of Roseau. It is a convenient location but has limited space and is being used during the renovation of their owned headquarters. The Field Support Officer acts as Office Secretary.

All the tools needed to ensure that democracy is observed in all aspects of management have been developed. Job Descriptions have been prepared and given to all adult members of the Association and Terms of Office are being adhered to. A Strategic Plan has been prepared with an accompanying budget.

Committees are in place to oversee all aspects of the Association and a strategy for succession has been introduced whereby young adults are attached to office holders in preparation for taking over when the term of office ends.

## **6. Finance**

The Association has a Finance Committee and a Fundraising Committee. Budgeting has been recently introduced. The Association faces challenges collecting Association fees from its membership but strategies have been put in place to overcome this.

The Association is waiting to receive 10 computers which will be used to set up an Internet Café for fundraising purposes. There is also room for growth in the Dressmaking/Tailoring business mentioned under Programme following further training of participants in the programme.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

### **Proposed Motion**

That the Girl Guides Association of Dominica, the National Organization of Dominica, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## **Hungary**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Hungary gained its independence in 1989, after more than 40 years of the Soviet army occupation. It joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. Hungary is a landlocked state in Central Europe.

The population of Hungary is approximately 10 million. The main ethnic minority is Roma (2.1%). In this dynamically industrial-agricultural society, the employment of women is over 80%, an additional number are students and the number of women not earning independently is insignificant. Nearly half of the women work in industry and agriculture. There are many women in decision-making positions and they are positively contributing to the development of Hungary.

There are many Non-Governmental Organizations in Hungary; however, volunteering is still not fully recognised.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

The Association of Hungarian Girl Guides was founded in 1921. During the war years 1939 to 1945, the Movement was involved in relief work. With the siege of the capital, the Association's activities were suspended. In 1948, the government banned all youth organizations and the Association of Hungarian Girl Guides was forced to cease functioning for the next 40 years. Guiding was re-established in 1989, and the Association of Hungarian Girl Guides became an Associate Member in 1993.

After the departure of the entire National Board in 1999, a new National Board was elected with young Leaders who grew up with the first "Guiding" generation since the Movement restarted in 1989. As the new Board Members were very young the Association needed a lot of time to train and educate these young women to lead the Association. The Europe Region has been actively supporting the Association; an example of this is the one-year support programme between September 2006 and autumn 2007, to prepare the Association for Full Membership.

#### **1. Educational Programme**

There are six members of the Educational Programme Team. The educational programme is of a high standard which meets the needs of girls and young women in Hungary. The programme provides opportunity for girls and young women to talk about 'taboo' subjects, such as addiction, sexual education etc. There is a progressive approach for the different age groups.

The programme is used by all the Leaders in the Association and continuous support is given to the Leaders through direct communication. The educational programme includes WAGGGS' initiatives; such as HIV/AIDS, adolescent pregnancy, 'Our Rights, Our Responsibilities' and the World Thinking Day concept. A camp is organized every summer by the National Team in addition to lots of the camps carried out by Troops.

The Association has a Guiding magazine, "Four seasons", which is published four times a year and includes information about programmes, ideas for 'seasonal' activities and international possibilities, as well as news and tips, etc. The Educational Programme Team is working on a badge system, which is a booklet showing the progress of the girls.

## **2. Training**

There are six members working on the Training Team. The Training Scheme is well adapted to the needs of the Leaders, as well as to the needs of the Association and its values. The Leaders are mainly students and work for the Association during their free time. They are supported through the training courses and the National Team follow the progress and commitment of Leaders. There is a basic Leader training course, comprising of six modules which are presented during the school year.

In addition to the basic training course, there are specialised courses for special tasks or working groups, at regional or National Board level and a training session for trainers. These include sessions on children with special needs, recruitment and retention, outdoor activities, adolescent health, etc. The team is working towards having its own set of training material and resources.

## **3. Membership**

There has been a 10% increase from the last census figures and there are 822 members at present. Girls and young women become members of the Association six months after taking their Promise.

Members are well spread throughout Hungary. In five regions (centre, south, west, north-east and south-east) many of units include a member of the Roma minority or a member with special needs. The name of a unit is always a famous Hungarian woman. The membership is made up of Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders. Recruitment is done through special campaigns, such as the organization of a "Fun Day" (activities with girls and adults), the AIDS prevention campaigns (given by Leaders in schools), participation in music festivals and recruitment days in universities, etc.

Although the Association has been very successful in developing its programmes, training and external profile, membership increases slowly. It is a real challenge and the Association has worked very hard to be where it is today given the history of Girl Guiding in the country. From an initial membership of 360 in 1993, the Association has grown by 250% to its current membership figure of 822. The capacity for membership growth has been demonstrated by this achievement and now that the programme and training schemes are finalised membership growth should continue. The Europe Region will continue to support actions related to membership growth and will be monitoring the sustainable growth of membership.

## **4. Relationship to society**

The Association has a new website which has provided them with public relation opportunities. The Society of Education asked the Association to speak about non-formal education during a seminar at a university. The organization has also been asked to talk about the Association on a state TV channel.

The Association of Hungarian Girl Guides planned a "Free card campaign" where postcards were disseminated so that they could collect 1% of income tax of individuals as a grant. 100,000 copies of the postcard were distributed all around Hungary to shops, cinemas and cultural centres. This postcard aimed to illustrate the image of dynamic young women, adventurous, with a strong sense of friendship, as well as the opportunity to be unique.

The Association has lots of contacts on the national level including ministries, government and NGOs, etc. They are present on the internet sites of NGOs or at NGO fairs. They have very good local contacts with the authorities, schools and parents in the regions where they are based.

## **5. Structure and management**

The Association is democratic, has good internal communication, and is transparent, environmentally conscious and open to all. The General Assembly takes place once a year, when they elect the National Board. All the National Board members are very young. They are from the same background and have similar experiences. There are three national working teams which manage the educational programme, the training and the membership of the organization.

The Hungarian Girl Guides headquarters in a rented office in the centre of Budapest. There is very good internal communication from a national level to the single units. Prompt changes are made following results taken when an evaluation of activities has been made.

A job description has been assigned to each role within the organization, which includes the tasks and responsibilities of the person.

## **6. Finances**

The Hungarian Girl Guides uses its internal income (membership fees, 1% of the personal income tax, direct support) to run the basic activities of the Association. The Association is aware that they are unable to rely on grants or funding year after year and are looking at other possibilities. Special funds/grants are found for special projects/activities.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

### **Proposed Motion**

That Magyar Cserkészleány Szovetseg (the Association of Hungarian Girl Guides), the National Organization of Hungary, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



## **Malawi**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Malawi is a landlocked country south of the equator in sub-Saharan Africa. It is bordered to the north and northeast by Tanzania; to the east, south, and southwest by Mozambique and to the west and northwest by Zambia. It gained independence from the British in 1964 and for 30 years was governed by a single political party. Today, the country enjoys democratic processes and practices. Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries.

The country is divided into three regions: the northern, central, and southern regions. Malawi has an estimated population of over 13 million and nearly half the population are female. Malawi has predominantly an agricultural economy which accounts for 70 per cent of its export. There are a number of cultural practices which have negative effects on girls and women. A high percentage of girls and women encounter gender-based violence and this comes in the form of economic deprivation, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Malawi has a very high percentage of girls and women with HIV/AIDS.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

The Guiding Movement was started in Malawi as Girl Guides Association of Nyasaland under the provisions of Chapter 31 of the Laws of Malawi in 1927. At the time, Malawi was a British Colony. At this time Guiding was based on British Guidelines, activities and programmes.

In 1967, the Movement was banned by Dr Kamuzu Banda, the then President, who presided over a single party state. It was substituted by Malawi Young Pioneers which became the Malawi Congress Party's political wing. In 1997, the Movement was re-established under the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services. The Malawi Girl Guides Association became an Associate Member of WAGGGS at the 31<sup>st</sup> World Conference held in Manila, Philippines, 2002.

#### **1. Educational programme**

The educational programme committee is functional and it works in collaboration with the training committee. A task team with high representation from girls and young Leaders is responsible for the development and review of the educational programme to ensure that it remains relevant to the girls.

The educational programme for girls at all levels has been revised, and handbooks have been printed with financial assistance from the Norwegian Guides and Scouts. Guiders have been trained on how to use the programme in the handbook. Handbooks guide the Leaders step-by-step on rolling out the educational programme. The programmes are mainly administered at schools as most Leaders are teachers.

The Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA) is the lead partner in the Malyana multipurpose centre which trains girls on livelihood skills. MAGGA and Scout Association of Malawi (SAM) teach girls and boys dressmaking skills, tailoring, carpentry, tinsmith and joinery for six months. At the end of the six months period, the Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli/International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) provide funding for the qualified group to buy material and start their own small businesses to give way to the next group. Young women, parents and community Leaders have been sensitised by the Association on issues affecting young

people such as; HIV/AIDS, gender issues, unemployment, child abuse, and poverty through a project funded by Banca Intesa.

## **2. Training**

MAGGA developed Adult Training Scheme Guidelines to provide Leaders with opportunities to systematically and effectively obtain the skills, attitudes and processes to facilitate the emotional, physical and spiritual development of today's girls and young women. MAGGA's training scheme has been accredited by WAGGGS. Specialized community or school-based trainings are being offered to girls and young women through funded projects in order to enable them to realize their potential and acquire leadership and life skills that will enable them to actively take part in meeting their own needs and addressing issues affecting them.

An all the year round progressive training is conducted with the support of development partners like Norway, UNFPA, Girl Guides and Scouts of Italy through Banca Intesa, Malawi AIDS Council and the regional Psychosocial Support. A committee responsible for the training of adults and the development and review of the Training Scheme is in place. This Committee works hand-in-hand with the National Executive Board and the Educational Programme Committee.

## **3. Membership**

The Malawi Girl Guides Association increased its membership from 11,044 registered members (girls, young women and Adult Leaders) in 2006 to 15,322 in 2007. Membership is drawn from all sectors of the community.

MAGGA has embarked on a huge membership campaign with very dedicated volunteers who have pledged to open Guide units in districts where Guiding has not yet been introduced.

The Association has developed a handbook as a recruitment and retention strategy which is being implemented. Responsibilities and competencies of the recruiter are clearly stated and recruitment strategies for different levels have been clearly outlined.

The Association realises that more adults have to be recruited to support the anticipated huge increase of girl membership with emphasis on all sectors of the community.

## **4. Relationship to Society**

Malawi is traditionally a country where women have been treated as minors and second class citizens. The Guiding Programmes within the various Sections, especially those of Guides, Rangers and Cadets, empower girls and young women and give them confidence and strength to realize their fullest potential.

The Malawi Girl Guides Association has a very good working relationship with other NGOs including Development Partners. The Association has been recognized by other government ministries as a very good partner in the implementation programmes addressing the needs of girls and young women. For instance, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Economic Planning and the Development and Office of the President and Cabinet through its HIV and Nutrition Department have included MAGGA in their National action plans.

The Association is one of the key participants in the youth sector of the country and is perceived as the leading organization for girls and young women. The activities of the Association are featured in the media (press and TV) at least more than once a year.

The Norwegian Guide and Scout Association provided funding to the Association for office rentals, furniture and equipment. Brochures are developed and distributed as educational material to increase awareness on the seven key messages for advocacy.

The piggery project started in the Sochie rural area has helped communities to sustain themselves financially. The piggery projects and other income generating projects that are introduced by MAGGA have helped remove youth from criminal conduct by being involved in income generating initiatives.

## **5. Structure and management**

An Annual General Meeting chaired by the president, National Board meetings chaired by the Chief Commissioner are held quarterly and the Regional Committee meetings chaired by the Regional Commissioners are also held on a quarterly basis. There are six committees; each is responsible for one of WAGGGS' core areas of work. There is also a youth committee which ensures that the voice of girls and young women influences decisions taken at national level. Communication between the Committees and National Board is good.

MAGGA has developed a strategic plan for the five year period 2008 to 2012. The plan was developed through a highly consultative, participatory and transparent process which intended to ensure that all stakeholders would collectively own the product. There is a well established National office which is fully equipped. The Association owns a resource centre in Blantyre which also operates as a regional office through funding from the Bank of Italy which funded the Association for a project on sexual and reproductive health for young people.

## **6. Finance**

The sources of income for the Association are membership fees, fundraising activities and grants from development partners. Fundraising projects currently underway are tailoring, big walks, ushering during weddings, Secret Friendship, selling of material etc.

Malawi is currently one of the countries that are targeted for support by donor organizations. A visit to UNFPA offices (one of the donors who are also paying the salaries of the secretariat) revealed that they foresee a continued relationship going forward with MAGGA because they are satisfied with the partnership with MAGGA. A proposal for a four year programme commencing in January 2008 to 2011 had just been approved. The Executive Director writes proposals and follows up responses and reporting accordingly and will continue to access donor funding whilst MAGGA is building up on it's financial sustainability.

### **(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

#### **Proposed Motion**

That the Malawi Girl Guides Association, the National Organization of Malawi, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## **Russia**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Russia is the largest country in the world, and is situated in the eastern part of Europe and Northern part of Asia. This vast country spans 11 time zones, and the climate varies from -50 to 25 degrees Celsius, and includes several areas of permafrost. Russia has a complicated history, most recently when the Soviet Union collapsed, and many former members of the union declared independence.

Today, the country is a democratic federative republic, with 86 different member areas, from autonomous republics to federal cities. Russia has a good education system, and men and women have equal rights and responsibilities. Since the fall of communism, the divide between rich and poor has widened, with the majority of the population able to live, but without luxury. There is no concept of volunteerism, due to the history.

### **REPORT**

#### **Guiding: Background information**

Girl Scouting began in Russia in 1909, and grew until the introduction of the Communist Pioneer organization, closing down in 1926. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Scouting returned to Russia in the 1990s, and Rossiskaya Assotsiatsia Devochek-Skautov (RADS) was founded in October 1994. RADS was accepted as an Associate member of WAGGGS in July 1999.

RADS has had considerable financial and training support from their link partner organization, Girlguiding UK, as well as exchanges for girls and Leaders. Despite the lack of volunteering culture, and the enormous size of the country, RADS has worked steadily to make itself better known and accepted, through providing excellent summer camps, and useful service projects in the local community. RADS retains close contacts with WAGGGS' MOs in neighbouring countries, although funds for travel remain very limited.

#### **1. Educational Programme**

RADS has recently published its excellent Programme document, in essence a handbook for Leaders which outlines the progressive and up-to-date programme for girls across three age ranges, interest badges, and 300 pages of training material and programme ideas for Leaders. The programme is balanced and covers eight areas, but recognizes that each girl is unique, and can match her needs and speed of progression. There are no shortage of girls to join, as the programme is seen as fun yet worthwhile by girls and parents.

WAGGGS' Policy and Guidelines on Educational Programme have been implemented. A Programme Commissioner has responsibility for this area of work, and while there is not yet a Programme Committee, a group of Leaders worked together to draw up the document.

#### **2. Training**

RADS has just finished drafting its training programme for submission for accreditation by WAGGGS. Training is offered at three levels – information for those who may consider joining RADS, basic training for new Leaders, and advanced for trainers. In addition, there is specialist training for the National Board, as well as on first aid and camp organization, and one is planned on the rights of the child. Training mainly takes place at a local or regional level, with advanced training nationally, generally once a

year, and Board training at the National Conference, when the Board is elected. Funding can be a problem, but this will become easier to obtain once they are registered as a National NGO, which they hope to obtain later this year.

The standard of training is good, with a variety of methods used, and they wish to investigate distance and e-learning due to the challenges presented by the geography of the country, as the number of Trainers available to train at regional level is limited. Additional support is provided for Leaders via regular small publications, including programme ideas and news.

### **3. Membership**

RADS currently has more than 2,200 members, and this number is stable, and growing slowly. More than 7,000 girls have participated in RADS activities over the past year. This includes a significant number who live in orphanages, and RADS has members across social boundaries. As yet, membership is not nationwide, but RADS has found potential Leaders in several new areas since the publication of the Programme document. The document has led to them being able to show very easily what they are about, and being taken more seriously by funders, partners, and potential members. It is a great recruitment and initial training tool.

Membership is currently limited by the number of Leaders, so recruiting more is a key priority. Membership is mainly in cities and towns. All members, except those in orphanages, pay a small but affordable fee which is a percentage of the minimum wage. There are many young women Leaders, who take a full part in the leadership of the Association at local level, and although none are currently on the National Board, this has been the case in the past, and some are close to that age.

### **4. Relationship to Society**

RADS is building strength in this area, with many local projects in orphanages, hospitals, and the elderly. This type of project is excellent PR, the girls feel worthwhile, and is enabling RADS to build up regular partnerships with local funders. RADS has good relationships with local cultural institutions, youth and women's organizations, but has yet to make many Federation level contacts, other than the Youth Council, although the National Commissioner has met with the heads of the Public Youth Organizations. Again, this will become much easier once they have been able to register as a national NGO. They have a good quality website, and have a regular feature in the main Russian youth sector magazine. They also work closely with the agency for social information.

### **5. Structure and Management**

The National Board are elected at the triennial conference and have set roles, job descriptions, and terms of office as set out in the Constitution.

There is a strategic plan and budget, although this could be developed further. Meetings are held when opportunity presents itself, due to the issues of travel, full use is made of PCs, Skype, chat rooms and virtual meetings to discuss issues. It is hoped to widen the use of Skype video conferencing to the Regions shortly.

### **6. Finance**

RADS has always paid its quota and European voluntary contribution, and has contributed to the World Thinking Day Fund, as well as sending a small sum to Peru following the recent earthquake, despite the economic situation in Russia. As well as the small membership fee, RADS raises money for local activities using local funders, and raises its quota largely from regional and world markets at Conferences.

It has received significant support from Girlguiding UK at national and regional level. RADS hopes to raise further funds from an online shop with the sale of badges and publications. The Finance Commissioner has made significant progress for RADS since her appointment, and they will shortly be employing an accountant and opening a bank account, in preparation for registration as a national NGO.

**(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)**

**Proposed Motion**

That Rossiskaya Assotsiatsia Devochek-Skautov, the national organization of Russia, be recognised as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.