

CONSTITUTION

of the Interamerican Scout Organization



INTRODUCTION

The Interamerican Scout Conference and the Interamerican Scout Committee were established at the meeting held in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1946, by the accredited representatives of those National Scout Organizations of the American continent which practised the Scout Movement at that time and which had been recognized by the World Scout Conference. Both bodies were subsequently recognized by resolution Nº 9 adopted by the XI World Scout Conference in Rosny, France, in August, 1947.

The present Constitution was approved by the XIX Interamerican Scout Conference, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in September, 1995. It has been adopted in conformity with the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the provisions of which will prevail over this Constitution in the event of conflict.

Finally, the English version of this text was approved by the World Scout Committee in session on 23 and 24 September, 1995.

CHAPTER I

The Interamerican Scout Organization

- Article 1.** The Interamerican Scout Organization is part of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and is constituted by the members of the latter so desiring within the geographic area of the Interamerican Region, which will be defined periodically by the World Committee.
- Article 2.** The following may be members of the Interamerican Scout Organization:
- a. The National Scout Organizations of countries located in the Interamerican Region which have been recognized by the World Scout Conference as members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
 - b. The National Scout Organizations of countries located in the Interamerican Region which have been granted the status of Accredited National Scout Organizations by the World Scout Committee.
 - c. The branches, located in the Interamerican Region, of European Scout Organizations that are Members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
 - d. The Scout Organizations not included in paragraph c. above, operating in territories which are part of European states and are located in the Interamerican Region, to whom the Interamerican Scout Committee has granted the status of Associate Members in agreement with the World Scout Committee.

The members of the Interamerican Scout Organization will have the right to participate in all international events organized for youth or adults in the Interamerican Region. The members described in paragraph c. of this article may participate either under their own names and insignia or those of the Scout Organization of which they are a branch.

Article 3. The Interamerican Scout Organization is composed of the following bodies:

- a) the Interamerican Scout Conference;
- b) the Interamerican Scout Committee; and
- c) the Interamerican Scout Office.

CHAPTER II

The Interamerican Scout Conference

Article 4. The Interamerican Scout Conference is the governing body of the Interamerican Scout Organization; and it shall comprise the following:

- a. Not more than six delegates accredited by each Member Organization of the Interamerican Region defined in paragraph a. of article 2. One of the said delegates may be a young Scout over fifteen years of age. The delegates established in this paragraph will have the right to speak and each delegation will have the right to one vote.
- b. Not more than two delegates and two observers designated by each Accredited National Scout Organization defined in paragraph b. of article 2, who shall have the right to speak.
- c. Not more than four observers representing each branch of those National Scout Organizations described in paragraph c. of article 2, who shall have the right to speak.
- d. Not more than four observers representing each Associate Scout Organization defined in paragraph d. of article 2, who shall have the right to speak.

The observers accredited by those national, regional or world Scout organizations recognized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement who have been invited by the Interamerican Scout Committee, may also participate in the Interamerican Scout Conference, with the right to speak.

The observers designated by those national or international governmental or non-governmental organizations which have shared interests with the Scout Movement and which are invited by the Interamerican Scout Committee may also participate with the right to speak.

Article 5.

The functions of the Interamerican Scout Conference shall be:

- a. To stimulate the development of the Scout Movement in the Interamerican Region, through the promotion of the spirit of world-wide friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the members of the Interamerican Scout Organization.
- b. To set fundamental objectives and establish the bases of the Interamerican Scout Organization's general policy, indicating to the Interamerican Scout Committee the lines of action which the latter is to follow in order to implement the policies adopted.
- c. To ensure that the decisions and established policies of the Interamerican Scout Conference itself and of the World Organization of the Scout Movement are implemented as appropriate.
- d. To recommend the adoption of such objectives, policies and action to the World Scout Conference and to the World Scout Committee as could contribute to the qualitative and quantitative growth of the Scout Movement in general and in the Region in particular.
- e. To study the reports and resolve on recommendations presented by the Member Organizations and by the Interamerican Scout Committee.
- f. To draft and approve its Internal Regulations.
- g. To hold elections as provided in this Constitution and to assign the positions and responsibilities determined by the Regulations.
- h. To approve amendments to the present Constitution and its Regulations.
- i. To exercise such other functions as are indicated in this Constitution and in the Regulations; likewise those commended by the World Scout Conference or the World Scout Committee.

Article 6.

The meetings of the Interamerican Scout Conference shall be governed by the following provisions:

- a. The Interamerican Scout Conference shall meet in ordinary session every three years at the venue and on the date established by the preceding Conference, which shall also select an alternative venue. The Interamerican Scout Committee may change the date and venue of a Conference, should it consider that there is cause for doing so.
- b. The Conference may meet in extraordinary session, at the initiative of the Interamerican Scout Committee or at the request of no less than one third of the Member Organizations defined in paragraph a. of article 2.

- c. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall send notice of ordinary meetings of the Conference to all Member Organizations by mail, or other verifiable means, not less than six months in advance of the beginning of the respective Conference. Notice of extraordinary meetings will be sent not less than three months in advance.
- d. The presence of one half of the Member Organizations defined in paragraph a. of article 2 shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Conference.
- e. The Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall be the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of the Conference respectively. In the absence of any of these, the Interamerican Scout Committee shall nominate persons to substitute them from among its own members.
- f. Each Member Organization defined in paragraph a. of article 2 shall have the right to one vote. Those Organizations which are unable to be present at a Conference meeting may vote by proxy granted to another Member Organization. Each Member Organization may accept one proxy only. Such proxy is not taken into account for the purposes of forming a quorum.
- g. Unless otherwise provided for within this Constitution, resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present or represented and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- h. Only those Member Organizations which are up to date in the payment of their annual registration fees to the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the fees to the Interamerican Scout Organization may exercise their right to vote.

The Interamerican Scout Committee may grant exemption from this requirement, if those member organizations shall prove to the satisfaction of the Committee their inability to bring their regional fees up to date.

In the case of the world fees, remission or postponement of dues requires prior authorization from the World Scout Committee.

- i. The Internal Regulations shall determine the rules of the functioning of the Conference.

CHAPTER III

The Interamerican Scout Committee

Article 7. The Interamerican Scout Organization shall be led and administered by the Interamerican Scout Committee, on the basis of the objectives, policies and lines of action established by the Interamerican Scout Conference.

Its members shall consider the interests of the Scout Movement as a whole and of the Interamerican Region in particular, and shall neither consider themselves nor be considered to be representatives of any Member Organization.

Article 8. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall be composed of ten elected members who shall be members of the National Scout Organizations defined in paragraph a. of article 2.

The Regional Executive, also referred to as Regional Director of the Interamerican Scout Office, will be a member of the Committee, with the right to speak, but without the right to vote. He or she shall function as Executive Secretary of the Committee, and as such may participate in such Commissions as shall be constituted for the better functioning of the Committee.

Article 9. The ten elected members of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall hold office for six years, and five of them shall be elected at each ordinary session of the Conference according to the following rules:

- a. The Member Organizations defined in paragraph a. of article 2 may submit their candidates for membership of the Interamerican Scout Committee not less than thirty days before the beginning of the respective Conference. When the deadline has passed, the Regional Executive shall notify all the member organizations of the list of candidates.
- b. The Member Organizations shall choose their candidates from among their most outstanding leaders. Each Member Organization may present one candidate only.
- c. The candidatures shall be seconded by another Member Organization defined in letter a. of article 2.
- d. The candidates shall be elected by secret ballot by the Interamerican Scout Conference.
- e. No more than one person belonging to any Member Organization may serve as an elected member of the Interamerican Scout Committee at any one time.

Article 10. Persons who have been elected members of the Interamerican Scout Committee may be re-elected only after an interval of three years.

This restriction shall not apply to those members who have been appointed by the Committee or elected by the Conference to fill a vacancy.

Article 11. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall have the authority to accept resignations of its members and to fill vacancies until the next meeting of the Interamerican Scout Conference.

Article 12. Any elected member of the Interamerican Scout Committee who ceases to be a member of his or her Member Organization shall automatically retire from office on the Committee.

Article 13. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a First and Second Vice Chairperson from among its elected members.

Article 14. The Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons and Regional Executive shall constitute the Executive Committee. Its function will be to take emergency decisions during the period between the meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee. Such decisions may not contravene the policies established by the Committee as a whole, and shall be communicated to the other Committee members within fifteen days after their adoption.

Article 15. The headquarters of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall be the same as those of the Interamerican Scout Office, designated by common accord by the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Article 16. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall meet in ordinary session at least twice per year, at the venue decided by its members. At the said meetings it shall review the results obtained during the preceding period and, if appropriate, shall modify such plans as it has for the subsequent period after considering the reports of the members of the Interamerican Scout Committee, its Commissions and the Interamerican Scout Office, as well as the recommendations of the World Scout Committee.

Article 17. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall meet in extraordinary session when called in one of the following ways: a) by its Chairperson; b) at the request of not less than three of the members; or c) at the request of 25% of the Member Organizations defined in paragraph a. of article 2. In any of the above cases, the matters to be addressed shall be indicated by those who have called the meeting, which must be held within ninety days of notice of the meeting.

Article 18. Both ordinary and extraordinary Committee meetings will be called not less than thirty days in advance, except in the case that for whatever circumstance, all the members unanimously decide to hold an extraordinary meeting without prior notice.

- Article 19.** The members of the Interamerican Scout Committee may vote in meetings by proxy granted to another member. No member may accept more than one proxy. A quorum shall be formed by six members with the right to vote, of which only one may be represented by proxy. Proxy may be granted only to elected members of the Interamerican Scout Committee.
- Article 20.** The agenda of business to be addressed at the meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee.
- Article 21.** During the period between ordinary meetings, the members of the Interamerican Scout Committee may make decisions by mail, cable, fax, telephone or electronic mail, or any other means of communication. The said votes shall be sent to the Regional Executive who shall communicate the results to all the members of the Committee.
- Article 22.** The Chairpersons of Commissions designated by the Interamerican Scout Committee shall participate in the meetings of this body with the right to speak. The President of the Interamerican Scout Foundation shall have the same right.
- Article 23.** The functions of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall be:
- a. To comply with this Constitution and ensure that it is complied with, likewise the Internal Regulations of the Conference and the Committee.
 - b. To approve the Regional Development Plan in accordance with the objectives, policies and lines of action established by the Interamerican Scout Conference; and, in general, to adopt such action as shall enable the resolutions of the Conference to be complied with.
 - c. To act as an advisory body to the World Scout Committee.
 - d. To encourage the member organizations to implement the Regional Plan, the policies established by the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Conference; likewise the directives of the Interamerican Scout Conference and the Interamerican Scout Committee itself.
 - e. To act on behalf and in representation of the Interamerican Scout Conference between its meetings, informing this body of the action undertaken in fulfilment of this function.
 - f. To determine the agenda of the Interamerican Scout Conference, for which purpose it shall take into account the suggestions of the member organizations of the Interamerican Scout Organization.

- g. To encourage, promote and support world, regional or subregional events held within the Region, submitting the decision of the venue of the Interamerican Scout Conferences, Panamerican Jamborees and Moots to the vote of the Conference.
- h. To supervise all types of events organized by the Interamerican Scout Office.
- i. To nominate Commissions, Subcommissions and Task Forces, and to foster the formation of societies, foundations or corporations which it considers conducive to the better fulfilment of the objective of the Scout Movement in the Region. The Committee shall designate the members of these organizations, or at least the Chairpersons, as it considers appropriate.
- j. To draft its Internal Regulations and submit them to the approval of the World Scout Committee.
- k. To recommend to the World Scout Committee the admission of such National Scout Organizations of the Region as request recognition by the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
- l. To grant recognition and awards for services rendered to the Interamerican Scout Organization or to the youth of the continent.
- m. To exercise such other functions as are granted in this Constitution, or which are commended to it by the World and Interamerican Scout Conferences or by the World Scout Committee.
- n. To administer its own assets and resources.

Article 24. The Interamerican Scout Committee shall present a draft budget and a finance plan annually to the World Scout Committee for approval, either directly or through the Interamerican Scout Office. These shall be prepared in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

Article 25. It is the responsibility of the Member Organizations of the Region to contribute financially to the Interamerican Scout Committee and to provide the means for the development of its activities and the fulfilment of the resolutions of the Interamerican Scout Conference.

Each Member Organization of the Region will pay an annual fee to the Interamerican Scout Committee, the amount of which will be established by common agreement with the Interamerican Scout Office on a triennial basis.

- Article 26.** The Interamerican Scout Committee may ask other public or private organizations for financial aid, likewise individuals and multi-national corporations operating in the countries of the Region, with the approval of the Member Organizations concerned. In the case of international public organizations, foundations and funds, this approval will not be necessary.
- Article 27.** The Interamerican Scout Committee may accept donations, legacies and benefits of any kind.
- Article 28.** The Treasurer of the World Scout Committee shall designate a Regional Treasurer in agreement with the Interamerican Scout Committee. The term of office of this Treasurer will coincide with the periods between the ordinary meetings of the Interamerican Scout Conference.
- Article 29.** The Regional Treasurer shall submit annually to the approval of the Interamerican Scout Committee, within ninety days of the end of the respective fiscal year, a report which includes the audited balance and the account statements of the funds of the Interamerican Scout Committee. When this report has been approved by the said body, it will be sent to the World Scout Committee for its approval and then distributed to the member organizations of the Region.
- Article 30.** All the funds of the Interamerican Scout Committee shall be deposited in bank accounts under its own name or such other accounts as the Committee shall consider necessary. The said bank accounts shall be operated by the Regional Executive and supervised by the Regional Treasurer, in conformity with the budget approved by the Interamerican Scout Committee for each fiscal year. Any modification to the budget must be approved by the Interamerican Scout Committee.

CHAPTER IV

The Interamerican Scout Office

- Article 31.** The Interamerican Scout Office is a branch of the World Scout Bureau for the Interamerican Region and has the following functions:
- a. To comply with the instructions and guidelines of the World Scout Bureau with respect to the Interamerican Region, and to serve as Secretariat of the World Organization in matters relating to the Region.
 - b. To serve as Secretariat of the Interamerican Scout Committee and of the Interamerican Scout Organization, implementing and ensuring the implementation of resolutions.

- c. To draw up the Regional Plan in conformity with the established policy, submit it for the approval of the Interamerican Scout Committee, coordinate and implement the action envisaged therein, assess its results, report on its progress, produce the contents of the publications programmed and make proposals to the Interamerican Scout Committee and its Commissions.
- d. To advise and provide technical assistance to the Member Organizations, especially those with which it has agreed an action plan, in conformity with the Regional Plan.
- e. To run and organize regional and subregional events and provide technical assistance for national events organized to comply with the Regional Plan.
- f. To identify and train leaders at regional level, and at national level in consultation with the member organizations, contributing to the consolidation of teams of leaders in each one of them.
- g. To contribute to obtaining funds to finance regional action, giving priority to that contained in the Regional Plan.
- h. To assist the member organizations to obtain funds for their development projects, especially for those which are linked to the policy and action in the Regional Plan.
- i. To maintain an efficient network of communications in the Region.
- j. To advise and provide technical assistance to those national associations responsible for the organization of Interamerican Scout Conference and Interamerican Scout Committee meetings, and any other world or regional events held in the Region.
- k. To produce and distribute such Scout publications as shall be necessary, making them available to the national organizations.
- l. Distribute such technical information as it shall produce or compile, likewise that emanating from the World Scout Bureau and other organizations of the Region.
- m. Subject to the established policies, to serve as liaison between the Interamerican Scout Organization and other public and private regional organizations linked to the objectives and action of the Scout Movement.
- n. To advise, in agreement with the World Scout Bureau, those countries which are potential members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, offering them such technical assistance as shall be necessary to enable them to comply with the minimum requirements established for obtaining member status.

Article 32. The Regional Executive is appointed by the World Scout Bureau in agreement with the Interamerican Scout Committee. His or her services are remunerated by the World Scout Bureau and he or she reports to the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, to whom he or she is responsible, and to the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Article 33. The Regional Executive shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. To direct the Interamerican Scout Office on behalf of the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and of the Interamerican Scout Committee.
- b. To fulfil the function of Executive Secretary of the Interamerican Scout Committee.
- c. To contract and supervise the executive staff of the office, in agreement with the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, according to the specifications of the budget approved by the World Scout Committee. As far as possible, such staff shall be recruited on an international basis.
- d. To adopt such measures as may be necessary to promote and safeguard the interests of the Scout Movement in the Interamerican Region, informing the Secretary General and the Interamerican Scout Committee of the resolutions adopted in fulfilment of this function.
- e. To exercise such other functions as may be assigned to him or her by the Secretary General or the Interamerican Scout Committee.

CHAPTER V

Revision of the Constitution and dissolution of the Interamerican Scout Organization

Article 34. Total or partial revision of the Constitution of the Interamerican Scout Organization shall be effected by decision of the Interamerican Scout Conference at the proposal of the Interamerican Scout Committee or at least one third of the members defined in paragraph a. of article 2, on the following conditions:

- a. The amendments with explanatory comments shall be circulated among Member Organizations for their information and study not less than 120 days in advance of the meeting of the Interamerican Scout Conference. The Member Organizations may make counterproposals or suggest amendments to the proposed text until 45 days before the respective meeting of the Conference.

- b. It shall be expressly stated in the agenda of the Interamerican Scout Conference that the revision of the Constitution is to be considered and addressed.
- c. The adoption of amendments to the Constitution shall require a majority of two thirds of the votes cast.
- d. Such amendments as shall be made to this Constitution shall be approved by the World Scout Committee before entering into force.

Article 35.

In the event of the dissolution of the Interamerican Scout Organization, or of any of its bodies established in this Constitution, the totality of its assets will become the property of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. If at the time of the dissolution, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, or the legal entity under the name of which it legally acts, is not organized or is not operating so as to be qualified for tax-exempt status, or is not in a position to receive the assets of the Interamerican Scout Organization or of any of its bodies, then such assets shall be placed at the disposal of one or more organizations which operate exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes, as deemed appropriate by the Conference which resolves the dissolution.