



## WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

### XVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

07-11 DECEMBER 2014

TIRANA, ALBANIA

**THEME: “YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN SUCCESSION: PAST AND FUTURE”**

### BRIEFING PAPER FOR DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

#### 1. HOSTS

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> WAY Executive Committee (EXCO) held on November 12, 2013, in London, United Kingdom, the WAY Executive Committee members decided that the WAY headquarters shall host the XVI WAY General Assembly. The General Assembly will be organized by WAY, in partnership with the Melaka State Government, Malaysia, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Albania and the Albanian Youth Council. This will be held in Tirana, Albania, from 07-11 November 2014.

#### 2. MANDATE

The WAY General Assembly is the supreme organ of WAY. It determines the main lines of policy and assumes responsibility for the direction and administration of WAY.

The Assembly receives from the Executive Committee a report on the implementation of WAY policy and activities carried out by WAY since the previous Assembly. It decides on the future programmes of WAY and elects the Executive Committee.

The Assembly meets every four years and is convened by the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Assembly is the President of WAY assisted by five Vice Presidents.

### **3. DELEGATES**

Qualified delegates to the WAY General Assembly are the members of the World Assembly of Youth. In accordance with Article VI (C) of the WAY Charter: "Each member of WAY shall appoint up to six delegates to the Assembly. Members from countries whose populations exceeds 10 million may appoint one delegate for each additional 10 million or fraction of ten million, up to 16 delegates. Delegates shall be elected representatives of youth organisations. National youth councils should make every effort to ensure their delegations include both genders and half of the members are under the age of 30."

To register, delegates are required to fill in the Delegate Registration and Accreditation Form, to be received by the WAY Secretariat by November 10, 2014. All delegates will receive their letters of accreditation by 1 October 2014. All accredited delegates are required to pay a registration fee of USD\$ 200 by November 10, 2014. This will include food, accommodation and local transportation for the duration of the General Assembly. Some scholarships may be available for paid-up WAY members who are unable to raise the registration fees.

### **4. OBSERVERS**

National and international organisations, governments, civil society organisations, United Nations agencies and other entities are welcomed as observers to the WAY General Assembly, subject to accreditation and endorsement by the Executive Committee. Observers may participate, without speaking or voting rights, in the open sessions of the General Assembly. Some closed sessions are not open to non-members.

All observers are required to register in advance by submitting the Observer Registration and Accreditation by November 10, 2014. All credited observers will receive their letters of accreditation by 1 October 2014 and are required to pay a registration fee of USD\$300 by November 10, 2014. No fee waiver or scholarships are available for observers. The registration fee will cater for food, accommodation and local transportation for the duration of General Assembly.

### **5. VOTING**

Decisions made by the assembly are taken by a majority vote of the members present except where a different procedure is indicated in the Charter. Each full member, whose membership has been accepted in the Assembly, shall have one vote in the Assembly. Only those members who have paid all their membership fees since the last normal Assembly can vote.

### **6. ELECTIONS**

Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Executive Committee Member should be received by the Secretary General by November 10, 2014. The elections will take place during the WAY General Assembly. Only paid-up WAY members can nominate candidates for positions.

## 7. THEME

The selected theme for the sixteenth WAY General Assembly, to be held in Tirana, Albania is 'Youth Leadership in Succession: Past and Future'. This theme has been chosen to draw attention to the importance of youth leadership-possession taking into consideration the fact that youth, worldwide, amount for approximately 3 billion people, making up almost half of the global population.

Never has it been clearer that young people hold a critical role in leading initiatives and developing policies especially when they make up such substantial portion of the overall world population. In fact, inclusion of young people in the design, implementation and evaluation of youth related development and leadership programmes, policies and services can ultimately result in more effective and sustainable solutions.

Thus, it goes without doubt that many programmes and policies developed should continue to focus on developing leadership skills in young people and encouraging their contribution and participation. Additionally, in order to achieve sustainable youth leadership, strong commitment, investment and support from young leaders and youth organizations is still required.

Acknowledging the significance and importance of youth-leadership World Assembly of Youth (WAY) hopes that exploring the issue during the XVI General Assembly shall be an appropriate platform to elevate all challenges related to youth-leadership, its development and advancement. Thereafter, Action Plans shall be developed and implemented at international, national and local levels.

## 8. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

The WAY Secretariat shall function as the General Assembly Secretariat. Contact details are as below:

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## 9. ABOUT ALBANIA

### Overview

Area:	28,748 square kilometres
Population:	2,821,977 people (2011)
Capital:	Tirana
Official Language:	Albanian (two major dialects: Gheg and Tosk) / English
Major Ethnic Groups:	Albanian, Greek, Aromanian, Macedonian and others
Time Zone:	GMT/UTC + 1
International Dialing Code:	00355
Currency:	Lek (ALL)

### Tirana

Tirana (*Tiranë*) is capital city of Albania led by a mayor, Lulzim Basha. It borders with its neighbor municipalities including Paskuqan, Dajt, Farkë, Vaqarr, Kashar and Kamëz. As one of the largest cities of Albania, Tirana is the centre of the political, economic as well as cultural life of Albania. Most public institutions and private universities are located in it. Though it has its metropolitan atmosphere, Tirana is known for the beauty of its natural surroundings i.e. hills, valleys, Dajti Mountain on the east, and river (Tiranë river) running through the city. Besides its natural heritages, Tirana also has four artificial lakes i.e. Tirana Artificial Lake, Paskuqani Lake, Farka Lake and Tufina Lake.

### Food

Being occupied by Greece, Ottoman Turks and Italy, Albanian cuisines are mostly influenced by them. The main dish such as a midday meal served with salad of fresh vegetables (a mixture of tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers and olives) or Byrek (type of Savory pie) is a common cuisine found in most parts of Albania including Tirana. Smoked meat, freshly home-made baked bread, feta cheese, and pickled preserves are also ordinarily served in Tirana. In general, its main dish consists of a balance diet of both meat and vegetables. There is a large variety of restaurants available in Tirana serving all kinds of the aforementioned dishes. Traditional cuisines are also available at restaurants in Tirana; some of them are Oda, Sarajet and Sofra e Ariut Restaurants.

### Public Transport

#### To Tirana

In order to reach Tirana, there are two optional public transports which are bus and train. Train to Tirana is accessible from various surrounding cities, Durrës (one hour distance-period, 8 journeys daily), Shkodra (3.5 hours distance-period, two journeys daily), Elbasan (4 hours distance-period, 3 journeys daily), Pogradec (4 hours distance-journey, two journeys daily) and Vlorë (5.5 hours distance-period, two journeys daily). As for bus, Tirana does not have central bus-station so dropping to various locations within the city is a common practice. There is daily bus service to Tirana, from Turkey, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Athens, Greece. In addition, multiple services of bus-transport per day to Pristina, Kosovo and other cities in Albania are also available.

## Within Tirana

Moving around Tirana does not seem to be a problem as it has great alternatives of public transports. Intra-city buses and taxis are main public-transport available within the city of Tirana. There are also buses marked as 'Unaze' which travel and transmit their passengers around the city-centre. As for taxis, most of them do not use the meter to set their charges to their passengers. Negotiation of the price should be done before passengers entering the taxi.

## Entry Requirements

A valid passport is required to enter Albania.

1. Nationals of the following countries DO NOT REQUIRE VISA to enter Albania and are permitted to stay for period of 1 month to a maximum period of 3 months. The countries are :

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia\*, Austria\*, Azerbaijan, Belgium\*, Bosnia, Brazil, Bulgaria\*, Canada\*, Chili, Croatia, Cyprus\*, Czech Republic\*, Denmark\*, Estonia\*, Finland\*, France\*, Germany\*, Great Britain\*, Greece\*, Holland\*, Holly Siege, Hong Kong (Only for Permanent Residents of China), Hungary\*, Ireland\*, Island\*, Israel, Italy\*, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kosova\*, Latvia\*, Liechtenstein, Lithuania\*, Luxemburg\*, Macau (Only for Permanent Residents of China), Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta\*, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand\*, Norway\*, Poland\*, Portugal\*, Romania\*, San Marino\*, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia\*, Slovenia\*, South Korea, Spain\*, Sweden\*, Switzerland\*, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, USA\*

Note: countries with \* are allowed to enter Albania with ID-Card; Visitors who hold a Schengen residence visa or a type "C" or "D" visa can enter Albania without a visa.

2. Nationals of the following countries DO NOT REQUIRE VISA to enter Albania and are permitted to stay for period of 1 month to a maximum period of 3 months; only between 25<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> September. The countries are:

Kuwait, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

3. Nationals of the following countries REQUIRE a visa to enter Albania for any purpose of visit. The countries are :

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Byelorussia, , Cambodia, Cameroon, Catarrh, China (except the holder of Schengen residence visa), Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Guiana, Guinea, Haiti, Hong Kong, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Fiji Islands, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kirkistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldavia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Nicaragua, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Salvador, Sao Tome

Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Syria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Russia, Rwanda, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen and other unstated countries.

## Health

Food and beverages in Albania are relatively healthy and hygienic. Bottled water is still the safest to consume but potted water is also publicly acceptable. Visitors should take note that pharmacies and other stores are closed from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Thus, it is recommended for visitors to bring all necessary medicines in hand. Clinics in small towns might not be well-equipped.

## What to Pack

Albania is popular with its plentiful number of climatic regions as it lies at latitude subject to variety of weather patterns. During winter season, the temperatures reach an average of 7 °C. Realizing on that fact, delegates are recommended to bring winter clothing to keep them warm during their stay in Tirana. In addition, delegates are advised to bring formal or traditional clothing for official sessions of the General Assembly, whilst casual clothing may be required for excursions.

## Traffic Rules and Regulation

Road traffic drives on the right hand side of the road in Albania. Overseas visitors must be in possession of a valid international driver's license if they plan to hire or drive a vehicle in Albania. When driving in the roads of Albania, all drivers should have possession of valid driving license, registration documents and insurance documents. Age restriction for foreign visitors to rent or drive a vehicle is generally 21 years old and they must have held their driving license for at least three years. Safety belts must be worn at all the times and the use of mobile phone during driving is strictly prohibited with an exemption of hand-free system. Although driving is permitted for foreign visitors, we advise our delegates to take extra precautions as road in Albania might be slippery and dangerous especially during winter season.

## Currency

Lek (ALL) is the official currency of Albania, though many Albanians do accept the Euro. In general, both credit and debit cards are accepted by most hotels and shopping centres, where MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club cards, travel checks and bank guaranteed checks are also acceptable.

## Getting to Albania

Tirana International Airport or also known as Rinas International Airport is located at 17 km from the centre of Tirana or approximately 15 minutes driving distance. Several airlines-services to Tirana, Albania are spread over the countries in Europe. They include Adria Airways, Austrian Tyrolean Airways, Belle Air, British Airways, Lufthansa, Olympic Air and Turkish Airlines. Upon the arrivals to Rinas International Airport, visitors are advised to take an hourly bus owned by Rinas Express. This bus will transmit its passengers from the airport to Skanderberg Square and vice versa at every hour between 8:00 am to 7.00 pm. The bus-stop can be found at walking distance from airport exit-doors towards the

parking lot. Other than the buses of Rinas Express, visitors can opt to use services offered by Airport Taxi Express.

## 10. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact:

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