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Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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## **CIRCULAR N° 2/2006**

To: International Commissioners

January 2006

### **Meeting of the World Scout Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, November 2005**

Dear colleagues,

#### **Introduction**

The World Scout Committee (WSC) met in Geneva from 25-27 November 2005. Attendance at the meeting was good, with eleven out of the fourteen WSC members attending as well as two Regional Chairmen and eight Youth Advisers. Some other guests also attended parts of the meeting, principally related to specific agenda items.

Prior to the formal meeting, the members of the WSC held an informal preliminary session among themselves, to enable them to share their own views on the priorities for the coming triennium in light of the outcomes of the World Scout Conference in Tunisia.

Among the points raised in this discussion were:

- a need for greater participation, which needs to be reflected in setting priorities and choosing working methods and more direct contacts with NSOs;
- a need to focus on the follow up to Conference resolutions, including: membership development and growth; governance; relationships with WAGGGS; developing the educational programme, supported by competent adults; reaching out, especially to new countries including China;
- the importance of financial issues, including the fee system (linked to declining membership), to 'provide better value for NSO money'; and the need to increase financial support, including from the corporate sector to keep tapping into the growing sense of corporate social responsibility;
- other themes: a focus on World Peace, reinforcing the spirit of world brotherhood; building up a momentum to 2007 and beyond.

The agenda of the formal meeting was organised under a series of main headings:

- Introduction by the Chairman on the triennium 2005-2008: key challenges; WSC working methods; and the role of the Youth Advisers to the WSC.
- Secretary General: including his report to the World Committee; latest revisions to the World Scout Bureau organization chart.
- Governance: terms of reference of the Governance review task force.
- The Strategy for Scouting: including setting up volunteer structures/professional support related to the Strategy; and strategy implementation at all levels of the Movement.

- Institutional matters: World Scout Conference resolutions; recommendations from the World Scout Youth Forum; volunteer structures/professional support related to institutional matters; constitutional matters; World Scout Bureau Inc.; financial matters (including the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2005, the budget for 2005-2006 and the World Scout Foundation); relationships matters (WAGGGS, organizations with consultative status with WOSM; evaluation of the 37th World Scout Conference and 9th World Scout Youth Forum, Tunisia; and future events, including the 2007 Centenary, the 21st World Scout Jamboree, the 38th World Scout Conference and 10th World Scout Youth Forum, the 13th World Scout Moot, and the 2nd World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium.
- Regional matters, including reports from Regional Chairmen.

### **Chairman's introduction**

The Chairman of the WSC, Herman Hui, presented his view of the challenges for the triennium 2005-2008. These included:

- Work as a united and well-coordinated team with shared responsibilities; keep stakeholders well informed in a timely manner.
- Work for world peace and reinforce the spirit of world brotherhood among NSOs, notwithstanding political regimes; and try to restart Scouting, where possible, in countries where Scouting has been banned.
- Build a sound foundation and plan for further development of the Movement in its next century.
- Start working on having own world headquarters.
- Look for better financial support from the corporate sector.

He also proposed to strengthen links between the WSC and the Regions by setting up a 'regional support team' comprising the Chairman, the Secretary General and the Regional Chairmen.

The WSC agreed on their working methods, and noted that the Chairman proposed to evaluate how the Committee is working half-way through the triennium. The WSC also agreed that the performance of the Secretary General would be evaluated annually, while recognising that the term of his initial contract (5 years) provides a benchmark for measuring longer-terms results.

The role of the Youth Advisers was also discussed. There are 12 Youth Advisers to the World Scout Committee: six elected by the last World Scout Youth Forum, and an additional six designated by the Regions. All twelve were invited to attend this meeting. A paper defining more clearly the role of the Youth Advisers vis-a-vis the World Scout Committee, the World Scout Youth Forum and the World Scout Conference and how this role will manifest itself in concrete terms (participation in working groups; attendance at various meetings; networking and communications using internet and other means; etc.) will be further elaborated prior to the next WSC meeting.

### **Secretary General's report**

In his regular report to the World Committee, the Secretary General focused on latest developments in: strategic management; organization; human resources; information and communication management; resources mobilisation; communication, branding and media; external relations and partnerships; relations with NSOs; and other critical issues.

Following discussion on the report, the WSC:

- supported the Global Planning exercise and fast progress towards complete alignment of Regional strategies and plans within the priorities and timing of the WOSM strategy;
- agreed that an initiative for a new World HQ should proceed;
- decided that a proposal contained in a draft policy paper on 'Open Standards and Open Source Software in World Scouting' should be considered at the next meeting;
- supported the continuation of the branding process and communication strategy, based on Conference Resolution 9/05, and noted the funding considerations; requested the Regions to give their full commitment to the process and contribute to its development according to their capacity; and approved a monitoring mechanism of the process;
- agreed that collaboration between the WOSM and WAGGGS World Bureaux be intensified;
- agreed that possibilities for the establishment of Scouting in China and in Cuba should be explored; that collaboration between Palestinian and Israeli Scouts should be promoted and supported; and that an intensified effort should be made towards membership growth;
- supported a Scout Song initiative.

The WSC also noted specific references in the Secretary General's report to Conference Resolution 19/05 on World Scout Centres and WOSM Accredited International Scout Centres, and to those concerning future World Conferences. These would be followed up as appropriate. (See also under 'Institutional matters' below.)

### **Governance**

The WSC reviewed draft terms of reference for the Governance Review Task Force (GRTF) which had been set up by Conference Resolution 7/05.

The WSC noted that:

- the whole process of conducting the review needs to be open and transparent;
- a search group should be set up to collect names of potential GRTF members, based on nominations from NSOs and other sources; and to propose these members to the WSC for appointment based on an agreed profile of the task force membership;
- the timetable for the whole process would be a significant factor in recruiting GRTF members; the task was unlikely to be completed within three years. It was recognised the GRTF itself would need to have a say in determining the plan and timetable for its work.

The WSC agreed that the Steering Committee (the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Secretary General) should act as the search group.

It was agreed that the Secretary General would further refine the draft Terms of Reference based on the discussion, so that these could be circulated to NSOs as soon as possible with a call for proposals for potential GRTF members.

### **The Strategy for Scouting**

The WSC considered the volunteer structures and professional support required to further the work on the Strategy for Scouting.

Terms of reference of the Strategy Task Force, the Educational Methods Committee and the Membership Development Task Force were approved. The terms of reference of the Branding Process and Communication Task Force will be formally approved at the next meeting.

The following appointments as Chairman of the subcommittees/task forces were made:

- Strategy Task Force: Nkwenkwe Nkomo.
- Educational Methods Committee: Gualtiero Zanolini.
- Branding Process & Communication Task Force: Mario Diaz.
- Membership Development Task Force: Steve Fossett.

The newly appointed chairmen were asked to constitute their groups, and propose the names of members to the WSC Chairman for formal approval, as soon as possible so as to become operational quickly.

The WSC also received a report on the implementation of the Strategy at all levels.

Following the adoption of the Strategy for Scouting in 2002 and promotion and development during the past triennium, the emphasis is now on implementation and plans for evaluation.

Implementation includes:

- alignment of regional and national strategies with the World Strategy;
- targeted support from WSC, Regional Committees and the WSB;
- using the Centenary celebrations as a tool to support implementation in NSOs;
- focus on membership development and the social impact of Scouting.

Evaluation will be based on the process agreed in September 2004, with a focus on two areas: the delivery of Scouting and support to NSOs. Targets have been drafted and shared with NSOs. These now need to be reviewed and sent to NSOs with a description of the process and support for setting indicators.

Concerning the delivery of Scouting, short term indicators have been developed for the 7 strategic priorities and implementation of the strategy in NSOs, and impact statements have been

drafted identifying the long-term impact of the work on the strategic priorities. These now need to be confirmed and a process put in place to collect feedback and success stories.

Three areas of measurement for WOSM, concerning the support it provides to NSOs, are:

- internal processes: customer focus; and operations and logistics;
- learning and growth: strategic management; and technological infrastructure;
- financial aspects: linking budget to strategy; and reporting by strategic priorities.

The WSC needs to develop targets and indicators in these three areas; the process can then be commended to Regional Committees. The WSB also needs to develop its targets and indicators in the same areas. These can be completed by April 2006 and sent to NSOs, with a view to measuring progress in time to share results with the World Scout Conference in 2008.

### **Institutional matters**

The WSC noted the resolutions of the last World Scout Conference. Follow-up will be ensured through related items on the agenda of WSC meetings, and through the system of subcommittees and task forces being put in place; the chairmen of these groups were asked to include the required follow-up actions that fall within their fields of responsibility in their respective work plans.

With specific reference to Resolution 19/05, World Scout Centres and WOSM Accredited International Scout Centres, the WSC approved Terms of Reference for a task force to follow up this work. The Secretary General had also made some specific proposals on this matter in his report.

The WSC also noted the Conference resolutions concerning future World Conferences, including the increasing demand from NSOs for different working methods at these Conferences to enable more opportunities for participative working group sessions. The outcomes of these kinds of working groups were important and needed to be kept in mind, even if they were not always reflected in formal Conference resolutions. The WSC recognised that implementing the Conference resolutions would require strong support from the WSC and a more proactive involvement in planning and conducting these events. As far as the next Conference in Korea is concerned, the designated WSC liaison person for that event would have a key role to play. In the longer term, the rules for bidding to host World Conferences may need to be revised by the WSC.

The view was expressed that, at this stage in the Strategy for Scouting, the end of a cycle of Conferences had been reached. For the next Conference, the concept would need to be completely redesigned, with a new focus on governance issues, and other critical questions such as membership. The work on the strategy would continue, but in a different way, with less of an emphasis on decision-making at the Conference and more on the impact of the strategy at national and local levels, through strengthening links with NSOs and integrated efforts with the Regions.

The WSC also noted the recommendations arising from the World Scout Youth Forum (WSYF). Conference Resolution 11/05 specifically asked the WSC to give serious consideration to these recommendations, and some aspects of the recommendations are also reflected in other Conference resolutions. The following decisions were made:

- The Youth Advisers will review the WSYF recommendations and bring to the next WSC meeting a synthesis of the points included therein that require a decision from the WSC.
- The recommendations will be picked up for further consideration by the subcommittees and work groups, notably the Educational Methods Committee. Subcommittee and task force chairmen were asked to identify the recommendations that fall within their group's competence. It is expected that the Youth Advisers will be fully involved in that follow-up work.
- The Youth Advisers may also be asked by the WSC to consider specific subjects. One such subject was introduced; it was agreed that the Youth Advisers should analyse the situation of the involvement of young people in institutional bodies at world and regional levels, and report their conclusions and recommendations to the WSC.
- The Youth Advisers who are members of the planning committee of the next WSYF will deal with the recommendations that deal specifically with that event, and bring proposals for the future WSYF to the WSC.

The terms of reference of the Constitutions, Honours & Awards, Budget and Audit Committees were reviewed and, where necessary, amendments were approved. The following people have been appointed as chairmen of these committees for the triennium 2005-2008:

- Constitutions: Derek Pollard
- Honours & Awards: Jørgen Rasmussen
- Budget: Georges El Ghorayeb
- Audit: Neil Westaway.

Thérèse Bermingham was appointed as the WSC Vice-Chairman member of the World Scout Foundation Board. Steve Fossett and John Gemmill were appointed as WSC members of the SCORE Board.

The WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee comprises four representatives each of WAGGGS and WOSM, including the two Chairmen and the two Chief Executives. Thérèse Bermingham and Ana Elisa Piubello were appointed as the other WSC members of the Consultative Committee.

The WSC noted the position that had been taken by WAGGGS that members of the Consultative Committee should be full members of the WSC/World Board, not Youth Advisers. It is expected, however, that ways will be found to involve Youth Advisers in the work of the Consultative Committee.

The WSC appointed the following persons as liaison members with external bodies:

- ICCS: Mario Diaz
- IUMS: Mohamed Triki
- DESMOS: Georges El Ghorayeb
- WSPU: Philippe Da Costa
- ISGF: Georges El Ghorayeb.

John Gemmill was appointed as the WSC member of the Kandersteg International Scout Centre committee.

Under constitutional matters, the WSC was reminded of Conference Resolution 2/05 on Ukraine; progress is being monitored and regular reports will be made to the WSC. The WSC also discussed the status of the Palestinian Scout Association which, in terms of Conference Resolution 1/96, has been granted all privileges of WOSM membership except the right to vote; and the stage of development of the emerging Scout Association in Timor Leste.

Concerning financial matters, the WSC considered the situation of the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2005 and, on the recommendation of the Budget Committee, approved the budget for the year 2005-2006. The difficult situation of a number of NSOs with respect to payment of registration fees was noted with concern. The WSC appointed Habibul Alam to chair a Registration Fee Task Force to follow up Conference Resolution 4/05. Terms of Reference for this task force will be drafted and brought to the WSC for approval. In this respect, the WSC recalled the process that led to the design of the current fee system adopted in Oslo, especially the composition of the task force which developed that proposal (drawn from the key NSOs which paid most of the registration fees); a similar approach would be needed this time.

The WSC was informed of the resignation, for personal reasons, of the World Treasurer. The WSC expressed its appreciation to Arnaud Girardin for his services to WOSM and mandated the Steering Committee to identify a successor and propose that name to the next WSC meeting for appointment.

On relationship matters, the Secretary General informed the WSC of the items on the agenda of the WAGGG/WOSM Consultative Committee meeting planned for the following day, which included relationships with SAGNOs, plans for activities related to Peace, the 2007 Centenary, an update on 'Youth of the World' and 'Guides and Scouts of the World', working together at the UN, an update on handling problems related to the issuing of visas, and common Member Organization issues. The question of the timing of the European Regional Conference would also be discussed, following Conference Resolution 6/05.

Consultative status with WOSM was renewed for the coming triennium to the following organizations:

- ICCS: International Catholic Conference of Scouting
- IUMS: International Union of Muslim Scouts
- DESMOS: International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts
- WSPU: World Scout Parliamentary Union
- ISGF: International Scout & Guide Fellowship.

It was noted that the WSC's guidelines on consultative status indicate that a period of at least three years is required to fulfil the requirements before the status may be granted. The WSC decided therefore not to grant consultative status to the World Buddhist Scout Brotherhood (WBSB), pending receipt of more information on their activities and cooperation with WOSM.

The WSC received a summary of the participant evaluation forms completed at the end of the World Scout Conference in Tunisia. The evaluation questionnaire had been completed by only 104 people; this was an unusually low number of returns, which could be largely explained by the very long duration of the Friday afternoon session and the consequent desire of participants to leave quickly at the end of the Conference prior to the closing dinner. Key sections of the report were highlighted, including:

- overall, the evaluation was very positive with relatively few "negative" or "very negative" responses
- notwithstanding the organizational problems which had been encountered with hotel and other arrangements, "General Organization" received generally "positive" or "very positive" ratings
- "Opportunities for active participation in the Conference" received "only" 60% of positive or very positive ratings, and "Opportunities to express points of view and contribute to Conference business" received 62% positive or very positive results.

The results of the evaluation will be passed on to the Korea Scout Association for consideration in their planning of the next Conference. Additional feedback from NSOs, including a letter received from Scouting New Zealand, will also help in the organization of the next event. The WSC recorded its thanks to the Tunisian Scouts for hosting the Conference.

Concerning the 2007 Centenary, the WSC appointed Philippe Da Costa and Ana Elisa Piubello as members of the 2007 Sub-Committee. The WSC also approved guidelines for the selection of participants at the Brownsea Island 'Scouting's Sunrise' event on 1 August 2007.

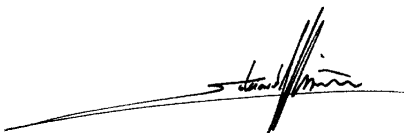
The WSC received progress reports from representatives of the Host Organizations for the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom and the 38th World Scout Conference & 10th World Scout Youth Forum in Korea. A report on preparations for the 13th World Scout Moot scheduled for Mozambique in 2008 will be prepared for the next WSC meeting.

Finally, the WSC heard reports from the Asia-Pacific and European Regional Chairmen who were present at the meeting. In his report, the Asia-Pacific Chairman highlighted, and expressed appreciation for, the excellent response to the Tsunami Appeal. He noted, however, that the Scouting's response to the earthquake disaster which hit Pakistan and India had, by contrast, been minimal outside the countries concerned.

The Chairman of the European Scout Committee presented a wide-ranging report on the activities of the Region, including a planned symposium to consider the outcomes of the World Scout Conference and develop a new Regional plan and budget; distribution of grants for projects under the regional Centenary Fund; direct support to NSOs including a new project specifically for those in the Balkans; representation by Scouts in the European Youth Forum (an umbrella body of National Youth Councils and INGOs); and cooperation with the Kandersteg International Scout Centre and with WAGGGS.

The WSC meeting ended with agreement that the next meeting will be held in Geneva from 28-30 April 2006, and the following meeting will be at the end of September 2006.

Yours sincerely,



Eduardo Missoni  
Secretary General