

GOVERNANCE REVIEW TASK FORCE
DISCUSSION PAPER 4

WORLD AND REGIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEES

November 2009

The Governance Review Task Force has produced the following discussion papers in order to inform its work:

- 1. WOSM Membership** – sent to World Scout Committee members and Youth Advisers. Subsequently, proposals were made to the World Committee in September 2009
- 2. Representation and Communications** – distributed to NSOs November 2009
- 3. Operations** - distributed to NSOs November 2009
- 4. World and Regional Committees** - distributed to NSOs November 2009

Comments on this discussion paper are invited not later than 31 January 2010 so that final recommendations can be prepared for consideration by the World Scout Committee in March 2010.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The interplay between the World and Regional levels of World Scouting has generated plenty of heat. The GRTF takes the view that we need to generate some light also.

1.2 In Discussion Paper 3 – Operations, we emphasised the need for regionalisation of staff and we also affirm our view that services to NSOs should be locally delivered wherever possible where this is the most responsive way of supporting the Movement at national level. In paragraph 2 we offer some observations on the Regions and seek comments from NSOs.

1.3 However, it is clear in our view that there is a potential for conflict when there are two elected bodies who can each claim legitimacy and (despite all the words in the Constitutions, both World and Regional) expend valuable time arguing over priorities, when the goal is the unity of World Scouting and the provision of services to NSOs.

1.4 For this reason, we offer for comment a significant proposal for change: governance of WOSM, at all levels would be through the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee, with Regional Committees elected in the Regions but operating in direct relationship with the World Scout Committee, with the Chair of the Regional Committee being a full, voting member of the World Scout Committee. Paragraph 3 looks at this - we await the comments of NSOs.

1.5 Other proposals connected with the World Scout Committee also appear in paragraph 3.

1.6 It almost goes without saying that good relationships between WOSM and the World Scout Foundation are essential. We look at this in paragraph 4. The views of NSOs on this critical issue will be invaluable.

1.7 Finally, we deal in this paper with some detailed points on the functions of the World Scout Committee and WSB Inc, on which comments are invited.

2. Regions

2.1 Comments and suggestions have been made from time to time:

- Under the current distribution of countries to the existing Regions, some countries wonder whether they might be better served if they were in a different Region. It is difficult to see how this could be accommodated and probably the only workable way is for the Regions to be decided on by the World Scout Committee, as at present
- The number of countries per Region differs widely one to another. Does this matter?

- Language can be a difficult factor, creating negative impact on meetings/cooperation in and between the Regions
- Additional financial burdens would be placed on the WOSM budget if additional Regions were to be created or were there to be other significant changes

2.2 There are many differences between the various current Regional Constitutions. For example:

- Financial regulation
- Associate membership
- Number of elected members and term of office
- Before the Chairmen of Regional Committees became members of the World Scout Committee their attendance at World Committee meetings was not consistently referred to in Regional Constitutions

2.3 There should be consistency in governance provisions between Regions. Generally:

- Proper reports and financial statements should be provided to the World Scout Committee and their Treasurer.
- Rules of procedures should be in place for all Regional gatherings and conferences

2.4 Could not all these provisions be in one publication for WOSM as a whole (this would be the case if the suggestion made in 3 below were to be adopted)?

3. The World Scout Committee

3.1 A Strong Regional/World Partnership

3.1.1 A possible way of providing for an effective view at the World Scout Committee of issues based on a wide range of experiences of its members could be:

- In addition to the existing committees of the World Scout Committee, committees for the Regions (known as, for example, The Africa Committee) are created, reporting direct to the World Scout Committee
- The membership of such Committees are elected at an appropriate Regional event or conference in the year preceding the World Scout Conference, to take office at the World Conference (the intervening period should be as short as possible but will help those elected to prepare). Those elected would serve for three years, with the opportunity to be re-elected once but as a matter of principle should serve a same term of office as members of the World Scout Committee.
- The Chairman of the Committee, elected from amongst those elected at the Regional event or conference, serves as a voting member of the

World Scout Committee for the ensuing Triennium, in addition to the twelve elected by the World Scout Conference

- Procedures for the operation of the Regional Committees appear in the WOSM Constitution

3.1.2 It would be possible for meetings of the Regional Committees to take place in the same place and at the same time as the World Scout Committee (as well as on other occasions in the Regions) and we suggest that this should happen at least once in each Triennium.

3.1.3 We suggest that this amendment to our current approach would maintain and, indeed, extend our ability to reflect the experience of World Scouting across countries and cultures whilst at the same time maximising unity. We are mindful of Resolution 6/08 of the Conference in Korea, relating to election systems, and this is relevant here. It is also part of the context for the ideas expressed in Discussion Paper 2 – Representation and Communications.

3.1.4 Regional Conferences have in one case recently called for the decision to institute three-year terms for the World Scout Committee to be reconsidered. The task force has not considered this in detail and would welcome comments from NSOs.

3.1.5 We have no proposal to change the situation where staff of the Bureau report formally to the Secretary General. This is not to say that Bureau staff should not have good links with Regional Committees, especially through Regional Directors, who would continue to provide staff support to Regional Committees in the same way as WSB Directors in the Central Office support existing subcommittees and task forces of the World Scout Committee. The existing system for the Secretary General to appoint Regional Directors with the agreement of the Regional Committee has caused concern in the past but we noted the two most recent such appointments, where the process has been carried out very effectively. This is as much a matter of style as anything else but the word “agreement” could be replaced by “consultation”.

3.1.6 The above would require considerable constitutional change and so it is important to have the views of as many NSOs as possible on the issues.

3.2 Regional Conferences

3.2.1 We can see there being three opportunities in each Triennium for NSOs from a Region to meet:

- A Conference in the year before the World Scout Conference, where the elections of the Regional Committee (and then Chairman) take place
- A Regional meeting (or, as in Korea, two) during the World Scout Conference, during which the elected Committee and Chairman start their term
- A conference/gathering in the year following the World Conference (on the lines of existing Summits/Symposiums etc)

3.2.2 These events would be key communication methods: to listen to NSOs and to explain WOSM policies and activities. It will be important to deal with the status of these

Regional events: certainly the Conference at which the elections take place will need to be fully referred to in the Constitution, with its powers and responsibilities (for example on budgets) clear. The other events can, perhaps, be left as more informal.

3.3 Chairman/President

3.3.1 As mentioned in Discussion Paper 3 - Operations, should the functions of the Chairman of the World Scout Committee be more extensive, including a representational role for World Scouting as well as chairing meetings? This, combined with a possible change of name to President, could result in a powerful partnership with the Secretary General.

3.4 Number of Members

3.4.1 Should the World Scout Committee continue to have twelve members elected at World Scout Conferences, especially if there are changes to Regional membership of the Committee (see above) so that the number does not become too large for effective working?

3.5 Constitutional Amendments

3.5.1 The following could be added to Article XV:

- The Chairman of the World Scout Committee or a Vice Chairman shall chair World Scout Committee meetings
- In case of emergency, and in the absence of the Chairman's invitation, three members of the World Scout Committee may call for an extraordinary meeting providing a detailed agenda and explanation for the calling of such a meeting

3.6 Youth Advisers

3.6.1 The status of Youth Advisers could be clarified in the Constitution (see Discussion Paper 2 – Representation and Communications).

4. Maintaining Good Links with the World Scout Foundation

4.1 As identified in the Foundation's Deed (which governs the activities of the Foundation) in Article 2: "the objects for which the Foundation is established are to develop the World Scout Movement by supplying to it inter alia the financial means necessary for its actions". Article 8 of the Deed states: "The Board of the Foundation is alone authorized to determine the use of the funds allocated to the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of this Deed". The Foundation's published Corporate Governance Policy states "The board should set the Foundation's values and standards, which should be consistent with the ethos of Scouting, and ensure that its obligations to its donors and to scouting are understood and met. All directors must take decisions objectively in the interests of the Foundation alone".

4.2 Given this background to the purpose of the Foundation, should there be a specific link in the Constitution between WOSM and the Foundation – although of course these two bodies are totally independent of each other - as the objects for which the Foundation is established are to help develop the World Scout Movement?

5. Functions of the World Scout Committee

5.1.1 The following are some possible additions to Article XIII – Functions – of the WOSM Constitution:

- To coordinate links with all WOSM organs
- To secure compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of WOSM by all organs
- To ensure that risks facing WOSM of whatever nature are assessed and appropriate control measures put in place (see Discussion Paper 3 - Operations)
- To call for an extraordinary meeting of the World Scout Conference in accordance with Article XI where required to deal with an emergency
- To consider plans and strategies for the World Organization of the Scout Movement and make appropriate proposals to the World Scout Conference
- To approve the purchase/lease of any real estate for use or occupation by the World Organization of the Scout Movement and ensure that the title is registered in the name of WSB Inc
- To follow-up on the execution and evaluation of the programmes/activities of the World Scout Bureau
- To receive yearly audited reports from each Region
- To liaise with World and Regional Scout Foundations and receive their plans and strategies at least yearly
- To approve the creation and supervise the management of all legal bodies created on behalf of the World Organization of the Scout Movement at all levels

5.1.2 The Supervision of the organization of international and regional Scout events (Article XVIII, paragraph 6 of the Constitution) could be removed from the functions of the World Scout Bureau and included in the functions of the World Scout Committee (Article XIII). This seems to reflect the correct balance.

5.1.3 An appendix could be added to the Constitution (or, perhaps better, in the file of policies etc referred to in Discussion Paper 3 – Operations) detailing the principal operational issues that the World Scout Committee should be dealing with.

5.1.4 The responsibility of the Secretary General to arrange for procedural advice to be provided during meetings of the Committee should be formally noted in the Constitution as one of his functions (see Discussion Paper 3 – Operations).

5.1.5 The following two functions listed in Article XIII could be added to the functions of the World Scout Bureau as they represent more their role:

- Article XIII, paragraph 2: To promote the Scout Movement throughout the world by means of visits, correspondence, training courses and other appropriate action.
- Article XIII, paragraph 3: To advise and assist Member Organizations in carrying out the purpose, principles and method of Scouting.

6. WSB Inc (see Discussion Paper 3 - Operations)

6.1 The Association named World Scout Bureau Inc was created under Swiss law to give legal identity to the Constitutional bodies of WOSM and to enable their actions to have legal validity where required. We suggest:

- There should be appropriate references to WSB Inc in the Constitution
- WSB Inc's name could be changed to WOSM Inc or something similar, in order to avoid confusion with the World Scout Bureau itself rather than the wider World Organization

Governance Review Task Force November 2009

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Please send comments:

By email to grtf@scout.org

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