



20th European Scout Conference

Brussels, Belgium

19 July 2010

Workshop on governance

John May
David Bull

Introduction and aims of the afternoon

John May provided introduction to the workshop and presented the aims that should be achieved this afternoon

Context and history

David Bull presented short history of the process of governance review and provided information about the context of the process.

General questions and clarifications

Only one question of clarification was raised. The question was about how the changes should be dealt with. David Bull responded that a document has been prepared giving more background to each proposal and giving the detailed constitutional changes which are to be discussed. Because of the short triennium, it has not been possible to give the twelve months' notice, requested in Korea.

Small groups discussion on specific issues

Participants were divided in small groups up to 7-8 people and they discussed the following issues from the Governance review:

- Federations
- National Scout Organizations – Accredited Scout Organizations
- National minorities
- Dissident Associations
- SAGNOs
- Regional Scout Committees
- Youth Participation
- World Scout Committee

Feedbacks

Following conclusions were drawn from the small groups discussions:

Group 1

This group was discussing the issue of national minorities – since religion can be considered as national minority, it can create confusions. So, the concept of national minority should be clarified. There is a link between national minority and country of origin, so these issues should be clarified, as well.

Group 2

Agreement within the group – discussions already decided upon should not be reopened. On youth involvement, there needs to be a clear strategic step on how the youth should be represented in the WSC. The groups acknowledged the right of young people. There should be a training for young people before they become members, so they can be prepared to serve in the Committee.

Group 3

Topic 6. Regional Committees.

- The machinery of having the Regional Committees under the World Committee is heavy.
- The question of the Regional Chairmen was already decided in the Korea Conference.

- The Regional Chairmen already have the possibility to supervise the work of the Committee.
- The decision should only be reverted if the reversion is part of a real overall solution which answers the fundamental question of the relationship between the Regions and the World level.
- It would be more efficient to consider the World Committee as a conference instead of considering it as a team. (There are 40 people in the room.)
 - From this point of view, it would be logical to give the Regional Chairmen the vote.
 - It's rare to have actual votes at the Committee meetings. Rather, everyone has a voice that can be heard.
- The Region is not just something which meets now and then and doesn't have official status.
 - The European Region is different from all the other ones.
 - The Regional Committee needs an independent voice. It shouldn't just be a subsidiary to the World Committee.
- However, WOSM shouldn't be considered to be a federation of Regions. That would be detrimental.
 - Geographical thinking is obsolete – could there be other approaches? (At least, ones that are less geographically centered.)

Topic 7. Youth Involvement.

- The Youth Forum has developed into a political opportunity for a few politically talented youth who control the event.
 - The Europeans and the Inter-Americans have a cultural advantage, which disenfranchises other cultures.
- We might use the WAGGGS/Irish/British system of having a fixed quota of young people in the Board elections.
 - In a perfect world, there wouldn't be a discussion.
 - At the moment, the Youth Advisors are some of the best prepared of the World Committee members. The question is more about finding and using young talent.
- How about having young people as the Regional Chairmen?
- We decided that two young members are needed in the World Scout Committee. However, we couldn't agree on the best way to choose these two

Group 4

Issue 5 - SAGNOs

- we would like to keep the possibility to create new SAGNO's in the future
- if the reality is that SAGNO's start to register their female members in WOSM too, there's a raise of financial income for the organisation. Is this needed or could this amount be used to lower the membership fee in general for.
- the part about SAGNO's is not really elaborated yet, we want to understand our position, situation
- who decides about what kind of membership type is allowed, the constitution or the members themselves?
- please don't be that restrictive as WAGGGS, multiple systems should be possible (task for SAGNO's at next WAGGGS conference to change the current position)

Issue 6 – Regional Scout Committees

- 2.3.2 If the regional level is part of the decision making process, every association should be member or a region. There's a need for an agreement between the WSC and the NSO to which region a country belongs.
- 2.3.3 Do we still need the Eurasia region, could these countries be divided to Asian Pacific and European Region?

Issue 7 – Youth Involvement

- We would like to see more reimbursement costs for youth advisors than only the committee meetings (included in project budgets), otherwise it could be an obstacle for students or not so rich associations to back up the initiatives of the youth advisor
- Also this part is not ambitious enough
- 2.1.5 the resolutions/recommendations of the youth forum with their result should be presented to the world conference, where delegations can decide which they would like to debate again at the only decision making body, the world conference itself.

Group 5

Federations:

- Should be allowed in certain circumstances
- These circumstances should be clearly set out, but not too prescriptive
- Rules required for dealing with disputes in Federations should be set
 - o WOSM Responsibilities vs. Federation responsibilities

Accredited Scout Organizations

- Agreed that it is good to extend ASOs
- Agreed that 1000 membership criteria should be removed

Regional Committees

- There is a concern that the system of Regional Committee elected by the Region, but responsible to the WSC might create conflict.
- Concern on the accountability.

World Scout Committee

- Like the idea of 2 youth members on WSC.
- Need to find a way to elect them at the Conference

Group 6

Issue 7 - Youth involvement - There is a cultural problem with Youth involvement in many countries in the World, even in some in Western Europe. We should not have a quota for elections in WSC. It might be a good idea to have a quota for the Conference – 50% of delegates should be below 30 or 35. But again it should create problems (young delegates to be put aside and to be forced to listen what they have been told from older delegates). However, Europe has to put forward young candidates, but there should be changes on national level, as well.

Workshop on Strategy

Mario Diaz

A detailed presentation was done on the Strategy for Scouting and particularly on the current Framework for evaluation.

After some group work to answer to a series of questions, the main highlights were:

- NSOs have contributed for the definition of the Strategy (in Conferences and so) but there has been no incorporation of the results (in its full form) in national strategies
- However, some elements of the strategic priorities have been worked at national level
- Strategy has been seen as Guidelines for some NSO (because they are open enough to be seen as that)

Regarding the future:

- The existence of a strategy at world level is seen as positive
 - Vast majority think that more time should be given to the current 7 priorities to enable further implementation
 - Suggestions were made that some "refreshment" could be given to the topics (priorities) and its definition. There could also be considered the combination of priorities or even select a smaller number of them. The main idea should be to simplify.
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Workshop on World Registration Fees

Luc Panissod
Gregory Sanchez
John Neysmith

Attendees: 22 persons representing 15 countries

Summary: The current fee system was passed at the 1996 World Scout Conference. In essence, the existing fee system is both equitable and practical in that it is transparent and logical. However, a few member countries are experiencing specific economic difficulties, which is why the system had to be reviewed and modified to handle these specific cases.

Questions raised at today's session:

Why is the calculation based on the GNI figures of 2003?

- more recent figures are reducing the adjusting factor and with the proposed model, a greater stability is guaranteed

How is inflation taken into account when the model will not change during 9 years?

- the fees will increase every 3 years by the CPI(Switzerland) over the previous 3 years

By not making any changes in the model, is the problem not just postponed?

- the income from fees is only one aspect of revenue and must be put in a wider picture of which the result is "growth" and the aim is to have a simple and user-friendly system. The proposed model will fulfil these objectives.
- the GNI/pc is the least bad indicator of all those considered, e.g. the human development index is not in favour of less privileged countries.
- the problems of 6 specific countries are best dealt with by the SG on an as need be basis

By not relating the fee to membership change will revenue not be negatively affected?

- No, in that member association will now be encouraged to both report their actual membership without having to "hide" their figures, as well as to increase their membership without having to pay more for expanding their membership

Details attached is a more detailed summary of the system and the proposed changes for your reference

Process: The World Committee will approve the recommended plan at its upcoming September meeting. It will then be sent to all members for review and subsequent approval at the 2011 World Conference in Brazil.



Workshop on YOUTH FORUM

**Karin Ahlback
Milena Pecarski**

Introduction:

The introduction by Karin included an overview of:

- The concept of the Youth Forum
- The aims and Objectives of the Youth Forum
- The role of the Youth Forum and the roles of the Youth Advisors

Brazil 2011 – ‘Paddle your own canoe’

This was followed by an overview of the Youth Forum which will take place in Brazil in January 2010 where Karen took the participants through the agenda, showing the symbolic framework and highlighting some of the new methods and practices that will be used.

The objectives of the Youth Forum:

The session broke in to working groups to discuss the following topics. A background document was supplied and having read it and discussed the topic in some detail the group proposed the following:

- The Youth Forum as a tool to support youth involvement in decision making in WOSM
- The Youth Forum as an educational event:
- The Youth Forum as a driver for change, contributing new ideas to the movement.
- The Youth Forum as a tool to help NSO's

It should be noted that although the groups discussed these objectives separately, they returned time and again to the same points, detailed below:

- Participants to the Youth Forum should be very well prepared and should be people who already represent their NSO.
- The Youth Forum is a valuable educational event which offers development opportunities to the participants, along with the possibility to learn new things, and share interesting practices.
- Participants to the Youth Forum should also attend the World Scout Conference.
- The Youth Forum is a valuable educational tool, giving experience in decision making as well as the opportunity to exchange on good practices, and has the ability to empower those who participate.
- At the same time the Youth Forum can be a frustrating and seemingly worthwhile event, if it's resolutions are not respected or taken forward.
- Given that there will always be limited resources the groups agreed that it was worth proposing that the resolutions of the Youth Forum should be prioritised and only the most important should be then taken to the World Scout Committee, but these should also go to the World Conference.
- It was also noted that the Youth Forum can give a good indication of the 'pulse' of the Scout Movement as the input comes directly from the members, and these young people can also bring some very new and innovative ideas of what is important today.

Other comments:

- Some resolutions of the Youth Forum would be more appropriately targeted at NSO's
 - Participants should always read in detail the info they get beforehand and prepare themselves well.
 - It would be a useful exercise to use the 'patrol system' as part of the method of the Youth Forum.
 - As long as we need to discuss Youth Involvement, we still have a problem.
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