



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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To: International Commissioners

July 2003

**Minutes of the meeting of the
WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee**

Dear Colleagues,

Attached please find a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee, which was held on 16 April 2003 in Geneva.

These minutes are being distributed by both organizations. A copy will also be available on our web site.

Sincerely yours,

Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General

WAGGGS/WOSM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting in the World Scout Bureau, Geneva, 16th April 2003

Present:	Kirsty Gray	Chairman, WAGGGS World Board (in the Chair)
	Charlotte Christ-Weber	Vice-Chairman, WAGGGS World Board
	Magda Murr	Member, WAGGGS World Board
	Mary Lynn Myers	Member, WAGGGS World Board
	Lesley Bulman	Chief Executive, WAGGGS
	Marie-Louise Correa	Chairman, World Scout Committee
	Habibul Alam	Vice-Chairman, World Scout Committee
	Walter Hofstetter	Member, World Scout Committee
	Ana Elisa Piubello	Member, World Scout Committee
	Jacques Moreillon	Secretary General, WOSM
Malek Gabr	Deputy Secretary General, WOSM	

1. Welcome and opening

In welcoming members, the Chairman noted the apologies received from Amelita Dayrit-Go, María-Paula Romano and Ferran Guimaraes, who had been unable to attend. Marie-Louise Correa welcomed members to the World Scout Bureau, and she announced the retirement of Jacques Moreillon as Secretary General, effective April 1, 2004, and the formation of a Search Committee for a new Secretary General.

The agenda was approved.

It was agreed that the letter from Denmark dated 23 March 2003, which both organizations had received, would be discussed under agenda item 3 (joint working on peace initiatives).

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting should be drafted by Mary Lynn and Habibul, agreed by Kirsty and Marie-Louise, and then circulated to the members of the Consultative Committee present at the meeting for comments on matters of fact. Once agreed, they would be posted on the websites of the two organizations and circulated to Member Organizations of WAGGGS and WOSM.

2. Work of the Alliance of Youth CEOs (formerly the "Big Seven")

Lesley and Jacques introduced this subject. They emphasized the fact that the Alliance of Chief Executives of the youth organizations was a very informal, non-institutional grouping, which was the main reason why they were able to work together so effectively. The Alliance made it possible to open doors and convey messages which none of the individual constituent organizations alone would have been able to do.

The main item presently being considered by the Alliance is the joint programme focusing on HIV/AIDS in Africa, which aims at empowering Africa's young people to combat HIV/AIDS. The International Youth Foundation had agreed to take the lead in developing a programme proposal and identifying potential sponsors.

All participants agreed that the work of the Alliance was producing excellent results and that it should be pursued and encouraged.

3. Joint working on peace initiative

John Geoghegan, Director of the World Scout Foundation, was invited to participate in this agenda item to present the "Gifts for Peace" project for the WOSM 2007 Centenary event.

Jacques and Lesley had developed the draft of a common WAGGGS/WOSM Peace project, to be undertaken within the framework of the Consultative Committee. The project had been shared with the WOSM 2007 Task Force and with the World Scout Committee, which had met in Kandersteg over the weekend prior to the Consultative Committee. The WAGGGS World Board had not yet approved the project.

The draft project was called "Towards a century of youth for peace" and provisionally bore the sub-title of "the contribution of close to one billion Scouts, Girl Scouts and Guides to a more peaceful world". The meeting agreed that the title and sub-title might need to be changed. The project was based on the fact that peace was a major area of work for both WAGGGS and WOSM and, since both organizations share the same principles set forth by Baden-Powell, any international recognition for the contribution to peace should be shared by both organizations and, whenever possible, work should be done jointly at the national level.

The draft project was discussed at length during the meeting and several amendments were agreed upon, mainly aiming to encourage Member Organizations of WAGGGS and/or WOSM to launch national or cross-national peace projects which, whenever possible, should be conceived and implemented together by the national WAGGGS and WOSM members. The committee agreed that the Gifts for Peace project may have common appeal, and can be included in the joint work at national level, with results reported to both World Conferences.

The meeting agreed that once the project, as revised, has been approved by the WAGGGS World Board, a summary should be circulated to the Member Organizations of WAGGGS and WOSM, with an introductory letter on joint letterhead paper to underline its joint nature, and that this project should be a key focus for the work of the Consultative Committee during the present triennium and beyond.

Letter from Denmark of 23 March 2003: This letter, which was signed by the Joint Committee of Girl Guides in Denmark and the Danish Scout Council, encouraged the Consultative Committee to look into possible ways of celebrating in 2007 the beginning of both Scouting and Guiding.

The meeting noted that since WOSM had already started planning for this event in 1997 and had set up a 2007 Task Force which was already very advanced in its work, it was not possible to make 2007 a joint project. However, it was agreed that WOSM would invite WAGGGS to World Centenary events, the World Jamboree and the Brownsea Island Camp, and would encourage its National Scout Organizations to invite WAGGGS member organizations to join in celebrating the 2007 national events.

It was also noted that 22 February, the common birthday of the Founder and Lady Baden-Powell and WAGGGS' World Thinking Day, could become a common day of celebration for WAGGGS/WOSM in 2007.

Lesley and Jacques will prepare a response to Denmark.

4. Other areas of common interest

The Chairman opened the discussion by pointing out that there were many areas of common interest to WAGGGS and WOSM, on which an exchange of information and in some cases joint work could be beneficial to both organizations.

Some of the items discussed included:

- Child protection, specifically the "Safe from Harm" policy adopted by the 36th World Scout Conference in July 2002.
- A paper drafted by WAGGGS on "Political Action/Advocacy Guidelines" concerning which WAGGGS welcomed comments from the WOSM representatives.
- Volunteer and Staff collaboration on areas of joint interest, such as Constitutions and Finance.
- United Nations relationships, where greater impact might be achieved through joint statements or other joint activities.

It was agreed that both organizations would go through the list of the resolutions adopted by their respective World Conferences to identify those resolutions that related to their contribution to society rather than to Guiding and Scouting as such. The topics identified could then be considered to see if both organizations had common positions and could take joint action. It was noted that some of these topics could be undertaken within the framework of the work of the Alliance of Youth CEOs.

In the discussion, it was pointed out that some of the policies/practices of one of the two organizations might be beneficial to the other. Examples included WOSM's Registration Fee System and WAGGGS's Electronic Election System during their World Conferences; it was agreed that information on both these systems would be shared.

5. Information concerning specific national organizations/associations

WAGGGS requested clarification from WOSM regarding apparent contradictions in its policy relating to the question of Scout and Guide National Organizations/Associations (SAGNOs-SAGAs) in a number of countries (Norway, France and Spain).

The WOSM representatives explained the facts relating to each case, which are quite different.

The WAGGGS representatives thanked WOSM for the explanations provided, which they felt clarified the issues, and pointed out the need to stay in touch concerning developments particularly in France and Spain. It was agreed that we will continue to observe the developments in these countries and work together at World level on the Constitutional issues to find solutions which work for both the countries involved and the world organizations.

Among the other national situations discussed, the WAGGGS representatives informed WOSM of developments within the WAGGGS Arab and Asia-Pacific regions. In response to a question from WAGGGS relating to the Philippines, the WOSM representatives confirmed that it was not and had never been the intention of WOSM to encourage a merger between the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

6. Means of strengthening cooperation between WAGGGS and WOSM

In addition to points of joint action and cooperation agreed upon under earlier items, it was also agreed that

- The two World Bureaux will work together on strengthening electronic communications between both staff and volunteers of the two world organizations.
- Regional Chairmen and Committees in each of the WOSM and WAGGGS Regions will be encouraged to plan some meetings at the same place and time in the next Triennium so that there would be the possibility that they could meet and get to know each other better, as is presently the case in Europe.
- The Chairmen of the Constitutions Committees also will be encouraged to meet.
- Work will be done to try to identify volunteers to jointly represent WAGGGS and WOSM at the meetings of the United Nations and other agencies.
- We will publicize regional and world seminars to our Member Organizations so that they can attend those that are accessible and of interest.
- Information will be exchanged on common concerns such as Safe from Harm/Child Protection.

7. Agreement on terms of reference for the Consultative Committee

The question of whether there was a need to produce terms of reference for the Consultative Committee was raised. It was generally felt that such documents had in the past resulted in building walls and fences between the two organizations rather than building bridges between them.

The process used during the last triennium, where one organization hosts and proposes the agenda, while the other chairs on an alternating basis, will be continued during this triennium.

In light of the very open and positive atmosphere, which characterized this meeting, it was agreed that there was no need to produce terms of reference – a record of the meeting would suffice.

8. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would be hosted by WAGGGS in London on Tuesday, 28 October 2003; it will be preceded by dinner on the 27th.