

GOVERNANCE REVIEW TASK FORCE
DISCUSSION PAPER 2

REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

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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DISCUSSION PAPER NUMBER 2

REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Youth Involvement - introduction

1.1 The World Scout Youth Forum was introduced as an interim measure at the Thessaloniki Conference in 2002. Because of this the Forum is not mentioned in the WOSM Constitution. The GRTF is naturally aware of the fact that subsequent Conferences have not decided to change the current status of the Forum but nonetheless believes that there is a strong commitment at all levels to strengthen youth involvement within the World Scout Committee. We should strive towards the election of young members of the World Scout Committee, as requested by the Conference.

1.2 In the meantime, however, it has been suggested that we should strengthen the role of Youth Advisers, as this is already a widely accepted concept. Youth Advisers undoubtedly have a strong constituency within the World Scout Youth Forum. The GRTF has it in mind that the concept of Youth Advisers – and their detailed role at World level – should be confirmed at the same time as a strengthening and formalisation of the World Scout Youth Forum.

1.3 Successive Conferences have called on NSOs to appoint young delegates and there is plenty of evidence of progress. The GRTF presents some ideas (not at all novel) aimed at hastening the process, which it seems to us has almost universal support.

1.4 In order to encourage a lower average age for elected, voting members of the World Scout Committee, the GRTF has considered a number of options, which are offered for comment.

1.5 Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this discussion paper contain ideas on which the comments of National Scout Organizations are requested, so that final recommendations can be formulated for the World Scout Committee at their meeting in March 2010.

2. Youth Advisers and the World Scout Youth Forum

- Youth Advisers elected by the World Scout Youth Forum could be ex-officio non-voting members of the World Scout Committee. Their role could be to be consultants to the World Scout Committee and to assist in the shaping of policy
- Should the number of Youth Advisers change? Currently there are six. The question is how the team of Youth Advisers can be most effective. More Advisers would mean that the work could be shared more by people who already will have great demands on their time and energy. However, this would increase the cost, which under current circumstances is already a challenge. As a matter of principle, the GRTF suggests that the full cost of the involvement of Youth Advisers should be a charge on the WOSM budget
- We suggest that WOSM should continue to arrange the World Scout Youth Forum in the future, preferably immediately before the World Scout Conference as done today. The Forum should be included in the WOSM governance structure, in the Constitution, as a consultation and policy-shaping body
- The World Scout Youth Forum is presently defined as an “educational tool”. However, should this educational aspect be removed as most of the participants are no longer within the scope of the Youth Programme? Moreover, there is definitely a demand for a debating and policy shaping platform for young people, whereas the need for another educational event is not as significant; the World Scout Moot is organized every four years, for example. Finally, the detail of addressing the participants of an educational event as “delegates” at present creates unnecessary confusion. The definition of the Forum could be:

“The World Scout Youth Forum is a platform where young members of the Movement can contribute to the decision-making process and have

their voices and needs articulated. The Forum elects Youth Advisers to the World Scout Committee, under arrangements approved by the World Scout Committee”

- In order to strengthen the role of the World Scout Youth Forum, the status of its Recommendations may need to be improved. Currently, Recommendations are submitted for consideration by the World Scout Committee. But keeping the World Scout Youth Forum and the World Scout Conference formally completely separate as they are today creates from a governance point of view the very parallel structure that so many oppose. It is accepted that this separation can be circumvented currently by the World Scout Committee and/or NSOs taking up the issues raised and presenting them to the Conference. Our point is only that the link is not clear enough. It has been suggested to us that the Recommendations of the Forum should be submitted for consideration by the World Scout Conference so that, if passed by the Conference, they would become Resolutions of the Conference. This would need to be included in the Rules of Procedure for the Conference
- It was also put to us that it would be helpful for the definition of “youth” to be reconsidered in the context of youth involvement in the governance of WOSM, for example by not mixing this definition with that of Rover Scouts, that is people within the Youth Programme. Overall any proposed definition should not be based on educational programmes or leadership training, since these vary greatly in NSOs. Is a maximum age of 30 appropriate?

3. Younger Delegates at the World Scout Conference

3.1 Ways of encouraging more young delegates could include such affirmative action as:

- Lower fees for younger delegates, with correspondingly higher fees for older delegates
- A quota for delegates under the age of 30, with at least one of the delegates being under the age of 26 (this could have the effect, apparent in a number of delegations, of attendance by Forum delegates at the Conference also, despite the problem of availability of time to attend both events)

4. Young members of the World Scout Committee

- It has been put to us that each NSO could be permitted to nominate up to two candidates, one being below and one being above the age of 30 (this could be done without increasing the number of places on the Committee overall)
- Two rounds of election could then be organized, aiming to have at least four candidates under the age of 30

5. The World Scout Conference - introduction

5.1 The Conference is the supreme body of World Scouting. Its status and legitimacy must be protected. We believe that NSOs are expecting significant change in the way in which NSOs vote – in particular, electronic voting is desired by many. This can be seen from the Resolutions passed in Korea. This need not affect the current allowance of six votes per delegation. A system for electronic voting is clearly available (the WAGGGS Conference already uses such systems).

5.2 The current allocation of six votes per NSO has not been seriously challenged and is seen by many as equitable and effective – where a single vote would not, for example in Federations, where the vote can be split; or where a delegation wish to show a graded response to the topic on which the vote is being taken. Resolution 6/08 of the Korea Conference is relevant here.

5.3 It has been said that our Conferences offer too many distractions from the proper consideration of proposed Resolutions and the elections. There should be time allocated for proper discussion and debate on critical issues.

5.4 Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of this discussion paper contain ideas on which the comments of National Scout Organizations are requested, so that final recommendations can be formulated for the World Scout Committee at their meeting in March 2010.

6. Voting Systems for the World Scout Conference

6.1 The GRTF suggests that voting for candidates to the World Scout Committee should be done, using an electronic system, for one vacancy at a time until the total number of vacancies has been filled. This allows the Conference to consider and shape the final composition of the World Scout Conference as each member is voted in.

6.2 If the suggestion that there could be two nominations per NSO (see paragraph 4) finds favour, the procedure would need to accommodate that approach.

7. Voting rights at the World Scout Conference

7.1 Should the current allocation of six votes per delegation be changed?

7.2 Discussion Paper 1, and the subsequent decision of the World Scout Committee on accredited status for Scout organizations who do not qualify as NSOs, raised the issue of voting rights for accredited bodies. We take the view that there should be no change in the current system where only NSOs have voting rights at the Conference.

8. The format of the World Scout Conference

8.1 Many people seem to value the select committee process and the Regional meetings at the World Conference; this helps to give proper considerations for Resolutions and other discussions before they reach the plenary hall. These need not be attended by all delegates, but by smaller groups (such as the select committee as practised in Korea).

8.2 In addition or alternatively, more intensive discussions could take place at Regional gatherings taking place during the Conference.

8.3 This also presumes that Resolutions should be proposed early in the Conference.

9. Communications - introduction

9.1 The Task Force has seen that there have been improvements in communications, with NSOs particularly, and applauds this. All means of communication should be used, and used systematically.

9.2 The GRTF does not see that governance arrangements need be changed to improve communications. What is needed is a concerted effort to identify all the audiences for communication and to make sure that appropriate methods are used to listen to and inform those audiences. The GRTF suggests that the current formal arrangements are appropriate, but seeks comments on this from NSOs.

Governance Review Task Force 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.

Please send comments:

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By post to

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