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المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

May 2010

Meeting of the World Scout Committee, Kandersteg, Switzerland, 20-21 March 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Introduction

The World Scout Committee (WSC) held its latest meeting at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland from 20-21 March 2010. The meeting was well attended by all 12 elected (voting) members of the WSC, 5 Chairmen and 1 Vice-Chairman of Regional Scout Committees and the other ex-officio (non-voting) members (Secretary General, Treasurer, Chairman of the World Scout Foundation). Four Youth Advisors (YAs) to the WSC and several guests, including recently appointed Regional Directors Frederic Kama-Kama and Iurie Emilian, also attended the meeting.

Welcome by Chairman

In his opening remarks, Chairman Rick Cronk recalled that, since the last meeting, former Secretary General Laszlo Nagy had "Gone Home". The WSC paused to remember him and other Scouts who had passed away, and also to reflect on the impact of recent natural disasters in various countries around the world including earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

The Chairman referred to the long list of meetings/visits undertaken by WSC members since the last WSC meeting. These included, *inter alia*: the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Arab Regional Conferences; missions to Santiago, Panama and Curaçao in the Interamerican Region; World Scout Conference planning meetings in Brazil; visit to Iceland in connection with their bid to host the World Scout Moot; meeting with the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) in Geneva; and a European Symposium and Round Table on Federations in Budapest.

Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General presented his report, highlighting the induction of two new Regional Directors, Frederic Kama-Kama (Africa) and Iurie Emilian (Eurasia), and his visits to National Scout Organizations (NSOs) in francophone West Africa which he had undertaken with Frederic Kama-Kama. Other recent travels had included attendance at the Arab Regional Conference in Sudan, participation in the Interamerican Regional Scout Committee meeting in Curaçao, a meeting of the International Committee of Boy Scouts of America in Washington DC including a celebration of BSA's 100th Anniversary, and participation in the European Symposium in Budapest, Hungary, and the Roundtable on Federations which followed it. He indicated he would continue to circulate his travel programme to WSC members for information.

The Secretary General noted the WSB's continuing support to forthcoming World Events, including the World Scout Moot in Kenya, the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden and the World Scout Conference in Brazil.

Other specific issues mentioned in this report included closing down the Interamerican Regional Office in Santiago as part of the process of transferring it to Panama and the recruitment of Raúl Sánchez as new Regional Director; recruitment of a Director, Youth Programme in the WSB Central Office; and meetings with representatives of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) and of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) and regular contacts with the World Scout Foundation (WSF).

The Secretary General also reported on a sensitive human rights issue which had arisen in one member country. During the meeting, the WSC approved a paper entitled 'Scouting and Human Rights' which had been prepared for use in cases similar to this one or where other issues related to human rights, including protection of children and young people, arise.

Finally, the Secretary General reported to the WSC on progress being made on the implementation of the Resolutions of the last World Scout Conference.

Triennial Plan 2008-2011

A draft Mid-term Report to NSOs on the implementation of the Triennial Plan was circulated to the WSC for comment. The Chairman indicated that he would continue to focus on providing more resources to and strengthening leadership of the Regions, giving good examples including the appointment of new Regional Directors; withdrawing from the Picarquin project in Chile; bringing the process of Governance review to a successful close; continuing to focus on meeting the needs of NSOs, including the recently-conducted Customer Satisfaction Surveys to measure results; and avoiding "business as usual".

Review of location of the World Scout Bureau (WSB)

A small working group of WSC members had agreed on a process to identify criteria, assess their priority (important, less important, not important), and send a document to NSOs in advance of the World Scout Conference. In the discussion, examples were given of the kind of criteria that would be considered, such as ready access to the Eurasia and Africa Regions which need special support from the WSB Central Office.

Governance Review Task Force

The WSC received the final report of the Governance Review Task Force (GRTF), chaired by David Bull, and considered the recommendations contained in the report.

Given their importance, the outcomes of that deliberation will be reported to NSOs in a separate circular. (See Circular No. 15/2010.)

At its previous meeting, the WSC had asked for consultation with NSOs which are Federations on the GRTF's proposals (contained in an earlier report) concerning Federations. The opportunity had been taken of the European Symposium held in Budapest in March 2010 to carry out this consultation, since most Federations are in Europe and would be present. (An invitation had been extended to all NSOs in every Region to attend.)

WSC Vice-Chairman Mario Diaz read from the WSC's decision on Federations made in 1991 and noted that this did not preclude the recognition of new Federations. It simply stated that the original criteria for the recognition of Federations (major cultural and in particular religious reasons) would continue to be applied rigorously.

The outcome of the Roundtable discussions was that the WSC should restate its position, circulate that to NSOs but not propose any change.

Youth Advisors to the WSC

On behalf of the Youth Advisors, Karin Ahlbäck presented the results of the outcomes of a review of the Recommendations which had been made by the last World Scout Youth Forum (WSYF). While most recommendations were being satisfactorily implemented, the report drew to the attention of the WSC that there are some that still need attention. The WSC noted that some of the outstanding issues were currently being worked on or would be included in the programme of the World Scout Conference, while responsibility for others lay with bodies such as Regional Committees; the WSC encouraged the Regions to implement these in their new trienniums.

Strategy Coordination Group

Mario Diaz, Chairman of the Strategy Coordination Group (SCG), reported on a meeting of the SCG which took place immediately before the WSC meeting. Among items on the agenda were tools for analysis, dashboard indicators (customer service, membership, brand health), membership development/growth, taking the Strategy forward (including work to date on defining the Cause of the Movement, on measuring the Strategy, and the role of the WSC/WSB) and scenarios for 2011 and beyond.

He also noted the results of the follow-up WOSM Satisfaction Survey which were presented to the WSC. Detailed lists of the comments which had been received were also available and would be given serious consideration.

Educational Methods Committee

In his report to the WSC, John May, Chairman of the Educational Methods Committee (EMC), highlighted the framework for Vision and Strategy on youth involvement, on which the EMC was seeking feedback, the considerable number of resources now available on the scout.org website and the recent World Scout Inter-religious Symposium held in Uganda.

Scouting's Profile Committee

Thérèse Bermingham, Chairman of the Scouting's Profile Committee (SPC), emphasized the four axes of the SPC's work: management of the Scout Brand, communications, partnerships and mobilisation of financial resources.

A draft paper on Consultative Status with the WSC, including definition and scope, criteria, rights and obligations and procedures, was circulated. The WSC will be asked to approve a final version of this document at its next meeting in September 2010, so that it can be applied when consultative status is granted or renewed in the next triennium.

The WSC also considered some current issues concerning the International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) and the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU).

The Treasurer Maurice Machenbaum addressed the question of resources mobilisation. The WOSM/WSF Joint Fundraising Unit (which comprises a member of the WSC and the Secretary General, plus a member of the WSF Board and the Foundation Director) had further developed the idea of creating and staffing a joint WOSM/WSF Fundraiser position within the WSB Central Office. It is expected the position would quickly become financially self-sustaining. It is also expected that more competence would be developed in the field to meet the expectations of donors; there is therefore a need to recruit someone who can transfer competence and skills. The WSF has indicated it is open to making a contribution towards the costs of this position. WSF Chairman Lars Kolind expressed wholehearted support for the proposal. He emphasised the need to think in terms of impact vs. activity; donors don't care much about activity – they expect impact. He believed this could be one of the best things that will happen to World Scouting – a big culture change. The WSC approved the proposal to create a fundraiser position and proceed with the recruitment. The WSC expressed appreciation for the good cooperation that now exists between the WSF and WOSM.

Regional Support Coordination Group

Simon Rhee, Chairman of the Regional Support Coordination Group (RSCG), reported that a good meeting had been held just before the WSC meeting, focussing on issues facing the Regions. A positive spirit of inter-regional collaboration was evident during the RSCG meeting. Regional Chairmen were encouraged to include in future reports information on efforts being undertaken to support Scout organizations in non-member countries to become Member Organizations of WOSM.

The Regional Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen present reported briefly to the WSC on recent developments in their Regions. In the Africa Region report, specific mention was made of efforts being made to support Guinea-Bissau and the Republic of the Congo (Congo Brazzaville); in the Arab Region, the status of Iraq was reported; and the situation in East Timor was included in the Asia-Pacific Region report. The Eurasia Regional Chairmen commented on the situation in Belarus and Ukraine as well as plans for the Regional Jamboree in Moldova in July and the Regional Scout Conference in Georgia scheduled for September. The Chairman of the European Scout Committee highlighted a document "Preparing for the Future" which had been prepared for the Regional Symposium and Regional Scout Conference. Finally, the Interamerican Region report included reference to the pending transfer of the Regional Office to the City of Knowledge in Panama, and the Regional Conference scheduled for August in Panama, which were major preoccupations for the new Regional Director.

Constitutional matters

Derek Pollard, Chairman of the Constitutions Committee, updated the WSC on a number of issues currently being dealt with by his committee, including some affecting specific NSOs and potential Member Organizations. He reported he was working on the amendments to the WOSM Constitution that would be required as a result of the GRTF's report in time for the World Scout Conference.

The WSC approved an amendment to the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Region bringing that in line with the recent change in the relationship of the Regional Chairman to the WSC. Some issues pertaining to the Constitution of the Arab Region are being followed up. Derek Pollard expressed his appreciation to the Regional Chairmen, Vice-Chairman and Regional Directors present for their one-to-one discussions on pending constitutional matters.

Financial matters

An interim report on the current fiscal year 2009-2010 and a report on registration fee payments and arrears were presented.

On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the WSC approved the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2009 subject to some minor adjustments being made. The WSC also reappointed Ernst & Young as Auditors. It was noted that the Audit Committee will bring a report to the next meeting of the WSC setting out the responsibilities of the WSC and WSB with regard to Risk Management in the context of the WOSM Constitution and the recommendations of the GRTF. The WSC also approved some amendments to the Charter of the Audit Committee concerning the Internal Auditor to bring these in line with best practice.

The Secretary General raised the issue of discrepancies between the true number of members of some NSOs and the membership figures they declare to the WSB in the annual census forms. It is these latter figures which are used triennially to calculate registration fees due. He noted that, from time to time, such discrepancies become apparent when NSOs announce for their own promotional purposes higher numbers than have been declared to WOSM. This kind of promotional information is often disseminated within the country of the NSO but sometimes also on their websites. When the WSB learns of such situations, the discrepancy is drawn to the attention of the NSO and a process of dialogue takes place. But the issue is not always resolved. To help resolve this issue, as well as to encourage genuine growth within NSOs, the Secretary General presented to the WSC a proposal in principle to de-couple the question of membership from the registration fee for a period of three triennia. In the last of these three triennia, a new Registration Fee system would be developed, hopefully based on real membership numbers. Following the discussion, the WSC accepted in principle the Secretary General's proposal, details to be worked out with the Registration Fee Task Force (RFTF).

It was reported that the European Region has told NSOs that it will focus on growth but, to do that, the NSOs have to declare honest membership figures. The Region is in the process of publishing a report on what they believe the true membership to be. If NSOs face genuine underlying financial difficulties, the Region tries to help them through tailored support to overcome these problems.

A report on developments in SCORE was also presented to the WSC. Control over unauthorised products bearing the Scout brand is being tightened up.

World Scout Foundation

Lars Kolind, Chairman of the WSF, presented a report to the WSC. In his introduction, he noted there had been a substantial positive change in the relationship between the WSF and WOSM during this triennium. In terms of financial results, 2008 had been a terrible year for the WSF. Due to the global financial downturn, the endowment fund had fallen in value from USD 56 million to USD 40 million, despite raising USD 5 million in new funds. 2009, however, had been the best year ever. The endowment fund had increased from USD 40 million to USD 53 million. Financial markets had recovered and USD 8 million had been raised, a record amount. The WSF is focusing on establishing and maintaining relationships with large donors. An Environment project is being financed by H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman; and the Gifts of Peace project had been supported by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. He expressed particular thanks to WSC members, Regional Chairmen and leaders of NSOs who had been very helpful to the WSF.

Relationships matters

The Chairman informed the WSC that a meeting of the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee would take place in London the day after the WSC meeting. A report would be presented to the next WSC meeting.

Following up on a decision taken at its last meeting in response to a recommendation from the GRTF, the WSC approved a document which describes a Scout and Guide National Scout Organization (SAGNO) from a WOSM perspective, reflecting WOSM's own policies and practices concerning these Organizations which are also Members of WAGGGS.

39th World Scout Conference, Brazil, 10-14 January 2011

On behalf of the Host Organization, Oscar Palmquist presented a progress report on preparations for this event. A proposed WSB budget for the Conference was approved. The overall programme and agenda were shared and commented upon; these would be further refined in light of the discussions taking place during this meeting and brought again in more detail to the next WSC meeting.

It was noted that it was hoped to have new Member Organizations of WOSM by the time of the World Scout Conference. A recognition ceremony would need to be included in the Conference agenda.

Electronic voting

The Secretary General presented various options for electronic voting at the Conference. Following discussion, it was agreed by consensus to use an electronic system for elections of WSC members and Host Organizations for World Scout Events, but to retain the current manual voting system, using red and green cards, for yes/no/abstention votes. WSC members would be elected one round at a time, using a system of electronic scanning of ballot papers (commonly used for lottery ticket sales) to tally the results quickly. It was noted that roll calls would still be required for voting by ballot and the time required for this would need to be considered carefully.

Invitations to host World Events

The WSC was informed that bids had been received from NSOs to host the 40th World Scout Conference & 12th World Scout Youth Forum in 2014 (Italy and Slovenia), the 15th World Scout Moot in 2017 (Iceland) and the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019 (a joint bid from USA, Canada and Mexico). As required, the WSB team had visited these NSOs to assess the viability of each proposal. On the basis of the applications received, and the WSB's assessment of each, the WSC accepted these bids to be submitted to the World Scout Conference for consideration.

During the discussion, it was noted that the question of limiting expenditure on promotion of bids to host World Scout Events was one of the subjects discussed with all potential Host Organizations. To reinforce the importance of this issue, it was proposed that "Knowing, understanding and adhering to World Scout Conference resolutions..." be added to the Guidelines for hosting World Scout Events, which all candidate Host Organizations must accept.

11th World Scout Youth Forum, Brazil, 3-6 January 2011

Nadia Morrone presented a progress report from the WSYF Planning Committee. The report contained a proposal for a Solidarity Campaign in support of the WSYF. The WSC asked the WSB and the Host Organization to follow this up.

Revised Guidelines and Rules of Procedure for the WSYF were presented and, with some amendments, approved. The provisional agenda for the WSYF was also approved.

Regional Conferences

Regional Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen present reported briefly on the 23rd Asia-Pacific Scout Conference held in Malaysia in October 2009, the 14th Africa Scout Conference held in November 2009 in Ghana, and the 4th Arab Scout Conference which took place in January 2010 in Sudan.

Future Regional Conferences were noted: 20th European Scout Conference, 17-21 July 2010, Belgium; 24th Interamerican Scout Conference, 14-19 August 2010, Panama; 4th Eurasia Scout Conference, 9-11 September 2010, Georgia. WSC members planning to attend any of these were asked to inform the WSB of their plans.

Future World Scout Events

The WSC received progress reports on the following World Scout Events:

- 13th World Scout Moot, 27 July - 7 August 2010, Kenya: The registration deadline for the World Scout Moot is 30 April. A number of NSOs have expressed interest but not yet submitted forms or payment. WSC members were to help encourage NSOs to submit their registration forms and payment as soon as possible. WSC members were also asked to let the WSB know of their plans to attend the event.
- 22nd World Scout Jamboree, 27 July - 7 August 2011, Sweden: Key points included the forthcoming Heads of Contingents meeting in June and an outline of the Jamboree programme. Some questions concerning the flying of national flags of NSOs and of Accredited National Scout Organizations were also raised for clarification.
- 14th World Scout Moot, 2013, Canada: A written report was presented.
- 23rd World Scout Jamboree, 2015, Japan: A report will be made to the next WSC meeting.

Guidelines for World Scout Youth Events

A working group had been established to revise the guidelines for World Scout Youth Events. New 'WOSM requirements for the hosting of a World Scout Jamboree' were presented to this meeting and, subject to some minor changes, were approved. It was noted that, in applying these requirements, if the invitation from USA, Canada and Mexico to host the World Scout Jamboree in 2019 is accepted, a maximum of 20% of the participants could come from USA, 10% from Canada and 10% from Mexico. The WSC was informed that Sweden is prepared to follow these revised guidelines in hosting the 22nd World Scout Jamboree.

Next meeting

The next WSC meeting will take place in Geneva from **3-5 September 2010**. The deadline for submission to NSOs of any proposed changes to the WOSM Constitution is 10 September, i.e. four months before the opening of the Conference, so the timing of this meeting is appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Secretary General WOSM