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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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Circular N° 1/2009

To: International Commissioners

January 2009

**Meeting of the World Scout Committee,
Geneva, Switzerland, 7-9 November 2008**

Dear Colleagues,

Introduction

The World Scout Committee (WSC) met in Geneva from 7-9 November 2008. The meeting was well attended by all elected (voting) members of the WSC plus four Regional Chairmen and the three other *ex-officio* (non-voting) members (Chairman of the World Scout Foundation, Treasurer and (Acting) Secretary General). All six Youth Advisors (YAs) to the WSC elected by the World Scout Youth Forum and several guests also attended the meeting.

Key challenges

The Chairman outlined his vision for the period up to the next World Scout Conference. He referred to his model of the inverted triangle (which has been explained in a letter from the Chairman sent to all NSOs last October) as a good prototype of how the WSC should view its responsibilities in support of the work of NSOs in providing better Scouting for more young people. He emphasised the need to focus on results, not just process, since there is only a short time before the next World Scout Conference, a little over two years away.

World Scout Conference resolutions/World Scout Youth Forum recommendations

The WSC was assured that all World Conference resolutions had been taken into consideration in developing the Triennial Plan 2008-2011. The YAs to the WSC highlighted key points from the WSYF recommendations which need specific attention and the WSC discussed how these would be picked up by subcommittees and task forces.

Triennial Plan 2008-2011

As noted above, the Triennial Plan had been reviewed and updated to take into consideration the outcomes of the World Scout Conference. The revised presentation illustrated the priorities and structure of the plan under the headings 'drivers of change' (The Regions; Young People; Tell the Story) and 'institutional strengthening' (Governance; Management; Finances), all based on the Strategy for Scouting (the seven strategic priorities). It was noted that the 'drivers of change' added an element of new dynamism to the Strategy for Scouting, which is focussed on achieving the Mission of Scouting.

In accordance with World Scout Conference Resolution 10/08, the Triennial Plan will be sent to all NSOs in January 2009. In the meantime, work continues to identify indicators that can be used to measure progress in achieving the Plan. The WSC's subcommittees and task forces will be involved in defining these.

WSC organizational structure and members' roles

The WSC approved a proposed organizational structure which includes two coordination groups, six subcommittees and two task forces. Chairmen of these groups were also appointed.

These are:

- Strategy Coordination Group (SCG): Mario Díaz (WSC), Chairman
- Regional Support Coordination Group (RSCG): Simon Rhee (WSC), Chairman
- Audit Committee: Martin Burbridge (Ireland), Chairman
- Budget Committee: Erik Khoo (WSC), Chairman
- Constitutions Committee: Derek Pollard (U.K.), Chairman
- Honours & Awards Committee: Jørgen Rasmussen (Denmark), Chairman
- Educational Methods Committee (EMC): John May (WSC), Chairman
- Scouting's Profile Committee (SPC): Thérèse Bermingham (WSC), Chairman
- Governance Review Task Force (GRTF): David Bull (U.K.), Chairman
- Registration Fee Task Force (RFTF): Gregory Sanchez (Belgium), Chairman

Several additional appointments of WSC members and others were also made to fill specific roles.

The role of YAs to the WSC, including those appointed by the Regions, was also reviewed and some proposals on their ways of working were agreed.

Recruitment of new Secretary General/Location of World Scout Bureau (WSB)

The WSC established a Selection Committee to work out the details of the process to make a permanent appointment of Secretary General, including drawing up a profile/job description of the position. This will be sent to all NSOs, in keeping with World Scout Conference Resolution 5/08 which called for a transparent selection process.

The WSC also considered various options for conducting the review of the location of the WSB called for in Conference Resolution 17/08, including the possibility of using an external firm specialising in this kind of consultancy. No immediate decision was taken, pending decisions on the WSB budget for 2008-2009; the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Report of Acting Secretary General

The Acting Secretary General (ASG) presented his regular report to the WSC. In this he highlighted key points of the work being done by each of the departments in the WSB (Education, Research & Development; General Management; Office of the Secretary General) and also a number of issues concerning the Regions. The ASG also provided an update on the ongoing process concerning the future of the Picarquín International Scout Centre.

The question of reporting to the WSC and YAs between committee meetings was also reviewed. A proposal for a new bi-monthly narrative report and a regular six-monthly report using indicators to measure progress in achieving plans was agreed. In addition, subcommittees and task forces will keep the WSC informed regularly of their progress.

Yearly Operational Plan 2008-2009

The ASG presented the Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) which was the basis on which the budget had been prepared. Once the budget was approved (see below), the YOP would be finalised for implementation.

Internal communication system

The WSC was briefed on the internal communication strategy and the use of a new electronic communication tool (Zimbra).

Strategy Coordination Group (SCG)

The WSC considered draft terms of reference for this new group, which will take the lead in considering the longer term vision for the Strategy for Scouting. The SCG will comprise the chairmen or other representatives of the major subcommittees whose work focusses on the strategic priorities. The group will lead a session at the next WSC meeting on a strategic approach to handling the "big issues" facing the future of the Movement.

Educational Methods Committee (EMC)

The WSC was informed of wide-ranging plans being developed for the work of the EMC during the triennium. These took into account the outcomes of the World Scout Conference in Korea.

Scouting's Profile Committee (SPC)

The WSC heard that the terms of reference, membership, and priorities and objectives of this new subcommittee, which will focus on supporting the implementation of Strategic Priority No. 7, will be developed in the coming weeks. The first meeting of the SPC was scheduled for December 2008.

Regional Support Coordination Group (RSCG)

This new group had been established to further strengthen the coordination between the WSC and the Regions, especially the Regional Scout Committees. Members include the Regional Chairmen along with some WSC members who would each maintain close links with a particular Region on an ongoing basis. The RSCG will meet prior to each WSC meeting.

The WSC also received reports from the Regional Chairmen who were present and some additional written reports.

Governance Review

The WSC noted the outcomes of the World Scout Conference discussion groups on Governance and discussed the appointment of a new task force to continue the work on governance review. After discussion, the WSC appointed David Bull to chair this task force; new terms of reference and the membership of the group would be proposed to the WSC for approval.

Constitutional matters

The WSC received a progress report on a number of constitutional issues, including the publication of the revised WOSM Constitution; the need to improve the process for handling multiple proposals for amendments to the Constitution at future Conferences, including a system of electronic voting; the number of NSOs whose membership has fallen below 1000, considered to be the minimum number required for full membership of WOSM, and the related issue of Accredited National Scout Organizations; what to do about NSOs which have modified their national constitutions, including their expressions of the Promise and Law, without WOSM's prior approval; the relevance of granting consultative status to some partner organizations as a means of formalising relationships; and further work on the constitutional position of Scout and Guide National Organizations (SAGNOs) and of Federations. It was recognised that some of these areas of work implied the Constitutions Committee becoming more proactive than it had been in the past.

Financial matters

The WSC received the latest financial reports from the WSB and a status report on payment of registration fees.

The Budget Committee presented a draft budget for 2008-2009, which had been considered by the Budget Committee at a meeting the previous day. This draft showed a significant shortfall between expected income and projected expenditure. The WSC would need to identify how to find these funds to be able to balance the budget.

Of particular note was a significant increase in the allocations to the Regions, which represented the higher grant which would be forthcoming from the World Scout Foundation (WSF). Both the WSF and Boy Scouts of America (BSA) had stated they would be supportive in trying to provide or help find additional funds to enable WOSM to carry out its plans, especially related to costs associated with the replacement of the Secretary General and the recruitment of new Regional Directors. Discussions with the WSF and BSA would continue.

The Chairman of the WSF reported that fundraising efforts were continuing. Excellent results were expected this year, following visits to the Arab world, including the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The WSF was working on a strategy to develop the ability to raise USD 10 million annually, up from USD 2-3 million. This would depend on finding activities that WOSM can work on that give the opportunity to tap into donors. The WSF's investments, however, were suffering like everyone else from the current global economic and financial downturn. The endowment fund had been hit strongly and future prospects were uncertain.

The WSC granted provisional approval to the budget, with the express provision that no new long-term commitments should be entered into until a final balanced budget was approved. (Note: A balanced budget has since been approved by the WSC.)

Relationships matters

The WSC received a report on a recent meeting of the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee. The minutes of that meeting would be circulated to all NSOs shortly.

The WSC also received an update on the status of relationships with Open Minds Global, a Swedish-based foundation that was funding joint WAGGGS/WOSM projects in a number of countries, including Egypt. Difficulties had arisen concerning the purpose and direction of these projects, which had not evolved according to expectations and were no longer consistent with WOSM's

interests, and these issues were proving hard to resolve. The spirit of partnership, as developed in the Marrakech/Bangalore Charter, was missing in this particular case. Based on this and other similar experiences, there is a need to have protocols that guide what projects WOSM should engage in; these should ensure that there is no diversion from our core activity.

The WSC referred to the new SPC the question of granting or renewing consultative status to partner organizations, prior to making final decisions for the current triennium. The SPC will also consider, from a longer-term perspective, whether any changes are required to WOSM's current policy and approach to granting consultative status.

Guidelines for World Scout Events

The Guidelines for World Scout Youth Events will be reviewed by a small working group that will include members with recent experience of such events. The Guidelines for JOTA/JOTI were also submitted to the WSC for comment prior to eventual approval in time for the next event in October 2009.

38th World Scout Conference and 10th World Scout Youth Forum, Korea

The WSC received evaluation reports on these events and noted recommendations for the future. The WSC expressed its sincere appreciation to the Korea Scout Association for its tremendous support in hosting these events.

Future World Scout Events

Progress reports were presented on the 13th World Scout Moot in Kenya in 2010; on the 11th World Scout Youth Forum and 39th World Scout Conference in Brazil in 2011; and the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in 2011.

Future WSC meetings

Future meetings of the WSC will be held in Geneva from 20-22 March 2009 and from 25-27 September 2009. The practicalities of holding an additional meeting by teleconference will be explored.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General