

38th World Scout Conference

PROPOSED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Note: The proposal is being communicated to all NSOs in the form in which it was received by the World Scout Bureau. As part of its responsibilities, the Resolutions Committee of the Conference will undertake any necessary redrafting before the proposal is considered by the Conference. See Conference Document No. 2, Rules of Procedure.

LOCATION OF WORLD SCOUT BUREAU

Moved by: Gerakan Pramuka (Indonesia)

Seconded by: Scout Association of Hong Kong; Bharat Scouts & Guides

The Conference

- considering the inconvenience, high costs and expenses in maintaining a World Scout Bureau in Geneva
 - mindful of the current financial situation of WOSM
 - believing the Conference should consider and conduct a thorough study of the best location for the World Scout Bureau including options to relocate the World Scout Bureau from Geneva to a more suitable location
- requests the World Scout Committee to set up a special task force with appropriate Terms of Reference comprising of the Chairmen of the six Regions and other members with suitable knowledge and expertise appointed in their personal capacity from Member Scout Organisations, to conduct in full transparency, a full feasibility study of the best location for the World Scout Bureau and report within 18 months of their appointment their recommendation of the most suitable location of the World Scout Bureau to the World Scout Committee for including their finding and/or recommendation as an agenda item in the next (39th) World Conference.

Additional comments from NSO:

Areas of Concern

1. Geneva's cost of living is 7th highest in the world.
2. Geneva is not a gateway city nor in the hub of air network which requires connecting flights to get there. For those coming from countries outside Europe a trip to Geneva is both inconvenient and expensive. It also applies to WSB staff in flying in and out of Europe.
3. Out of the entire budget of WOSM, more than 65% are spent in Geneva resulting the budgets of the Regions where the Scout Movement is based unjustifiably low and tight in terms of travel expenses, staff salary, activity and communication expenditure, etc.
4. The World Scout Bureau can perform its functions as or more effectively in other cities which location is more convenient and the costs of living including operating costs are lower.
5. The relocation of the World Scout Bureau will enable the bureau to decentralize and distribute some of its functions which are currently concentrated in Geneva to the Regional Offices which will reduce the total expenditure. It will also strengthen the staff capability and outputs in Regional Offices. It will also facilitate more flexible mobilization of professionals and/or experts from all parts of the world to support the growth of the Scout Movement in places where it is most needed.