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To: International Commissioners

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World Scout Committee position on:

- **Scout and Guide National Organizations**
- **Federations**

Dear colleagues,

The World Scout Committee (WSC) has, at its meetings in March and September 2010, reviewed its position on two specific subjects concerning the membership of WOSM. These are:

- the admission of new Scout and Guide National Organizations (SAGNOs) to WOSM
- the recognition of Federations.

The WSC has decided to reaffirm its existing positions on these two matters, and to share these positions with National Scout Organizations in this circular.

Admission of new Scout and Guide National Organizations (SAGNOs)

The WSC has decided not to change its position, first adopted in 1993, that it will not recommend applications for membership of WOSM from any potential Member Organization which wishes to register only its male members with WOSM and to register its female members only with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

The WSC holds this position on the basis that:

- WOSM is open to both male and female members
- its policy is consistent with the decision taken in September 1998 to permit SAGNOs to register their female members with WOSM as well as with WAGGGS
- its policy is also consistent with Strategic Priority No. 3, *Girls and boys, Women and men.*

Recognition of Federations

The WSC has reaffirmed its position on the recognition of Federations, which was adopted in 1991 in the following terms:

1. Article V, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of WOSM provides that *"Only one National Scout Organization from any one country can be recognised for membership in the World Organization."* The Article adds that *"A National Scout Organization may consist of more than one Scout Association participating in a Federation based on the common Scout purpose. It is the responsibility of each Federation to ensure that all its constituent Associations meet the requirements of this Constitution."*
2. In practice and since the World Organization was established, the majority of members have comprised only one national association. Federations were only accepted on the basis of major cultural, and in particular religious, considerations which clearly justified the separate existence of associations comprising them.

3. In interpreting its responsibility under Article VI, the World Committee confirms that, in considering requests for membership of Federations, only the original cultural characteristics which justified departing from the normal situation of one association uniting Scouting within a country shall apply.
4. The World Committee strongly emphasises the importance of the unity of the Movement and warns against its fragmentation at any level other than for the most compelling reasons.

Yours in Scouting,

Luc Panissod
Secretary General WOSM