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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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To: International Commissioners

June 2009

**Meeting of the World Scout Committee,
Geneva, Switzerland, 20-22 March 2009**

Dear Colleagues,

Introduction

The World Scout Committee (WSC) met in Geneva from 20-22 March 2009. The meeting was well attended by 11 elected (voting) members of the WSC plus five Regional Chairmen and the three other ex-officio (non-voting) members (Chairman of the World Scout Foundation, Treasurer and Secretary General). Three Youth Advisors (YAs) to the WSC elected by the World Scout Youth Forum and several guests also attended the meeting.

Appointment of the Secretary General

As has been previously announced, during the meeting the WSC interviewed a number of candidates for the position of Secretary General and decided to appoint Luc Panissod, previously Acting Secretary General, to this position.

Report of the Secretary General

In his regular report to the WSC, Luc Panissod highlighted progress that had been made since the last WSC meeting on implementing the Yearly Operational Plan 2008-2009, which reflected the various resolutions of the World Scout Conference and decisions of the WSC. He also reported on his visits to Regional Summit meetings in the Interamerican and Asia-Pacific Regions (also attended by some other WSC members) and to some National Scout Organizations (NSOs). He noted that confidence in WOSM (WSC and WSB) is being rebuilt and the improvement in the flow of information is appreciated. He had received several positive comments about the Triennial Plan which had been circulated to NSOs. There is a wealth of people (human resources) in the Regions and also educational resource materials.

Triennial Plan 2008-2011

An updated version of the Triennial Plan, incorporating indicators to measure performance, was presented to the WSC. The point was made to avoid putting too much emphasis on quantitative indicators (e.g. number of newsletters produced or training courses run), rather than the quality of the activity. The WSC approved the indicators, emphasizing that the plan remains a flexible work-in-progress.

Location of World Scout Bureau

The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary General would draw up a plan to fulfil the World Scout Conference Resolution on this subject by the end of the year, and keep the WSC regularly informed.

Governance Review Task Force

The WSC was informed that preparations were underway for the first meeting of the task force which would take place in early June.

Youth Advisors to the WSC

The WSC considered a proposal concerning the future role of Youth Advisors to the WSC who are elected/appointed at regional level. The WSC heard that the Educational Methods Committee (EMC) is currently working on a comprehensive, longer-term proposal on the role of Youth Advisors to bring to the WSC; the decision to be made at this meeting was to give guidance to the Regions prior to their Regional Conferences coming up in the next year. Regions would retain the flexibility to take a specific approach to the role of Youth Advisors within their Region to best suit their needs. Following the discussion, a consensus emerged and it was decided that any future "regional" Youth Advisors will not be considered as Youth Advisors to the WSC, but only to regional bodies.

Strategy Coordination Group (SCG)

The WSC approved revised Terms of Reference of the Strategy Coordination Group (SCG) whose primary aim is to consider the longer term vision for the Strategy for Scouting. The chairman of the SCG led WSC members in a brainstorming session focussing on the "big issues" facing the future of the Movement. The outcomes of this session will be analysed and used in drawing up future proposals for consideration by the WSC.

As part of a consultation process with NSOs, a simple survey questionnaire will be prepared to establish the level of satisfaction with the work done by WOSM at regional and world levels to form a benchmark to evaluate progress in serving NSO needs. A report including first results will be prepared for the next WSC meeting.

Educational Methods Committee (EMC) and Scouting's Profile Committee (SPC)

Progress reports on the work of these two key sub-committees were presented to the WSC. Both committees have ambitious action plans which were approved. These require close collaboration with counterparts at regional level.

Organizations with Consultative Status/WSC liaison roles

The WSC renewed for the current triennium the consultative status granted to the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts (DESMOS), the International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS), the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) and the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU). The same consultative status was granted for the first time to the Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting (CPGS), the International Forum of Jewish Scouts (IFJS) and the World Buddhist Scout Brotherhood (WBSB).

The SPC is reconsidering the best approach to liaising with those organizations which have a relationship with WOSM. Traditionally, the WSC had appointed one of its members to be a liaison person with each organization to which consultative status with WOSM has been granted, as well as to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC); however this is not seen to be the most effective approach. In the meantime, a member of the SPC will be a general liaison person and the SPC will work out a final proposal for consideration by the WSC. This will include a job description, and an estimate of the budget needs based on the expectations of the role.

Regional Support Coordination Group (RSCG)

The RSCG had met immediately before the WSC meeting. In addition to hearing progress reports from Regional Chairmen, a number of specific issues concerning the Regions and some NSOs had been discussed. Regional Chairmen present at the WSC meeting also presented their reports to the WSC. Among the points highlighted were the Africa Regional Summit to be held in Nairobi in mid-April; follow-up given to the concerns expressed by some NSOs in the Eurasia Region which had been reported to the last WSC meeting; the forthcoming Eurasia/Europe meeting; one specific "political" issue in an NSO in the Arab Region; the transfer of the Interamerican Regional Office from Chile to Panama; and the pending appointment of new Regional Directors in the Africa, Eurasia and Interamerican Regions.

Constitutional matters

As is always the case at WSC meetings, the chairman of the Constitutions Committee reported to the WSC on a number of current matters being dealt with by that committee.

Financial matters

The WSC received the latest financial reports from the WSB and a status report on payment of registration fees. The WSC also approved the final accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008.

The WSC also considered a small change to the Terms of Reference of the Budget Committee and revised guidelines for the reimbursement of expenses; these were also approved.

The Audit Committee also reported to the WSC. Their report included, among other items, issues related to the Picarquín International Scout Centre in Chile which the WSC discussed. The WSC also received reports from Scout Resources International (SCORE) and the World Scout Foundation.

Relationships matters

The WSC heard that the regular annual meeting of the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee would take place in Geneva the day after the WSC meeting. One of the items to be discussed there was the joint project with Open Minds Global, which had recently been significantly redesigned.

World Scout Events

The WSC approved the Terms of Reference of a small group to review the Guidelines for World Scout Youth Events (World Scout Jamborees and World Scout Moots).

The WSC also noted the final accounts of the 38th World Scout Conference.

Concerning future events, the WSC:

- received a detailed report on plans for the 13th World Scout Moot in Kenya in 2010 and approved a number of proposals related to this event including the budget and registration fee structure
- noted progress in planning for the 11th World Scout Youth Forum in January 2011 in Brazil, by both the Host Committee and the Forum Planning Committee; the location of this event had been changed to Blumenau from Florianópolis
- received an update on plans for the 39th World Scout Conference which will follow the Youth Forum in Brazil
- welcomed guests from the Swedish Guide & Scout Council who presented a progress report on plans for the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in 2011
- decided to call for candidatures for the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019 in time to make a decision on the Host Organization at the World Scout Conference in Brazil in 2011
- received a brief initial report on planning for the 14th World Scout Moot in Canada in 2013, and
- discussed plans for the 6th General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU), the date of which was under review pending the transfer of the WSPU Secretariat to Korea.

Finally, the WSC confirmed that its next meeting will take place in Geneva from 25-27 September 2009. This meeting will be preceded by meetings of sub-committees and coordination groups as required.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Secretary General