

Notes of meeting of World Scout Inter-religious Forum

Place: Meeting Room – World Scout Bureau – Central Office – Geneva - Switzerland

Date and Time: 28 September 2012 (14:00 – 19:00)

29 September 2012 (09:00 – 17:00)

Proposed Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Forum members
 - b. WSB support team
2. Follow up of the last 2 meetings
3. Messengers for Peace – Peter Illig
4. Educational Methods Forum 2013 – Goran Hagerdal
5. Sharing on member activities – All
6. WSIS
 - a. Presentation of draft report of 4WSIS
 - b. Review of 4WSIS
 - c. Future prospects
7. 23WSJ update – Troll
8. Roverway 2012 - Finland
9. Moot 2013 update – John Lawler, Michel-Olivier Matte
10. WSIF
 - a. Role and remit
 - b. Next meeting: where, when & chair
11. Any other business, as notified at the start of the meeting

Attendance:

S	Name	Country/Organization	Title	Email
1.	Luc Panissod (Partially)	WOSM	Secretary General	lpanissod@scout.org
2.	Fr. Jonathan How	UK / WSB	Special Advisor on Spiritual and Inter-religious development	jonathan.how@scout.org
3.	Troll	UK/ WBSB	Secretary General	secretarygeneral@wbsb.info
4.	Roberto Cociancich	Italy/ICCS	World President	president@cics.org
5.	Gerry Glynn	Ireland/ICCS	Chairperson / Regional Secretary – European Mediterranean Region	gga@eircom.net
6.	Dr. Zuhair H. Ghunaim	Saudi Arabia/ IUMS	Secretary General of IUMS	iums98@yahoo.com
7.	Alain Silberstein	IFJS	President	president@jewishscoutsforum.org
8.	Vassilis Birtsas	Greece/DESMOS	Vice – president	birtsas@gmail.com
9.	Inka Hopsu	CPGS	President	inka.hopsu@gmail.com
10.	Luc Vonderweidt	CPGS	Vice – president	lucvonder@gmail.com
11.	Rev. Kim Sin Won	Korea/Won-Buddhism	Won-Buddhism – Paris	wondame@hotmail.com

				wondame@hanmail.net
12.	Kim Chong	Korea/Won-Buddhism	Won-Buddhism – Paris (assistant)	
13.	Michel-Olivier Matte (Partially)	Scout de Canada	Deputy Director of the 14 th World Scout Moot	michelolivier@mootcanada2013.ca
14.	Goran Hagerdal (Partially)	WSB – CO	Executive Director, Strategy and Education	ghagerdal@scout.org
15.	Srinath Tirumale	WSB – CO	Senior Unit Manager External Media & External Relations	srinath@scout.org
16.	Hany Abdulmonem	WSB – Arab	Youth Programme Director	hany@scout.org
17.	Peter Illig (Partially)	WSB – CO	Director Global Projects	pillig@scout.org
18.	John Lawlor (Partially)	WSB – CO	Unit Manager, World Events	jlawlor@scout.org

Legend:

WOSM = World Organization of the Scout Movement

WSC = World Scout Committee

WSB = World Scout Bureau

WSJ = World Scout Jamboree

WSIS = World Scout Inter-religious Symposium

WSIF = World Scout Inter-religious Forum

WBSB = World Buddhist Scouts Brotherhood

WBSC = **Won-Buddhists Scout Council**

CPGS = The Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting

DESMOS = The International Link of Orthodox Scouts

ICCS = International Conference of Catholic Scouts

IFJS = The International Forum of Jewish Scout

IUMS = International Union of Muslim Scouts

MoP = Messengers of Peace

FAB = Faith and Beliefs

EM = Educational Methods

YP = Youth Programme

AR = Adult Resources

HoC = Head of Contingents

AS = Alain Silberstein

GG = Gerry Glynn

GH = Goran Hagerdal

HA = Hany Abdulmonem

IH = Inka Hopsu

JH = Jonathan How

JL = John Lawlor

KS = Kim Sin Won

LP = Luc Panissod

LV = Luc Vonderweidt

MOM = Michel-Olivier Matte

PI = Peter Illig

RC = Roberto Cociancich

STV = Srinath Tirumale

VB = Vassilis Birtsas

ZG = Dr. Zuhair Ghunaim

Meeting Chair:

Inka Hopsu – CPGS

Meeting Coordination:

Jonathan How – WSB Special Advisor

Hany Abdulmonem – WSB Staff Support

Meeting minutes:

IH started the meeting with welcoming all attendees and congratulating ZG for being recently awarded the Bronze Wolf. IH presented the Agenda, which was agreed. Two points, follow up of the last meeting and a report on Roverway 2012, were added to the agenda.

Introduction and words from WOSM Secretary General:

- STV welcomed the Forum members on behalf of Luc Panissod, who apologized for not being there in person because of the concurrent meeting of the World Scout Committee. He assured the Forum of the continued support of the WSC and WSB for its work. He reiterated that at every WSC meeting there would be an invitation to two organizations with consultative status to meet with the WSC.
- STV himself was now responsible for external relations at WSB and welcomed the work of the religious organizations with consultative status and noted that the cooperation of members of WSIF was important to World Scouting.

Follow up of the last meetings:

- The WSIF meeting in Korea held prior to the 4th WSIS was a briefing (information sharing) meeting and there were no recommendations or decisions coming out of it. The WSIF members attending the meeting gave a brief input about their respective work and these are included in the attached report of the meeting. In addition, the Symposium programme was fine-tuned and preparations for the organising of the event were discussed.
- Regarding the last meeting in Geneva (22 November 2011), there were some concerns raised by members:
 - GG asked about progress regarding the working group on "Duty to God".
RESPONSE (GH & STV) This issue was in the hands of the constitution committee to establish the terms of reference for the group that will work on this issue. It has taken longer than expected because of the number of issues in the hands of the constitution committee. GH confirmed that WSIF will have a role in this matter. GH confirmed the importance of this issue and that it has more than one aspect to tackle. It is not only spiritual, but also constitutional, educational, social ... etc.
 - GG commented on the cooperation between the faith groups and WOSM. ICCS European/Mediterranean Region had visited the WSB - Arab Regional Office in Cairo and had held a very productive meeting. This was in line with the spirit of cooperation that Mr. Luc Panissod was affirming in the last meeting.
 - Concern was expressed again that WSIF members are only to be found under "partners" on scout.org, and that this was a lost opportunity for supporting Spiritual and Religious Development. It was suggested that this should mainly be situated under Youth Programme/Spiritual Development and could additionally be present

under partners. STV agreed that this is possible, provided that it could be agreed with GH.

Messengers of Peace update

- PI spoke to the meeting about the MoP project. (Slides from his presentation are appended to these notes.) MoP materials are being developed by a mix of volunteers, staff and external contractors and include funding, reports on projects, dialogue, networks etc. and are available on <http://scoutmessengers.org/>. Those present expressed an interest in being able to comment on materials, especially those related to Inter-Religious dialogue. PI also explained the idea of the Global Network component MoP and he demonstrated it with a short video.
- PI highlighted the importance of community projects in working for peace and of the funding support that MoP is giving. Inter-Religious Dialogue is one aspect of the project in which WSIF might have an active role, through the WSB. PI explained the criteria for funding support, details of which are on the MoP website.
- MoP is also helping to establish a number of centres for training in dialogue (e.g.: Kandersteg International Scout Centre and some Scout centres in Ireland, Singapore and Panama). PI also noted that there might be good opportunities for Scout activities at and through the Saudi Centre for inter-cultural Dialogue in Vienna.
- MoP is present in World and Regional Scout Events, and that there might be opportunities for Inter-Religious dialogue as part of this work. WSIF enquired about financial support for World Events especially for those groups who are less well established (Baha'i and Sikh ... etc.). PI said that there might be support from MoP through the WSB as mentioned before or through the hosting NSO of the event. There was also some discussion about the possibility of funding support for the WSIS in future. A successful application for funding would require careful thought to be given to the impact of the symposium beyond those who participate in person.
- AS is a graphic designer by profession who was member of the WOSM Branding Process and Communication Strategy Task Force. He expressed concern about the MoP logo. He was concerned with the presence of a country coat of Arms in the logo of a World Scout Program. The presence of the Saudi Arabian coat of Arms is not mentioned in any MoP documents. This might prevent some communities and NSO's from participating in the project and at the consequent loss of opportunity from an otherwise good initiative. There was also concern from other members that the Scout emblem and identity was potentially being overwhelmed by the MoP branding, and that the badge would not be easy for SAGNOs to use. STV and PI explained the processes behind the design and approval of the logos. While there was a sense that it was perhaps too late to do anything about it now, members hoped that their concerns might be brought to the attention of the WSC.

World Scout Educational Forum:

- GH gave a brief presentation on the EM Forum that he was proposing to the WSC for October / November 2013. The date and venue are yet to be confirmed, but it is likely to be held in the APR or Arab Region. He hoped that this EM Forum would be a "Milestone for Education in Scouting" by putting the education of young people at the heart of all our work in WOSM. It highlights the aim of Scouting: "Education for Life" through the questions "Which Education? Which life?" The main target group are those leaders working in their associations on Educational Methods (Youth Programme and Adult Resources). The aim was for about 300 participants present in person and up to 10,000 participating online through various channels. It would not be primarily a scientific congress, though some academics would be invited to enrich the discussions, and would draw on the growing network of academics, some of whom had met during the Jamboree in 2011. Common themes at the forum might be Innovation, Sharing, Directions, Future, Learning, Trends and of course Education. GH observed that there are a lot of questions about Education in Scouting that he would like to raise in the Forum, including the relevance of the Scout Method for today and the place of Duty to God in that. It

might also be timely to reflect on a programme policy that is now 20 years old. Spiritual Development and Inter-Religious Dialogue are also likely to be part of the discussion. The presence of these issues highlighted that value of members of the WSIF participating in the Forum. There would be a few plenary sessions with key speakers and a larger number of parallel sessions will be offered. It was intended that invited speakers, from a variety of Regions, would also be active participants in the working groups and other seminars of the Forum.

- Some suggested that the TED website (<http://www.ted.com/>) might help the online work and noted there were other proposals in the pipeline (e.g.: Bamboo website). The number of subjects seem very large which need a lot of work. GG highlighted also the need of young people to have simple Scouting than what the modern life is offering.
- It is expected that participation for the Forum will need to be self-funded, but it is hoped that MoP might be able to support some from more needy NSOs. Members of the WSIF were invited to help in organizing an Inter-Religious workshop during the Forum and in supporting the provision of religious services during the event.
- It was agreed that AS would be the contact person from the WSIF regarding the EM Forum. Each member organization will determine the contact person from their side as well.

The 4th World Scout Inter-religious Symposium – Korea 2012

- KS reported on the 4th WSIS held in Korea this summer (copy appended to these notes). The joint organisers (Korea Scout Association and WBSC) were disappointed about the low number of participants, the coincidence of the event with Ramadan, the impact of the very hot and humid weather and the lack of use of the display booths provided for each religious group. GH particularly highlighted the successful presence of young people at the Symposium and wished to ensure that they would be fully integrated in future such events.
- RC considered the event very successful and encouraged the organisers not to be so critical of their work. Particular successes of this Symposium included the provision of simultaneous translation and the excellent quality of hospitality. Appreciation was expressed for the organisers and the significant support given by Wonkwang University and the other sponsors secured by the Won-Buddhist Scout Council.
- JH reported that he had struggled to build a rich programme as there was relatively low participation from the members of the WSIF. A review of those present confirmed that this was due to the distance and high cost of travel (particularly from Europe and the western part of the world) and the coincidence with Ramadan. While the hosts had found some additional participants from Korea, increasing participation in general had proved difficult.
- Difficulties in the preparation of the WSIS highlighted the importance of securing the written agreement of the joint hosts at an early stage, and the active support of WSB. JH observed that language and cultural differences had hindered good communication with the hosts during the planning. Effective communication is likely to require a visit to the hosts, as had been the case for previous symposia. ZG asked the WSB for more support in the next Symposium.
- WSIF members affirmed the need for some guidelines for organizing a WSIS with the help of the EM group. GG asked the WSIF to evaluate the WSIS in a holistic approach next time. STV stressed the significance of the WSIS from the profile and image of the Movement's point of view as it showcases the high impact of Scouting on promoting living together in harmony and peaceful coexistence for the outside audience and external partners. While the strong potential of regional symposia was recognized, there was a preference for continuing the series of World level events. The Scouts of Argentina were working on hosting and Interamerican region inter-religious symposium in 2013 with the support and inspiration from ICCS.

- JH gave a personal evaluation about the WSIS in general based on his involvement with the last 3 symposia:
 - In Taiwan: There were a lot of plenary sessions which took a lot of time and were often off theme. WSIF asked to have written speeches in the future from the speakers in the WSIS but this had proved too difficult to enforce.
 - In Uganda: There was a lot of working group sessions (learning by doing method) helped by the facilitators but there were also a lot of protocol visits that consumed a lot of time.
 - In Korea: the balance between the plenary sessions, working groups and visits was OK.

From all these observations JH said that there was development of the WSIS through time. There remains the challenge of finding something which attracts the level of participation that the initiative deserves.

Next WSIS:

- AS and LV undertook to investigate the possibility of CPGS and IFJS jointly hosting the 5th WSIS, probably in France in 2016. (**Members were asked to keep this confidential until AS and LV had been able to approach their NSO).
- The youth participation in the next symposium should be a main item not a side event.

WSIF members brief reports:

- **WBSB:**
 - Troll distributed documents about the recent activities of the WBSB (see attached document in the appendix) in addition to the activities mentioned in the last meeting minutes in Korea.
 - WBSB official website is: <http://www.wbsb.info/>
- **DESMOS:**
 - VB greets all members on behalf of the old friend and one of the founders of the WSIF Mr. Christos Papageorgiou.
 - At the last DESMOS conference in Ukraine they had a new committee chaired by Mr. Marko Petrovic from Serbia and VB is now vice-president.
 - The vision of the new leadership in DESMOS is to increase the link between WSIF members, to support world and regional Scout events and to train DESMOS leaders.
 - Funding and human resources are some of the key challenges of DESMOS
 - DESMOS official and updated website is: <http://www.desmos.info/en/index.html>
 - DESMOS has translated the WOSM Guidelines on Spiritual and Religious Development to the Greek Language.
- **ICCS:**
 - Next year ICCS will celebrate 100 years of Catholic Scouting. They hope that others will join them in celebrating this occasion, which is a great opportunity for celebrating achievements, networking and relations.
 - At their last conference, ICCS elected 2 leaders to head its structure: Roberto Cociancich (Italy), president of ICCS and Bray Barnes (USA), Chairman of ICCS. Any decision should be taken by the 2 people and this shows a cooperative way of leadership.
 - ICCS has 4 regions: Europe -Middle East, Interamerica, Asia-Pacific and Africa.
 - Les Scouts (Belgium) had left ICCS some years ago as they developed a more pluralist outlook. They are now seeking affiliation to all the faith groups (ICCS, DESMOS, IUMS, IFJS and CPGS).
 - GG spoke about 3 ICCS events (see attached documents in the appendix):
 - Ecumenical Encounter, Assisi, Italy, From 18 to 21 October 2012.
 - Scout Week in Taizé, France, from 29 July to 5 August 2012.
 - World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, July 2013. (The last one was in Madrid in 2011 and featured a flash mob.)
 - ICCS official website are: <http://www.cics.org/html/index.php>
- **CPGS:**

- Their last conference was held in Denmark and the next will be held in Finland
- There is a great effort on the shoulders of CPGS because the protestant communities are living in the most secular countries of the world.
- CPGS is trying to penetrate large NSOs like Boy Scouts of America and the Scout Association in UK but it still not so successful.
- They have a Facebook group : <https://www.facebook.com/Protestantscouts?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- **IUMS:**
 - There is no more update since the Korea meeting (see minutes of Korea WSIF meeting August 2012)
 - IUMS is offering help and coordination for all other WSIF members in any Islamic country.
 - The Official website of IUMS: <http://iums.org.sa/en/>
- **IFJS:**
 - There is a great difficulty to organize events because the main Jewish communities are scattered in so many countries and it is hard to finance it.
 - EEIF (Jewish scouts of France) will celebrate their 90th anniversary in Bordeaux, France next year. They will host an IFJS get-together called "Kumzits" ("come and sit" in Yiddish).
 - IFJS would like to cooperate with all members and inviting all to join this coming event (information will be distributed later)
 - IFJS has a programme called "Geshet" which is an Hebrew name means "bridge". This Programme is based on the pluralistic and inclusive educational curriculum of the Jewish scouts of France (EEIF). It is aiming to penetrate some NSOs and Jewish communities in French-Speaking countries.
 - IFJS will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Jewish Scouting in Bordeaux, France next year.
 - JH mentioned that he attended a celebration of the centenary of the first Jewish Scout group in the UK in 2009.
 - The Official Website of IFJS is: <http://www.jewishscoutsforum.org/>

Roverway Inter-religious activities (Finland 2012):

- It was difficult to organize a FAB zone at Roverway 2012 because of Secularism and loss of interest. It is very important for any world or regional Scout event to have a spiritual dimension in the Programme of the event.
- Number of faith groups that attended the Roverway was limited to ICCS and CPGS only.
- Organizing the religious services was very difficult and the organizing team couldn't help the faith groups to do it better.
- There was a coordinator appointed from the organizing committee for the inter-religious activities but she didn't attend at a short notice and she was not replaced with any other coordinator.
- There was a nice celebration amongst Jewish and Muslim Scouts who celebrated Shabbat and Ramadan together, without having a faith organization to help them.
- The Euro-Arab Dialogue workshop was very successful and it was in the same context of the Inter-religious dialogue.

14th World Scout Moot (Canada 2013)

- MOM and JL were introduced to the group and gave a brief presentation about the Moot activities in relation to FAB zone and Inter-religious dialogue. Information is on the official site: <http://www.mootcanada2013.ca/en/> . The expected number of participants (including IST) is 3000 to 5000 and they are prepared for more. The last Head of Contingent meeting was successful (in comparison with the last Moot HoC meeting). 25 NSOs attended HoC meeting. MOM explained the programme and 2-3-1-3-2 formula of the Moot. HA noted that

that the Moot will start on the feast after Ramadan for Muslims (Eid El Fetr) which may limit a little the participation from the Muslim countries or delay their arrival.

- One of the main elements in the programme is inter-cultural dialogue, making use of international patrols. After the 1970s, Canada became a very secular country where the power of the Catholic Church was diminished. So, the Canadian Organizing team would like strongly to be helped by the WSIF members in all aspects related to the inter-religious issues (FAB zone, religious services, food constraints, way of life, inter-cultural ice breaking tools for the international patrols ... etc.). There is a Chapel in the camp site of the main Moot area that can be used for multi religious services. MOM asked the members to promote strongly for the Moot.
- For the time being there is no clear budget, clearly defined plan for the role of the WSIF and the coordinator for FAB activities in the Moot is yet to be appointed. As soon as it will be determined, the Moot organizing team will inform WSIF members. WSIF appointed Fr. Jonathan How to be the focal point of WSIF regarding the Moot activities.
- RC expressed his happiness of having the Moot organizing team representative in the meeting. He also expressed the need of the FAB activities not only for inter-religious activities, but also of the demonstration of the unity, tolerance, mutual understanding and brotherhood within Scouting.
- There is a wish from the WSIF to organize a seminar or workshop about the inter-religious dialogue. One of the suggested topics to be discussed is the importance of spirituality in life and how we can strengthen our values. To have a joint activity more than having only individual exhibitions and activities for each faith. AS suggested to have different sayings from the holy books and traditions about the peace, tolerance, understanding and love that could be distributed through the Moot. RC said that there is a big need for the young people to find their own path in spirituality. MOM suggested having a workshop about the Inter-religious dialogue in the GDV organized by the WSIF. WSIF will ask if there is opportunity to be funded from MoP. MOM explained that there is also opportunity to have inter-religious dialogue in the Humanitarian Café that will exist in the Moot within the Human Path of the programme.
- Regarding the food distribution, the moot will follow the same system of the last Jamboree in Sweden (IST and Adult Cafeteria, for the participants will buy their food from the supermarket (using the points cards) and they will cook in their patrols (there is a food book for suggestions)). JH requested to have clear signage for the "Halal" and "Kosher" food (not Special Diet sign having all special food).
- MOM said they will offer the WSIF members a waiver on the registration fees as they do with the partners in the GDV. The Moot will cover the fees but not the travel expenses. The number of participants that will be covered and number of ISTs appointed will be negotiated later. The members suggested having FAB zone open all the time and FAB activities be part of the free time activities. The challenges from the FAB activities in the jamboree in Sweden will not be repeated in the Moot and future events. There is a need for FAB activities guidelines in all World Scout Events.
- STV explained the faith and belief zone activities in the 13th Moot in Kenya 2010 and he said that it was not a big success due to poor organisation and planning despite strong interest on the subject from participants which was seen from the large attendance of Scouts at an inter-faith workshop which was hurriedly organised on the last day of the Moot. JL stressed on the success of the Moot programme in Kenya in comparison with the facilities and the preparations in Africa (it was historical to have a World Event in Africa). All attendees expressed their willingness to make the inter-religious activities in the Moot in Canada next year a successful story.

23rd World Scout Jamboree updates (Japan 2015)

- Troll is the contact person from WSIF to meet and communicate with the Organizing team of the 23rd WSJ in Japan. He distributed a document on the updates regarding the meeting with them (see attached documents in the appendix).
- JH said that Mari Nakano (The Jamboree director) confirmed that FAB activities will be in the programme in the same way as in 21st WSJ in UK (within the free time choice activities). There are 2 Japanese leaders appointed for FAB activities and they attended the meeting in Korea. The language barrier will be a problem in Japan, so it is important that each group will try to find a Japanese volunteer could help them with the organizing team. Sending materials or equipment by shipment in containers is the easiest way to do in Japan, so you can cooperate with any NSO to do so. AS suggested sharing a container from Europe. HA expressed the importance of organizing FAB activities in the APR jamboree in Japan next year as a rehearsal of the 23rd WSJ in Japan 2015.

Secretary General's presence in the meeting:

- LP attended part of the meeting. He apologized for not attending the whole meeting because he should be in other meetings regarding the WSC and the new Secretary General's Selection process. He stressed the importance of the follow up of the last meeting recommendations. He also addressed the aspiration of WSIF members to have a Memorandum of Understanding regarding WSIF. If seen as important this Memo should be proposed by the WSIF members themselves for the consideration of the WSC. GH was explaining that WSIF members should be careful when they are asking for a formal body to gather them especially that this group is doing a fantastic job since 1997 as an informal network.
- The members raised the point of Duty to God again and LP responded that this is an important issue and it is in the hands of the constitution committee for the moment.
- LP expressed the willingness of WOSM to continue to support the WSIF informally. LP also explained that the WSC now is offering the invitation of 2 partners having consultative status to attend the WSC meeting. This means that all organizations having the consultative status to the WSC will have the opportunity to attend the meeting once every 2 years. IH asked for the participation of one WSC member in the WSIF meetings (Eric Khoo is suggested because he is the contact person for organizations with consultative status but for this meeting Eric Khoo is busy with the WSC meetings)
- JH raised the issue that members had earlier identified the need for financial support for this group because they are paying from their own pockets for the WSIF meetings attendance. This seemed to be a mixed message about the importance and work of the Forum. LP responded that there is no funding or budget of that in the WSB. LP also suggested including the point of financial support in the Memorandum of the WSIF to be discussed in the WSC. RC expressed his happiness of having such a body gather all faith groups in Scouting informally. LP suggested having a taskforce or sub-committee from the WSC to discuss the spiritual development in Scouting and to be associated with the WSIF. This suggestion was welcomed in the meeting especially if the WSIF will be part of it to have more experience from outside WSIF in this important dimension of Scouting. AS said that he sees that WSIF as a "Think Tank"
- LP explained the secular life that NSOs are facing now. He witnessed during his recent visits to NSOs that the spiritual dimension in Scouting is on the decrease. He is asking WSIF to help strengthening this dimension. RC stressed on the importance of the faith organizations as a link between WOSM and the faith institutions. WOSM's cooperation with WSIF members is crucial to strengthen the image of the Scout faith groups with their respective main faith institutions. AS asked for a clear statement about Spiritual Dimension and Duty to God in Scouting at all levels of WOSM.

Next meeting:

Host: IUMS (covering the costs for accommodation of one participant from each religious group for two nights)

Place: Cairo International Scout Centre

Date: There are two options:

- If the EM Forum will be in the Asia Pacific Region (October or November 2013), the meeting will be in Cairo possibly a few months before the EM Forum (to be decided later).
- If the EM Forum will be in the Arab Region (October or November 2013), the meeting will be in Cairo before or after the EM Forum

Chair: IFJS representative and ICCS as the back-up choice

Proposed items for the Agenda:

- The role of WSIF
- Evaluation of the WSIS
- Preparations for the 14th World Scout Moot (Canada 2013)
- Preparations for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree (Japan 2015)
- Preparations for the 5th WSIS
- The role of WSIF in the World Scout Conference

Additional notes for reference.

WSIF worries expressed:

- To be ONLY a good image of scouting without real contribution
- Secularism: WSIF members are facing the secular life in the communities. The main founding NSOs of WOSM have been affected by Secularism. Secularism accumulation through generations becomes a great factor of fear regarding the spiritual life in General.
- Pluralism: There is no strengthening of the spiritual development in the mixed Scout groups
- Insufficiency of support/establishment to the religious minority groups
- The difficulty of penetration/cooperation to/with some NSOs
- The reality of Duty to God principle in WOSM and how come that some NSOs is excluding this principle from its Scout life where it is a condition to be part of WOSM
- Lack of financial support
- Some regional inter-religious dilemmas
- Is the spiritual dimension supported enough?
- Decrease of WOSM's focus on its role in the holistic spiritual development
- The position offered towards faith organizations / groups that they are partners not part of the Scout family. Scouting life is the spirit that gathers all these faiths under one umbrella to live in mutual understanding and tolerance.
- WSC doesn't attend the WSIF meetings.

WSB worries:

- WSIF responds according to interest not towards constructive roles. There were so many times that WSIF members were not responding to initiatives created following their own requests (e.g.: Meditations at the 38th World Scout Conference (Korea 2008) and participation in the 4th WSIS (Korea 2012)).
- WSIF members are possibly asked for more than they could deliver collectively and individually

Role of WSIF

- There are written paragraphs about the WSIF in the 37th World Scout Conference Report mainly in page 63 and many other pages (link to the document on scou.org: http://www.scout.org/en/content/download/3301/30990/file/37WSCReport_EN.pdf) and in the Guidelines on Spiritual and Religious Development mainly in page 31 and many other pages (link to the document on scou.org: http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/library/spiritual_development/guidelines_on_spiritual_and_religious_development).

- Thoughts were put on paper randomly as elements for a “Memorandum of understanding”:

Goals:

- Creating platform for Interreligious Dialogue
- Building up unity
- Supporting Spiritual Dimension in Scouting
- Visibility for the inter-religious dialogue

Membership:

- Religious Organizations with consultative status
- all other beliefs can be present

Role:

- Support for National Scout Organizations
- Having a role in the World Scout Conference (has to be clarified)
- Role towards the committee (has to be clarified)

Activities:

- Organizing FAB Programme for the world events
- Need to develop an “Inter-religious” package for use at “WOSM” events.
- Being a think-Tank
- Helping to strengthen the spiritual development in Scouting according to families and community needs.

Guidelines for WSIS:

- Should have a clear aim:
 - Spirituality in contemporary contact
 - Spirituality in EM/Youth programme
 - Dialogue
- Necessity for Funding (should bear in mind that cost is a barrier of participation)
- Partnership with Host NSO with a written agreement
- Approved and supported by WSB (in consultation with WSC)
- Target group of participants should be clear
- Every three years
- Big event
- Considering regional focus/base

General Notes and Recommendations:

- Confirmation on the informality of the meeting and the WSIF doesn't have the consultative status to WOSM but some of the members only who have the consultative status to the WSC.
- WSB will continue supporting the WSIF through volunteers and professional staff.
- It is important to consult the WSIF collectively in the issues regarding Inter-Religious Dialogue in Scouting, Spiritual Development, Duty to God and other related issues. But at the end, the decision is in the hand of the decision makers in WOSM (WS Committee or WS Conference)
- Activities within WOSM should be done through the member NSOs and not directly by the organizations with Consultative Status.
- It is important to encourage to have inter and intra-regional dialogue about the inter-religious issues.
- There is a need to define the role of the WSIF and guideline for the WSIS
- WSIF members with consultative status would like to have a joint meeting with WSC.
- It is important to share the success stories and pictures of events between members and with WSB which will give strong image of Scouting to External and Internal Audience. STV as External Relations and Media Senior Manager requested that strongly to send stories and photos for External Communication.
- There is a need for FAB activities guidelines in all World Scout Events.
- Follow up of recommendations in shorter time is needed.

APPENDICES (List):

- **Notes from WSIF informal meeting in Korea (August 2012)**
- **PDF of powerpoint presentation made by Peter Illig (MoP)**

- **Preliminary report of the 4th WSIS (prepared by WBSC and Korea Scouts Association)**
- **Recent activities of the WBSB**
- **Updates from the 23rd WSJ Japan**

Geneva, 29 September 2012