



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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To: International Commissioners

July 2005

**Minutes of the meeting of the
WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee**

Dear Colleagues,

Attached please find a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee, which was held on 20 April 2005 at AGESCI Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

These minutes are being distributed by both Organizations. A copy is also available on our web site at: <http://www.scout.org/satw/consultative.shtml>

Sincerely yours,

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General

Encl.

WAGGGS/WOSM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at AGESCI Headquarters, Rome, 20 April 2005

Present:

WAGGGS: Kirsty Gray, Chairman, WAGGGS World Board (chairing PM)
Charlotte Christ-Weber, Vice-Chairman, WAGGGS World Board
Amelita Dayrit-Go, Vice-Chairman, WAGGGS World Board
Magda Murr, Member, WAGGGS World Board
Mary Lynn Myers, Member, WAGGGS World Board
Maria Paula Romano, Member, WAGGGS World Board
Lesley Bulman-Lever, Chief Executive, WAGGGS

WOSM: Marie-Louise Correa, Chairman, World Scout Committee (chairing AM)
Ferran Guimaraes, Vice-Chairman, World Scout Committee
Ana-Elisa Piubello, Member, World Scout Committee
Eduardo Missoni, Secretary General, WOSM
Jim Sharp, Director, Institutional Support, World Scout Bureau

Apologies:

WOSM: Habibul Alam, Vice-Chairman, World Scout Committee
Walter Hofstetter, Member, World Scout Committee

Welcome

Marie-Louise Correa welcomed those present. The minutes of the previous meeting, held in Geneva on 1 April 2004, were approved. Mary Lynn Myers and Jim Sharp were asked to draft the minutes of this meeting.

1. Joint work on common challenges

a) Joint response to disasters

The Committee shared information on the response to the tsunami catastrophe in the Indian Ocean region. WAGGGS announced they will contribute US\$10,000 from WAGGGS' tsunami fund to WOSM's tsunami aid fund, since WAGGGS has no recognised MO in Indonesia; the WOSM fund, which is focussed on reconstruction projects, has so far raised US\$400,000.

b) PEACE: Peace event; Fundraising for this event; Nobel Peace Prize; Collation of information on Peace

The origins of this project were recalled: a document titled "Some Guidelines on the Broad Areas by WOSM and WAGGGS in their Contribution to Peace". It had been decided at the previous meeting to organise a Youth Peace Event in 2006, possibly to coincide with World Peace Day in September.

Due to e-mail problems at the location of the World Scout Committee meeting held outside Rome prior to the Consultative Committee meeting, Eduardo Missoni had not yet seen the latest proposal which had been sent to him. Frustration was expressed that this idea had been discussed at the last two meetings, but had not yet taken concrete form.

The Norwegians had suggested an event in Africa to help young people understand the reality of conflict; Rwanda and Burundi had been identified as possible locations. The practical and logistical challenges in organising such an event by September 2006 were recognised: a peace camp in Kigali, for instance, would be more complicated than a peace conference in Oslo. The capacity of the host organization would be critical to success; and the cost of the event (including travel) and consequent need for fundraising would also be an important factor. Kirsty Gray asked the Committee to remember our original objective: a joint global event with a peace focus.

Following discussion, it was decided, subject to the agreement of the Guides and Scouts of Norway to host the event, to hold a Youth Peace Event in Norway in September 2006, with the objective of considering and planning potential joint peace events and initiatives around the world, leading to another global event after 2007 in a country which has come through conflict.

Norway would be asked for their response to this proposal prior to the World Conferences. If they are unable to host the event, Eduardo Missoni offered to approach the Italian Scouts and the Mayor of Rome to see if they would be interested in doing so.

It was agreed that the planning team for this event should comprise six people, two volunteers (one each from WAGGGS and WOSM), two staff (also from WAGGGS and WOSM) and two representatives of Norway. Ideally a first meeting would be held by August 2005, to be able to send information about the event to MOs/NSOs one year in advance. WAGGGS/WOSM would need to fund the first meeting. The planning team would be specifically asked to consider how young people would be involved in the planning process.

Limited information had been obtained from NSOs/MOs on their peace activities. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Joint Peace Team in Norway for their reports. ISGF had made a financial contribution to their work. The Team would be present at the WAGGGS World Conference and probably also at the World Scout Conference. Depending on progress by the time of the next Consultative Committee meeting, representatives of the Team may be invited to attend.

c) Working together at the UN

The Committee discussed how the two Organizations cooperate in their relationships with the UN and its agencies whenever the opportunity arises and the mechanism exists. Concrete examples will be sought to demonstrate how this has been done, for possible use at the World Conferences.

Cooperation should be encouraged, while recognising that each Organization may have special interests or opportunities (e.g. WAGGGS on issues related to girls and young women) in which it may want to take the lead. A list of the agencies where each Organization is currently represented should be shared with the Consultative Committee, the UN Teams and staff in Offices. Those directly involved also need to know each other. The Millennium Development Goals and the forthcoming 10-year review of the World Youth Programme are two examples of where cooperation would be both possible and useful. It was suggested that a small sub-group of the Consultative Committee could help coordinate this cooperation. When Memorandums of Understanding are negotiated with UN Agencies, this could potentially be done jointly by both WOSM and WAGGGS.

It was proposed that a small group should work out a concrete action plan for joint work with the UN covering the next 1-2 years. It was proposed that this group be made up of some Committee members and staff, viz: Ana-Elisa Piubello and Jean Cassaigneau (WOSM) and Maria-Paula Romano and Georgina Peek (WAGGGS). Ideally staff members would meet to produce a draft plan to share with the volunteers before reporting back to the next meeting. Mention of this work would be included in the reports to the World Conferences.

Eduardo Missoni referred to the idea of trying to obtain some kind of international treaty recognising Scouting, a kind of equivalent to the Geneva Conventions recognising the Red Cross. (The only other example is the International Olympic Committee.) The idea would be presented to the next World Scout Conference. He recalled that Lord Baden-Powell had long correspondence with the League of Nations (predecessor of the UN) to try to get international recognition for Scouting. What is needed is a recognition, by governments, of the importance of Scouting; this would give Scouting a stronger voice in the international arena and, for example, facilitate our concerns, such as obtaining visas. He acknowledged that such an endeavour constituted an enormous challenge and would probably not succeed, but the process is more important than the result. He was convinced such a treaty could only be obtained if it were sought jointly with WAGGGS to recognise both Scouting and Guiding, and taking into account their common features and their unique specificities.

There was support from the WAGGGS representatives for the idea of such a treaty. Both WOSM and WAGGGS would endeavour to build support within its own Committee/Board and possibly Conference.

d) Youth of the World

Eduardo Missoni presented Youth of the World, which is a WOSM-sponsored programme aimed at all young people and using the Scout method, to promote the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Within the programme there is a part called "Scouts of the World" which could be transformed into "Scouts and Guides of the World". The programme had only just been launched, and had not yet really materialised, so it was not too late to transform it into a joint initiative. Lesley Bulman-Lever remarked that for WAGGGS the concept would fit very well for those MOs

that are following the International Award Programme. Since the International Award Association (IAA) is part of the Alliance of Youth CEOs, it could potentially become a three-way project. Dominique Bénard, who is responsible for the project within the World Scout Bureau, will meet soon with Lesley Bulman-Lever and IAA to discuss this further.

The programme is aimed at Member Organizations and is of special relevance to the older age sections. The WAGGGS World Conference would be an ideal opportunity to introduce the concept. It was recognised that MOs/NSOs are more likely to welcome new ideas that are simple and do not require them to invest time or money in setting up new systems, structures, etc. There are many similarities between the programme and the existing programmes of WAGGGS' MOs. The programme could also fit within the current triennial theme of WAGGGS and complement the Olave Award.

It was agreed to (1) wait for the forthcoming discussions between Dominique Bénard, Lesley Bulman-Lever and IAA, then (2) discuss internally with the appropriate groups within WAGGGS and, if positive, (3) move towards a decision. Preparatory work would be carried out by e-mail between the two World Offices.

e) Centenary 2007/2010-2012

WOSM's plans for Scouting's Centenary, including the Gifts for Peace project, the 21st World Scout Jamboree and a symbolic event on Brownsea Island on 1 August 2007, were presented. WAGGGS' Centenary celebrations will cover the period 2010-2012 (2010 is the centenary of GGUK, 2012 that of GSUSA); a task group is working on ideas, and will be consulting with MOs at the World Conference. Charlotte Christ-Weber recalled that the Consultative Committee had previously determined that WAGGGS members would be invited to attend Scouting's Centenary events. She also observed that SAGNOs will probably celebrate in 2007.

The idea was suggested of working together on producing a new Guide and Scout song for the next century. Ideally the seed for such a song would be found in the common history of Guiding and Scouting; this could be given to some composer(s)/musician(s) to come up with a new Scout and Guide song. (Such a song would not replace the existing WAGGGS World Song.) This idea was left with Eduardo Missoni and Lesley Bulman-Lever to follow up.

2. Consultative Committee in the next triennium

a) Reduction in number of members

Those present expressed their views on how the Consultative Committee has worked. There is a problem of continuity when the World Scout Committee/World Board changes every three years. There is a need to find ways of sharing responsibilities, so that the work does not all fall on the professionals or on the two Chairmen. It was suggested both Organizations could designate a primary point of contact from among the members of the World Committee/World Board.

There was consensus on establishing a smaller Consultative Committee, and on using working groups on specifically defined subjects, involving others as appropriate, with regular reports back to the Committee. The Committee should comprise four members from each Organization, including the World Chairmen and the CEOs and two other World Board/World Scout Committee Members, with staff support. It was agreed that continuity should be a consideration in the appointment of the other volunteers.

b) Meetings attached to World Board - World Scout Committee

The Committee encouraged the CEOs to try to coordinate the timing of future meetings as far in advance as possible.

c) Progress between meetings, volunteer task forces

The Committee recognized that their discussions of the various items on the agenda seemed to be working in this direction.

3. World Conferences

a) 2005 attendance - what messages do we want to deliver, style?

The Committee discussed a paper proposing points to be included in the joint presentation to be made to the WAGGGS and WOSM World Conferences. This will be finalised by those Committee members attending the Conferences. The timing of the presentation at the World Scout

Conference was discussed, to avoid a potential clash with a meeting of the Olave Baden-Powell Society which would be taking place in Cyprus beginning on September 8.

A feature of the WAGGGS Conference will be three "Global Cafés", where it is hoped that WOSM representatives would be present to meet participants. The WOSM representatives to the WAGGGS Conference will be Walter Hofstetter, Eduardo Missoni, and Ana-Elisa Piubello.

b) 2011

The Committee also discussed how the question of Switzerland's bid to host both the WAGGGS and WOSM Conferences in 2011 would be dealt with during the World Conferences this year. The World Scout Conference in Tunisia would consider this invitation along with others, while WAGGGS would not normally decide on the location of their 2011 Conference until 2008. A motion submitted by Switzerland referring to the 2011 Conference will be placed before WAGGGS Conference.

4. Meetings at Regional level, timed to coincide at same place

The Committee agreed to encourage Regional Committees to try to arrange their meetings, at least once in each triennium, at the same time and place to enable them to consider common issues. A letter signed by the two Chairmen will be sent to each Region highlighting how this could benefit their Region.

5. Relations with SAGNOs at world level

The Committee discussed how relationships with MOs/NSOs that are members of both WAGGGS and WOSM could be strengthened. It was proposed to encourage the Consultative Committee in the next triennium to put aside good time to discuss this, possibly with some such Organizations present. There is a need, for example, to review terminology to cover the range of situations such as exist in India, Italy, France (Scouts et Guides de France) and other countries; the terms "joint", "merged", "SAGNO", etc., are often used inappropriately. The importance of having clear objectives for these discussions was recognised.

6. Member Organization issues

The Committee shared information on developments in Iraq, where a joint training event was planned for May; Regional Directors are in contact.

In Afghanistan, WOSM's Asia-Pacific Regional Office is trying to lay the groundwork for the establishment of Scouting, with possible support from within Germany. WAGGGS is working with Pakistan and Italy (AGESCI) is involved in support. It was suggested that the two Regions should follow up on this work together.

The situation of Scouting and Guiding in Israel and Poland was also reviewed. The Regional Offices are following up as appropriate.

A specific issue with regard to planning for a joint Scout/Guide activity in 2007 in one particular country in Africa was also raised.

7. Any other business

a. Alliance of Youth CEOs

Lesley Bulman-Lever and Eduardo Missoni reported on recent developments within the Alliance. WAGGGS and WOSM are working well together as part of the Alliance. The Empowering African Young People Initiative is going ahead in three countries in Africa - Tanzania, Zambia, and Uganda - with funding from USAID.

A new publication - a call for action on the participation of children and young people in decision-making - produced in cooperation with UNICEF, had just been published.

b. Governance review in WOSM

WOSM will likely undertake a full constitutional review during the 2005-2008 triennium. A background paper had been drafted for the World Scout Conference; this would be shared with WAGGGS. A Conference resolution would define the scope of the review.

One issue that had arisen was the cycle of WOSM's Regional Scout Conferences. A proposal to hold these in the year after, rather than the year before, a World Scout Conference, would be put to the World Conference in Tunisia. It was recognised this would have a particular impact on those Regions where the timing of WAGGGS and WOSM Regional Conferences is coordinated.

8. Date and venue of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be finalised following the two World Conferences.

(Note: Since the meeting, it appears likely that the next meeting will be hosted by WOSM in Geneva in November 2005.)