



REPORT ON THE FACT-FINDING QUESTIONNAIRE

concerning WOSM and WAGGGS relationships

May 2001

Part 2: Written Comments to Question A

(Part 1 provides the introduction, data and analysis)

There were 81 responses to the questionnaire and 50 of these provided written comments to question A. (24 = no, 17=yes, 9=other) Some have been translated from French or Spanish. The responses designated with (yes) or (no) in parathensis did not indicate any yes or no response, but based on their comments they were classified as tending toward a yes or a no. (There were four other questions upon which comments could be provided, as well as a position for concluding comments. These are not included in this report.)

Question A: Do you believe that the creation of one new world organization through unification with WAGGGS would strengthen our ability to achieve our mission as an educational movement for young people and that the study of this option should therefore be pursued? YES NO

YES

- yes One National Organisation would serve the youth of our country more effectively and avoid duplication of efforts, both organisational and financial.
- yes Our institutional experience in this respect tells us that this is very positive.
- yes The Scouting and Guiding Movement should act as 'one' towards the rest of the society. Moreover, the present situation, where the similar work is done by both world organisations is not profitable use of resources. A new, joint organisation would also prevent forming of a rivalry situation between WOSM and WAGGGS.
- yes We believe that this would strengthen the impact of Guiding and Scouting Worldwide.
- yes The inefficiency created by the two world organisations (at very expensive overhead costs) and the counterproductive actions taken by them vis-à-vis young human resource development of this one world need to be terminated, or stopped. Gender discrimination should be avoided all the way, and gender similarities should be valued in a dynamic balance with some (natural, or biological) gender differences.

We need to be very open-minded and be patient to some of the difficulties in implementing this policy due to some old socio-cultural values lived by the people. This approach does not mean that we should stop pursuing the ideal. No. But, if we are doing it very forcefully, then we will do more harms than goods. The behavioural changes

NO

- no We do not believe that unification with the Guides will strengthen our ability to accomplish our Mission. In XX, after trying for many years to reach unification agreements with the{Guides}, we have opened a female branch within the Scout Association.
- no In spite of the fact that our answer is NO, we will propose to the {Girl Guides} to examine together the document presented. We will keep the {regional} Scout Office informed of our progress.
- no The boys now are under crisis therefore we need to concentrate all our energies in strengthening our organisation.
- no The international leadership of the XX continue to remain concerned about the inordinate amount of time and resources spent by WAGGGS and WOSM on issues surrounding bringing these two entities together. The XX strongly encourages the World Committee to complete this exercise as quickly as possible and move on to the far more global responsibility at hand.
- no The value to be added by a merger is not clear. The potential gains would be lost in structural and organisational matters. There would appear to be few benefits.
- no The XX Scouts are able to achieve our full mission of an educational movement for the young people being the member of WOSM. Therefore, we do not see any need for further changes.

YES, continued

needed require a consistent educational program leading towards the goal: no gender discrimination! Both boys and girls should get equal non-formal educational opportunities. There should be no domination of male to female, or female to male population, but equality should be the goal to be continuously pursued and achieved.

If our mission as an educational movement is not a special and unique one, then WOSM and WAGGGS are not better than UNESCO in the provision of educational knowledge, methods and techniques to help young people in their development. UNESCO has worked very hard in pursuance of gender equality and equity, and in the recruitment of new staff members of UNESCO, the preference is given to women! But, no discrimination against men, either!

All of us should commit to the implementation of the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (The United Nations' General Assembly adopted the Convention on 18 December 1979, 21 years ago!).

"In view of its mission, UNESCO is particularly concerned about the implementation of Article 10^a) of the Convention, relating to education. It is by providing men and women with the same conditions of access to education and by eliminating all stereotyped ideas about the roles of men and women in society that we can move towards greater equality. Education is a basic human right, and each human being deserves to become master of his/her destiny. Only education actually enables a person to be fully involved in his/her community, to understand it, and to contribute to its development." - Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO in Preface to PASSPORT TO EQUALITY, UNESCO Publishing, September 1999, page 3.

The unification process should be done in a more simplified manner and in a speedy way. The strengths of both WOSM and WAGGGS should be taken into consideration and weaknesses of both should be dropped, and if possible, the strengths become part and parcel of the programmes to be implemented by the new World Organisation. The trend of the world now, including the trend nationally is towards decentralisation which means that because the people are down there, then all the needed concrete actions should also be there. Therefore, decentralisation is a conditio sine qua non. Even UNESCO as an intergovernmental organisation of more than 180 countries and responsible for the four competencies (education, science, culture and communication) is now moving towards decentralisation by strengthening the field offices, thus bringing the services closer to the people.

yes We believe that joining together rather than splitting is a correct strategy, in the spirit of Scouting and Guiding. Anyway, a unified model is not the only possible one: we think that the role of the World Scout Committee should be to explore various opportunities and give the national organisations a complete perspective.

NO, continued

no The Scout Movement, at least in XX, is open to all youth, boys and girls; it is structured in a responsible way and today it experiences full development; looking for strong partners is an action of such a dimension that it would take our Association from its present stream, mainly at the present moment when the Association is modernising its Constitution, reformulating its Youth Programme, updating its Adult Training Programme, and opening new important expectations for our realities (in XX).

no The creation of a new world organisation through the unification with WAGGGS entails in itself the study of a new mission which would detract from the relevant points mentioned in number 8 of the Beresford Report concerning the needs covered by each one of the organisations in different populations. An important number of girls have opted freely for a movement with an exclusively female environment, and on the other hand another important group of girls, boys and young people have opted for a mixed environment which answers their aspirations and interests. It should be mentioned that there is an important sector of the population which contributes to sponsor the movement of their preference, depending on the specific mission of each one of the two organisations and they have powerful reasons to do so.

no Without any doubt, the merger between our Organisation and WAGGGS is not favourable at all to us; we are a mature population, with an attractive program; I believe that it would be a waste of resources and time.

no We applaud the initiative of WOSM to seek the unification of the two Scout movements but we believe that WOSM is accomplishing its mission as educators of young people, it is increasingly strengthening internally through the application of the new Strategy being implemented in each one of the associations in our Region.

On the other hand, as it is mentioned in the Report, if the process of unification takes place this would imply very profound and substantial changes in the way of thinking of the leaders of each association until the new leadership structures are set in place and all this without considering what will happen with the educational process of children and young people.

Therefore, the study of this alternative should be stopped.

no We don't believe that this will bring any benefit to our organisation since in our country the Scout Association has registered around 15 girls for each girl registered with the Guides; and their importance and social contribution is very little or nothing, as well as the quality of their educational programme which separates boys and girls, in a country where Scouts have 23 years working in a coeducational way, thus offering equal opportunities to all.

YES, continued

yes Yes, the XX hope that in the medium or long term it would be possible to create a unique new world organisation. The unification would of course not be an end in itself but we consider that a unified movement will be able to offer to young people more means as it will be able to use to the maximum benefit the limited resources available.

yes Provided that WAGGGS readjust its mission statement and principles and methods so that the same opportunities are given for the whole development of the boys and girls.

yes XX does share the wish to establish one world organisation in the future. We believe that it is time to focus on what unites us, rather than on what divides us and to jointly find the ways forward.

However, the word “unification” may have the wrong sound to it. It is a matter of finding the appropriate process and consequently the appropriate language to describe a process towards a common future. “Unification” seems to ignore the fact that it is a separate decision whether “unification” is the future aim, or whether other forms of co-operation may be more suitable. It is important to find a way in which to include the relevance of the different experiences and traditions of all associations, all Guides and Scouts involved in such a process. We have the impression that speaking about “unification” at this stage may give people the impression that there is only one possible direction, whereas there may be more options.

yes XX strongly believes that there should exist one world organisation of Scouting and Guiding. This is quite natural, because we are SAGNO, and it would be easier and better for us, if the world organisation reflected our own structure and way of work, i.e. if it had membership of both sexes. However, we understand that there are organisations in either WOSM and WAGGGS, which have different opinions and we understand to some extent their arguments.

We are of opinion that the WOSM unification with WAGGGS would strengthen its ability to achieve its mission as an educational movement for young people and that the study of this option should therefore be pursued.

yes It doesn't make sense, anymore, to have WOSM and WAGGGS separate. If Scouting is well developed, boys and girls, men and women will have “room” for their full development as individuals.

yes We believe that Guiding and Scouting around the world would benefit from the creation of a new world organisation. We would send a strong, common message to society. Moreover, we think that better Scouting and Guiding would evolve if we use the best from both organisations. We also see practical benefits in this as it would mean a

NO, continued

no The constitutional and ideational/educational conditions and aims are still too different. We need before much more pragmatic attempts and steps.

no The time and implications involved would negate or postpone the strength of what is already the dubious question of whether we are already achieving our mission statement.

no The position of this Association is that the creation of a new world organisation will not strengthen the ability to achieve our mission but may lead to further problems.

no Sometimes we felt that (there) are two different worlds...But the question is: Do we have same goal?

no The question is very complex. If this happens, it would be necessary to devote a considerable amount of time and economic resources, and this would be to the detriment, in certain proportion, of the time we are devoting now to the implementation of our Mission at world level in our movement. In addition it would be necessary to devote an enormous amount of time to mend fences between the two movements in connection with the gender issue.

no No need of new world organisation.

no In the case of XX, the Scout Movement comprises men as well as women; consequently the mission would not depend on unification with WAGGGS.

no Anyway, the XX association believes that the decision should be reached, at least by consensus among the member countries of this Region. In order to do that, the matter could be discussed in the forthcoming Regional Conference in XX.

no We can achieve, without unification, the mission of WOSM.

no When you join water and olive oil, they seem to be single unit, but just wait a while and you see the difference. How can we promote co-education with a single sex association?

no WOSM is open equally to men and women, and promotes an efficient equal opportunity policy. At the present time there are still essential differences between the two missions and therefore the unification would rather be an obstacle in the development of WOSM. In our view this could become a long-term objective.

no Discussed by XX National Council meeting XX. Official decision to vote against on ground of majority vote (6 to 1).

no Preferable to operate separate organisations each with its own strength in organisation.

YES, continued

wiser utilisation of already scarce resources, enabling us to do more with what we have. Co-operation would also prevent us from inventing the wheel twice in two organisations. The Movement (Guiding and Scouting) will be stronger if working together as one entity open to all.

- yes - we strongly believe in the benefit of one single organisation on world level.
- we urge you the respective bodies to followup a common study.
- yes Before reaching the 100 years of Scouting and out of respect for the memory of our Founder, to see the two organisations following the same objectives, to see them unified, would greatly contribute to the development of young people without distinction of gender.
- yes We have a similar mission and aim. Our programmes are geared to the holistic development of our youth.
- yes The XX Scout organisation has always included, for many decades, boys and girls within the same organisation, but in specific branches, based upon age, both for boys and for girls as well as for former Scouts.
- yes We consider that the study of this option should be done if it is clearly established that it is the wish of the majority of associations members of WOSM to go in this direction.

Other responses*

(yes) WAGGGS and WOSM are similar educational movements for young people. By creating one world organisation we believe that we will have a stronger organisation and more resources to achieve our mission. The study of this option must be pursued.

We find a broad perspective in the whole discussion of world organisations - what will be to the greatest benefit and advantage for girls and boys all over the world in the future - rather than a very limited focus on strictly organisational detail.

(yes) (NOTE: The 3-page response from XX does not show "yes" or "no" responses, and its comments are not in a format which correlates directly to specific survey questions. The following text represents the first two sections of the reply. It is quoted here because it relates to question A, and also helps to explain why a qualified "yes" has been recorded as a response for this question.)

Introduction: A High Aim. XX is pleased to respond to the questions posed in Circular 27/2000 and believes that the issues raised have significant policy, strategy and operational implications. We should first declare that at the highest level of principle, XX believes that a new world organisation (which would replace both WOSM and WAGGGS)

Other responses*

(no) In the long term "YES" - At this moment "NO"

- Any benefits to youth members are not at all clear.
- The time is not right.
- To achieve this 'vision' will require a large amount of 'good will' and a very strong desire by the majority of members of both WAGGGS and WOSM. We don't believe this to be currently the case.
- Scouting XX has much higher priority issues to deal with e.g. growth in membership. We expect that may be the case at World level also.
- Girls and women around the world are facing many issues that in many cases are best addressed by women's organisations such as Guides.
- There is a long history of dispute/disagreement at World level between WAGGGS and WOSM. This suggests that the process to achieve the 'vision' will be protracted and require excessive amounts of time and personal resource.
- Many women in Guiding are concerned that there are strong role models for girls and believe this is best provided through the Guide Movement and/or similar organisations.

* Neither "yes" nor "no" were indicated on these survey responses. These have been classified as being generally yes, or generally no, based on the comments which were provided.

Other responses* continued

could help the two Movements to achieve their missions as educational movements for young people - but this is subject to the comments which appear below.

The Basis for Discussions: In preparing for the World Scout Conference in Durban in 1999, XX agreed on some issues of principle and set these out in a letter to the Secretary General. The statements in that letter remain the view of XX. In essence, they are:

1: the crucial importance of World Scouting's values base reflected in practical terms through our Scout Promise, and re-endorsed in the resolution of the Durban Conference on Mission. This is uncompromising in maintaining "Duty to God", suitably worded to reflect the range of faiths in the World Movement. We reaffirm our position and could not accept the opening of any discussions regarding a possible merger with any organisation in which that fundamental principle might be open to compromise.

2: the importance of mission preceding methodology, not the other way around. We note that within WOSM all NSOs are currently partway through a process of mission-clarification. Within this, there are issues of "vision" and of the Founder's long-term intentions as we understand them, which we touch on below.

3: the operational importance of avoiding any moves towards a scenario which had the potential to recreate the situation which prevailed within the European Region between 1992 and 1998. Those six years saw a considerable diversion from the strategies of WOSM as agreed at our successive World Conferences: at the same time, human and financial resources were diverted from important subjects such as Adult Personal Development, Youth Programme (especially co-education), and Marketing, while inordinate time was given to organisational preoccupations regarding WOSM/WAGGGS structures. To return to such matters, magnified to a global scale, would be totally unacceptable to us.

(yes) In a way it can be said that when it comes to the average boy and girl scout in XX there is only one Movement, for both boys and girls. For years we have selected for use the material, sent to us by the two world organisations, that we find the most fitting to our way of work. It is very easy for us to see the benefit one movement would have on Scouting in our country, with less paperwork, less expenses regarding duties towards the {regional} and World Movements etc. However, we realise that we already have an advantage in regard to one world organisation due to our present structure and not all countries can be expected to adapt as easily to the changes that are inevitable if one world organisation is created.

We believe that if the study is pursued carefully, taking into account the different needs and

Other responses* continued

(no) We do not think that the creation of one world organisation through unification with WAGGGS would necessarily strengthen our mission as an educational movement.

The unification of the two Organisations must come as a response to the needs of young people at world, national and local level.

It would be a mistake to perceive the unification of the two Movements as an administrative procedure. This would only result in the current differences between the two Organisations being maintained under the same roof.

The fact that the question of WAGGGS/WOSM relations is still valid after two World Conferences and a Regional trial period by a lot of Associations, world bodies, as well as individuals, indicates that further time needs to be spent in investigating the issue.

We consider the issues of equal opportunities and of co-education extremely important and should be recognised and respected as such by both Organisations, before any procedures of unification take place.

(no) The principle of aiming for a single world organisation is acknowledged and recognised as an ideal objective. However in reality, is it achievable with the significant differences there are between member countries at the social and economic levels? Should more time and resources be spent on pursuing this objective, when the outcome is very doubtful of being achieved.

y/n We are of the opinion that it may strengthen our organisation, but also feel that we are able to achieve our mission at present without one world organisation. We feel that the study of this option is interesting and may be pursued.

(no answer) XX will follow the resolution of the World Scout Conference, and if we resolute the creation of new unified world organisation, our answers are given to the following questions.

* Neither "yes" nor "no" were indicated on these survey responses. These have been classified as being generally yes, or generally no, based on the comments which were provided.

Other responses* continued

expectations of individual national organisations and respecting the missions of both movements, the possibilities are limitless with the human resources we have within the two movements.

(yes) Will one new world organisation strengthen Scouting and Guiding?

The two organisations are both organisations for children and youth based on the same basic ideas and main principles of the founder. We believe that if we were to take advantage of these similarities and act more unified towards the outside world, we would strengthen our standing considerably. Having a stronger branding of Scouting/Guiding would strengthen our “market value”, and increase our influence in society.

In today’s changing world, no organisation can survive as a static structure. Changes are needed continuously, and WAGGGS and WOSM are no exceptions to this rule. Scouting and Guiding are growing when looking at the world as a whole due to work in new countries. However many long standing members of the Scout Movement, our own national organisation included, are experiencing that our existence is being challenged. Our values and working methods are under pressure and our importance in society is reduced over the last years. This is resulting in a fall in membership, and a change towards a generally younger membership. This is a trend throughout the western-world both in WAGGGS and WOSM and we see this as a major threat for Scouting and Guiding worldwide. We believe that it is necessary to join efforts to find ways to stop this negative development, and that a creation of a new world organisation could give new opportunities in finding solutions to these problems, opportunities that we do not necessarily get in the two organisations separate.

A new world organisation would rationalise the resources spent on administration of the organisations, and allow for more focus to be put on the programme development. The programme work in a new world organisation would of course need to serve both single sex and co-educational programmes, as is the reality in many national associations today.

As mentioned above it is necessary to also address the many similarities between the two associations when investigating possible options for the future. The purpose, basic principles and values have, despite some differences highlighted in the Fact-Finding Study, very strong similarities, which is not surprising as they originate from the ideas of the same founder. When it comes to the practical implementation in the daily life of Guiding and Scouting you will find similarities and differences depending on where in the world you are. We believe that you are likely to find bigger differences between member organisations within WAGGGS or within WOSM than between the two world organisations.

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