



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
Creating a Better World

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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### **WOSM institutional crisis**

For the past several weeks, the World Organization of the Scout Movement has been living through an institutional situation on which it is my duty to inform you.

1. On 15 October, an "open letter" was addressed by a number of National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to members of World Scout Committee (WSC) making a number of statements concerning the governance and the management of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and indicating to the WSC a number of specific actions to be taken. The letter was widely circulated among NSOs.

As an initial response to that letter, on 18 October the Chairman of the WSC informed NSOs of the action undertaken by the WSC to analyse the situation.

2. On 17 October, a letter was sent to members of the WSC by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), signed by their International Commissioner, himself a member of the WSC, stating their point of view on some governance issues and informing the WSC, on that basis and without any previous notice, of their "irrevocable decision", to "suspend the payment of any and all funds (fees, grants, and task force support) to the WSB and its regional offices until the current Secretary General is replaced". The letter was widely circulated to NSOs together with the one mentioned in 1. above. The same position was adopted by Sweden. A number of other NSOs indicated, either verbally or in writing, that they would also consider suspending the payment of their fees.

3. In the same time-frame a letter dated 16 October of the World Scout Foundation (WSF) with analogous statements was sent to the Chairman of the WSC and copied to all Board members of the WSF. That letter was also widely circulated among NSOs. Without any advance notice, the letter also foresaw a proposal being made to the Board of the WSF to suspend payments of the WSF annual grant to WOSM until the WSC would correct a number of governance issues indicated in the letter; however, payments were in fact suspended at once.

4. The combined result of the above suspension of payments, representing approximately 40% of the whole budget of the World Scout Bureau (Central and Regional Offices), places the WSB in a dramatic situation. Even with early payments of registration fees by NSOs, it will be impossible for the WSB to deliver its services beyond a few months after which all WOSM activities shall be suspended, including the preparation of the World Scout Conference to be held in July 2008 in Korea. This places the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in front of an institutional crisis of a dimension never experienced before.

5. To tackle this situation, the WSC members will have an extraordinary meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 12 November. You will be kept informed of further developments.

Yours truly,

Eduardo Missoni  
Secretary General