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المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

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GOVERNANCE OF WOSM

Dear Colleagues,

I know that many of you are waiting for an update on where the World Scout Committee (WSC) stands, following our last Circular 34/2007 and recent developments.

Since its meeting in Cairo on 12 November 2007, the WSC has been active. In addition to numerous internal discussions between WSC members, the WSC has had several discussions and consultations with some National Scout Organizations (NSOs), particularly during the recent Interamerican Scout Conference held in Ecuador in November, as well as with key stakeholders and partners. A few days ago, a meeting of the Steering Committee (which comprises the Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen of the WSC and the Secretary General) was held in Geneva.

All these discussions and meetings have been helpful in mapping out a way forward as we deal with the follow-up of the Cairo meeting, bring responses to the pending letters received from several NSOs and thus unite our Movement for the Korea Conference.

The WSC has decided to organize a series of meetings during the period **15-17 February 2008**, open to all NSOs that have concerns about recent events, to help resolve outstanding issues, build a broad consensus and develop perspectives on future actions up to the World Scout Conference in Korea next July and beyond, particularly in the area of governance.

The Governance Review Task Force (GRTF) met in Geneva on 14-16 December 2007. This regular meeting was planned some time ago to coincide with the end of all the discussions and consultations that have taken place with members of the task force at the six Regional Conferences in 2007. The meeting was the opportunity to begin the process of developing a report and possible recommendations to the next World Scout Committee (WSC) meeting.

The NSO gathering planned for mid-February will, therefore, be a timely opportunity for the GRTF to use the meetings as a "sounding board" for its recommendations, especially if these include proposals for constitutional changes, giving an indication of how NSOs which hold a range of opinions about recent events would react to such proposals. The WSC will be considering the GRTF's report at its next regular meeting, which is scheduled for 29 February - 2 March.

Though a detailed agenda for the NSO gathering still needs to be developed, the idea is that there will be a range of different opportunities (plenary sessions, bilateral meetings and multilateral meetings, etc.) for participants to exchange views and prepare for Korea.

This gathering will be held in Paris. For practical considerations, NSOs are invited to send only one representative, at your own expense. Arrivals should be planned no later than Friday morning, 15 February and departure on Sunday 17 afternoon. The gathering will start with a plenary session which will take place on Friday early afternoon. Meetings will continue on Saturday and Sunday, ending with a plenary session on Sunday afternoon 17 February. More detailed information concerning the specific location of the gathering, accommodation arrangements, cost of attendance, etc. will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, you are kindly requested to inform *as soon as possible* the World Scout Bureau whether your NSO intends to participate or not. Please use the attached form for this purpose.

The outcomes of these meetings will then be considered by the WSC during its regular meeting on 29 February - 2 March, which is two weeks earlier than had been previously planned. The choice of these new dates will make it possible for the WSC to hear the report of the GRTF, consider the outcomes of the meetings of 15-17 February and give time for any decisions it may make to be communicated in good time to NSOs. This is especially important if constitutional changes are to be proposed to the Korea Conference (details of these must be mailed to NSOs four months before the opening of the Conference, i.e. no later than 14 March).

It is unfortunate that it has taken so much time to reach this stage of planning for these future meetings, and especially that the proposed meeting of NSOs can't take place for a few weeks yet. However it was more important for the WSC that the right people are able to attend, rather than rush it. Our staff in the WSB, under the direction of Acting Secretary General Luc Panissod, is now working on the preparations for the various meetings, leading to the World Scout Conference in Korea.

Yours in Scouting,

Herman Hui
Chairman, World Scout Committee

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