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**41<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SCOUT  
CONFERENCE**



DOCUMENT

**7A**

Amendments to the Constitution of  
WOSM proposed by the World  
Scout Committee

World Scout Committee



**SCOUTS**  
Creating a Better World



# Amendments to the Constitution of WOSM proposed by the World Scout Committee

The World Scout Committee proposes to the 2017 World Scout Conference to adopt the Amendments to the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement contained in this Conference Document 7A.

These proposed Constitutional Amendments are moved by the World Scout Committee in accordance with Rule 6.1.a. of the approved Rules of Procedure for the 2017 World Scout Conference. Each proposed Constitutional Amendment is presented and organized below according to the flow of the present Constitution. A brief explanation or justification, the text of the Constitutional Amendment, and Background Information are included for each proposed Constitutional Amendment.

This document should be studied and discussed by your Member Organization and brought to the Conference by your delegation. More details on the handling of the proposed Constitutional Amendments during the Conference in terms of opportunities for discussion, further amendment and the order of voting will be shared in Conference Document 7C.

The text of the present Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (January 2011) can be downloaded from the World Scouting website at: [www.scout.org/constitution](http://www.scout.org/constitution)

For any further questions or clarifications, you can contact David Berg, Global Director, Organizational Development at the World Scout Bureau ([dberg@scout.org](mailto:dberg@scout.org)).

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## Languages

*The official languages of the World Organization are English and French. The World Scout Bureau will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. When possible, it endeavours to make them available also in Arabic, Russian and Spanish - the three additional working languages of WOSM. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document of the World Organization, the English text shall prevail.*

## 01 Constitutional Amendment – Scout Method

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- The 2014 World Scout Conference adopted the World Scout Youth Programme Policy. Informed by the policy, the Conference urged the World Scout Committee to reconsider the way in which the Scout Method’s educational aims are expressed.
- The Constitutions Committee considered how the outcome of the review should be expressed in a revised provision within the Constitution. It concluded that the Constitution should set out the key elements of the redefined Scout Method but believes that any further detail supporting an understanding of the Scout Method should be set out in the relevant policy of the World Scout Conference.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p><b>Chapter I, Article III Method</b></p> <p>The Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A promise and law.</li> <li>• Learning by doing.</li> <li>• Membership of small groups (for example the patrol), involving, under adult guidance, progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibility and training towards self-government directed towards the development of character, and the acquisition of competence, self-reliance, dependability and capacities both to cooperate and to lead.</li> <li>• Progressive and stimulating programmes of varied activities based on the interests of the participants, including games, useful skills, and services to the community, taking place largely in an outdoor setting in contact with nature.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chapter I, Article III Scout Method</b></p> <p>The Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education through <b>the interaction of all the following elements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scout Promise and Law,</li> <li>• Learning by Doing,</li> <li>• Personal Progression,</li> <li>• Team System,</li> <li>• Adult Support,</li> <li>• Symbolic Framework,</li> <li>• Nature,</li> <li>• Community Involvement</li> </ul> <p>The Scout Method is practiced by creating a meaningful educational experience for young people. It should be used in a way that is consistent with the Scout Movement’s Purpose and Principles. It is further described in a relevant policy adopted and reviewed from time to time by the World Scout Conference.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article III: Scout Method; World Scout Youth Programme Policy (2015); Educational Methods Strategic Priority area
Historical Background	Conference Resolution 2014-08: adoption of the World Scout Youth Programme Policy; Triennial Plan 2014-2017: Objective under Educational Method priority and Youth Programme area, to revisit the Scout Method
Resources	(see proposed Resolution 2017-D in Conference Document 4A)

## 02 Constitutional Amendment – WOSM Membership

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- Article V.3 of the Constitution states that membership is open to all NSOs 'in a sovereign state'. As there is no universally agreed definition of the term 'sovereign state', this has led to numerous problems in determining the admission of new NSOs into WOSM.
- Historically, when the World Scout Committee was unsure if an applicant NSO satisfied the 'sovereign state' requirement under Article V.3, it has asked the World Scout Conference to exercise its plenary authority under Article V.2 to decide if it would be prepared to consider a particular application, in effect ignoring or suspending the requirements of Article V.3. This has been done prior to an application being considered, and before the Conference makes a formal decision on the admission of the applicant. This has happened most recently through Resolution 1996-01 on the Palestinian Scout Association and Resolution 2014-03 on "Potential Members of WOSM". The World Scout Committee considers this process as not desirable and likely to create problems in the future.
- It is generally agreed it is far more important that applicants demonstrate their ability to deliver Scouting's Purpose and their ability to adhere to its Principles and Method.
- The Constitutional Amendment will provide constitutional authority for the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Conference to consider applications, in exceptional circumstances, from such organizations which cannot fulfil the requirements of membership as laid out in Article V.3.
- The new provision provides three safeguards to ensure the Unity of the Movement when considering such "exceptional" applications:
  - The World Scout Committee will be explicitly required to consider the "Unity of the Movement" when considering recommendations for membership of new organizations through an amendment of Article V.11.
  - The use of the exception clause by the World Scout Committee will trigger the requirement of a formal two-thirds majority vote of the application at a meeting of the World Scout Conference (i.e. the postal ballot procedure cannot be used in these exceptional cases).
  - Those Member Organizations that believe they may be adversely affected by such an application will have the right to address the World Scout Conference about their concerns prior to the vote being taken.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p><b>Article VI - Procedure</b></p> <p>1. The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post.</p> <p>2. If within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations, the World Scout Committee shall declare the National Scout Organization a Member of the World Organization. If five per cent or more of the Member Organizations oppose admission, the application shall be referred to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p>	<p><b>Article VI - Procedure</b></p> <p>1. The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time.</p> <p>a) If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V-5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post.</p> <p>b) If within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations, the World Scout Committee shall declare the National Scout Organization a Member of the World Organization. If five per cent or more of the Member Organizations oppose admission, the application shall be referred to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p> <p>c) If the World Scout Committee considers that, due to an exceptional situation, the requirements in Article V.3 cannot be fully met, it may nevertheless recommend the application to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Any Member Organization which deems itself affected by such an application shall have the right to address the Conference before the vote is taken.</p>
<p><b>Article V.11 – Unity of the Movement</b></p> <p>In exercising its powers under Article V the World Scout Conference shall have an overriding concern for the unity of the World Scout Movement.</p>	<p><b>Article V.11 – Unity of the Movement</b></p> <p>In exercising its powers under Articles V and VI the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee shall have an overriding concern for the unity of the World Scout Movement.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article VI: Membership Procedure; WOSM’s Strategy for Scouting - Vision 2023
Historical Background	Conference Resolution 2014-03: Potential Members of WOSM
Resources	Not applicable

### 03 Constitutional Amendment – Electronic Communications

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To allow formally for electronic communications
- To avoid any possible challenge to the manner of communication on constitutional grounds

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p><b>CHAPTER III MEMBERSHIP</b>  <b>Article VI.1 Procedure</b></p> <p>The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post.</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER III MEMBERSHIP</b>  <b>Article VI.1 Procedure</b></p> <p>The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post <b>or electronic communication.</b></p>
<p><b>CHAPTER IV THE WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE</b>  <b>Article XI.4 Voting</b></p> <p>In appropriate circumstances determined by the World Scout Committee there may be a postal referendum to Member Organizations between meetings of the World Scout Conference when the same rules as to voting, majority and in the event of a tie shall apply.</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER IV THE WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE</b>  <b>Article XI.4 Voting</b></p> <p>In appropriate circumstances determined by the World Scout Committee there may be a referendum by post <b>or electronic communication</b> to Member Organizations between meetings of the World Scout Conference when the same rules as to voting, majority and in the event of a tie shall apply.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article VI.1: procedure for WOSM membership; WOSM Constitution Article XI.4: World Scout Conference postal referendum process
Historical Background	Not Applicable
Resources	<i>Cost savings by sending out communications electronically rather than by post. This has been the practice since 2012.</i>

## 04 Constitutional Amendment – Voting Period for Membership

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- Modern advances have enabled communications to reach Member Organizations more quickly.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendment to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p><b>Article VI - Procedure</b></p> <p>1. The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post.</p> <p>2. If within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations, the World Scout Committee shall declare the National Scout Organization a Member of the World Organization. If five per cent or more of the Member Organizations oppose admission, the application shall be referred to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p>	<p><b>Article VI - Procedure</b></p> <p>1. The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post.</p> <p>2. If within <b>two</b> months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations, the World Scout Committee shall declare the National Scout Organization a Member of the World Organization. If five per cent or more of the Member Organizations oppose admission, the application shall be referred to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article VI.2: Procedure
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable



## 05 Constitutional Amendment – Obligations of Member Organizations

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- Chapter II relates only to WOSM itself. The chapter covers its title, purpose, organs and legal status.
- As the provisions of Chapter II refer only to WOSM, Member Organizations are not expected to include any of these specific WOSM provisions in their own constitutions.
- There is no logic in making provision in Article VII.3 (d) for a Member Organization to require approval by the World Scout Committee prior to any changes in its own constitution covered by Chapter II. This chapter has no impact or relevance to a Member Organization’s own constitution.
- Moreover, it has led to confusion in some instances where MOs thought they had to follow the WOSM structure for their own national structure.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Article VII.3 (d) Rights and Obligations of Member Organizations</b></p> <p>Approval by the World Scout Committee prior to implementation of any changes to its national Scout constitution relating to matters covered by Chapters I, II and III of this Constitution.</p>	<p><b>Article VII.3 (d) Rights and Obligations of Member Organizations</b></p> <p>Approval by the World Scout Committee prior to implementation of any changes to its national Scout constitution relating to matters covered by Chapters <b>I and III</b> of this Constitution.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article VII.3(d): Obligations of Member Organizations
Historical Background	Conference Resolution 1953-07: Member Association Constitutional changes
Resources	Not applicable

## 06 Constitutional Amendment – Co-options to the World Scout Committee

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To avoid exceptionally long mandates of World Scout Committee members.
- Principle of good governance under the Global Support Assessment Tool.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Article XIII.4 Vacancies</b></p> <p>Vacancies occurring amongst the elected members of the World Scout Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the term still to be served by the resigning or deceased holder of the seat by the runners-up in order of election, at the election in which the resigning or deceased member was elected.</p>	<p><b>Article XIII.4 Vacancies</b></p> <p>Vacancies occurring amongst the elected members of the World Scout Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the term still to be served by the resigning or deceased holder of the seat by the runners-up in order of election, at the election in which the resigning or deceased member was elected. <b>Such runners-up shall only be considered as having served a normal term of service as an elected member, if they filled the vacancy before half of the term of the resigning or deceased member has expired.</b></p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	<p>WOSM Constitution Article XIII.4: Vacancies; Aligning with Good Governance Standards of the Global Support Assessment Tool</p> <p>The amendment, if approved, will become active the moment it is voted. As such it will apply to co-options which might happen in the 2017-2020 triennium. It will have no impact on members which were co-opted prior to its adoption in the Constitution.</p>
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable

## 07 Constitutional Amendment – Virtual Meetings

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To avoid any possible challenge to the manner of holding meetings on constitutional grounds.
- Virtual attendance is outlined in the Standing Orders of the World Scout Committee and electronic communication technology is a phrase used in other organizations.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Article XVI.1 Meetings and Committees</b></p> <p>The World Scout Committee shall meet at least once a year at such time and place as the Committee may decide.</p>	<p><b>Article XVI.1 Meetings and Committees</b></p> <p>The World Scout Committee shall meet at least once a year at such time and place as the Committee may decide. <b>Such meetings may be held using electronic communication technology. Virtual attendance of individuals is permitted.</b></p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article XVI.1: Meetings and Committees
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Potential cost savings due to reduced need to travel to meetings

## 08 Constitutional Amendment – Functions of the World Scout Committee, financial reporting

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To ensure that the provision clearly reflects the current practice.
- To avoid a possible challenge to the manner in which the reports are submitted to the World Scout Committee on constitutional grounds.
- To clarify that the audited reports are consolidated prior to being submitted to the World Scout Committee.
- To clarify that all offices of the World Scout Bureau are included in the consolidation.  
Note: Article XVII.2 of the WOSM Constitution defines the “World Scout Bureau” as consisting of “its international headquarters and such Regional Offices as are established under Article XX of this Constitution”.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendments
<p><b>Article XIV.1(v) Functions</b> The functions of the World Scout Committee are: (v) To receive yearly audited reports from each Region.</p>	<p><b>Article XIV.1(v) Functions</b> The functions of the World Scout Committee are: (v) To receive yearly <b>consolidated</b> audited reports from <b>the World Scout Bureau</b>.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article XIV.1(v): Functions of the World Scout Committee; Audit policies;
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable

## 09 Constitutional Amendment – Location of World Scout Bureau Offices

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To establish and make clear who has the decision-making authority on the location of World Scout Bureau offices. Confusion existed around this during review of several Regional Constitutions.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
	<p><i>Add:</i>  <b>Article XVII.3</b>                      The location of World Scout Bureau offices shall be determined by the Secretary General after consultation with the World Scout Committee and the concerned Regional Committee(s).</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Chapter VI: World Scout Bureau
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable

## 10 Constitutional Amendment – Dissolution of Regions

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

While Article XX.1 provides for the establishment of Regions ‘within a geographical area to be defined from time to time by the World Scout Committee’, there is no provision for the dissolution of Regions under the Constitution.

All Regions in the WOSM Constitution are established under the auspices of WOSM and can have no independent existence otherwise. As such, it is necessary that the WOSM Constitution provides for their eventual dissolution as well.

The nature and requirements of the dissolution of Regions should be centrally determined and mandated and not left to the individual Regions themselves as it is similar to the creation of Regions.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Chapter VII Regions</b></p> <p><b>Article XX Composition</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter VII Regions</b></p> <p><b>Article XX Composition and Dissolution</b></p>
	<p><i>Add:</i></p> <p><b>Article XX.3 Composition and Dissolution</b></p> <p>Regions may be dissolved by the World Scout Committee, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Voting Members, after consultation with the concerned Member Organizations.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article XX: Composition
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable

## 11 Constitutional Amendment – Annual Registration Fee

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- To allow future reviews of the registration fee system to consider proposals beyond just a “per capita” rate.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Article XXIII.1 Finances</b></p> <p>Each Member Organization shall pay an annual registration fee at an agreed per capita rate to be determined from time to time by the World Scout Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p>	<p><b>Article XXIII.1 Finances</b></p> <p>Each Member Organization shall pay an annual registration fee at a rate and according to a formula to be determined from time to time by the World Scout Conference by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Article XXIII.1: Finances
Historical Background	Conference Resolution 2011-02: approval of current Registration Fee System
Resources	Not applicable

## 12 Constitutional Amendment – Dissolution of WOSM

Brief explanation or justification for the Draft Constitutional Amendment:

- There is no dissolution provision for WOSM
- Good governance requires this to exist in the statutes of any organization

Note: Additional specific dissolution provisions (including guidance on the disposition of any remaining assets) already exist in the statutes of World Scout Bureau Inc., WOSM’s legal identity currently based in Geneva, Switzerland. This amendment establishes the process through which WOSM would institutionally initiate such a process, which would then be legally implemented through World Scout Bureau Inc. and in accordance with Swiss legislation.

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to the WOSM Constitution:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment
<b>Chapter VIII Miscellaneous Provisions</b>	<b>Chapter VIII Miscellaneous Provisions</b>
	<p><i>Add:</i></p> <p><b>Article XXVI Dissolution of WOSM</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The World Organization of the Scout Movement may only be dissolved with the consent of no less than two-thirds of all its Member Organizations. Such consent shall be expressed at a meeting of the World Scout Conference.</li> <li>2. A resolution for dissolution may be put forward by the World Scout Committee or by a resolution signed by not less than one-half of the Member Organizations. Notice of such a draft resolution shall be communicated by the World Scout Bureau to all Member Organizations at least four months in advance of the time of the meeting. If the resolution is carried, incumbent Members of the World Scout Committee shall remain in office as long as is necessary to effect the dissolution in accordance with the requirements of its legal identity (see Article IV.4).</li> </ol>

World Scout Bureau Background Information:

Policy Implications	WOSM Constitution Chapter VIII; Aligning with Good Governance Standards of the Global Support Assessment Tool
Historical Background	Not applicable
Resources	Not applicable