



AZERBAIJAN 2017
41ST WORLD SCOUT
CONFERENCE



DOCUMENT

7 B

Amendments to the Constitution of
WOSM proposed by
Member Organizations



SCOUTS
Creating a Better World

Amendments to the Constitution of WOSM proposed by Member Organizations

This Conference Document contains the proposal from Member Organizations to amend the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, which has been received by the World Scout Bureau prior to the deadline of 14 February 2017, six months before the 2017 World Scout Conference.

This proposal, which has been duly moved and seconded by Member Organizations, will be considered by the 2017 World Scout Conference in Azerbaijan. An explanation, the text of the Constitutional Amendment, and Background Information prepared by the World Scout Bureau is included below for the 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

For any further questions or clarifications, you can contact David Berg, Global Director, Organizational Development at the World Scout Bureau (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.

Strengthening the Role of Youth in Decision-making

Proposers

This proposed amendment to the WOSM Constitution was moved by the Member Organization from **Kazakhstan** and seconded by the Member Organizations of **Ukraine** and **Moldova**. The below background and rationale has been submitted by the proposer.

Main provisions

The World Scout Youth Forums have become a constituent part of WOSM. Without them, it is impossible to imagine either the past, present, or a visionary future for WOSM. Many current adult scout leaders on all WOSM levels were trained and formed as leaders, inclusively, under the influence of conclusions and recommendations of World Scout Youth Forums.

The World Scout Youth Involvement Policy identifies the Youth Forum as a youth platform, offering the possibility of "how young people could be involved in decision-making at institutional level".

The World Scout Youth Forums plays an important role in identifying young people as potential representatives in decision-making processes in WOSM as well as in its constitutional organs on World and Regional level. The World Scout Youth Forum fulfills that role by conducting the elections of Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee.

Historical background

The history of the World Scout Youth Forums goes back for 46 years.

The beginning of the World Scout Youth Forums was in Conference Resolution 1969-12, through which the World Scout Conference encouraged "National Scout Associations and Regions to arrange youth conferences and forums in order to increase boy participation in the decision-making process of the Movement". The 1st World Scout Youth Forum took place in 1971 in Japan, Tokyo. As a follow up, the importance of World Scout Youth Forums was once again emphasized through Conference Resolution 1973-05. Consequently, the basis was established for Regional and World Scout Youth Forums to start having a systematic character (Conference Resolution 1975-07, 1993-02), which was ultimately emphasized through Conference Resolution 2002-06, according to which it was decided that:

- World Scout Youth Forums be considered as educational opportunities for youth members in the oldest age sections. Their purpose shall be to enable young people to: share their ideas and experiences on current issues affecting young people in different parts of the world; suggest ways of strengthening national youth policies and training young people for world citizenship; and contribute new ideas to the Movement on how to enrich educational programmes for young people over 16,
- World Scout Youth Forums should continue to be held immediately prior to World Scout Conferences, and allow more young members to be better prepared for the World Scout Conferences,
- World Scout Youth Forums be empowered to make such recommendations they feel appropriate to the World Scout Committee for that Committee's consideration.

Conference Resolution 2005-11 emphasized the importance of the World Scout Youth Forum in fulfilling WOSM's "Youth Involvement" strategic priority at that time. It underlined though that the World Scout Youth Forum does not represent a final solution to meet this strategic priority, but should rather be considered as "a transitional tool in order to increase youth participation in World Scouting".

The 2014 World Scout Conference approved a new WOSM Strategy for Scouting, "Vision 2023". In addition to that it approved the World Scout Youth Involvement Policy, which recognized the institutional nature of the World Scout Youth Forum within WOSM.

In 2017 the 13th edition of the World Scout Youth Forum will take place.

Organizational and financial matters

Ever since the conduct of the 1st World Scout Youth Forum, the Forum itself suffered serious challenges in its organization and financing.

Conference Resolution 2002-06 clearly identified the place and time of conduct of the World Scout Youth Forum immediately prior to the World Scout Conference. For each Forum, ahead of its opening, a package of documents is being prepared, and planning meetings of the organizers take place. All of this requires serious financial expenditures not only from the Host Member Organization, but also from the world level. Currently, WOSM has no legitimate means of financing complex events such as the World Scout Youth Forum, since Conference Resolutions and other decisions of the World Scout Conference do not consider financial matters of ensuring any preparatory, organizational or other actions concerning the World Scout Youth Forum, from WOSM's side.

Ever since 2002, through its essence, the World Scout Youth Forum is the most important institutional action of WOSM, which exerts a direct influence on decision-making processes of the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee (for example, beside recommendations, through the participation in decision-making of the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee).

This definitely inspires all young people in Scouting towards participation based on initiative in decision-making processes at all WOSM levels, but, it is unfortunate that "de facto" the official status of the World Scout Youth Forum remains in WOSM as one of a "World Event" and nothing more. This equally leads to identification of another important problem of financial support for the participation of Youth Advisors in meetings of the World Scout Committee and Regional Scout Committees.

Proposing Member Organization: Kazakhstan
 Seconding Member Organization: Moldova, Ukraine

The Conference,

- Adopts the following amendments to WOSMs Constitution:

<p><i>Add</i></p> <p>Article XIII Advisory organ</p> <p>The advisory organ of the World Scout Conference is the World Scout Youth Forum. The World Scout Youth Forum takes place right before the World Scout Conference.</p> <p><i>(Renumber the following Articles)</i></p> <p>CHAPTER V. The WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE</p> <p>Add <i>(as renumbered)</i></p> <p>Article XVII.7</p> <p>The World Scout Youth Forum is authorized to make such recommendations to the World Scout Committee, as it considers appropriate, so the Committee will take them under consideration.</p>

Background Information provided by the **World Scout Bureau**:

Policy Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOSM Constitution Chapter IV: The World Scout Conference • WOSM Constitution Chapter V: World Scout Committee • Strategy for Scouting - Vision 2023 • World Scout Youth Involvement Policy (2015) • The Framework for a Strategy on Youth Involvement (with indicators of success to be achieved by 2020), as adopted by the 2011 World Scout Conference • Guidelines of the World Scout Youth Forum
Historical Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Scout Youth Forums (WSYF) started to be held during the 13th World Scout Jamboree (Japan 1971), as a response to the Conference resolution 1969-12. As a starting point these forums had a clear objective to encourage youth involvement in decision making. • WSYFs moved to be held during the World Scout Moots since 1990 in the 8th World Scout Moot (1990, Australia). Since 1996 the WSYF has been held immediately prior World Scout Conferences. • It was reaffirmed many times through Conference Resolutions and documents that the WSYF is an interim measure and not a solution (Resolution 2008-15 being the most recent iteration of this position). • The recently adopted World Scout Youth Involvement Policy states clearly that Youth Forums are an example <i>among many others</i> that can help to increase Youth Involvement in Decision making at the institutional level, but never mentioned that it is the most appropriate. • It should be noted that the World Scout Committee is moving a Resolution at the 2017 World Scout Conference (Draft Resolution 2017-G, Conference Document 10), aimed at further developing practices to ensure full engagement of young people in the decision-making process, with the aim of merging the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Youth Forum into a new event in 2023.
Resources	<p>Adopting this Constitutional Amendment will have no direct resource implications for WOSM, as it will only institutionalize an already established practice that is already budgeted for. The Youth Advisor System is similarly budgeted on an annual basis as an established practice, including supporting participation of Youth Advisors to meetings and substructures of the World Scout Committee.</p>