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Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout  
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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Circular N° 34/2007

To: International Commissioners

14 November 2007

WOSM institutional crisis

Dear colleagues,

We refer to Circular No. 33/07 dated 2 November 2007 titled "WOSM institutional crisis" signed by Dr. Eduardo Missoni, and more particularly its last paragraph which reads as follows: *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.*

This meeting of the World Scout Committee (WSC) took place as scheduled. The meeting was attended by 10 of the 14 voting members of the WSC, including Eduardo Missoni; the four members who were unable to attend had given their proxies to other members who were present.

Following a long and often difficult debate, the WSC reached a number of decisions. These were made by consensus; at no time was a vote called for or required. What follows is a summary of these decisions.

The WSC acknowledged that the letters which had been received from a group of National Scout Organizations (NSOs), the Chairman of the World Scout Foundation (WSF), Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Swedish Guide and Scout Council, as well as those from other NSOs expressing a contrary view, all contain legitimate concerns that demand the attention of the WSC and, more globally, the World Scout Conference.

At the same time, the WSC deplored in the strongest terms the unilateral actions and demands that have been made by BSA and the Swedish Guide and Scout Council requesting the resignation of the Secretary General which have placed the future of the World Organization in jeopardy.

The WSC recognised that Eduardo Missoni is a devoted Scout who has committed himself fully to WOSM in his role as Secretary General and has enjoyed the solid support of the WSC during his tenure.

After considering all avenues possible to resolve this crisis with the various actors, the WSC, faced with the critical economic situation and its legal and penal consequences for the operational structure of WOSM, has considered it had no alternative but to undertake the following process:

1. to decide, with deep regret and taking into account the decision of Eduardo Missoni not to resign, to negotiate with him his departure as Secretary General. This included transfer of executive power effective 12 November and external representative functions from 30 November 2007.
2. to commit to engage in a process of in-depth dialogue with the Chairman and Board of the WSF to seek solutions to the issues that currently divide the WSF and WOSM, notably in the areas of governance and transparency on both sides; and to seek an equal commitment from the WSF to play their part in that dialogue and search for solutions within both bodies that will be the basis for a renewed commitment to the partnership between WSF and WOSM into the second century of Scouting

3. to commit to engage in the same kind of problem-solving process with the BSA and other NSOs to resolve issues that divide them, to enter into a renewed 'covenant' that will ensure that when problems arise in the future they are addressed quickly, in full transparency, and exclusively through the proper democratic and constitutional channels of WOSM
4. as a consequence, to invite the WSF, BSA and the Swedish Guide and Scout Council together to fund the costs associated with the departure of the Secretary General and the recruitment process of another, and to request them to do so without interfering in any way in that process so as to ensure the independence of the WSC and WOSM in managing this fundamental aspect of their constitutional authority
5. to commit to deal with all the issues raised by the current constitutional crisis in time for the World Scout Conference in Korea, in collaboration with the Governance Review Task Force and in full transparency with all NSOs, so as to be able to bring proposals to the World Scout Conference to remedy the structural and other deficiencies that have been identified, in such a way that a satisfactory response is brought to the questions raised by all the NSOs which have expressed themselves, especially those who have asked for a meeting in preparation for the Korea Conference
6. to call on all actors in this process to exercise maximum effort to preserve the image and integrity of World Scouting in the wider world.

Subsequently, the WSC designated Luc Panissod, until then Deputy Secretary General and Executive Director, General Management, as Acting Secretary General until such time as a new Secretary General is appointed.

The WSC trusts that the decisions it has taken will resolve the immediate financial problem and ensure the survival of the WSB as an operational structure at the service of all NSOs. The WSC recognises, however, that the underlying reasons that led to the present institutional crisis must still be tackled and resolved. This is why the WSC's decision puts emphasis on the need for in-depth dialogue and problem-solving, engaging all the principal actors.

The WSB team in Geneva and in all Regional Offices has gone through an unprecedented level of destabilisation in the past weeks and we will strive to resume "business as usual" and to restore the serenity necessary for top quality performance.

All the staff of the WSB are committed to continue working hard to support the WSC in its commitment to deal with all the issues raised by the current institutional crisis in time for the World Scout Conference in Korea in such a way that a satisfactory response is brought to the questions raised by all the NSOs which have expressed themselves.

In conclusion, and for the months to come until the Korea Conference, we call upon the goodwill and Scout spirit of *all* actors of this crisis, to continue the debate in a cool and objective manner, to help restore calm and peace and demonstrate their support so that, together, we can work towards the re-bonding of our Movement which has recently been so dangerously divided and threatened.

Yours in Scouting,



Herman Hui  
Chairman,  
World Scout Committee



Luc Panissod  
Acting Secretary General,  
WOSM