

# 27<sup>th</sup> ISGF World Conference

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Sydney, Australia, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 2014



## TRIENNIAL REPORT WORLD COMMITTEE 2011 - 2014

Agenda item 08  
Circular 11

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## Introduction

In 2011, the General Assembly elected a new ISGF World Committee (WCom), executive body, to lead the International Scout and Guide Fellowship for the three following years 2011-2014. The ISGF WCom was assigned the mission to conduct the ISGF towards a reinforced worldwide position and a better recognition of the ISGF with basis the Action Plan 2011-2014 and the Resolutions voted during the last World Conference in Italy.

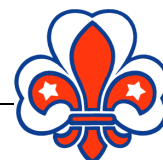
This triennial report will present you the actions implemented by the ISGF WCom which undoubtedly have repercussion on the position of the ISGF. You will then have the opportunity to appraise the situation of the ISGF as of 2014 in terms of figures and facts but also in terms of trend.

Before assessing the work of the ISGF WCom, we consider that it is important to remind important facts which consequences had a major impact on the resources of the WCom in office:

- ✚ Two founding members, the UK Trefoil Guild and the PlusScouts, NSGF of Netherlands, withdrew at the end of 2011 which implied a loss of more than 23,500 members, a substantial decline of the ISGF human and financial resources;
- ✚ The relationship with World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has been weakened and the Relationship agreement not signed by both organisations, WOSM and ISGF. A triennial period earmarked by an absolute silence of the youth movement for almost two years and a half;
- ✚ The menace of the withdrawal of the NSGF of Canada.

At the installation of the newly WCom, the ISGF was declining, was in crisis. Faced to such an unprecedented situation, the ISGF WCom members took measure of the challenges they have to cope with in order to restore the ISGF towards a sustainable development while introducing our organisation to new international opportunities. In this regard, the WCom members agreed on goals to be met for the triennium period:

- ✚ to re-establish and strengthen our contacts with the NSGFs and CB members;
- ✚ to develop membership and projects;
- ✚ to improve our Finance;
- ✚ to improve our relationship with WAGGGS and WOSM;
- ✚ to define the actions for the celebration of the Centenary of Guiding 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and ISGF 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013



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**I. World Committee: composition, meetings, teams.**

The ISGF World Committee 2011-2014 was composed of the following persons:



Elected members:

Mrs Mida Rodrigues (Portugal)	Chairman
Mr Abdelaziz Bensaid (Morocco)	Vice-chairman
Mrs Nana Gentimi (Greece)	Vice-chairman
Mr Muftah Ajaj (Libya)	Member
Ms Virginia Bonasegale (Italy)	Member
Mr Harald Kesselheim (Germany)	Member
Mr Paul Lokossou (Benin)	Member
Mrs Verna Lopez (Curacao)	Member

Appointed members:

Mrs Wamuyu Mahinda (Kenya)	WAGGGS representative
Mr Eric Khoo (Malaysia)	WOSM representative

The Scout family mourned for Mr Khoo who passed away in January 2014. Mrs Lidija Pozaic, Croatia, took over his position till the WOSM World Conference to be held in Slovenia in August 2014.

Ex-officio members:

Mrs Faouzia Kchouk	Secretary General (SG)- till December 2012
Mrs Cécile Bellet	Secretary General (SG)- from March 2013
Mr Anthony Florizoone	Treasurer
Mrs Leny Doelman	Central Branch (CB) and Twinning Coordinator. Website Content manager.



The ISGF WCom is to meet at least once a year to assess the work carried out and to decide on the future implementations. The WCom decided to reduce the working days from six to three. The annual ISGF WCom meetings took place as follows:

- ✚ Como, Italy, 2-3 October 2011;
- ✚ Athens, Greece, 10-12 March 2012;
- ✚ Brussels, Belgium, 8-10 March 2013;
- ✚ Tavernerio, Italy, 19-22 March 2014;
- ✚ The last WCom meeting is scheduled on 8-9 October 2014 in Sydney, Australia.

**a) Subject matters:**

In accordance with the background and the knowledge of the ISGF WCom members, working teams are organised by subject matters and by Regions.

Communication (website and social media)	<b>Verna*</b> , Leny, SG
Public Relation	<b>Nana*</b> , Virginia and SG
External Relations	<b>Mida*</b> , Martine Levy (volunteer)
Finance	<b>Muftah*</b> , Aziz and Anthony
Legal Matters	<b>Harald*</b> , Nana
International Project	<b>Mida*</b> , Paul

*\* Names printed in bold are the Teams leaders*

**b) Regions:**

Africa	Paul, Mida, Martine Levy (volunteer)
Arab	Muftah, Aziz
Asia Pacific	Virginia, Mida
Europe	Harald, Nana
Western Hemisphere	Verna, Juan Salazar (volunteer)

**II. World Bureau (WB):**

The duties falling on the ISGF World Bureau used to be administered by two part-time employees: the Secretary General, Faouzia Kchouk, and her assistant, Cécile Bellet. However, after ten years of loyal services, Faouzia Kchouk retired at the end of December 2012 leaving her position vacant. As part of the recruitment process, a call for candidacies was launched to all NSGFs. After a three months period of open applications, the decisive interview took place in Brussels, Belgium, in March 2013, before the WCom meeting.

Cécile Bellet was nominated as Secretary General in presence of all WCom members.

The recruitment done, another reflection required the attention of the WCom.



The question was how to enable the WCom members to conduct their mission and tasks while the financial resources are restricted. To this issue, the WB could play a role by engaging an internal restructuration to reduce as much as possible the running costs. In this respect, proposed by the Secretary General, it was agreed that the WB would be managed by one person, the SG, provided that all WCom members contribute to support the office. In the same preoccupation, the ways of working have been adapted to the environment by reducing the issuance of hardcopies to the profit of the utilisation of the currently available telecommunication tools. Since 2013, the WB fulfils the WCom's, NSGFs' requests and its responsibilities, nevertheless beyond the daily work, the WB is also the cultural and conservative heritage of the ISGF. It is obvious that regarding the latter, the WB is without outlook of a relief and of a knowledge transmission. An aspect which requires the WCom deep attention in order to palliate this current weakness.

Thanks to the common discourse of the WCom members, the WB found back its core position within the ISGF. The WB, reference point of the ISGF, received several ISGF members coming from South Africa, Malaysia, El Salvador, Argentina, but also individuals from Belgium and Brazil making in evidence a more and more visible and recognize office, open to the world. In addition, to these visits, the World Bureau hosted working sessions such as General assembly of the International Ambassadors Guild or working sessions of the ISGF World Committee.

### **III World Committee development strategy and implementations**

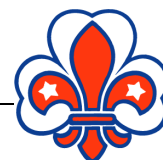
NSGFs are the cornerstones of the ISGF and a healthy edifice can not be without solid foundations. At the light of the past elements, no doubt that it was necessary to reconsolidate and re-motivate the NSGFs. The communication already established via the Social media (Facebook, Twitter) present vive interests for the ISGF members which enable people to share information and knowledge regardless of distance. The ISGF WCom intensified these virtual exchanges to overspread the visibility of the ISGF and to comply with the expectations of members. In addition to these cybernetic relationships, it was fundamental to renew direct contacts with NSGFs and to restore the group synergy. The ISGF WCom members roamed worldwide to attend all the ISGF events and to meet with ISGF members.

#### **a) ISGF events:**

##### Regional Gatherings/Conferences:

- 2014: Africa Region Gathering (Johannesburg, South Africa); Arab Regional Conference (Marrakech, Morocco).
- 2013: Europe Region Conference (Stockholm/Sweden – Helsinki/Finland).the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Gathering (Curacao)
- 2012: Asia-Pacific Region Gathering (Dhaka, Bangladesh).

Sub-Regional Gatherings in 2012: West-European Gathering (Cork, Ireland)\*; Mediterranean Gathering (Cadiz, Spain\*); Nordic-Baltic Gathering (Birstonas,



Lithuania)\*; Central Europe Gathering (Pilsen, Czech Republic) \*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Camporee in Chile\*.

Other events:

General Assembly of Hipprada\*\*\*\* - NSGF of Indonesia (Jakarta), , the 4<sup>th</sup> European Workshop (Jambville, France)\*, the 5<sup>th</sup> European Workshop (Wandlitz, Germany)\*, General Assembly of the Executive Committee of the Arab Region (Tripoli, Libya), meeting in Cape Verde\*\* working towards its ISGF membership, the Triennial General Assembly of the NSGF of Canada\*\*\*, the General Assembly of the MASCI-NSGF of Italy\*\*\*, visits to ANASMAC (NSGF of Mexico) and to NSGF of Nigeria, Grossarl (no participation of WCom)

\* Partly financially sponsored by WCom members.

\*\* Integrally sponsored by WCom members.

\*\*\* On invitation, at no cost for the ISGF

\*\*\*\* Partly financed by ISGF

On all these occasions, the ISGF WCom had the opportunity to make the ISGF's voice heard, to spread the ISGF message of Friendship, international Fellowship and Leadership. The WCom members work for the ISGF members and they would not be able to carry out their duties without close relationships with the NSGFs. Therefore, in parallel to these official events, the ISGF WCom make a point to meet individually with the ISGF members to get acquainted of their success stories as well their failure ones in view of bringing them the proper support or reply.

## **b) National Level**

From these discussions, came out realities which required deep consideration and the implementation of adequate reinforcement strategies for NSGFs:

- ✚ This is in this respect that the WCom financially supported the Central Europe Sub-region in the re-development membership program established in favour of NSGFs of Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, and Latvia facing difficulties of growth.
- ✚ In addition, the NSGF of Haiti victim of an earthquake in 2011 and thus weakened by the exodus of its members to United States, engaged a merger with the CB group, CASEGHA, (Haitian expatriates members to USA), upon the suggestion of the WCom.

In the same concern of strengthening and clarifying issues related to the ISGF membership, the WCom members accomplished the WConf 2011 Recommendations as to the Resolutions 6 and 8 with the aim to come up with stronger correlations with the UK and Canada:

### **✚ Resolution 6: Withdrawal of the UK TG**

“ASKS the ISGF World Committee to continue the dialogue with the UK TG, with a view to confirming their membership of the ISGF or, if this did not prove



possible, to explore ways to encourage all the UK TG members that wish to remain in the ISGF to do so”.

The departure of the UKTG is a significant loss for the ISGF in terms of human resources. No need to remind the praiseworthy projects carried out and the valuable support bringing to WAGGGS by UKTG. Their proficiency and experience were an asset to the ISGF and this organisation is a model and a mentor for all other Trefoil Guild associations wherever in the world.

After two meetings held in December 2011 and in May 2014, the UKTG had the opportunity to appraise the evolution and the realisations of the ISGF during the last three years and to recognise that our organisation is a large-scale philanthropic association. However, the UKTG decision is definitive. The UKTG members wishing to remain in the ISGF are free to do so. They can join the newly restructured NSGF of UK. Indeed, in 2011, the then NSGF UK ASA opened mostly to former scouts, undertook to reorganise their association to welcome the UKTG members and to form the unique NSGF in UK according to an approved redrafted National Constitution.

The discussions with UKTG are not closed and remain at the core preoccupation of the WCom.

**✚ Resolution 8: ISGF Presence in Canada**

“ASKS the World Committee to continue working as a facilitator towards the identification of such a solution”

For almost ten years of tricky internal situation and after numerous talks, the Canadian issue has been clarified owing to the two CB groups (Agnes Baden Powell Trefoil Guild Fellowship and the Amicale Canadienne Francophone) had closed down any activities in the frame of the ISGF. The NSGF of Canada is definitively recognised as the only national structure in the country and the threat of a resignation from the ISGF is thus null and void.

NSGF, national entities, have specifications which make their membership unique. But, beyond the individuality, similarities between neighbouring countries exist and even unit and group them in Regions and Sub-regions.

**c) Regional and Sub regional level**

Regions are an integral part of the ISGF insofar as their role is to federate NSGFs members of a same cultural and geographical area in order to bring them the relevant source of inspiration and expertise. The WCom undertook to enhance the Regions' position either by confirming the relationships with Regional Committee in office or by setting up new Regional Structures. This is with great satisfaction that the ISGF WCom took part in the setting up of two new Regions and one Sub-region.

✚ The official **AsPac Region** was created in 2012 during the AsPac Regional Gathering held in Bangladesh. A Regional Committee was elected and a



Regional Constitution approved. Since then, the actions implemented by the Region are very fruitful and of a great benefit for the visibility of the ISGF in the Region. Among the country already member of that Region (Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) ISGF welcomed Philippines as Central Branch member.

- ✚ The official **African Region** was set up during the 4<sup>th</sup> African Gathering in Johannesburg, South Africa, in January 2014, by the election of a Regional Committee and the adoption of the Regional Constitution. The Regional Committee is currently engaged in a study to come over the prevailing difficulties of communication and transportation in Africa which is a region twice bigger than Europe. As a result, three sub-regions should be officially formed in the forthcoming months with the expectation that Africa will organise sub-regional gatherings in 2015.
- ✚ The **South America Sub-Region** was experienced during the South American Gathering, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Camporee, in Chili, in 2012 with the strategic objective of upholding the development of the CB country members of that area in which most of them are Spanish-speaking countries. This sub-region will be officially recognized in 2015 when all the related country members will have endorsed the Sub-regional Constitution. Such a structure would enable these countries to work together creating an indispensable synergy.
- ✚ The **Arab Maghreb Sub-region** regrouping NSGFs of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya is still under consideration. However, via the participation of Aziz Abdelaziz and Muftah Ajaj to the concerned meetings, the WCom granted all its credit to this venture and support the development of the Arab Region.

*As of 2014, the ISGF is composed of 61 NSGFs, namely around 55,000 members, structured as follows:*

*4 Regions: Africa, Arab, Europe and AsPac*

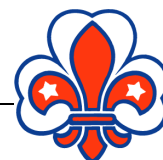
*5 Sub-regions: Central European, Nordic-Baltic, South European, West European, South America.*

In addition to the NSGFs, ISGF is proud to rely on its *40 CB countries* which under the management of the CB coordinator and the WCom received a particular attention.

#### **d) Central Branch**

The World Committee 2011–2014 appointed Leny Doelman as ex-officio to continue her job as CB coordinator until December 30, 2014. Also, the CB countries have been included in the work of the world and regional committees. Since 1 January 2014 all the contact persons of the CB groups started to receive also circulars sent by ISGF World Bureau that were normally sent exclusively to National Presidents and International Secretaries of the NSGFs.

Duties for Central Branch in the period 2011 – 2014:



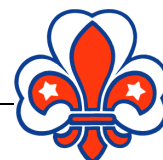
- Issued two CB Newsletters a year in English and French (Martine Levy takes care of the translation into French)
- Updated the CB census on a regular base and published these figures on the ISGF website.
- Collected CB news from CB countries for publication on the ISGF website
- Attended the annual WCom meetings without a vote.
- Informed the WCom and Region on the development of the CB.
- Maintained correspondence with contact persons of CB groups and individuals.
- Assisted the CB groups who were working to become a NSGF. **Argentina** and the **Maldives** are working to become respectively an Associate and a full Fellowship at World Conference 2014.
- Produced and issued **491** CB membership cards.
- Collected the ISGF dues each year.

New CB members came from *Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Netherlands, Philippines, Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates.*

After World Conference 2011 there were **896** CB members left in CB and on 1 June 2014 we had **1162** CB members' of which **1038** in **25** groups and **124** individuals.

Argentina	67	Malawi	22
Aruba	23	Maldives	145
Azerbaijan	42	Nepal	15
Brazil	17	Netherlands	92
Burundi	2	Peru	4
Cambodia	2	Philippines	2
Cameroon	4	Rwanda	26
Cape Verde	7	South Africa	52
Chile	58	Sudan	6
Colombia	1	Surinam	39
Congo (BZV)	5	Taiwan	4
Costa Rica	1	Tanzania	47
Cuba	6	Togo	12
Ecuador	41	Trinidad & Tobago	1
El Salvador	4	Turkey	1
Iran	1	United Arab Emirates	1
Israel	60	Uruguay	33
Japan	3	USA	210
Kenya	61	Venezuela	34
Liberia	10	Zimbabwe	1

The visits paid by the ISGF WCom and the resulting achievements implied the participation of a specific team under the scene. Development is a large notion and to come up with strong positive results it is necessary to follow a methodology but also some legal advices. This is where the Legal Team intervenes.



#### **e) Legal Team**

Indeed, all this work would not have been possible without the implication of the ISGF legal team that endeavours to ensure these actions a legal frame. During these last years, the legal team put into conformity the ISGF Constitution according to the voted amendment in 2011 and examined the National Constitution of NSGFs of Australia, Finland, UK, and Uganda giving them constructive advices. They also prepared the legal structure of the new ISGF regions set up.

The WCom initiated a development strategy to facilitate the understanding and the knowledge of the ISGF. Without a clear perception of what this ISGF is, the benefit of becoming a Member is wasted. Thus, practical materials are necessary.

#### **IV. Development – tools:**

##### **a) Our Kit**

Presently, the WCom is being developing Development tool, 'Our Kit' which is a compilation of eight themes, presented as booklets and CDs. The themes developed are the following: the Scout and Guide Law for adults, the Scout and Guide Method for adults, a collection of Baden-Powell's quotes and draws "Old thoughts for new Vision", UNHCR, the Projects developed by the members all over the world, Environment, Finances and the ISGF.

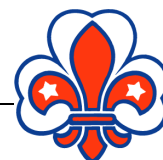
This tool implicates a huge work and at this stage, some of the booklets are ready: the Law and the Method, the UNHCR, the Baden Powell's one "Olds thoughts for New Visions". The other booklets are still under analysis and another triennial period will be necessary to achieve this venture.

The booklets and the CDs will be in both ISGF official languages, English and French. However, thanks to the volunteer implication of ISGF members, this tool should be released in Spanish and Arabic as well. Considering the ISGF financial situation, it is claimed that the issuance of such documentations will be at no cost for the ISGF due to the fundraising call launched in the frame of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Give ISGF a gift, though it is not enough.

The costs related to the Spanish and Arabic versions will be supported respectively by the NSGF of Spain and the ISGF Arab Region. Another substantial support was offered by the International Ambassadors Guild (IAG) which composed and printed out the Baden Powell's booklet in three languages.

We would like to renew our deepest thanks to those who support the WCom in its undertaking.

Despite the efforts provided by the WCom and the NSGFs, some difficulties remained to be overcome. The fundraising is presently inadequate. It is in this respect that the WCom investigate in other ways of fundraising trying to set partnerships with suppliers (Staples Foundations, Belgium office suppliers). According to the results of the researches, a decision will have to be taken and maybe the layout of 'Our Kit' will have to be adapted.



Beyond the financial aspect of this tool, 'Our Kit' depends also on a human resource response to the call from the WCom for being informed of your projects. There are no insignificant projects, all your actions have an interest whatsoever the level of implementation. This is the base of the ISGF and without a proper transmission of these activities, an outstanding element of the ISGF is missing.

Some NSGFs replied and the WCom is grateful for the cooperation but a part of the knowledge is unknown. The WCom intend to collect all your projects in the appropriate booklet and CD to give the ISGF some credit but also to offer creativeness and assistance to other ISGF members.

This development tool is an idea of the WCom which requires the implication of all ISGF members to be conducted under a team work.

It is the same with another responsibility of the WCom: 'to establish members' skills/equipment database\*'.  
*\*Action Plan 2011-2014*

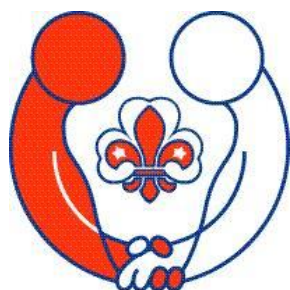
### b) Database of Volunteers.

To collect information in view of creating a database may come realisable only through the entire cooperation of NSGFs. Indeed, Muftah Ajaj, WCom member, established a strategy of enhancement of ISGF Funds Resources with the full approval of the WCom. This plan is composed of two inseparable parts: development and finance. Let us fix our attention to the development aspect.

The concept is to establish research and development teams according to a database collecting information as to field of profession, experience, ability. All NSGF were contacted in this perspective and were asked to inform the WB of volunteer members willing to integrate such teams.

Until now, no NSGF took part in this action. This operation can be realized only with the entire collaboration of NSGFs. Interaction, dynamism and innovation are the three elements of a sustainable development. In terms of interaction, the twinning is an operate tool to link ISGF members.

### c) Twinning



One of the fundamental principles of ISGF is to promote Peace, Understanding and Cooperation. To concretize these notions, the ISGF created the Twinning which enables you to establish contacts between members of different Fellowships and Central Branch members.

Some figures: 2011 - 60 new Twinning; 2012 - 14 new Twinning; 2013 - 10 new Twinning; 2014 until 01 June - 4 new Twinning.

In total, there are **1224** registered Twinning

Twinning is declining due to the Trefoil Guild UK retirement. Actually, most of the twinning was established between UK and Australia, Canada, Ireland and New Zealand.



Twinning data can be found on the ISGF website.

The WCom worked to the benefit of the ISGF development with the means he had. Some more work remain to do. It is a long-term duty and it will even never end. However, the WCom can guarantee that the ISGF Members received a specific attention through a sustainable development policy.

The cornerstones of the ISGF being braced well, the edifice can come out to light through the promotion of its components.

## **V. Public Relation (PR) policy and Visibility**

### **a) Profiles**

The annual report has been redrafted in a way that actions, projects, supports accomplished by NSGFs are highlighted. This source of knowledge is crucial for the ISGF, and may offer inspiration to other NSGFs. As such, the WCom decided to focus on these outcomes with a relevant tool: the Profile.

Presently, 28 profiles of NSGFs, 3 profiles of Regions and 4 profiles of Sub-regions are now available on the website which offer a good visibility not only to NSGFs themselves but also to the ISGF at the global level. Some profiles are still not issued because we did not receive the annual report of these NSGFs. It is then expected that annual reports from all NSGF will be received and that the profile issuance will be complete. In addition, these important documents will not be static and will require updates to be relevant.

### **b) Website – Facebook**

The ISGF website, [www.isgf.org](http://www.isgf.org), is the showcase of the ISGF and as such requires a daily maintenance from the WCom and the website team. From 2012 to 2013, two volunteer webmasters, Ernesto Ardenghi (Argentina) and Carlos Herrera (Spain) integrated the website team and then, during the WCom meeting in 2014, WCom decided to appoint a new webmaster, Ronald de Rosa Spierings (Netherlands). Along with Leny Doelman (content manager), the website manager is to make the ISGF Website the reference of our public image. Despite some internal practical troubles which hindered the diffusion of information in 2013 (late publication of the ISGF 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary scheme, link to the Profiles still under construction), this tool is operational and is even in course of betterment to offer more reflection on who we are, what we are doing and to make the navigation easier. The renewed website will be ready to relay in direct the ISGF World Conference to involve the ISGF members that can not be present in Australia.

We want to thank again the ISGF members who collaborate with the WCom to make this tool alive and up to date by sending valuable information, articles, and photos. However, in spite of our pleas, some of the NSGFs still do not participate and thus we are missing significant testimonies.

Aside the website, the WCom *«enhance the social media to reach the ultimate number of members\*»*. Indeed, Twitter and Facebook as online communication platforms enable the WCom to develop the brand image of the ISGF thanks to a



network with more and more ramifications. The ISGF notoriety is then spread all over the world among ISGF members but also among people out of the ISGF. The ISGF Facebook page is now connection with friends all over the world who for the majority are young adults sensitive to the social media.

### **c) Leaflet**

The ISGF leaflet is the business card of the ISGF to be handed over during Conferences and special meetings. As such, it is necessary to offer an updated image of the ISGF and this is why the ISGF WCom designed a new brochure. To communicate more information, it has been decided that the document would be unilingual and thus there are three different versions, English, French and Spanish. The document has been refreshed with latest photos showing the implementation of actions, projects and pictures of the ISGF family from all ISGF Regions, Europe, Arab, Africa, Western Hemisphere and AsPac. This operation was possible thank to a generous sponsoring and then ISGF did not engage any fund in the production of this PR material. We convey our deepest thanks to our sponsor.

### **d) ISGF Shop**

A good visibility would not be without public and brand images or an identification article line. For few years now, ISGF brand items are available for sale however during the last three years, the range of items has been outstandingly developed. In addition to the identification items (ISGF scarf, woggles, pin etc.), ISGF members have henceforth the possibility to acquire memories' and collector's items and accessories.

The WCom marketing's policy succeeded in opening the Shop to a wider public, improving the sales but also spreading the identification style of the ISGF worldwide.

The communication's objective is also to show evidence of reliable evolution and completion of projects. Indeed, the ISGF is a brotherhood organisation which aims to make the world better by the realization of valuable actions.

## **VI. Projects**

This triennial period was highlighted by two major international projects: the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ISGF and the Fellowship Toys.

### **a) 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ISGF:**

The Diamond Jubilee of the ISGF was celebrated around the world on 25th October 2013. The WCom, aware of the delicate worldwide economic situation and eager to give priority to the ISGF World Conference 2014, worked on *«supporting NSGFs in celebrating the 60th anniversary\*»* by the organisation of a singular Commemoration:

- A Skype marathon to which all ISGF members could participate without barriers of distances and of funding.



- Five Festivity venues in the world and in presence of WCom members (Africa, Curacao, Switzerland, Poland and Belgium).

The actions defined by the WCom were of a great success and of a great visibility. It resulted in an endless human chain from East to West during 24 hours of warm greetings and wishes with the participation of the APR WAGGGS.

The WCom decided to highpoint that historic event with the production of PR materials for sale:

- A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collector's pieces (pin and badge);
- A booklet of the last ten-year's salient facts of the ISGF as a complement of the book issued on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ISGF in 2003.

The aroused infatuation for these materials and the generous sponsoring from NSGFs of Switzerland, Poland, the ISGF Treasurer and some WCom members made this event at no cost for the ISGF.

The ISGF is embodied by an outstanding multi-cultural human potential, rich of multi-backgrounds and skills. Strong of this resource, the ISGF WCom undertook to put it to the profit of the community.

#### **b) UNHCR - Fellowship Toys:**

\*Action  
Plan 2011-  
2014

The WCom was asked to « *establish a cooperation or a partnership with international organization\** ». In March 2012, the ISGF and the UNHCR (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) renewed their global partnership for a six years term which was concretized by the launching of an international project: the Fellowship Toys. It was question of collecting toys to be sent to children refugees. This large-scale project was at the same time a magnificent activity to the community and a very good opportunity toward a closer cooperation with our present partners. The positive outcomes resulting from the participation of NSGFs wherever in Europe or in AsPac will be presented during the WConf 2014. However the WCom is conscious that the implementation has not been easy for all actors of the project and that a deep assessment and betterments are required for the next plans. We would like to point out that this innovative project improved the international feature of the ISGF while it opened the door to other international relationships with the hope of new partnerships.



The WCom strived to make the ISGF a more recognized international organization focusing on visibility, trustworthiness and efficiency. The ISGF WCom is also aware that larger-scale actions with humanitarian impacts should be implemented (sustainable field, sanitary and educational projects) in order to enhance the perception of the ISGF to other organizations, members. Nevertheless, these actions imply strong financial resources and here is the deficiency of the ISGF.



## **VII. Finances**

On several times, we mentioned the weak financial position of the ISGF.

Using the word 'weak' is not a hyperbole since the departures of UK and NL made the ISGF finance incomes collapse of almost one-third of the ISGF resources. Confronted to such restricted means, the WCom had to take immediate measures to free funds in order to be able to accomplish their mission and their goals:

- Reorganisation of the ISGF World Bureau as already stated and explained (refer I.).
- Particular attention to ISGF debtors in order to recover the unpaid fees.
- An added budgetary line : 'WCom member sponsoring'
- A strategy of enhancing the ISGF Funds.

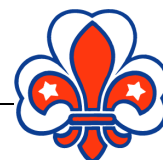
Let us fix our attention to the ISGF debtor's situation. The WCom with the cooperation of the WB devoted a lot of energy in contacting NSGFs, Regions, to raise this issue and to find a suitable personalised solution. This is the case of the NSGF of Poland that received the support from the WCom via the proposal of a financial instalment plan, and the outcomes are very positive. The WCom, along with the valuable financial supports from NSGFs (Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany in favour of Poland and the MASCI to the benefit of several NSGFs in difficulties) has been successful in reducing the fee deficit of around 12,000 Euros in three years. The seeds are now planted and it is expected that the efforts will be even more fruitful.

Also, with regards to the difficulties of payment met by some NSGFs or CB groups due to various reasons, the World Bureau implemented a new way of payment, PayPal. The WCom and the World Bureau endeavour to facilitate as much as possible the payment process. The ISGF WCom members collected the fees during the events to avoid bank transfer costs.

The ISGF Statement of Accounts and Balance sheet leaflet are released on a yearly basis after that the two nominated auditors, Mr Meinhard Perkmann (Austria) and Mr Serge Delvaux (Belgium), audit the accounts. At the reading and the examination of these documents, you would have probably noted that a new budgetary line has been created: WCom sponsoring. Since 2011, The WCom is committed to serve the ISGF in their best possibilities, even by financing some of their actions. It is obvious that without this commitment, some accomplishments and visits would not have been possible.

This is one of the reasons why a strategy of enhancement of the ISGF funds has been elaborated and is necessary.

As already mentioned, Muftah Ajaj drafted a plan for improving the ISGF funds. Effectively, it is considered that the fee system needs to be reviewed and to be more pragmatic. This is an important work which will require several years before concretization but the first step was to establish specialized team (Membership program, financial and fundraising program, activities program) working as a think tank. At the light of the NSGFs absence of reaction, this plan has not been yet actioned and further reflection will be necessary.



## **VIII. WAGGGS**

The ISGF, an organisation of adults, works in harmony with her sister Organisation, WAGGGS, to the profit of the Youth. Indeed, many contacts and undertakings during the last three years made evidence of the recognition and appreciation of the ISGF, whatsoever by the active participation of Mrs Wamuyu Mahinda to the ISGF World Committee, the various courteous visits paid to the WAGGGS World Bureau, the fruitful exchanges of information and communication with the Region Board members or with International Commissioners.

In accordance with the ISGF aims, the WCom supported two WAGGGS projects respectively in Bangladesh (computer training) and in Japan (Leadership Development Programme Seminar).



The ISGF had the opportunity to attend all WAGGGS regional Conferences

### **a) Regional Conferences**

AsPac WAGGGS regional Conference which took place in Tokyo, Japan, from 29th June to 03rd July 2013.

WH WAGGGS Regional Conference held in Mexico from 20th to 25th July 2013.

Africa WAGGGS Regional Conference, in Nigeria, 11-17 August 2013

Arab WAGGGS Regional Conference in Oman, on 24-29 August 2013.

On each occasion, ISGF was welcomed as a guest granted of the status of partner. Indeed, ISGF was given either the possibility to address the Assembly or to take actively part in the activities (workshops, display areas) increasing thus the awareness and the understanding of our organisation in the Girl Guide youth movement.

On the forthcoming WAGGGS World Conference in Hong Kong in July 2014, the ISGF will for the first time take part in the World Market with the aims to raise fund to the benefit of WAGGGS. For the first time, this inedited action will give ISGF great visibility thanks to the sale of its own items while contributing to WAGGGS in direct.

The ISGF took part to the 100<sup>th</sup> Century of Anniversary of WAGGGS on 10 April 2012 uploading on the ISGF website a message of congratulation with old photos when ISGF members were in the Youth movements. This has been a week of fabulous memories and closeness with WAGGGS.

## **IX. WOSM**

After more than two years of absolute silence from WOSM although the WCom attempted to renew the contacts on many occasions, ISGF and WOSM are back to smooth relationships.



This silence may be explained by two main facts. In a first time, WOSM had to engage as a priority many internal adaptations (new Secretary General, relocation of the World Scout Bureau) which may explain the absence of contacts with the ISGF. Then, it is obvious that the misunderstandings occurred during the previous years made WOSM chilly towards the ISGF and the WCom had to clear up the ISGF position on several occasions.

The ISGF, represented by Muftah Ajaj had the opportunity to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> Arab Scout Conference in Algeria in 2013 during which clarifications were given, opening thus the path to the communication. This is in this respect, that a long process took place with the positive result of invitations sent to the ISGF:

- The World Scout Education Congress in Hong Kong to which the ISGF could not attend.

- Annual meeting in March 2014. During this meeting, the ISGF representatives, Mida Rodrigues and Muftah Ajaj, took the floor and made a complete presentation of the ISGF to the World board of WOSM that was much appreciated.



- The Grand Opening (relocation of the World Scout Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), the ISGF representative, Mr Gunar Thambinathan (Treasurer of the AsPac region), was the ambassador of the ISGF World Committee.

- The 40<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference. The ISGF was offered a free seat to attend the WOSM World Scout Conference in Slovenia.

Harald Kesselheim represented the ISGF during the WOSM European Conference in 2013.

The constant efforts of the WCom and the WB have been fruitful.

At the moment of the drafting of the herewith report, The WOSM-ISGF Statement is still not signed for the reason that it is being renegotiating. The positive and encouraging process should give fruitful results in a short term and the WOSM- ISGF future should be full of promise and of a great benefit to all Scouts and Guides.

## **Conclusion**

The triennial report's aim is to give you a clear vision of the successful implementations of your WCom as well as their failures. As you would have stated, your WCom did a lot of work and he is aware that a lot of remain to be carried out. Three additional years will not be too long to complete the ongoing tasks. As Baden Powell said 'We never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it' and your WCom did not neglect its mission namely to be at your service.



We would like to thank all those who supported the WCom in the completion of his objectives. Many were acting hard in the backstage without any expectation of recognition and we convey these people our deepest gratitude and greetings.

The ISGF would not be without YOU, YOU are the ISGF.

Even if the current situation is not as perfect as some of you would have wished, the ISGF is constantly looking for optimisation to build its future in the vision of 2020.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Sydney where your active participation will be extremely appreciated.

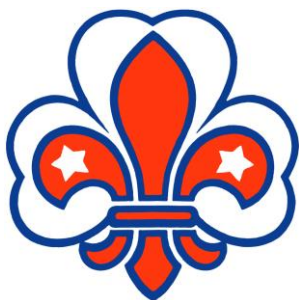
Mida Rodrigues  
Chairman  
ISGF World Committee.

Notes









## **ISGF • AISG**

International Scout and Guide Fellowship  
Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide

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Publication date: July 2014