

International Scout and Guide Fellowship

Vienna, Austria, 21 – 26 August 2008



"Together for a better world"

REPORT

Foreword

The 25th ISGF World Conference took place in Vienna, Austria, from 21 to 26 August 2008. This conference welcomed 431 participants from more than 39 countries. The Mission and Vision – hereunder- voted at Lillehammer, have been at the core of the debates that took place during the plenary sessions and the working groups.

Luc Panissod, Acting WOSM Secretary General and Liesbeth Lijnzaad, member of the WAGGGS World Board were our hosts; they represented the two World Organizations at our Conference.

We were honoured by the presence of Joan and Michael Baden-Powell who actively participated in our work.

The opening ceremony was enhanced by the presence of Christian Letz, President of "Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs, the Austrian National Scout Organization. The ceremony was memorable and in the purest tradition of the Austrian musical culture, universally known. A pure rapture for music lovers who are many among ISGF members!

We received greetings from the NSGF of Bangladesh and Pakistan, whose members could not attend the Conference owing to visa problems. Burkina Faso passed on their greetings via Jean-Luc De Paepe, delegate and National President of the Belgian National Scout and Guide Fellowship. They expressed their hope to become member of ISGF soon.

MISSION

The Mission of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship is to promote the spirit of the Scout and Guide Promise and Law in its individual members' daily lives by continuing personal development, serving in the community and actively supporting the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

VISION for 2020

- The International Scout and Guide Fellowship will be a worldwide network, visible and active in making a better world.
- National Fellowships will increase their membership and attract young adults.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- We will strengthen our existing National Scout and Guide Fellowships
- We will increase the number of National Scout and Guide Fellowships
- We will identify and activate opportunities for support and service both locally and internationally

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Introduction

“Together for a better world” was the motto decided by the World Committee for our 25th World Conference.

The 25th Conference provided the necessary momentum for all components within our organisation - to continue together to make the ISGF stronger and better known worldwide. It was an invitation to every member to decide upon the role they want to assign to the ISGF and its involvement for a better world.

44 countries were represented at this Conference (39 physically present and 5 represented by proxy), during which some fundamental issues of the ISGF were tackled.

The ISGF consists of approximately 80.000 individual members, in 61 National Scout and Guide Fellowships and Central Branch (present in another 24 countries).

Main issues

Triennial report 2005-2008

Chairman Martine Lévy presented the Triennial report 2005-2008. It showed that the World Committee had carried out its action in conformity with the Action Plan as agreed at Lillehammer. The Plan focused mainly on:

- strengthening the existing Fellowships;
- increasing the number of Fellowships.

The World Committee dedicated a lot of time to the celebration of the scouting Centenary which did not let enough space to the other targets of the triennial report to be carried.

The Scout&Guide Spirit Flame

This project has been the biggest ever in ISGF history. A flame lit at the grave of the founder of the Movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, in Nyeri, Kenya on February 22, 2007 arrived at the place of the very first Scout camp on Brownsea Island, UK, on July 31, 2007 (the eve of Scouting's Sunrise), commemorating 100 years of Scouting,. The Flame travelled through Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Greece, Italy, France and Belgium, to the United Kingdom, covering more than 10,000 kms and 1,200 nautical miles. Ultimately, the Flame arrived at the Centenary Jamboree, where it was exhibited at the ISGF booth.

The Scout & Guide Spirit Flame project had a very high symbolic value – the spirit of the Founder passed on to the next century of Scouting. It was ISGF's contribution to the Centenary of the Movement. On a practical level it contributed to spreading or rekindling the knowledge of the Movement in the countries in which it travelled. As a physical and organisational feat, the Flame project proved that it was possible to remove the IM off the word IMPOSSIBLE.

The removal of the Conference from Tunisia to Vienna

This was a difficult and sad issue, but it showed that the ISGF was capable of affirming its identity and finding democratic and transparent solutions, together with all its members, so as to avoid its functioning being hindered. The details of the question are described in the Triennial Report, 2005-2008, presented by World Committee Chairman Martine Lévy and annexed to this report.

Pfadfinder-gilde Österreich (PGÖ), the Austrian NSGF, was warmly thanked for having accepted to organise the Conference at very short notice. The Conference also reiterated its confidence that the Amitié Tunisienne des Anciens scouts et Guides will be able to take the challenge, in the future, to organise one of ISGF's major events, as they surely have the capability to do. As the Chairman of the Arab Region, Mr Hédi Baccouche, said in his presentation of the Region, “*we are always prepared to organise, in co-operation with the World Committee, any activities in Tunisia or in any other Arab country*”.

Entry visas

Entry visas to Austria and to the Schengen area were denied to ISGF members from Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan and to some participants from India. Some others had their visa delivered just one or two hours before take off: it is the case of Libya that was making up 20% of the World Conference participants. Although in some cases the participants' responsibility was involved for failing to file their visa applications on time, the Conference felt deeply concerned by the visa issue. ISGF is not a two-tier organisation: all its members have to enjoy equal dignity and attention. The Conference approved a resolution containing a call to the World Committee to tackle this question and to report before 30 June 2009.

Finance

Over the past triennium '(2005-2008) the World Committee worked on having a balanced budget. For the next triennium there will be a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase in fees. It was noticed that the budget shows a lack of increase in membership income and expenditure. In fact the World Committee works on a budget calculated on the basis of the worst case (no membership growth, or the replacing of members at the rate of loss). The Stamp bank remains a good potential for the income at the International Development Fund (IDF) level, as it provides funds for scholarships; but more efforts have to be done as we have responsibilities to WAGGGS and WOSM.

Over the next three years the World Committee will give consideration to the larger organizations that at the moment pay a high percentage of our total fees so that an equitable way of levying fees can be found. They will also give consideration to identifying a percentage of ISGF-collected fees to ensure the development of Youth Projects in WAGGGS and WOSM.

Fee system

In 2005 a new fee system was adopted by a two-third majority, on a three-year trial basis. The World Committee prepared a clear and objective presentation on the workings of the system and proposed to extend it for the next triennium. The proposal was adopted by the Conference by a sizable majority.

Constitutional matters

The World Committee carried out a full review of the ISGF Constitution over the preceding triennium, which resulted in a number of important amendments being submitted to the Conference by the Committee. Since the voting of constitutional amendments is quite arduous during plenary sessions, the World Committee decided to have a preliminary meeting of one person per delegation to bring more information and clarity on the proposals put forward by the World Committee and some NSGFs. This procedure was largely successful and the amendments were voted in an orderly fashion and the great majority of them were carried.

Like in Lillehammer, the issue regarding the position to assign to the Regional Chairmen in the ISGF Constitution was a controversial one. The proposal to make them ex-officio members of the World Committee was put forward again by two NSGFs but was defeated. This is a question that, like the general role of Regions, will probably continue to be at the core of ISGF reflection.

Action Plan 2008-2011

Henry Ford once said: "Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

The World Conference participants showed that Henry Ford's words are still valued in 2008: For the first time in ISGF history together wrote the Action Plan 2008-2011 on the spot! The World Conference have a clear, simple and short Action Plan that gives a good overview of what the World Conference agreed is the most important to focus on in 2008-2011.

For the first time we have an Action Plan where the National Scout and Guide Fellowships (NSGF) are responsible for some actions to be completed. The World Committee (WCom) has a responsibility to support the NSGFs in reaching their goals. The role of the WCom is to facilitate the NSGFs actions.

Participants were involved and very active in the working groups, regional and sub-regional working teams. All participants had the opportunity to have their suggestions heard. So many members said during and after the process that they really enjoyed the working groups. They were involved and could see the result:

Action Plan 2008-2011 was adopted by the World Conference.

The WCom wants to thank all the participants for being active and enthusiastic in the working groups and working teams.

Also thank you to the National Presidents (NP) and International Secretaries (IS) that had prepared their parts of the work beforehand.

Together we succeeded Scouting & Guiding is: Learning by doing with limited resources!

Election to the World Committee

Four candidates were to be elected to the World Committee out of a total of seven competing candidates. The candidates that were present introduced themselves to the Conference for three minutes each. Three candidates who were not present because of visa problems were introduced by the World Committee. The following were elected:

- Muffah Mohamed Ajaj (Libya), Abdelaziz Ben Said (Morocco), Harald Kesselheim (Germany), Paul Lokossou (Benin).

The 2008-2011 World Committee

Brett D Grant (Australia), Chairman

Anne Dupont (Belgium) Vice-Chairman

Muffah Mohamed Ajaj (Libya), Linda C. Bates (Canada), Abdelaziz Ben Said (Morocco), Alès Cerin (Slovenia), Harald Kesselheim (Germany), Paul Lokossou (Benin), Rigmor Lauridsen (Denmark), Mario Sica (Italy).

For the first time in the history of the ISGF, the World Committee has a non-European Chairman and all five continents are present on the Committee.

Development

Bahrain and Ghana, accepted as Associate members at Lillehammer in 2005, had applied to Full membership during the triennium. Their application was accepted in Vienna by the Conference.

Three new countries joined the ISGF: Congo and Jordan as Full members, and the Ivory Coast as Associate member.

The World Conference 2011

The Conference decided to accept the invitation by Italy to host the 26th World Conference. It will take place in the Como Lake area, in the Lombardy region, around September 2011. More precise dates and venue will be announced by 1 May 2009.

Ambassadors Guild

The Ambassadors Guild is a Foundation with the aim of fundraising to support Scouting and Guiding world-wide. Its members are mainly ISGF members. The Chairman of the Ambassadors Guild, Paulli Martin, addressed the Conference and reported on the activities of the Guild. The Guild welcomed 12 new members. Michael Baden-Powell, the Founder's grandson, and his wife June were both made life members of the Guild.

Action time presentation

13 countries presented themselves or specific activities: Austria, Bahrain, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Libya, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and UK Trefoil Guild. These presentations are available on our website <http://www.isgf.org>

World Market

The first World Market took place in Lillehammer and it was a great success. It was decided to carry on with this activity, which is supposed to raise money for special projects throughout ISGF for the International Development Fund (IDF), and make it a regular feature at our World Conferences. In Vienna, however, the rules were not accurately - applied. For the next Conference, in Italy an effort will have to be made to clarify the aims and the functioning of the World Market. A big Thank you to everyone that participated.

Issues for future action

The next ISGF World Conference will take place in Italy 2009. We are looking forward to the cooperation with our Italian host Committee and the organizers Movimento Adulti Scout Cattolici Italiani (MASCI). We are convinced that the well-known Italian commitment to an organisation whose main concerns are friendship and tolerance among people from different cultures and backgrounds will make our 26th ISGF World Conference a success.

The World Committee will be meeting in March 2009 with all WCom members together with the representatives from WAGGGS and WOSM. At that meeting the WCom will focus on the tasks in the Action Plan 2008-2011. The WCom will do their utmost to facilitate and support the development of the National Scout and Guide Fellowships and Central Branch so that we all together can take the next steps towards ISGF Vision 2020.

Minutes of the 25th ISGF World Conference
Resolutions Committee

1. The conference was opened by the chairman of the ISGF World Committee, Mme. Martine Lévy, in the presence of just short of 500 delegates and observers from most ISGF countries. Regrettably, some NSGF and Central Branch delegates and observers were denied visas and consequently could not attend. - Some others were granted visas at a very late date and could not participate for that reason.
2. The conference appointed the following presidency:

Chairman: Mr. Alfred Partsch, Austria
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Carole Bowen, United Kingdom.
3. The conference approved the proposed Rules of Procedure.
4. The conference appointed the following members of the Resolutions Committee:

Mr. Gjermund Austvik, Sweden (English)
Mr. Jean-Francois Levy, France (French and English)
Mr. Ahmed Ben Mansour, Tunisia (French)
5. The conference appointed the following Tellers:

Mrs. Elisabeth Zingg, Austria
Mrs. Elfriede Erasim, Austria
Mrs. Petra Huka, Austria
Mr. Richard Huka, Austria
6. The conference decided to grant Full Membership in the ISGF to: Jordan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bahrain and Ghana.

Argentina had applied for Associate Membership. This could not be granted by this conference, because they had not yet received the approval of the Argentinean Scout and Guide organisations.

The conference granted Associate Membership in the ISGF to: Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

No NSGF was recommended for suspension of membership in the ISGF.

No NSGF was recommended for cancellation of membership in the ISGF.
7. Tunisia presented their point of view - on the cancellation of their organising of the 25th ISGF World Conference. Their document will be available as a supplement to these minutes.
8. The chairman of the ISGF World Committee, Mme. Martine Levy, presented the Triennial Report of the World Committee. This report - is available as a separate document.

The presentation was followed by a discussion aimed to clarify the contents of the Triennial Report and the handling of the visa problems encountered by some prospective participants.

Following a roll call, the conference unanimously approved the ISGF World Committee's Triennial Report.

9. Mr. Paulli Martin of Denmark and France presented the International Ambassadors' Guild and its associated Foundation.
10. Mr. Luc Panissod, acting Secretary General of WOSM, presented the WOSM report, including past, present and future cooperation projects with the ISGF.

The presentation will be available to those interested by contacting the ISGF Secretary General.

Mrs. Liesbeth Lijnzaad, member of the WAGGGS World Board, talked about her organisation and highlighted the quality of the support given by ISGF to WAGGGS. She informed the Conference of the new programmes launched during the July 2008 WAGGGS World Conference to promote the message "together for a better world".

11. Finances.

- 11.1 Mr. Anthony Florizoone presented the accounts for the financial years 2005 – 2007.

The conference decided, with three abstentions and none against, to accept the financial statement of the ISGF.

- 11.2 Mr. Anthony Florizoone and Mr Brett Grant, member of the ISGF World Committee, presented the International Development Fund.
The conference decided, with three abstentions and none against, to accept the financial statement of the International Development Fund.

- 12 The candidates for the ISGF World Committee were presented.

The following persons had been nominated for the ISGF World Committee:

Mr. Atobatele Adepoju, Nigeria
Mr. Bensaid Abdelaziz, Morocco
Mr. Bestandji Reda, Algeria
Mr. Harald Kesselheim, Germany
Mr. Lokossou Paul, Benin
Mr. Edward Cassidy Mettle-Nunoo, Ghana
Mr. Ajaj Mohamed Muffah, Libya
Mr. Juan Salazar, Chile.

The candidacy for Mr. Juan Salazar was disputed two weeks prior to the Conference, since Chile, being only an associate member of the ISGF, had no right to nominate ISGF World Committee candidates. This thesis was questioned by Denmark, which offered to nominate Mr. Salazar on the spot. Mr Mario Sica of the World Committee clarified the situation with respect to the ISGF Constitution and Bye-Laws, which require that nominations be in the hand of the World Bureau no later than five months in advance of the conference. Mr. Sica stressed that this ruling bears no reflexion of the personality and general acceptability of Mr. Salazar.

After some discussion, the Conference agreed to stick to the Constitution, and – for this meeting of the Conference – not to accept Mr. Salazar as a candidate to the ISGF World Committee.

The candidates present at the Conference explained their reasons for candidacy.

The candidates who could not be present owing to visa problems were presented by Mme. Anne Dupont of the ISGF World Committee. Their absence is not caused by their fault, and they should be given the same chances to be elected as the candidates present at the Conference.

13a Mrs Rigmor Lauridsen of the ISGF World Committee presented the working method for the Action Plan for the years 2008 – 2011 for the implementation of the vision for 2020, as agreed at the 24th World Conference 2005 in Lillehammer, Norway.

13b Ms Jane Wardropper, Chairman of the Europe Region Committee, presented the report of the Europe Region for the years 2005 – 2008.

Mr. Hedi Baccouche presented a report for the Arab Region.

Mrs. Rigmor Lauridsen of the ISGF World Committee presented a report on the progress in the proposed African Region and the results of the second African Gathering held in November 2007 in Accra, Ghana. The message from the African coordinator, Mr. Edward Mettle-Nunoo, will be a supplement to these minutes.

Mr. Brett Grant of the ISGF World Committee reported on the progress in the Asian-Pacific (ASPAC) Region and on the meeting held in Malaysia.

Mrs. Leny Doelman of the ISGF World Committee reported on the progress in the Western Hemisphere, consisting of the Americas and the Caribbean Islands. Some networks have been established, and more are in the making.

Mr. Paulli Martin reported on the International Ambassadors' Guild's Cocktail Party and the increase in membership prior to and during the Conference.

14 Prior to the election, a new roll call was performed, giving a total of 147 votes available.

The following members were elected to the ISGF World Committee by secret ballot:

Mr. Mohamed Ajaj Muffah, Libya
Mr. Bensaid Abdelaziz, Morocco
Mr. Paul Lokossou, Benin
Mr. Harald Kesselheim, Germany

On the last day of the conference, the World Committee reported the election of the officers of the Committee:

Chairman: Mr. Brett Grant, Australia
Vice Chairman: Ms Anne Dupont, Belgium

The outgoing members of the ISGF World Committee, Martine Levy, Bjorg Walstad, Nejib Gharbi, Leny Doelman, Suresh Lalwani, and Abdeslam Benmoussa were properly thanked for their efforts, and the remaining and new committee members were presented (except Paul Lokossou of Benin, who could not attend the Conference).

Standing ovations were given to both the new and the outgoing Chairmen of the ISGF World Committee.

This is the first time the ISGF Chairman is NOT from Europe. Also, all five continents are now represented in the ISGF World Committee.

- 15 Reports from seminars and specialist meetings.
There were no reports
- 16 Recommendations proposed by the ISGF World Committee and NSGFs:
- 16.1 **Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws:**
- Votes available according to a new roll call: 190 (24th).
Votes available according to a new roll call: (25th). This roll call was necessitated because the discussion was adjourned before voting on Article IX, The World Committee, Section 1, Composition.
- The discussion was based on the document distributed prior to the Conference.
- Article III, Aims and Objectives, item a: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article III, Aims and Objectives, item b: Carried unanimously.
Article V, Membership, item 3.1: Editorial change.
Article V, Membership, item a bis: after a minor change, carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership, item a ter: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership, item i: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership item d and New section 3.2: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership, Section 4, clause c: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership, Section 4, clause e: Carried by 2/3 majority.
Article V, Membership, Section 5, paragraph 2: becomes Section 3, paragraph 3, and changes to the text: Carried unanimously.
Article V, Membership, Section 5, changes to the second paragraph: Carried unanimously.
Article V, Membership, Section 6: Carried unanimously.
Article VIII, The World Conference, Section 2, Functions: Carried unanimously. This item will be transferred to the Bye-Laws.
Article VIII, The World Conference, Section 3, Voting, new item c (a part of the proposal may be moved to item f): Carried unanimously, although with several abstentions.
Article IX, The World Committee, Section 1, Composition, item a bis (opposed by the ISGF World Committee for both cost and efficiency reasons): Defeated.
Article IX, The World Committee, Section 1, Composition, item a ter (opposed by the ISGF World Committee for both cost and efficiency reasons): Defeated.
Article IX, The World Committee, Section 6, Voting (a proposed change of wording): Withdrawn.
Article X bis: The Treasurer, new text (parts of the text may possibly be moved to the Bye-Laws): Carried unanimously.
Article XI, Regions and Regional Committees, Section 1, Regions, item a bis (main proposal): Carried unanimously.
Article XI, Regions and Regional Committees, Section 1, Regions, item a bis (proposal by Greece): Withdrawn.
Article XIII, Amendments to the Constitution, item b: Carried unanimously.
Bye-Laws III, bis, The Treasurer: Defeated.
Bye-Laws V, Registration procedure for members: Carried.
Bye-Laws VII, Amendments to the bye-Laws, item b: Carried unanimously.
Draft World Conference Resolution presented by the World Committee on the cleaning-up of the Constitution: Carried unanimously.
- 16.2 Mr Mario Sica of the ISGF World Committee presented a draft proposal concerning the visa problems encountered by participants from certain nations around the world. The Conference decided to adopt the resolution. It is annexed to these minutes.
- 17 **Recommendations proposed by the NSGFs:**

The texts of the recommendations are included in circular no. 8 distributed to the delegates prior to the Conference. [The content of the recommendations should be very briefly described]

Australia: Withdrawn.
Belgium: Defeated.
UK Trefoil Guild:
Item 1:1: Carried.
Item 1:2: Carried.
Item 2: Withdrawn.
Item 3: Withdrawn.
Item 4: Carried.

18 Final Action Plan 2008 – 2011.

Mr Ales Cerin of the ISGF World Committee reported on the extensive work to finalise the Action Plan for 2008 – 2011. The finalised plan will be available from the World Office as a separate document.

The Conference unanimously adopted the finalised Action Plan 2008 – 2011.

19 Finance plans for the future.

19.1 Financial plans for the years 2009 – 2011.

Mr Brett Grant of the ISGF World Committee and Mr Anthony Florizoone, the ISGF Treasurer, presented the financial plans for 2009 – 2011.

The Conference unanimously approved the proposed financial plans for the years 2009 – 2011.

19.2 Membership fees.

The text is included in Circular no. 14, distributed to the delegates prior to the Conference.

Mr Nejib Gharbi of the ISGF World Committee presented an evaluation of the fee system which has been in use for the last three years.

The Conference almost unanimously decided to continue to use the present fee system for the next three years.

19.3 Appointment of auditors.

Mme Christine Pasche, Switzerland, was unanimously appointed as auditor for the period 2008 – 2011.

20 Mr. Antonio Cecchini, the International Secretary of MASCI, Italy, presented their bid to host the 26th ISGF World Conference 2011.

The Conference unanimously accepted the invitation from Italy. The 26th ISGF World Conference will thus take place in the district of Lombardy, in the north of Italy.

21 Open session.

Brief Action Time presentations by: Bahrain, Denmark, France, Austria – Germany –

Liechtenstein - Italy, Greece, Libya, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom Trefoil Guilds.

Mr. Ales Cerin of the ISGF World Committee explained how to find the ISGF on the Internet.

21.1 Subjects proposed for discussion.

No subjects were proposed.

21.2 Questions to the ISGF World Committee.

Questions were put forward and answered.

21.3 Invitations to forthcoming events.

Portugal invited all participants to the 6th National Scout and Guide camp and the 3rd National Jamboree for Adult Scouts July/August 2009, and to the Mediterranean Gathering in Portugal 2009.

22 Report by the Resolutions Committee.

The Resolutions Committee presented a brief report on the status of the minutes of the Conference.

23 Mrs. Carol Bowen formally closed the 25th ISGF World Conference, thanking all for their presence and the organising committee for their fine work

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Minutes prepared by:

Jean-François Levy

Ahmed Ben Mansour

Gjermund Austvik

25th ISGF World Conference Resolutions Committee

Recommendation on the problem of visas

The Conference

- having noted that some delegates from developing countries, including a few candidates to the World Committee, have been prevented from taking part in the Conference for not being able to get their entry visa for Austria, and this despite all appropriate advice provided by the World Bureau, the timely activation of the necessary procedures and the support provided by the Conference organisers vis-à-vis their own authorities;
- deeply concerned that this fact constitutes not only an impoverishment of the Conference, but also an objective discrimination among countries and candidates;
- convinced that the legitimate need to fight illegal immigration should not hinder the participation of bona fide adult delegates to the institutional activities of an internationally recognised organisation such as the ISGF,

urges the World Committee to carry out a consultation with WOSM and WAGGGS with a view to examining appropriate ways to overcome this obstacle in the future, while respecting national and international (Schengen arrangements) regulations concerning the issue of visas;

expects the World Committee to report to the NSGFs on this matter before 30 June 2009.

Opening Speech

Martine Levy, World Committee Chairman

Good morning,

Thanks to you, our friends from Austria for this wonderful opening ceremony and I am really sorry to break the charm so full of the Austrian culture that I love so much.

The last time I spoke to you all was in Lillehammer during the closing dinner of the 24th ISGF World Conference.

I was extremely moved as you had just put me at the head of the World Committee of our Association.

I can tell you that I am just as moved today to be here facing you. And not only because I know that is it one of the last times.

A General Assembly gives, of course, the opportunity to meet friends again and to make new acquaintances.

It is also finding again all that we have in common, as former scouts and guides; but not only that, also the ideal which gathered us in the past as scouts and guides has been transformed now that we are in an "organisation for adults", according to the sub-title of our association.

A General Assembly is also a statutory occasion, an obligation in the life of an Association.

And as an obligation, that could be a little boring; we all know of General Assemblies in which we have taken part only because it is our duty.

But for us it should go quite further. Within a few hours I'll have the honour to present you with the triennial report of the World Committee.

I do not consider this presentation as a simple report on activities, as a simple request of acquittal which would be given to the executive body.

It is focusing on what, all together, we have succeeded in or missed, in the frame of the Action Plan voted during our last conference on the basis of the Mission and of the Vision adopted 3 years ago.

It is enabling us to think about what is important, i.e. the future on the basis of the actions which have been agreed and which need now to be developed.

Last year, on the occasion the celebration of the Centenary of Scouting, many people highlighted that celebrating the 100 years was good, but that the most important thing was, above all, launching the second Centenary of Scouting in a good way.

For us, at our own level, during this General Assembly, we must assess what has been done, in the spirit of determining what we want to do afterwards.

The report of the last 3 years, during which I had the honour of Chairing the World

Committee, is the opening towards the workshops that we'll have during the coming days, it is the opening towards what ISGF will intend to do during the next 3 years, in the continuity of the actions implemented or launched during the 3 years which have just elapsed as well as in the new ideas which will come during this General Assembly and that the World Committee, which will be partly renewed, will have to catalyse.

But I wander and I forget that I am not delivering a speech but that I am opening the 25th ISGF World Conference and that I have obligations.

On behalf of the World Committee, I would like to thank the National Scout and Guide Fellowship of Austria for organising, in a few months, this 25th World Conference; it was not an easy task and our friends from Austria did all that they could to welcome us in the best possible conditions.

You were right; you are here, and I would like to thank you all, delegates, participants for coming.

But my words are tinged with a great sadness; you all know how I love sub-Saharan Africa and several of our African friends are not here because they were refused their visas. When you read the report of the Conference, my friends, my brothers, my sisters of Africa, be sure that you are not forgotten.

I would like to thank all the members of the World Committee and of the World Bureau who worked very hard, during these 3 years, to have projects moving forward, which, we hope, answer to the Action Plan voted in 2005. I will present them to you later.

I would like to thank Marjorie Samudzimu who represented the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Georges El Ghorayeb who represented the World Organisation of the Scout Movement at the meetings of the World Committee; each one, in her/his own way, was able to bring the experience of their respective organisations on difficult subjects. Marjorie is not here as her term is finished; welcome to you Georges.

It has already been done, but I would like to welcome, now, on behalf of you all, two persons who come from the distant Australia and who bear a name which is famous for all of us Scouts and Guides of the world.

I named Joan and Michael Baden-Powell. Please, give them a big round of applause; later they will have the opportunity to speak a few words.

I would like to welcome Liesbeth Lijnzaad, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts who will speak to us about WAGGGS later; but I think she has not yet arrived...luckily because I really do not know how to pronounce her name!

I would like to welcome Luc Panissod, Secretary general of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, who will also speak about our brother organisation.

I would like to present two persons who have accepted to play a particularly important role during this Conference.

Please, let me greet Carol Bowen and Ferry Partsch.

Carol comes from the United Kingdom. She has been teaching Mathematics and, as each one knows, that leads directly into selling kitchens; you know, the ones which make you dream in luxury shops.

When she was 7, Carol started Guiding; and later she became a Guide leader at local and national levels.

Then her capacities for Mathematics were recognised by her peers and she became the WAGGGS Treasurer, the UK Scout and Guide Alliance Treasurer;

She is now the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the UK Trefoil Guild.

Between 2003 and 2005, Carol was the WAGGGS Representative on the ISGF World Committee; what she brought to ISGF is amazing; she was not a member of ISGF but she was a member in her heart. And it seemed evident to the World Committee to ask her to be the Vice-chairman of the current World Conference.

Ferry started Scouting when he was 14. Soon, he became District Commissioner.

When ISGF was still IFOFSAG he created a Guild, and he became the International Secretary for Austria.

He was on the IFOFSAG World Committee from 1979 to 1985 and he chaired it from 1983 to 1985.

And, as we all know it, the Chairmanship of ISGF leads to everything, so he became the National Chairman of Austria from 1987 to 1997.

Presently, he is on the Board of the Austrian Guild in charge of training and publications.

You remember that Carol was busy with kitchens; Ferry is busy with furnishing the other rooms of the house! Indeed Ferry sells furniture!

With such a Curriculum Vitae in hand, we asked him to be the Chairman of the Conference.

Please, give a big round of applause to those two persons who will have the most difficult task during the following days as we are not always very disciplined.

I would like now to remember the names of the people who have passed away since the last Conference.

Kathryn Benson Evans was a member of several WAGGGS Committees between 1975 and 1993.

She represented WAGGGS at the IFOFSAG World Committee; she was in charge of the follow up of the legal questions.

Kathryn was a Member of the British Empire.

Carlo Guarnieri was a Scout in Torino (Italy) and he progressively went to the top of AGESCI. And he belonged to the MASCI, the National Scout and Guide Fellowship of Italy. In both organisations, he was the editor of the publications.

And that led him to accept the heavy task of writing the ISGF History Book "ISGF, the first 50 years, 1953-2003."

Vivi Papadimitriou was a former member of the World Committee.

Her personality and contribution will remain unforgettable within the National Scout and Guide Fellowship of Greece.

She devoted herself to the Guiding movement and she worked many years for the development of ISGF

Please, could you stand; if you have, yourself, a few names to be remembered, give them and then we'll keep silent for a minute.

Thank you very much for your attention and I declare open the 25th ISGF World Conference.



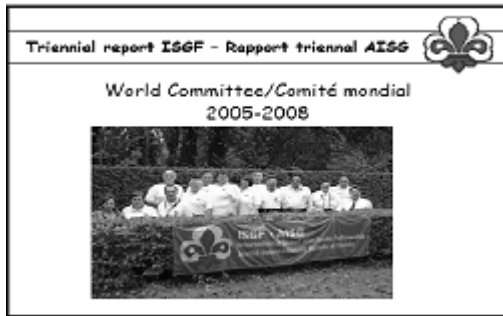
Triennial report of the ISGF World Committee

It is my great pleasure to present you, on behalf of the World Committee, this item of the agenda, which recounts what has been done since the last Conference, including the actions, which need to be followed, or even amplified in the next 3 years.

You received the written Report some weeks ago and I hope you have it well in mind

because my time is so short for this lecture that I will skim over some points without really going into details. I can assure you that it is a real challenge.

2



Here we are all together during the last the World Committee meeting held in October 2007 in Brussels (Belgium).

Imagine the board of your firm meeting only 4 days each year and bringing together 12 persons of 12 different nationalities, from 3 different regions of the world and thus of different cultures.

Well! That is your World Committee;

the one you elected in Vancouver and in Lillehammer! The experience is interesting and the communication is a permanent challenge

3

Triennial report ISGF - Rapport triennal AISG	
<u>Teams World Committee</u>	<u>Equipos Comité mundial</u>
Communication & PR	Communications et RP
Legal questions	Questions statutaires
Finance	Finances
External relations	Relations extérieures
Africa	Afrique
Arabie	Arabie
Asia Pacifique	Asie Pacifique
Europe	Europe
Western Hemisphere	Hémisphère occidental

I believe that it is necessary to remind you that the World Committee worked as a team to answer the objectives of its Action Plan 2005-2008, while using in the best way possible, the skills of each of the members.

Please, could you stand up, when I give out your name!

Communication and public relations team: Rigmor, Leny, Ales, Faouzia

Legal questions team: Mario, Linda, and Faouzia; with the help of Carol and Ahmed

Finance team: Brett, Abdeslam, Bjorg, Linda, Nejib, Suresh and Anthony our treasurer

External relations team: Martine, Anne, Mario, Nejib

Africa region team: Martine and Rigmor

Arab region team: Nejib, Abdeslam et Anne

Asia Pacific region team: Suresh, Bjorg, Brett

Europe region team: Bjorg, Ales, Anne, Mario

Western Hemisphere region team: Leny, Linda, Mario

Flame team: Mario, Leny, Rigmor, Bjorg, Martine

The World Committee is not ISGF; we are only the persons that you have elected to implement the Action Plan. ISGF is you, it is all of us, my friends.

4



In 2006, as usual during the first year after a World Conference the sub-regional gatherings were held; they enabled the members of ISGF to meet again on a more local level and to discuss the objectives of the World Conference in order to implement them locally.

The World Committee was represented at each sub-regional gathering with the aim of increasing its visibility and of

better communicating with the NSGF's. Thanks to Germany

5



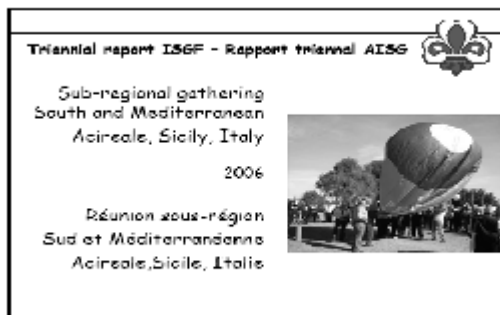
Thanks to Norway

6



Thanks to Luxemburg

7



Finally, thanks to Italy, which had, moreover, the task of the organisation of the MED (Mediterranean zone) where a motion on Peace has been adopted by the 20 ISGF countries present

8



For two years after the World Conference, the Regional Conferences take place.

As for the sub-regional gatherings, the World Committee was represented, with the aim of increasing its visibility and of better communicating with the NSGF's.

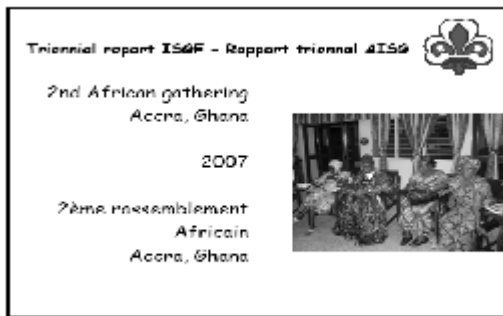
Jane Wardropper, the Chairman of the Europe region was elected in Krakow (Poland) and she will tell you more on the region and its objectives.

9



Mr Hedi Bakouche, Chairman of the Arab Region will speak to you on Monday of the Arab Region and its progress.

10



The 2nd African gathering of November 2007 has settled the real basis of the development of ISGF in sub-Saharan Africa; a coordinator for Africa has been elected and several documents have been adopted, as well as a Law and a Promise for adults.

To continue to forge ahead, the gathering of Accra has decided that the third African gathering will be held in Zambia in 2010.

I would like to underline that the success of this gathering, is confirmed by the number of persons coming from this region who present themselves to your votes as candidates to the World Committee

11

Triennial report ISGF - Rapport triennal AISG		Members/membres
Regions/Régions	Régions/Régions	
		Number/Nombre
Asia	Asie	
Arabic	Arabe	
Asia Pacific	Asie-Pacifique	
Europe	Europe	
Western Hemisphere	Hémisphère occidentale	

“ The International Scout and Guide Fellowship will be a worldwide network.”
(Mission)

We spoke of the Europe region, of the Arab region, and of the future Africa region.

In Asia Pacific, as well as in the Western Hemisphere (America), very important work has been done.

The “Region” teams of the World Committee will give you more information on the above two Regions of the world in a few days.

12



Here we are! Our key operation; quite normal for an operation, which opened so many doors in Scouting in so many countries in 2007.

2007: Centenary of Scouting and the project of the World Committee “The Scout and Guide Spirit Flame”; unique operation in the history of Scouting. In 100 years, nothing like that has happened before

I greet in front of you the Flame team, which did amazing work, but also WAGGGS and WOSM, who supported us in this enterprise and the 9 countries and Monaco which made this operation become a success to the credit of ISGF.

What a pride it was to see the flag of ISGF at the head of the marchers!

But I would like to insist on one point; some people criticised us for having used the money from the Development Fund for this operation. It is true and we have already reimbursed part of it. Since I have been in the World Committee it was said that Scouting and Guiding for young or adults should be more visible in the world. The vision for 2020, voted in Lillehammer in 2005 says that ISGF will be a worldwide network, visible and active in making a better world; the Flame has been an important stage for the existence of this network.

“Make a better world”: we thought of it; around this Flame operation, humanitarian projects in the 4 African countries are being followed.

13



And our Mission is also to support actively the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

If you read carefully the report “the Flame in a Nutshell”, you will see that, thanks to the very important media coverage, in all the countries through which the flame travelled, the operation

allowed Guiding and Scouting for youth to be recognised again and again and contributed to their development.

I know that some people are waiting for figures; in spite of repeated requests to the different countries we did not get them. But we know that the membership of young people increased in several countries.

Yes! the Flame required money but it enabled ISGF to fulfil its Mission and its Vision.

Finally do you remember the wonderful website of the Flame that gave so much pleasure to all those who saw it?

Does somebody have an idea of the number of visitors of this website? No? 91505.

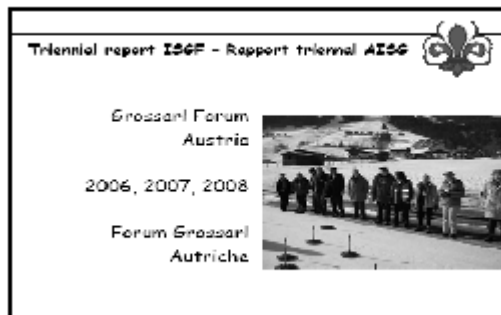
As you know, after a track of several thousands of kilometres, the Flame arrived in Chelmsford (UK) at the Centenary World Jamboree, on the first of August 2007, the day when the Scouts of the World renewed their Promise.

The Flame finished its journey at the ISGF Information Centre; displayed in front of the tent, it was the subject of questions from the great number of visitors; more than 1500.



Werner Weilguny from Austria and his team had totally taken charge of the ISGF Information Centre. 15 volunteers represented ISGF during the whole Jamboree Thanks to all of them!

15



For 40 years, every year, the International Scout and Guide Fellowship of Austria organises the "Forum of Grossarl" (Austria).

Who says that this Forum is not an ISGF Forum?

Of course it is: everything in the village is a picture of ISGF:

decorations in the streets, events, the participants who are all members of National Fellowships.

Some people work there because being there, enables them to meet many people; others spend good snowy holidays.

16

Triennial report ISGF - Rapport triennial AISG	
<p>WAGGGS/AMGE World Guide Services</p> <p>2005 - Amman, Jordan 2006 - Johannesburg, S. Africa</p> <p>Regional Conferences:</p> <p>Africa: Lusaka, Zambia Asia: Tokyo, Tanzania Asia/Pacific: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Europe: Palermo, Slovenia Western Hemisphere: Toronto, Canada</p>	<p>WOSM/OMMS World Scout Services</p> <p>2005 - Hsinchuang, Taiwan 2006 - Jeju, Republic of Korea</p> <p>Regional Conferences:</p> <p>Asia: Cairo, Egypt Asia/Pacific: Tokyo, Japan Europe: Palermo, Slovenia Latin America: Quito, Ecuador</p>

ISGF would like to improve its visibility and to rejuvenate.

Thus it is necessary to go to the grassroots level to present ISGF to those who will be likely to join it one day or another.

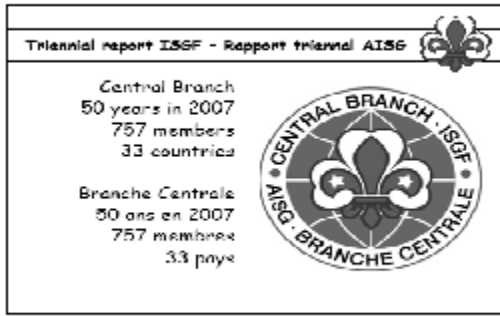
At the grassroots level are the World and Regional Conferences of our sister organisations.

The floor, in plenary sessions (usually), exhibitions, documents in the pigeonholes of the countries, informal meetings, allow the representatives of ISGF to do their job of communication. The message is: "ISGF is open to all those who leave their youth organisations whatever their ages are."

A young leader of a country where there is no ISGF told me "Oh I did not know of this association; it is interesting to know of it, that would enable us to know where to find the Guide Leaders who have left us, if ever we need their support."

17

“H J T T”



Central Branch had 777 members in 2005, but this number fell quickly to 487 because some Central Branch Members became Associate or even Full Member Fellowships.

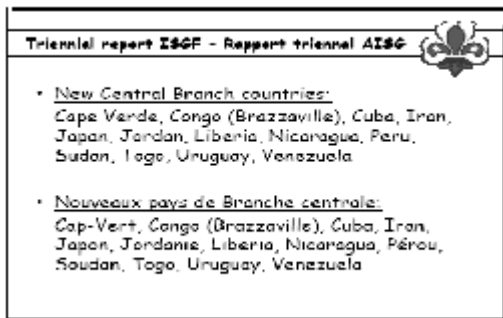
But it grew up again to 705 on the 1st April 2008.

There are 757 members today, 56% members more in the Central Branch in 3 years time!

Doesn't that show a great vitality of this Central Branch?
But behind this success, there is a name: Leny Doelman.

Thanks to you, Leny!

18



Read for yourself the names of the new countries of the Central Branch.

Africa region: 4: Cape Verde, Congo (Brazzaville), Liberia, Togo

Arab region: 3: Iran, Jordan, Sudan

Asia Pacific region: 1: Japan

Western Hemisphere: 5: Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

What a wonderful job for the future development of ISGF in the world, isn't it?

19



They look like nothing, all those little cards created by Leny; but I noticed that, for my African friends, they are extremely important; they are the proof that their holders are members of a World organisation.

20



Since the last Conference, 115 new twinings have been established, but 273 stopped corresponding.

The TOP 4 of the twinning is constituted by United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, which go on corresponding.

New members of the Central Branch ask to start a twinning; but when the National Presidents and the International Secretaries are contacted, answers never come.

All the International Secretaries will receive during this Conference some instructions about twinning in their country, as well as a general overview on twinning, a registration form and a short history on “Twinning”.

21



The World Committee had decided to modernise the ISGF website and make it more accessible to all, this was one of its priorities

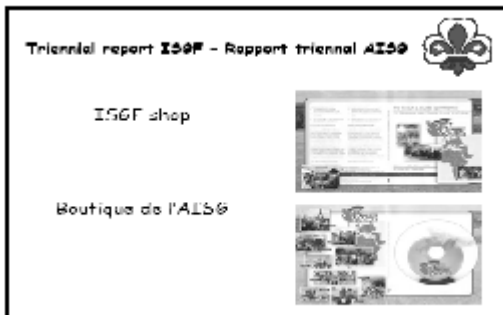
We have had a period of transition with a 'blog' created in October 2007 by Ales and the Communication team; this 'blog' has had a great success with 22 411 visitors.

The 'blog' does not exist any more as the new ISGF site has become operational for a few weeks.

Since May 2008, the new website has received 25197 visitors. The figures are explicit by themselves.

Go on the website regularly; you will find in it, all that you have always wanted to know without knowing where to ask.

22



Our contract with Strade Aperte was to be finished in December 2007.

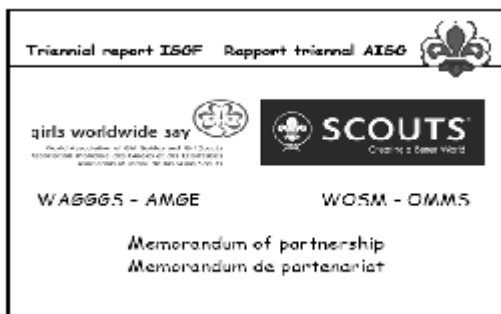
For practical reasons (particularly payments on line) we have decided to work with Score, the WOSM shop which has accepted to sell ISGF items.

Score is now the ISGF official shop.

From now, please tell us what sort of items you would need.

The World Bureau will be able to give you more information.

23



For the last 3 years, the relationship with WAGGGS and WOSM has considerably improved

For the Flame operation, we have had total support from WAGGGS: the WAGGGS Chairman made its promotion herself, during the European and World Conferences. The WOSM support was slightly more timid and a little more reserved. But now that the operation has been a success everything is fine.

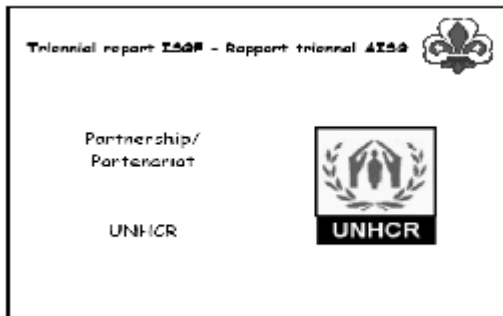
In 2001, a “Statement of Relationship” was signed between WAGGGS and ISGF, and between WOSM and ISGF. This had become somewhat obsolete; Mario, of the World Committee legal questions team, has thus proposed to WAGGGS and WOSM a new text called “Memorandum of partnership” which is under consideration.

ISGF was represented at the WAGGGS and WOSM Regional and World Conferences (except the WOSM Africa Conference) and vice versa.

The damper in these good relations was the impossibility for ISGF to have the floor during the two last World Conferences. We just hope that such a situation will not happen again.

From 2010 to 2012, WAGGGS will celebrate the Centenary of Guiding; ISGF has already offered to join in, but there was no answer yet as it may have been too early.

24



European Commission, UNESCO, the World Union of Parliamentary Scouts: how difficult it is to find time to create good relations with such big organisations!

But with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it has started. With an idea launched during the triennium 2002-2005, the relationship will move forward.

A Partnership Agreement has been signed at World level; it is on our website; I know that some of you found difficulties to get in touch with the UNHCR Representative of your country.

We are trying to solve this problem.

But thanks to the UNHCR Office in France, two projects are in progress, which will be proposed to you:

1. The first one will be the support to children refugees from Iraq in Syria who live in very difficult conditions, particularly in winter. Scouting and Guiding of Syria will be contacted later to bring them help.
2. The second will be the support to schools in the East of Burundi, where children who lived in refugee camps in Tanzania and who are now back in their country, can go to school. For this project, the Guides of Burundi, whom I met during the WAGGGS World Conference, are ready to give their assistance.

25



The idea of this catalogue became a reality during the Conference of Lillehammer when Germany was presenting the "Harambee" project in Kenya and was asking for partners.

The creation of this "Catalogue" has been voted by the World Committee of October 2006. It will be very soon on the ISGF website, with its "directions for use".

What is it about?

All the developing countries have projects, which would enable them to improve the life of the village communities, to improve Scouting and Guiding in their country. But they do not have means to implement them.

By filling some forms in the catalogue, their projects will be on the ISGF website.

Then everything could become possible, if by chance more better-off countries look at the website and decide to assist them either financially or by practical means and/or human resources.

Indeed, it is not forbidden to think that ISGF is the biggest organisation for international solidarity. In the National Fellowships of all countries the members have a great number of professions; many of these persons are ready to bring their skills to those who ask for help with in addition the Scout spirit.

26



Thank you for your attention and long life
to ISGF, to all its National Fellowships and
to all the members of the Central Branch.
(Martine Lévy)

The current fee system

By Nejib Gharbi, Vice-Chairman ISGF World Committee

The new fee system has been presented and voted in June 2005 in Lillehammer during the World Conference. It includes membership growth measures. These measures intend to encourage NSGFs to improve their membership which results in a fee decrease.

In this fee system there is no increase as far as the fees are concerned. Any increase would be the result of the consumer price indexation.

In case there is no membership growth, the old system will apply. This system is part of our Strategy of Development.

Membership is a key factor for our Organisation health. For a better explanation we will use the barometer image.

The application of the system coincides with a phase of stabilisation of the ISGF number of members. This phase started in 2001.

As it is shown on the following table:

I: the expansion phase (in good health) which corresponds to the strong coming in of the former socialist countries and to the remarkable increase of the number of members of the United Kingdom.

II: the decline phase (very poor health) which corresponds to the year 2000. It has been the most difficult year in the ISGF history. All the NSGFs lost members except Switzerland and Portugal. The most important losses came from Poland, Belgium, France, Greece and Italy.

III: the resumption phase (poor health) which corresponds to the year 2001. The resumption resulted from the reintegration of members from Belgium, France, Greece and Italy. Arab and Asia countries participated slightly to this resumption. The improvement of the membership is deadened by the leaving of a great part of the United Kingdom members.

IV: the stabilisation phase which started as from 2002. Since, the number of members stabilised around 75000 members.

Distinguishing the phases of evolution shows that the evolution of the number of members depends on the development policy of ISGF.

The existence of a fair and clear fee system is by itself a factor for the stabilisation of the development policy.

The evaluation of the fee system is mainly based on the evolution of the number of members. The effects must be looked in a relative way compared to the development phase of the ISGF membership, to the length of the applicability of the system, and to its understanding by the NSGFs.

During the stabilisation period (2002-2007), the number of members has evolved with ups and downs. The number oscillates between 74 and 75 000 members.

The evaluation is done for the two first years (2006-2007) of the application of the new fee system. Globally and during 2006, the number of members increased of 25 while in 2007 it decreased of 600.

The detailed evaluation of the new fee system made it possible to distinguish three groups of countries: a group of countries which did not react to the new fee system, a group of countries which had a reaction in favour of it, and a group of countries with an unfavourable reaction.

Group I: the group with no reaction comprises 15 countries. Those countries did not react. Their number of members has not moved for the last six years.

Group II: the group with a reaction in favour comprises 24 countries. They improved their membership level either:

- with a limited decrease of the number of their members (13 countries)
- with an increase of their number of members after stagnation (7 countries),
- with an acceleration of the expansion (4 countries).

Group III: the group with an unfavourable reaction comprises 20 countries. The level of membership deteriorated either:

- by speeding the decrease of the number of their members
- by a diminution of their number after a stagnation (4 countries),
- by a slowing down of their expansion (12 countries).

At this level of analysis, with the application of the new system in these two last years, one can see that the fellowships in ISGF reacted differently:

- 15 countries which kept the same membership level at least on the 6 last years
- 24 countries reacted in favour and improved the level of their membership
- 20 countries where the reaction was unfavourable with a deterioration of the level of their membership.

As the evolution of the number of members depends on other factors, the short period when was implemented the new fee system does not allow evaluating its performance.

The success of the new fee system needs a period of gestation in order to get over the hindrance to a good application and to propose accompanying measures to warrant an incentive aspect of the fee system.

The World Committee members would appreciate that you give the system another chance so as its performances can be evaluated.

Thank you for your attention.

ISGF Action plan 2008-2011

Needs	Action	Tasks for NSGFs	Tasks for World Committee
Development			
Attract young adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch national campaign • Encourage family scouting • Have younger active members of World Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formulate the plan - Invite families to activities - Find younger candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support with material - Encourage young members to stand as candidates
Communication			
Better use of ISGF website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular updating • Add new features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute contents - Use them, provide information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure adequate website administration - Add features to the website
More information, interaction and transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on WCom meetings • Policy documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute comments and reactions - Contribute comments and reactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide agenda, minutes - Circulate documents, including through website
Visibility			
Make ISGF more known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence at World Jamborees as ISGF • Develop a uniform image • Improve public relations about ISGF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize service team for Jamboree - Consider using uniform or other common signs - Send news, photos, articles etc. to local and national media, and ISGF website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conclude relevant arrangements with WOSM - Provide common ISGF signs - Provide "for media" assistance (press releases etc.)
Networking			
Be part of the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and gatherings • Twinning • Virtual networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open your events and gatherings to international participation - Start and maintain active twinning - Encourage and support use of modern technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide possibility for publishing invitations - Calendar of events - Provide possibilities to meet needs, including the website - Provide tools and learning materials

Statement on the removal of the 25th World Conference *Amitié Tunisienne des Anciens Scouts et Guides*

The Amitié Tunisienne des Anciens Scouts et Guides has been cooperating with ISGF since 1977 and has had a member on the ISGF World Committee over 18 years. She has been honoured by the decision made by the General Assembly at the 24th World Conference in Norway : it was accepted that Tunisia holds the 25th World Conference.

This Tunisian Fellowship well structured and well established over the country has started to work since 2006 in order to prepare the 25th ISGF World Conference. It set up a Host Committee composed of skilled and experienced Scouts leaders. They worked very hard. Everything was running smoothly when practical and logistic problems appeared.

Tozeur, 550 Kilometres far from Tunis, is not provided with a good road network. The air transport is very poor. It cannot transport 500 to 600 people over 2 or 3 days. We can say that participants will make their own way to the Tozeur Airport. But honestly and in a scout way we cannot agree to let them do it on their own.

So, we proposed to move to Hammamet in Tunisia and the World Committee has been asked for his position.

The World Committee definitely refused and requested a Tunisian delegation to come to Brussels and to sign a statement that we could not accept. *“Our World Committee request that a delegation composed of one or two persons and authorised to sign to come to Brussels on 24th October 2007...”*

We remind you that you are expected on 24th October at 9.00 and in case you decide not to come the World Committee will examine the question and will decide on the steps forward as far as the ISGF World Conference is concerned”.

The first part of this document defines the structure of the Tunisian Scout and Guide Fellowship, its functioning and its relationship with the “Scouts Tunisiens” in very strict terms. The second part deals with the World Conference issue. It gives very precise instructions as to the preparation and functioning of the World Conference. It even instructed that a firm be appointed in order to organise the whole conference including looking after the arrival and departure of the participants from and to Tozeur airport. In such case the basic rule requests that we enter into negotiation if we want to find an acceptable solution. Many times the Amitié Tunisienne des Scouts et Guides has invited the World Committee to come to Tunis to visualise the situation but our invitations were left unanswered. This is far from what a negotiation is supposed to be.

To put an end to this chapter, we wonder whether it is worse to move the Conference from one city to the other in the same country or to move it to another country whereas there was no mistake from the Tunisian Scout and Guide Fellowship.

However I can assure you that the Tunisian Scout and Guide Fellowship will continue to actively support Scouting and Guiding in Tunisia and worldwide, to carry on its activities aiming at the development of fellowship, brotherhood, mutual understanding and solidarity among the communities whatever their nature, their religion, their cultural. It will continue to support ISGF in its future activities.

WOSM presentation

***Luc Panissod, Acting Secretary General
World Organisation of the Scout Movement***

Dear Sister and Brother Scouts,

It is an honour and a privilege for me to stand here before you today in my capacity as the Acting Secretary General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) as designated by the World Scout Committee just ten months ago. It is also an opportunity to meet some personal “old friends”.

1. the recent past

It is to a certain extent fortunate that your 25th World Conference is taking place at the time in 2008, right after WOSM's 38th World Scout Conference which just finished about a month ago.

Indeed, had this not been the case and your Conference had taken place earlier, I would have had far less positive news to bring you about the state of the Organization, the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

I would have had to inform you that because of very strong concerns expressed in the autumn of 2007 by a number of NSOs (including some key stake-holders), as well satellite partners about the Governance of WOSM, our Organization found itself in an unprecedented situation of institutional crisis.

After considering all avenues possible to resolve this crisis with the various actors, our World Committee considered it had no alternative but to separate from our former Secretary General and to commit itself to engaging in a process of in-depth dialogue with all actors of the crisis.

It also had to commit to deal with all issues raised by this constitutional crisis in time for the World Scout Conference in Korea, in full transparency with all NSOs, so as to be able to bring proposals to the World Scout Conference to remedy the structural problems and other deficiencies that had been identified.

As a consequence of this crisis, and as you may well imagine, the period from November 2007 to July 2008 (the time of our World Scout Conference) has been an extremely difficult period for the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

Since I took on this new position in Cairo in November last year, the Committee and the Bureau have been extremely active, spending considerable time on handling the spill over effects of this institutional crisis in a rather tense and insecure environment.

We had to rebuild the confidence and unity of the team of professionals of the World Scout Bureau, particularly in the Geneva Office. The Bureau Staff (116 people in 13 different locations) was at the forefront of all the turbulence and uncertainty and it took some time to get people back together and on the same track, both in Geneva and in Regional Offices, we had to re-establish relationships with key stake-holders.

We had to develop new working relationships with the World Scout Committee through tighter co-operation and coordination with our volunteers.

We had to renew lost relationships with the Regions-“flying the flag” of the World scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

And above all we had to strive to continue business as usual and to prepare to deliver what is considered to have been a very successful 38th Worlds Scout Conference in Korea in July 2008. Together with the World Scout Committee, we worked hard to develop a format, an agenda and working methods which focused on Membership Growth and Development and achieving good Governance. Major changes in the Conference structure, agenda and logistics were also introduced.

...and last but not least, we also had to try to think towards the future!

You may say that what I have just mentioned is a very restrictive overview of the life of WOSM and of the work achieved by the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau since our 37th World Scout Conference in Tunisia in 2005 and up to 2007. And you would be right. However, since you will find a plethora of information about this triennium in our Triennial Report which can be downloaded from our website scout.org, I would rather like to use the opportunity which was given to me today to address your Conference and talk about the future. I must also confess that I did not feel appropriate to report on, to claim credit for two years of activities and achievements which took place under the leadership of our former Secretary General and our former Chairman, who resigned from his position in February 2008, for whom I am also thinking today.

Before moving onto a brighter picture, I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words about 2007, our Centenary year. As you can imagine, a lot was invested at world, regional, national and local levels to make the centenary year a real success. Hundreds of inspirational Gifts for Peace projects were presented at the scouting's Sunrise on 1 August. And the 21st World Scout Jamboree that took place in UK, and which was certainly attended by some of you, helped to reaffirm the unique role Scouting plays in today's society. With around 40,000 participants from 155 countries, the Jamboree surely achieved the objective of reaffirming Scouting's global picture.

Centenary initiatives were supported by the WSB in all the regions, and some great events took place. Like for example in the Asia-Pacific Region where the APR Rover Peace Baton was a project undertaken to celebrate the golden anniversary of the region and the Centenary of Scouting. The region-wide event which ran for six months involved over 200,000 people, covering approximately 40,000 km in 23 countries. The climb of the Baden Powell Peak, so named by the Nepal Government in 2007, was another important regional celebration which was promoted region-wide, with the support of the WSB.

A highlight of the relationship with the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) was the support given by WAGGGS and WOSM to the ISGF Scout and Guide Spirit Flame initiative for which special support was offered in terms of communication, contact with NSOs and general coordination. I will not expand on this project since I have seen that a special report (which I took great pleasure to read) is part of your Conference documents.

Still in the spirit of relationships, we are grateful to ISGF for its annual support through the Colonel Wilson Scholarship which enabled two young Scouts to attend the World Scout Jamboree.

And I will also not forget the presence of a representative of our World scout Committee, Mr Georges El Gorayeb, on the ISGF Board.

And the last world event to mark the Centenary was of course the World Congress which was held in Geneva in November 2007. This exposed world-class researchers to the scout Movement and gave the academic world further evidence of the contribution of one hundred years of Scouting to non-formal education and to society at large. This has opened new doors of co-operation between Scouting and the academic world which will contribute to enhancing the image and credibility of Scouting.

Overall these great initiatives are wonderful examples of a vibrant Movement!

2. Let's now move to the immediate past, the present and the future.

The 38th World Scout Conference was held from 14-18 July 2008 on Jeju Island, Korea and hosted by the Korea Scout Association. The World Scout Conference is the governing body (the "general assembly") of World scouting and is composed of all the members of the Organization: the National Scout Organizations (NSOs). Its function is to consider the policy and standards of the Scout Movement throughout the world, formulate the general policy of the World Organization, and take the action required to further the purpose of the Movement. It was the largest ever attended Conference with 1 189 participants from 150 countries and was preceded by the 10th World Scout Youth Forum.

The fear that some had that the Conference would be taken as a platform to further divide the Movement did not materialise. In fact, much to the contrary, all participants contributed to the work of the Conference with a positive and constructive spirit, looking towards the future with the objective to re-unite the Movement whose unity has been so dangerously threatened. The best demonstration of this positive spirit was that although there were a number of constitutional changes proposed, very few changes were actually made to the Constitution, with the Conference having wisely realised that issues or deficiencies identified could be solved through better systems and better organisation and not necessarily through constitutional changes

As a sign of good health for our Organization, the Conference welcomed five new members to their first Conference: National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS), the Organization of the Scout Movement of Kazakhstan (OSMK), the Association of Scouts of Montenegro, the Scouts of Syria and the National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU).

Singapore and Japan were bidding to host the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015 and Japan was chosen by the Conference.

Seven people were elected to serve on the World Scout Committee, from twelve candidates: Mr. Eric Khoo Heng-Pheng (Malaysia), Mr. Wahid Labidi (Tunisia), Mr. John May (the U.K.), Mr. John Neysmith (Canada), Mr. Oscar Palmquist (Brazil), Mr. Simon Rhee (Korea) and Mr. William F. "Rick" Cronk (the USA).

The World Scout Committee elected Mr. Rick Cronk as Chairman, and Mr. Mario Diaz Martinez and Mr. Simon Rhee as Vice-Chairmen.

Continuing their mandates on the World Scout Committee are Mrs. Therese Bermingham (Ireland), Mr. Mario Diaz Martinez (Spain), Mr. George El Ghorayeb (Lebanon), Mr. Nkwenkwe Nkomo (South Africa), Mr. Gualtiero Zanolini (Italy).

Many of WOSM's partners were participating in the Conference including Brett Grant, Jean-Luc De Peape, Toby Suzuki and your Secretary General, Faouzia Kchouk.

Key agenda items were of a thematic nature and of an institutional and constitutional nature.

On the thematic side, under the umbrella of the Strategy for scouting, progress on each of the seven strategic priorities was reported with many countries presenting examples of success and best practices. NSOs had the opportunity to participate in a choice of over thirty workshops run by NSOs for NSOs on topics such as membership growth, youth programme, support to volunteers and developing volunteering in Scouting, and scouting's profile.

Issues relating to membership growth were addressed with a particular emphasis so as to offer better Scouting to more young people. A new Membership Development Toolkit was

presented to the Conference in order to encourage NSOs to think about the issue and learn how they can attract new members and retain existing ones through the example of NSOs best practices. A dynamic workshop allowed NSOs to interactively explore the toolkit and a copy was provided to each NSO to take home with them.

The new World scout Environment Programme (WSEP) was also launched at the Conference. This includes the World scout Environment Badge, activity resources, and a framework for environment education. The WSEP strengthens the commitment of World Scouting to the environment. The Web of Hope, a partner organisation of WOMS, was present at the Conference, collecting data in order to carbon footprint the event.

Eventually, the Conference voted on the following resolutions:

- Deciding that the Strategy for Scouting adopts "membership development" as the strategic focus for the triennium 2008-2011 and that the strap-line for the Strategy should be "action for growth" so that the title of the Strategy would be "The Strategy for Scouting-action for growth",
- Requesting the World Scout Committee and World Scout Bureau to give priority to supporting action for growth by NSOs, Volunteers in Scouting, Adult Resources, Youth involvement in decision making, Education for Peace, the scouts Award and Environmental Education in Scouting.

The new corporate identity of the World Scout Shop has been launched during the Conference, following the decision of the Board of Scout Resources International (SCORE) to start a plan of development for 2008-2011. Scoutstore, as it is known, will provide new services to the NSOs and all Scout event organisers.

On the institutional and constitutional side, Governance was a key focus throughout the Conference. Some of the issues identified were:

- The need for continued debate and analysis in the next triennium;
- Policy and strategy for World Scouting needs to be developed at world level but delivery should be local;
- A deeper debate on membership criteria;
- The financial implications of good governance must be addressed;
- The need for improvement in the Organisation's communications, having sustainable developments in our governance.

It also clearly came out that the Regions, which as per the WOSM Constitution have an advisory role to the World Committee, wanted to be more closely associated with the decision making process and to have their operational activities at regional level better and more responsibly valued. This resulted in Regional Chairmen, who until Korea were only invited to attend meetings of the World Scout Committee, being made ex-officio full members of the World Committee but without voting rights. This was a passionate debate indeed!

Eventually the Conference voted on Resolutions requesting the WSC:

- To establish a new Governance Review task Force and continue working on the Governance of WOSM,
- To re-think the election system at World Conference to ensure better balancing,
- To propose to the next World scout Conference rules of good practice for electoral campaigns,
- To adopt an action plan (for 3 years), in accordance with the human and financial resources are explicit,
- To increase their consultation with Regional Scout Committees and/or Regional Offices,
- To develop guidelines for fair competition between NSOs bidding for World Scout Events,

- To encourage all NSOs to use the policy statement on “External Relations and Partnerships in WOSM3 adopted by the World Scout Committee as a tool at national level and to support them in this endeavour.

This policy statement has a certain importance as far as relationships between organisations which have been granted consultative status with the World scout Committee, like ISGF, and WOSM. Indeed one of the provisions of this policy is that at the beginning of every triennium, the World scout Committee will review and consider renewing this status of these organisations that support NSOs and WOSM. This will be one of the items on the agenda of the first meeting on the new World Committee which will meet in Geneva on 7-9 November 2008.

Let me conclude. Altogether the World Conference adopted thirty business Resolutions and the ones I referred to above are only a few of them. As you can imagine, all the Conference directives represent a he amount of work to be carried out in a short period of time since the next World Conference in Brazil is only two and a half years from now- And we have no alternative to deliver!

Undoubtedly, the World Scout Committee and the World scout Bureau will have to review and adapt their structures as well as their ways of operating in order to best allocate their limited resources to well selected priorities. This will require the goodwill of every individual, NSO and partner of WOSM. I can only hope that when re-discussing the memorandum of understanding with WOSM, ISGF will come out as a reliable partner that will help us to achieve our goal of better Scouting for more young people, and ultimately to creating a better world.

Thank you

WAGGGS Presentation

Liesbeth Lijnzaad, member of the WAGGGS World Board

Good morning,

My name is Liesbeth Lijnzaad, and I am a member of the World Board of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout (WAGGGS). It is a pleasure for me to be here in Vienna with you today!

To begin of my presentation I would like to remind you of WAGGGS mission which is:

“To enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.”

To achieve this mission we work with many different partners, like the UN, other major youth organisations and, of course, ISGF.

ISGF and WAGGGS have been working together for many years. We at WAGGGS value our relationship with the ISGF. We are grateful for the ongoing sponsoring coming from the Rieck-Muller and Ceschi fund for a young woman to attend a WAGGGS event, and for the support and promotion by ISGF for WAGGGS.

In the past triennium representatives of ISGF visited our World Bureau twice, which provided a good opportunity for exchange. Also we have had to pleasure to present WAGGGS' Bronze Medal to Martine Levy at the Africa regional conference in Zambia in 2007 as a sign of great appreciation of her work for WAGGGS.

A highlight of the relations with the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) has been ISGF's Scout and Guide Spirit Flame initiative to celebrate hundred years of scouting. The flame was watched along the route and at ceremonies, and it was visited at the Jamboree, by an estimated total of 1.2 million people. When the flame arrived at the Jamboree, WAGGGS was among the participants to greet it!

We were happy to welcome ISGF representatives Martine Levy and Faouzia Kchouk at our World Conference in Johannesburg this July. ISGF was present in the so- called WAGGGS EXPO – the information area at the conference – with a display. We hope that ISGF will again participate in our World Conference in 2011 in Edinburgh.

The conference has been a great success and our membership is now 145 Member Countries. But what I would really like to tell you about, are our new programmes and publications that were launched at the conference.

At the World Conference we launched our new Global Action Theme:

Girls worldwide say “together we can change our world”

It is a continuation of the triennial themes that we have used in the previous period. It is based on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations aimed at ending poverty in the world by 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals will be the focus of WAGGGS' advocacy work and other programmes and projects. The current *adolescent health messages* will continue and will be integrated into this new focus. Existing projects and partnerships will also continue and become part of the new focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

As you can see, the new theme is the logical continuation of the previous themes that WAGGGS has worked on. But now, with the “together we can change our world” message and the focus on the Millennium Development Goals, WAGGGS is taking responsibility, and contributing to the global agenda of fighting poverty.

We need to act to help the poorest people in the world. Today, 30,000 children die every day from poverty and neglect, 2 billion people live without adequate food and basic needs, and more than 3 million people will die of HIV/AIDS this year. These numbers may not hit the headlines in newspapers everyday but this is the equivalent to 1 tsunami every week, or 100 jumbo jets crashing everyday.

Ending poverty was the historic promise made by the world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000. There are eight areas of focus and through work in these interlinked areas, the aim is to improve the lives of the poorest people in the world as well as to raise awareness worldwide about the situation. All UN member states have signed up to measurable targets with clear deadlines, the ultimate deadline being 2015, by which all goals should be achieved.

Here are the eight areas or goals that were defined in order to eradicate poverty. As you can see they all are in line with Girl Guide and Girl Scout values, and these are issues that concern girls and young women worldwide today.

WAGGGS has already been working in several areas, such as for example combating HIV/AIDS, promoting gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability and improving maternal health. We will continue with this important work and we will widen its scope to include all Millennium Development Goals.

One of WAGGGS newest publications is this innovative AIDS training toolkit which was introduced to WAGGGS members for the first time at the World Conference, and later on was presented to the whole world at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in August of this year. It completes a range of WAGGGS publications on this topic.

The WAGGGS training toolkit on HIV and AIDS was launched at AIDS 2008, the XVII (seventeenth) International AIDS Conference in Mexico City at an event with the First Lady of Mexico, Margarita Zavala, as the guest of honour. Over 22,000 registered participants were attending the conference and among them was the WAGGGS delegation with young representatives from each of the countries featured in the AIDS training tool kit and from Mexico. 7 of our delegates were under 25 and they ensured a strong visibility by hosting a stand in the Global Village, contributing to panel presentations and running workshops in the Youth Pavilion.

Another new WAGGGS publication is the Advocacy toolkit that was also launched at the World Conference. In answer to the needs of our Member Organizations, WAGGGS has produced a comprehensive toolkit on Advocacy in conjunction with our Europe region. It contains “everything you need” to create an advocacy campaign, which will help Member Organizations with their advocacy work. The Advocacy toolkit will also be available to download from the WAGGGS website.

Then we come to another new initiative – the World Leadership Development Programme. This programme was also launched at the world conference. It will provide international leadership skills to meet the needs of current and future leaders in our Member Organizations, the five regions and at world level. It brings together a unique training programme and best practice in the WAGGGS tradition of non-formal education, it is inter-cultural, intergenerational and value-based.

It is a Programme based on 8 core modules which contains a number of components designed to meet needs of the leaders of tomorrow.

Trained WLDP Facilitators will deliver the programme. And this is not a simple programme, work will include a workshop and preparatory work for the participants as well as work to be done after the workshop. Participants will be guided through the programme with mentoring and coaching, and active learning will be a key component.

Here is a list of events where the WLDP will be applied – and we hope that at least one of them will be visited by a young woman whose travel will be sponsored by ISGF.

This slide shows you what we have been doing since 2002, and where we intend to be in the triennium 2012 – 2014, when we hope to be ready for our next century.

All that has happened in the past provides the foundation, for now..... and what we do now, sets us up for the future!

WAGGGS is of course developing many programme activities as well as media and communication resources to promote the success story that is Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting today, to promote and celebrate our future.

And we will also have a good reason to celebrate:

We will celebrate the birth of our Movement in the near future – from 2010 to 2012.

Why?

1910 saw the first Girl Guide groups started in the UK by Robert and Agnes Baden-Powell. By 1912, Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting had been introduced in many countries around the world.

“Hundred years of changing lives”. This is our Centenary message and this is how it looks. The logo incorporates the colours of our five regions and spells out what WAGGGS core function in society is

Highlights of the Centenary will be things such as:

- Centenary Celebration Days: every year on 8 April (100th day of the year) when badges can be earned; (and I am sure that there will be ways for ISGF to contribute to these celebration days)
- Centenary Ambassadors: two WAGGGS members from each MO of whom one needs to be under 25 will have an important role in ensuring the participation of all our member organisations;
- Centenary merchandise is already available on our online shop – and there will be more soon!
- Centenary Appeal: of course we will do fundraising and perhaps ISGF could lend us a hand to do that?

Well, dear friends, I hope this has given you a good overview of all the interesting and challenging actions WAGGGS will be undertaking in the coming triennium. As always, we value the support of the ISGF as our trusted partners with whom we share a common heritage.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members of the ISGF World Committee with their election and to wish the whole committee good luck with their important work. We in WAGGGS are looking forward to opportunities to co-operate with you and we are open to your suggestions.

Thank you for your attention.

European Region Report 2005 – 2008

Jane Wardropper,

At the last World Conference, in Norway, it was confirmed that there would be both regions and sub regions and I present to you the report of the European Region for the last three years.

In 2006 each of the sub regions held a Gathering or Conference during which there was time for fun, discussions, making new friendships and renewing old ones. These events, which provide an opportunity for people to mix, give that extra international dimension for members and thanks go to the host countries, Norway, Luxembourg, Germany, and Italy for the success of these events.

In 2007 over 400 members gathered in Krackow for the Sixth European Conference, this was hosted by Poland and throughout the Conference everyone was looked after by the Polish Scouts and Guides – They were a superb advertisement for Scouting and Guiding as no matter how tired they were, they willingly looked after everyone and sorted out problems large and small. Conferences are not all hard work and during this one we had opportunity to enjoy a folk dancing display, it was only later we realised that several of the dancers were scouts and guides. At the Conference we said goodbye to Gjermund Austvik, from Sweden who had completed his term of office as representative of the Nordic Baltic Sub Region, Gjermund was thanked for all the work he had done for the Committee. Olav Balle from Norway was welcomed as his successor. Werner Weilguny was thanked for his work as Chairman of the European Committee during the past three years.

Dominating the programmes for many Countries have been the Celebrations, in 2007, of the Centenary of the Foundation of Scouting. Guilds supported their local Scouting “youth organisations” helping boys and girls to attend the 2007 21st World Scout Jamboree in the UK. Other members worked in the Service teams necessary to support such a large event and a team staffed the ISGF Information tent which was organised as a European Region initiative by Werner Weilguny from Austria. In addition many Guild members worked in service team for events in their own countries providing that strong link between the Youth movement and the Adult one. I am sure that many organisers would have difficulty in running camps, jamborees, fun days etc if it were not for all the help given in various ways by Guild members.

Linked with the Centenary celebrations was the passage of the “Scout and Guide Flame” from Kenya through Europe en route to the Jamboree. In the countries which received the Flame there were many opportunities for publicising the International Scout Guide Fellowship and working with Scouting and Guiding to celebrate the richness and diversity of the movement to which we all belong. I have memories of the Sea Scouts arriving at Brownsea Island, in rowing boats, with the Flame for its short visit to the site of that first camp.

In March there was a very productive meeting between the World Committee “Europe Team” and the European Committee exploring the roles of the two groups.

Europe has 29 member countries and each National Organisation is unique weaving together the needs traditions and heritage of that country. National membership varies from less than a hundred in three countries to a maximum of over eighteen thousand in one country. Despite the total membership in Europe being over sixty thousand members there is a need everywhere to stimulate the recruitment of new members. With this in mind the European Committee decided to hold two workshops “The Future and The Foundation for Growth”, during 2008, the theme for the workshop being recruitment and retention of members. The first was held in Cyprus in April, and thanks to the hospitality of the Cypriot Guilds and the hard work and commitment shown by everyone present it was a success. During this workshop the European Challenge was launched to encourage Guild members to learn more about another Guild in their own country and work with them on a specific project and then find out about a Guild in another European Country. It is recognised that many Guilds are very successfully twinned with other Guilds and visits and holidays are

arranged, some of the members of one Guild in England recently visited their twinned Guild in Australia. Many links are often in next door countries thus reducing the distance travelled. It came very strongly from the workshop that one of the great strengths of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship is Friendship and a Europe Friendship Badge has since been developed.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Austria as this year the Fortieth Forum Grossarl was held with participants from 22 Countries enjoying friendship, fellowship, fun, snow and much more. An experience I would recommend.

Throughout Europe individual Guilds and National Organisations have supported many projects both in their own countries and abroad which provide facilities and funding for Non Governmental Agencies working with people with many needs both social and physical and rising to the occasion to support those affected by natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes. One particular project which I would like to mention is the support that International Scout and Guide Fellowship members give to the Peace Flame Project by helping with the arrangements for transporting the Peace Flame which travels from Bethlehem to Austria and then all over Europe and beyond.

In addition members have supported Scouting and Guiding in countries throughout the World. As an organisation we are very poor at publicising our successes, but if each Guild and country looked back at what they had achieved they would be very surprised that through their actions they had touched so many people world wide thus helping to make the world a better place.

Presentation of the Arab Region

By Hédi Baccouche, Chairman of the Arab Region

First I would like to express my thanks to the World Committee and its Chairperson, Martine Levy for having given me the opportunity to address your audience. I will also take this opportunity to congratulate the colleagues who were newly elected to the World Committee.

The Arab Union has been member of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship since the end of 1999. Created in 1984 during the 16th Arab Scout Congress scout, held in Amman, it is by now composed of ten countries, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan. Its headquarters and Secretariat General are based in Beirut. Many other Arab countries are missing. Some regimes still hesitate to give autonomy to their Scout organizations. These Organizations want to have under their direct control the Adult Scout structures. We have to bear in mind that certain Arab countries have recently been initiated into Scouting contrary to many others that, like Tunisia, have a secular Scout tradition. One of the priorities of the Arab Union is to have them more involved so that they join us in fine. Progress has been made. We will tirelessly keep on doing our best. It should be remembered that Scouting, in the Arab Region, has developed further to a strong and sincere wish to open up to the external world, to integrate the new world and to develop the dialogue between citizens of different religions, different races and countries that are different. This determination to go towards the other is worth being welcomed and strongly encouraged.

So to allow the Arab Union to be part of the International Fellowship, to play an active part in its activities, we, from our side, commit ourselves to take further steps, but an action on your part, based on understanding, welcome (consent) and support, is requested.

We are pleased to notice that the International Scout and Guide Fellowship is represented at very high level at our Regional Conferences, the last one being held in Tunisia. The presence of many Arab delegates to this conference, men and women, is encouraging. I am pleased particularly with the presence in force of the Libyan guides who are attending the Conference as part of their fiftieth birthday celebration. In addition, the election of two Arab representatives, one from Libya, the other one from Morocco does strengthen our commitment at the international level.

We were happy when Tunisia was accepted to organise the 25th ISGF World Conference by the General Assembly in Norway which is to be considered as a further step to reinforce the relationship between the Arab Scouts and the Scouts from all over the world. We planned to have it held in Tozeur, in the South of Tunisia. After a long and meticulous preparation, we realized that it would have been difficult to meet all the conditions. We offered another location. The world Committee preferred to stick to Tozeur. There has been an unfortunate misunderstanding. We regret it. Despite this misunderstanding, we are always prepared to organise, in relationship with the World Committee, activities in Tunisia or in any other Arab country.

We convey our thanks to our Austrian colleagues who, at very short notice could take up the challenge and successfully organise the 25th Conference in Vienna, Austria, this great, ancient and beautiful country.

Morning Reflexion proposed by the World Committee

The actors are three members of the World Committee and one representative of each region of the world

With the music "Imagine" of John Lennon, the participants at the conference arrive in the main courtyard of the University of Vienna and gather around these 8 persons.

"Together act for a better world" is the theme of the Conference

""Imagine a hot air balloon which goes down slowly, slowly ; it is there ; it lands here just now in our circle.

In its gondola, the message for Peace signed in Sicily in November 2006 by more than 600 delegates originated from 20 European, Arab and African National Fellowships gathered for the Mediterranean Gathering.

The message is the Motion for Peace:

- Peace is the possibility to travel with no fear.
- Peace is tenderness for the man, from his birth to the day of his death.
- Peace is welcoming the others like friends.
- Peace is freedom of thought, communication, expression.
- Peace is a renunciation to selfishness either the people's selfishness and the nations' one; sometimes it is also a renunciation of some freedom rights so as to favour someone else's freedom.""

""All together in 2007 we celebrated the 100 years of Scouting, and ISGF, particularly, with the "Scout and Guide Spirit Flame"

All together, this year 2008 we celebrate 55 years of ISGF.

All together, 2010 we shall celebrate 100 years of Guiding!

All together, we'll celebrate, in December 2008 the 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All together let's act to promote the values contained in these messages""

**"" I raise the Flame of the rights and duties of man, woman and child (member of the World Committee)

I raise the Flame of Brotherhood (*member of the World Committee*)

I raise the Flame of solidarity (*member of the World Committee*)

I raise the Flame of non violence (*European member*)

I raise the Flame of liberty (*member of the Arab region*)

I raise the Flame of Peace (*African member*)

I raise the Flame of Hope (*member of Asia Pacific region*)

I raise the Flame of Life (*member of the Western Hemisphere*)""

""ALL TOGETHER : we raise the Flame of the values of Scouting and Guiding.""

The participants leave the place with the music "Imagine" of John Lennon which rings out in the courtyard of the University.

** *by Jean Hillel, from France*

Reflexion proposed by the Europe Region

Presented by Jane Wardropper, Chairman of the European Regional Committee

ISGF EUROPEAN REGION WORKSHOP
REFLECTIONS

The Theme is Peace

Peace - the ability to solve problems in a non-violent way, with creativity and empathy.

Peace - between and within nations and religions is a goal of many persons and organisations, especially the United Nations

Peace - starts on a small scale – in the community, on the job, among the family, in ourselves.

(European Forum, Grossarl 2006)

The Star Fish Flinger

As the old man walked down the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

“But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish” countered the other. “How can your effort make any difference?” The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves.

“It makes a difference to that one,” he said.

(Grandmothers for Peace Organisation)

Peace may sound simple-one beautiful word- but it requires everything that we have , every quality, every strength, every dream every high ideal

(Yehudi Menuhin [1916 – 1999])

The World Prayer Society

At the United Nations the World Peace Prayer Society is a Non- Governmental Organisation affiliated with the United Nations Department of Public Information since 1990.

In this capacity, the Society has been working in partnership with many spiritual, religious, values-based, educational and peace organisations. It works within the United Nations system to encourage prayer for world peace and support the inclusion of expressions of faith and values in UN documents and activities.

The first Peace Prayer Day was held in 1990.

Since 1997, the World Peace Flag Ceremony has been an integral part of the International Day of Peace programme at the United Nations.

There is a Peace Pole in the Lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. People are invited to place a prayer or message of peace inside the hollow pole. In 2000 a desktop Peace Pole was presented to every Member State of the UN on their Country's national holiday.

Each Peace Pole has the “Peace Prayer” **May Peace Prevail on Earth** written on it in the six official languages of the UN.

(World Peace Organisation)

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the Home,
There must be peace in the heart.

(Lao Tzu [570-490BC])

One Day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

(Martin Luther King Jr. [1929-1968])

Nobel Peace Prize

Since its inception in 1901 the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to 95 individuals and 20 organisations. One recipient, in 1991, was Aung San Suu Kyi who was being held in detention by the Military Dictatorship in Myanmar (Burma) and was represented at the ceremony by her husband.

Professor Francis Sejersted, chairman of the committee declared:

“Her absence fills us with fear and anxiety----In the good fight for peace and reconciliation, we are dependant on persons who set examples, persons who can symbolise what we are seeking and mobilise the best in us. Aung San Suu Kyi is just such a person. She unites deep commitment and tenacity with a vision in which the end and the means form a single unit. Its most important elements are: democracy, respect for human rights, reconciliation between groups, non violence, and personal and collective discipline.”

The basis of her political philosophy, in spirit and deed, has been her Buddhist faith, which is also the foundation for her belief in human rights. In championing human rights in her political opposition to military dictatorship, she needed to be fearless. An example of this is an incident during her election campaigning when she courageously faced a detachment of soldiers, whose officer lined them up in front of her, prepared to fire if she continued to walk down that street, which she did.

For many years she had lived abroad but returned home to nurse her dying mother and saw at first hand the government brutally repressing a popular movement in opposition. She became engaged in politics and headed a political party in the elections, which were permitted by the Government, however before election day she was held in detention in her home. Despite this her party won but the leaders were jailed. The military government continues to this day and Aaung San Suu Kyi remains to be a prisoner within her own home and country, having spent twelve of the last eighteen years under arrest.

Let us Pray for the people of countries where there is oppression thinking particularly of Tibet, Myanmar (Burma), Zimbabwe, and all countries where there is a struggle for political power
We pray to God to eradicate all the Misery in the world:
that understanding triumph over ignorance,
that generosity triumph over indifference,
that trust triumph over contempt, and
that truth triumph over falsehood

(Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace)

We Pray for the people of countries where there is war and conflict:

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, on everyone who promotes non-violent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, religious intolerance and all other forms of bigotry and discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society and our laws.

(Prayers for Peace :1)

We pray for members of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship that by their activities each person can in some small way work towards peace in this world.

That all members can take a few moments out of the rush of life to be peaceful of heart and promote peace within their own families

Amen

Peace is not the silent result of violent repression,
Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all
Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity
It is right and it is duty

At the end of these reflections we would like each person to pick up a Dove from the basket.

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Nobel Peace Prize: www.nobelprize.org
Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace: for Peace, St Pauls Chapel, New York:
www.saintpaulschapel.org
Prayers for Peace :1 www.saintpaulschapel.org
If difficulty search prayers for Peace Saint Paul's Chapel, Manhattan

Morning reflexion proposed by the Arab region

Presented by Hedi Baccouche, Chairman of the Arab regional Committee

Not long ago, destroying and murderous attacks increased worldwide, in Moslem countries first and in the West later. They reached a degree of violence, horror and cruelty never equalled. The most spectacular remain the suicide attacks against the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, on September 11, 2001. They spread fear, horror, and worry.

These attacks were mostly claimed by individuals and groups of Islamic origin. They indentified themselves with a reactionary, fanatic and totally impervious Islam. It is not the Islam practised by the majority of the Moslems. It has no antecedents in the history of the Moslem world. It is not the Islam of the Prophet Mahomet and the first Moslems. It is not the Crusaders' Islam. It is not Islam which pushed the Moslem colonized people to fight the foreign occupation and to endure enormous sacrifices for freedom. It is not either the Islam of the beginning of the 20th century, the Islam of the prestigious reformers, Jamel-Eddine Afghani and Mohammed Abdou. It is a minority and marginal Islam. It is a cyclical and temporary Islam. It is an Islam which has no future.

Its supporters who progress secretly and clandestinely claim to be the sole representatives of Islam, excluding all the other Moslems, governments and citizens whom, what is more, they excommunicate. Their first enemies are the Moslems themselves. They fight them with ferocity, and neither their families, neither their wives nor their children are saved. Their objectives, if they have some, are confused, vague and impracticable. We would rather say that men's problems on earth are not a major concern for them.

The Islam practised by the majority of the Moslems is a peaceful and open-minded Islam, an Islam of tolerance. According to the Koran and to Mahomet's tradition, the Moslem who does not respect people who believe in God, does not venerate Moses and Jesus as well as Mahomet, all God's messengers, does not believe in God.

The advocates of a so-called civilizations clash do not take into account the role of the Moslems in the birth of the modern world, the link they provided between ancient civilizations and particularly the Greek civilization on one hand and the universal civilization on the other hand. They deny the inexorable progress of the Moslems towards the modern civilization which spreads, because of the globalisation, to the whole Humanity, despite the survival of the ancient societies specificities. Behind the thesis of a so-called civilizations clash, these advocates actually serve the strategic, political and economic interests of the Powerful of the day

Nevertheless, and for the time being, what it is agreed to call terrorism is the Humanity's major concern. We must face up to it with wisdom and resolution, together Muslim and non Muslim, governments and citizens. Worldwide there are injustice to be repaired, imbalance to be corrected and arrogance to be controlled. These injustice, imbalance, arrogance maintain the tensions, prepare the wars and feed violence.

Tunisia, under Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's chairmanship, is strongly committed in this confrontation. It does it according to three principles, loyalty to the Islamic identity of its population, the defence of an open and modern approach of Islam and a constant vigilance against any fundamentalist manipulation of Islam while taking advantage of the religion to autocratic power's ends.

Scouts, younger and older ones, from every creed, race, country, strongly committed to the universal values of peace, coexistence, fraternity, love for others, faithful to the education

spread by the first of them, Baden-Powell, are called, more than ever, to play a decisive part in this fight for a better world.

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World Conference Chairman

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World Conference Vice-Chairman

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Mario Sica	Member
Faouzia Kchouk	Secretary General, Ex officio
Anthony Florizoone	Treasurer ; Ex officio
Margaret Gossing	Assistant to the Secretary General

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	Mr. Mostefa Abdoun	Member
	Mr. Mohamed Berami	Member
	Mr. Amor Nehal	Member
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	Mrs Jennifer Nelson	Member
	Mr. Brian Jackson	Member
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	Mr. Buchner Günther	Member

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45	Central Branch/branche centrale Mr. Toby Suzuki Mr. David Mansour Mrs Kit Irving Mrs Altagrace Blanc	Head of delegation Member Member Member

Evaluation questionnaire**5 (excellent) – 1 (very poor)**

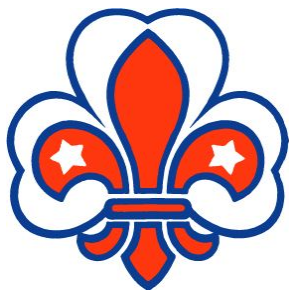
44 questionnaire were handed to the Austrian Host Committee

Welcome	1	2	3	4	5
General Info before the conference	3	5	12	11	12
Welcome upon arrival	1	4	2	13	26
Registration/information	4	3	8	13	18
Conference fee	1	2	15	17	9
	9	14	37	54	65
Conference organisation	1	2	3	4	5
Conference venue		4	8	18	13
Conference schedule	6	11	11	8	10
Daily conference hours	5	8	11	9	9
Documents	4	7	15	10	9
Simultaneous translation	3	1	13	10	11
Displays	2	2	12	9	5
	20	33	70	64	57
Conference	1	2	3	4	5
Opening ceremony	2	1	9	10	24
WC chairman's report		7	8	15	15
Financial report		8	13	9	14
Contents of program	3	8	13	6	12
Workshop on the activity plan 2008-11	3	7	15	13	6
	8	31	58	53	71
Election to the World Committee	1	2	3	4	5
Printed documents on Candidates	2	8	8	13	6
Presentation of the candidates at the WC		11	15	11	6
	2	19	23	24	12
Accommodation	1	2	3	4	5
Accommodation standard		2	8	15	18
Accommodation service		1	6	19	17
Value of money	1	5	8	16	14
	1	8	22	50	49
Meals	1	2	3	4	5
Menus	1	6	12	17	10
Service	6	3	14	15	9
Special diet requirements met	1	1	7	5	4
	8	10	33	37	23
General atmosphere	1	2	3	4	5
understanding between participants	3	3	7	18	14
Meeting and making friends	2	3	9	13	27
understanding rules and guidelines of ISGF		12	13	13	6
possibilities to express ones opinion and to actively participate in the conference	1	8	14	12	5
	6	26	43	56	52

<i>Excursions</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Excursions	4		7	12	11
Cultural program	1	3	6	8	13
	5	3	13	20	24

Member ISGF region

Europe	31
American	2
Arab	1
Asian	3
Other	3



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International Scout and Guide Fellowship
Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide

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Publication date: December 2008