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## Evolving the World Scout Youth Forum and World Scout Conference to a new event

Support document for Draft Resolution 2021-F

by World Scout Committee



**World Scout  
Conference**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Conférence Mondiale  
du Scoutisme**  
**2021**



**SCOUTS**  
Creating a Better World



# Evolving the World Scout Youth Forum and World Scout Conference to a new event

by World Scout Committee

This Conference Document provides detailed information to explain the work done by the World Scout Committee Task Force on the Evolution of the World Scout Youth Forum and World Scout Conference, along with their proposal and principles for a 'new event'. It is planned that this new event will be held mostly face-to-face as designed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>Conference proposal:</b>	Draft Resolution 2021-F
<b>Related document:</b>	Conference Document 4A
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Through the decision to be taken by the Conference, the principles of the 'new event' will transform the current format of the World Scout Youth Forum to build upon and consolidate it into an enhanced and youth empowering experience of the World Scout Conference.

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## Languages

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

## 1. Background

The World Scout Committee's (WSC's) Task Force on the Evolution of the World Scout Youth Forum (WSYF) and World Scout Conference (WScnf) was created in response to Conference Resolution 2017-07, to develop a proposal to facilitate the merging of the WSYF and WScnf into a 'new event' in 2023<sup>1</sup>. Its aim was to continue to innovate the World Organization of the Scout Movement's (WOSM's) decision-making processes to increase youth participation, transparency, inclusivity, effectiveness and opportunities for sharing good practices. It was tasked with:

- building on innovations implemented during the WScnf in 2017,
- introducing new developments in 2021,
- laying the foundations for the 'new event' in 2024, and
- ensuring the 'new event' combined learning and educational elements that promoted opportunities for personal growth for participants and more effective decision-making.

Its task was to develop proposals based on **wide consultations** with National Scout Organizations (NSOs), former WSYF participants, attendees at WScnfs and openly with all other members, **ensuring young people's voices were heard** effectively regarding the future operations of the WSYF and its interface with the WScnf. The Task Force consulted widely through its work, undertaking four distinct consultations phases, in WOSM's five working languages, ensuring all Regions were represented. More than 500 people from over 100 NSOs responded in the final consultation phase where most of the principles presented in this Conference Resolution were explored.

Overall, consultations identified considerable support for the evolution of our decision-making processes and there is overwhelming support for bringing together elements of the World Scout Conference and Youth Forum, improving youth involvement, maintaining WOSM's Scout ethos and cultural accessibility in decision-making processes. At no point in the consultations was there a great desire to retain the WSYF and WScnf as two separate events.

The full report of the Task Force can be found at [this link](#) and includes a summary of historical developments, youth participation data from past WSYFs and WScnfs, recent innovations implemented for the 2017 and the 2021 WScnfs as well as a proposal developed using a number of principles for evolving the format of the WSYF and WScnf into a 'new event' by 2024.

## 2. Ensuring more meaningful participation and effective youth contribution

The Task Force identified a number of key points for ensuring meaningful participation and the effective contribution of young people in WOSM. A core message coming out of these consultations was the need for a holistic approach to any such developments. Key recommendations are listed below and reference their relevant Conference proposals:

- Existing World and Regional Scout events should be used to provide more educational opportunities for young people. Significant educational benefits occur when groups of young people can meet regionally and globally to share thoughts and discuss new ideas. (see Draft Objective 2.14 of the World Triennial Plan 2021-2024 and Draft Resolution 2021-F)
- Structural changes alone, will not be enough to bring about the necessary changes to achieve the goal of increased youth engagement. Broader attitudinal changes will be required. (see Draft Resolution 2021-F)
- A new, broad, holistic and strategic approach to youth engagement is required to support the 'new event'. (see Draft Resolution 2021-F)

## 3. Proposal

The proposal being made is for a 'new event' to replace the existing format of the WSYF and WScnf in 2024 and beyond. This 'new event' will transform the current **format** of the WSYF and build upon and consolidate it into an enhanced and youth empowering **experience** of the WScnf. No current constitutional functions of the WScnf would need to be amended or removed.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Conference originally to be in 2020, and now being held in 2021, this merging to a 'new event' is now being referenced to take place in 2024.

## 4. Principles

Four key dimensions were identified for the 'new event' - working methods, programme, youth engagement, and solidarity. Each dimension has a number of principles. Many of the innovations proposed through these principles to enhance youth engagement overall, will also enhance the engagement of all participants, regardless of age. The principles presented below should be used to guide the development of the 'new event' in 2024.

It is important to note that some of the principles outlined below are currently already a part of the preparations and delivery of the 2021 virtual WSYF and WSCConf, but they should be strengthened and further developed as part of the 'new event'.

It is re-emphasised that the 'new event' will transform the current **format** of the WSYF and build upon and consolidate it into an enhanced and youth empowering **experience** of the WSCConf. No current constitutional functions of the WSCConf would need to be amended or removed. Furthermore, a detailed analysis of previous Conference Resolutions was carried out and the proposed principles align with relevant historic Conference Resolutions.

### 4.1. Working methods

- 4.1.1. Pre-engagement activities, including training and discussions for all participants, should be available to enable opportunities for international collaboration and development of Draft Resolutions.
- 4.1.2. Opportunities should be available to assist delegations with understanding their role at the 'new event' and the purpose of the 'new event' overall.
- 4.1.3. Pre-event preparations, including training, should be required for everyone attending the event.
- 4.1.4. A blended approach to preparations, using pre-event virtual methods as well as physical on-site methods at the beginning of the event, should be explored.
- 4.1.5. Timelines for planning the 'new event' should enable active preparatory work by participants, including discussions regarding the Rules of Procedure and Draft Resolutions.
- 4.1.6. Simpler guidelines and supporting documents should be provided to assist NSOs in understanding the Rules of Procedure of the Conference component of the 'new event', including preparation of Draft Resolutions.
- 4.1.7. A good quality online platform and mobile application should be available before, during and after the 'new event' to provide effective communications including:
  - opportunities to make contact with delegates from other NSOs,
  - an open message board for questions before and during the event,
  - support for the Conference Resolutions,
  - feedback form,
  - regular updates of the event information on the application.
- 4.1.8. All documents should be simple, clear and with graphic summaries where possible. They should also be available in all working languages and released in a timely manner. The quality of translation provided should be improved and the number of volunteer translators should be increased.
- 4.1.9. In preparation for the 'new event', a toolkit should be developed to support NSOs. This should include:
  - purpose of the 'new event',
  - NSOs' obligations ,
  - delegate selection process ,
  - role descriptions for heads of delegation and delegates,
  - hints for new attendees,
  - glossary containing conference terminology,
  - democratic ways for determining voting on Conference Resolutions.
- 4.1.10. In line with the WOSM Code of Conduct and World Safe from Harm Policy, a positive culture should be evident to ensure that unethical and inappropriate behaviour is not accepted.

4.1.11. It is essential, before applying to host the 'new event', that the potential Host Country receives a letter of support from its government which supports every NSO having access to the country, including issuing visas where necessary. This is already a requirement for the Host and is a crucial aspect of ensuring a fully inclusive event.

## 4.2. Programme

- 4.2.1. The programme of the 'new event' should provide a close link with WOSM strategies, in the context of other Regional and World events.
- 4.2.2. The programme components of the 'new event' should be based on the Scout Method and Values of Scouting, and should include:
- educational opportunities for everyone,
  - sustainable practices,
  - sharing of best practices and cultures,
  - inspirational and innovative sessions and working methods,
  - discussions,
  - culturally diverse topics,
  - culturally inclusive voting methods,
  - Scouting type activities as part of the social programme,
  - international and intergenerational breakout groups,
  - fewer plenary sessions,
  - celebrating success,
  - a safe space (listening ear service) for people who require support, and
  - scheduling that ensures that those who have religious observances/prayers do not miss discussions.
- 4.2.3. Opportunities should be provided to engage people through the effective use of live streaming and live updates to provide more transparency in decision-making.
- 4.2.4. Skilled and trained facilitators and presenters from different backgrounds should be involved wherever possible. Any large group discussion needs to use participatory methods which are culturally sensitive.
- 4.2.5. Timings in the programme must be followed. This means:
- allowing more time for the transition between sessions and breakout venues,
  - not tolerating session leads running over time,
  - encouraging participants to stick to the timetable, and
  - using timekeepers in sessions.
- 4.2.6. The programme should offer different pathways throughout the 'new event' but should be mindful of what is scheduled in parallel with voting sessions of the Conference.
- 4.2.7. Breakout sessions should be multilingual wherever possible.
- 4.2.8. Additional time (as compared with previous WSConfs) needs to be scheduled to allow delegations to discuss issues.
- 4.2.9. Wherever possible, Conference voting sessions during the 'new event' should be scheduled at an appropriate time during the event (earlier than with previous WSConfs) to allow delegations time to discuss possible ways of implementing what has been approved.

*Annexed to this Conference Document is a sample programme for reference.*

## 4.3. Youth engagement

- 4.3.1. Young people must be appropriately supported and actively included in every stage of the development and delivery of the 'new event', working in partnership together with adults.
- 4.3.2. Young people should be given the opportunity to engage with the 'new event' in all roles, both as delegates and observers and in various organisational capacities.

4.3.3. In such case that an election of Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee would remain a requirement for the 'new event' in 2024 (see Draft Resolution 2021-G and Conference Document 10), two scenarios have been developed for initial consideration:

- an online election for Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee, disconnected from the 'new event',
- a separate session/day in the 'new event', which would only be accessible for delegates under the age of 26, who would subsequently elect the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee.

#### **4.4. Solidarity**

4.4.1. The current approach of focussing solidarity funding for those young people, under the age of 26 years, should be maintained for the 'new event'. This will help to emphasise WOSM's ongoing commitment to engage young people in the decision-making processes.

*Note: Conference Resolution 2017-07 calls for solidarity programmes to focus on young people under the age of 30 years. In 2017, the WSYF and WScConf Solidarity Fund was administered to only support young people, aged under 26 years, who were eligible to attend both events. The outcome was a substantial increase in young people attending the WScConf.*



## Annex - Sample Programme

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday							
08.45-09.00			Meditation										
09.00-09.15	World Scout Committee Meeting (cont)	Specific purpose training linked to funding opportunities (Saturday and Sunday)	Regional meetings	Breakouts #1	Breakout Session 1 - Draft Resolutions, Constitutional Amendments, key topics	Reports and updates from World Scout Events	Breakouts #4	Reports from partners (video in plenary and then breakouts with posters/stalls and Q&A)	Innovation lab(s)	Announce WSC Chairperson / VCs	Planning for the Future - Brainstorming ideas for implementation of Triennial Plan (not binding, but suggestions for consideration)		
09.15-09.30						Presentation of World Scout Event bidders				Vote on WSCConf			
09.30-09.45												Report WOSM Services	
09.45-10.00													
10.00-10.15													
10.15-10.30		Coffee Break											
11.00-11.15	World Scout Committee Meeting (cont)	Specific purpose training linked to funding opportunities (Saturday and Sunday)	Opening Session, Gone Home, Reports - WSC Chairperson and Secretary General of WOSM	Breakout Session 2 - Draft Resolutions, Constitutional Amendments, key topics	Voting on WSC and World Scout Events	Breakouts #5	Review and evaluation of World Scout Events (progress and past) in Breakouts**	Presentations from bidders to host next WSCConf	Innovation lab(s)	WOSM Services 'Clinic' in Breakouts/Stalls starting during coffee break	Planning for the Future - Brainstorming ideas for implementation of Triennial Plan - continued		
11.15-11.30										Transition			
11.30-11.45												Honours and Awards	
11.45-12.00													World Scout Foundation video report
12.00-12.15													
12.15-12.30	Announce WSCConf												
	Lunch												
14.00-14.15	World Scout Committee Meeting (cont)	Specific purpose training linked to funding opportunities (Saturday and Sunday)	Training (with groupwork in International Teams) - including coffee break	Financial report and Vision 2023 Breakouts (45 minutes each)	Breakouts #2	Triennial Plan discussion session (breakouts)	Conference voting session	Implementing Conference outcomes in your NSO / Conference evaluation					
14.15-14.30								Working together to achieve our goals - breakouts exploring how WOSM might work towards new Triennial Plan and					
14.30-14.45													
14.45-15.00													
15.00-15.15													

15.15-15.30								Resolutions
	Coffee Break			Coffee break				
16.00-16.15	Welcome the World (first meeting of International Teams and ice-breakers) - not a reception		Triennial report and World Scouting Showcase (video in plenary and then breakouts with posters/stalls and Q&A)	Presentation by WSC candidates and meet the candidates	Breakouts #3	Strategy discovery session (breakouts)	Conference voting session (continued)	Closing Session Outgoing WSC Chairperson farewell address, NSO growth recognition, investiture of new WSC, new WSC Chairperson's address, expressions of thanks
16.15-16.30								
16.30-16.45								
16.45-17.00								
17.00-17.15	Scouts Own	Face to face training on voting system				Election results	Training on key priority topic	
17.15-17.30								
17.30-17.45								
17.45-18.00								
	Free time		Free time					
19.00 on	Free time		Opening ceremony	International evening	Hosts evening	Free evening	Closing ceremony	