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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To : International Commissioners

18 January 2020

Update on the governance situation in the Eurasia Scout Region

Dear friends,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the current governance situation in the Eurasia Scout Region. You might be aware that, following the conclusion of the 7th Eurasia Scout Conference in September 2019, three elected Members of the Regional Scout Committee (RSC) resigned citing unacceptable circumstances during the meeting of the newly elected RSC to elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Following this, four Eurasia NSOs called under Article VIII.3 of the Eurasia Constitution for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Eurasia Scout Conference (EMESC) to fill the vacant seats and expressing their intent to file a motion of no-confidence against the remaining RSC Members at the EMESC. Given the exceptional nature of the motion, the WSC's Constitutions Committee was consulted and it consented that such a motion would be admissible for consideration at a meeting of the Regional Conference.

In parallel with and separate to the above institutional process, a formal complaint was filed under the WOSM Complaints Policy relating to two of the remaining RSC Members, claiming breaches of the WOSM Code of Conduct clauses 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 3.2. The WSC's Ethics Committee investigated the complaint in line with the WOSM Complaints Policy and interviewed complainants, respondents and witnesses. After considering all evidence, it concluded that the behaviour of the concerned individuals in the first meeting of the newly elected RSC, had the ultimate effect of interfering with the democratic processes, was intimidatory and that the intimidation had clear discriminatory elements relating to gender, nationality and origins (i.e. ancestral or familial background).

The Ethics Committee subsequently presented its findings and recommendations to the World Scout Committee (WSC), which ratified the sanctions in early January 2020. Following this decision and having allowed the full complaint process to be brought to a conclusion, the WSC decided to issue a written warning to the Respondents in respect of the behaviour that was the origin of the Complaint, and calling under Article VIII.3 of the Eurasia Scout Region Constitution for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Eurasia Conference to elect a new Eurasia Scout Committee following the dischargement of the remaining members of the Eurasia Scout Committee elected in September 2019.

Moreover, the WSC decided that, prior to the holding of the EMESC, to issue a clear and unambiguous message to the leadership of the Member Organizations of the Eurasia Region clarifying that behaviour of a discriminatory or intimidatory nature is not acceptable in Scouting, and reinforcing the responsibility of members in leadership roles to proactively create and protect safe spaces for dialogue and interactions.

The WSC would like to underline it is well aware of the exceptional nature of this situation, but wishes to emphasise the gravity of the breach of the WOSM Code of Conduct and the requirements put forward in World Scout Conference Resolution 2017/05 – World Safe from Harm Policy. The

WSC will further observe the governance oversight of the Region until the Extraordinary Eurasia Scout Conference elects a new Regional Scout Committee.

The World Scout Bureau has further implemented the necessary institutional steps to ensure the Extraordinary Meeting of the Eurasia Regional Scout Conference can take place on 18 and 19 January 2020, with an aim of electing a new Regional Scout Committee, restoring regular Regional governance oversight, and ensuring the unity of the Movement.

Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Srinath Tirumale Vengopal, Regional Director, through srinath@scout.org.

Yours in Scouting,

Ahmad Alhendawi
Secretary General
World Organization of the Scout Movement