



SCOUTS®

Creating a Better World

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: **Chief Commissioners**
International Commissioners
National Executive Commissioners
of NSOs from within the
Africa Scout Region

Circular N° ASR-01/2021

17 February 2021

Dear friends,

Re: RE: UPDATES FROM THE AFRICA SCOUT REGION

Scouting in Africa showed its strength, resilience and ingenuity in turning challenges into opportunities despite an exceptional year 2020. Throughout all the unexpected changes that had an impact on Scouting activities, we lived by our motto to always "Be Prepared" and demonstrated incredible innovation in Scouting and supporting communities. Thank you for your leadership in helping Scouting in the region remain afloat and relevant.

2021 offers us a new opportunity to continue growing our influence as a movement and enhancing our contribution to the SDGs and the development of our communities. I have no doubt, that together we will continue to create opportunities for young people to learn, develop skills and help their communities despite the challenging times we live in today. That notwithstanding, we continue to advise that the safety of Scouts, volunteers and staff is of utmost importance. Please follow your government's and the WHO advisories on prevention of COVID-19.

Recent Updates

Here are some updates we'd like to draw your attention to for information and action.

1. Invitation to WOSM's upcoming Founder's Day town hall

On 21 February 2021, the eve of Founder's Day, WOSM welcomes representatives from the national leadership of all 171 National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to come together for a virtual town hall. More at scout.org/node/617329

2. Invitation to propose Constitutional Amendments and Draft Resolutions for the 42nd World Scout Conference and submit nominations for the Resolutions Committee

With the dates of the 42nd World Scout Conference approaching soon, Member Organisations are now invited to propose any Constitutional Amendments and Draft Resolutions they wish to put forward for consideration at the Conference. The World Scout Committee has also released an open call to Member Organisations to nominate candidates for the Resolutions Committee of the Conference. More at scout.org/node/617334

3. Update on invitations to host the 43rd World Scout Conference and 15th World Scout Youth Forum

After thoughtful and collaborative discussions, the NSOs of France and Mexico have informed the World Scout Bureau of their decision to withdraw their bids for the 43rd World Scout Conference and 15th World Scout Youth Forum (2024). The decision comes in an act of solidarity with the Egyptian Scout Federation who had been preparing to host the 42nd World Scout Conference and 14th World Scout Youth Forum (2021). In addition, the World Scout Committee (WSC) has noted Egypt's acceptance to now bid as the sole candidate to host the 43rd World Scout Conference and 15th World Scout Youth Forum in 2024 (see Circular 01/2021). More at scout.org/node/617336

4. Celebrating 10 years of success and impact through the Messengers of Peace initiative

Over the past decade, Messengers of Peace has involved nearly all NSOs, inspiring some 16 million projects and local actions which have now contributed over 2 billion hours of community

service towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An evaluation was recently conducted on the first ten-year phase of Messengers of Peace to learn more about the initiative's impact and to collect lessons learned on enhancing World Scouting's capacity for programme implementation and grant management. More at scout.org/node/617704

5. Announcing the "Re-energising Scouting Fund" to Support NSOs

We're pleased to announce that WOSM, thanks to a significant contribution by the World Scout Foundation and funding secured through an innovative partnership with the World Health Organization to implement the Global Youth Mobilization project, has established a special "Re-energising Scouting Fund" that will offer \$1.2 million in direct support to activities that promote membership recovery, retention and growth among National Scout Organizations (NSOs) impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. More at scout.org/re-energising-scouting-fund

Founders Day Celebrations 2021

The 22nd of February is an important day for Scouts worldwide, we remember and celebrate the birth of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, our Founder, the force behind Scouting and all that it stands for today. Years after, he continues to inspire young people to develop themselves and serve their communities as was evident during the first phase of COVID-19 which created an opportunity for the young people continue in their self-discovery journey. This is a unique moment for us, trying to find a balance between our pre-Covid, present and the post-Covid Scouting activities.

We are therefore pleased to remind and call on your NSO/NSA to mark the Founder's Day in the most momentous way. The theme for this year's celebration is Scouting Then and Now, where we will be reflecting on Baden Powell's legacy and relevance of the Scout movement in modern times.

Find attached a guidance note with some activities for you and your friends to jump in to. Join the rest of the world in the celebration. For any queries about this event please contact Grace Kamau, Assistant, Youth Programme on grace.kamau@scout.org.

Africa Scout Day Celebrations 2021

Following the resolution (CM Res 1607 (LXII)) of the Council of Ministers of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) – now African Union (AU), meeting in its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, from 21st to 23rd June 1995, to set aside the 13th March as the Africa Scout Day, Scouts and Scouters throughout the region have been celebrating this day to take stock of the achievements of Scouting and building partnerships for more social impact in Africa. In September 2010, the Africa Regional Scout Committee resolved to give the Africa Scout Day celebration a regional outlook, by assigning a National Scouting Organization to host the main celebration; whereby Scouts and Scouters meet, along with their partners, to showcase their achievements and promote the "spirit of world kinship, cooperation and mutual assistance amongst Scout Organizations within the Region" (WOSM Constitution, Article XXI.1.A).

Inspired by the experiences and innovations of 2020 we look forward to utilizing the virtual space to bring you the 11th Africa Scout Day in March 2021 virtually. With in-person Scouting still limited in many countries across Africa, the Africa Scout Day 2021 Virtual Experience will offer Scouts the opportunity to connect, share experiences, learn and celebrate this important day in the Scouting calendar. The celebrations will include a whole week of activities taking place from Monday, 8th to Saturday, 13th March 2021 under the theme: "Scouting building resilience among communities in Africa".

We have prepared the enclosed InfoPack with different activities that Scouts are invited to take part in. For any queries about this event please contact Calisto Ochieng, Assistant, Adults in Scouting and Volunteer Development on calisto.ochieng@scout.org.

Other Upcoming World and Regional Scout Events

Apart from the Founders Day and Africa Scout Day celebrations, the following world and regional events are also planned for 2021.

- 21 February - WOSM NSO Leaders Townhall Meeting
- 22 February - Founders Day
- 13 March – Africa Scout Day / Africa Scout Foundation Networking
- April (TBC) – Global Youth Summit
- 1 August – International Scout Scarf Day
- 16-20 August - 14th World Scout Youth Forum
- 23-27 August - 42nd World Scout Conference
- 15-17 October - JOTA-JOTI

For other training, workshops and meetings, please refer to the daily Scout Brief e-newsletter for confirmed dates.

Gone Home

Over the last couple of months, the Scout movement in Africa has lost many of its gallant volunteers, both past and present. Our most sincere condolences go out to the families, friends and NSOs of the following brothers and sisters who have gone home:

1. Mrs. Gertrude Chilufya Chatupa Bwembya - National Adult Resource Commissioner, Zambia Scouts Association (15 December 2020)
2. Prof. Teboho Kitleli - President, Lesotho Scout Association (9 January 2021)
3. Mr. François Itoua – Former Chairman of the Board of Directors, Scouts and Guides of Congo (14 January 2021)
4. Mr. Pitso Molekane - Former Chief Commissioner, Lesotho Scout Association (19 January 2021)
5. Mrs Ncane Mamba - Former Deputy Chief Commissioner, Eswatini Scout Association (2 February 2021)
6. Mr. Robert Ndlovu – National Trustee, Scout Association of Zimbabwe & WOSM Consultant on Humanitarian Action (13 February 2021)
7. 40 Scouters from across The Scout Association of Nigeria who have passed on in the last 3 years

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Priorities for the Year 2021

I wish to share with you some of the overarching priorities for the World Scout Bureau for the year ahead as articulated by the WOSM Secretary General. While the list is by no mean an exclusive one, and there are a number of projects that we will continue to advance, it is still useful to share with you some of these priorities:

1. **World Scout Conference and Youth Forum:** Delivering an exceptional World Scout Conference and Youth Forum as well as delivering quality Regional events and processes.
2. **World and Regional Plans:** Delivering our World and Regional ongoing plans, ensuring continued alignments as well as initiate planning for the next World (2021-2024) and Regional Trienniums (2022-2025), consolidating all of it in a new Master Operational Plan for the One World Scout Bureau
3. **Governance and Operational Framework:** Supporting the Regional and World Governance bodies and ensure smooth transition and support to the outgoing and incoming World Scout Committees. Continue building on the best practices of the Operational Frameworks, including learnings from the 100-day plans and learnings in the past period on Project Management and volunteer recruitment & induction.
4. **WOSM Services 2.0:** Evaluate and further develop our WOSM Services platform, consultants' engagement, digital service delivery to NSOs and building on the successes and learnings from the past 3 years.
5. **Growth and Retention:** Continue on delivering our growth initiative and work closely with our membership in supporting retention and position Scouting as the "go-to" youth organisation post-COVID-19.
6. **Stronger Influence:** Strengthening our prominent role as educational youth organisation through leading the alliance of the Big 6 Youth Organizations in delivering the Global Youth Mobilization in partnership with the World Health Organization and use our communication and voice effectively in our advocacy efforts.
7. **Innovation and Digital Transformation:** Including the kick-off of our Business Development Unit, Better World Framework Initiatives (Scouts for SDGs) and building a digital educational platform, revamping our corporate scout.org website, continue strengthening our knowledge management and internal communications, and upgrading our digital delivery of large-scale events, including JOTA-JOTI.
8. **Membership Compliance with Safe from Harm:** Increasing our support to NSOs and raising the importance of having fully functioning Safe from Harm systems to achieve a Movement-wide full compliance with the World Safe from Harm Policy.

9. **Fundraising and Financial Management:** Diversify our funding sources and work with the World Scout Foundation, including by supporting its management transition, supporting NSOs through financial challenges including by launching a one-time "Fund for Re-energising Scouting post-COVID 19", and continue to exercise a prudent financial management to mitigate the financial impact on the WSB's annual budget. We will also make the necessary preparations for considering the new Fee System at the upcoming World Scout Conference.
10. **Future of work at the WSB:** we will start a process to review the learnings and forecast future scenarios on the possible modalities for post-pandemic work to ensure that we continue the focus on staff and volunteers' well-being, and perform as a flexible, lean, efficient, diverse and innovative WSB.

Regional Express Plan Development

The triennial plan dubbed "Growing together" was for the period 2018 to 2021. However, due to Covid 19 outbreak, some of the activities and important regional events such as the Africa Scout Conference could not take place as planned in 2021. In line with decisions made at the global level, the Africa Scout Committee conducted a ballot with the NSOs in the region on whether to host the events or postpone them to a year later of which the NSOs voted for a postponement. Therefore, the Africa Scout Conference which is the highest decision-making body for the Region was postponed to 2022.

With the postponement of the Conference for a year to 2022, it meant that we would a gap in our triennial plan for 2021 to 2022 when the conference will be held. In this regard, the regional office has been reflecting on the best way to develop a plan to bridge this gap for this one year.

This process would take a participatory approach that would include collecting emerging needs from the NSOs especially amidst the Covid pandemic. Additionally, evaluating the current Triennial plan and picking on aspects that were not implemented during the current period due to the pandemic. The process would also look at the global highlights and priorities would be incorporated into this plan.


A small team comprising of members of the Africa Scout Committee, Staff and volunteers will lead the process. In terms of the timeline:

1. February - April 2021: Collecting needs and feedback from NSOs
2. April - May 2021: Evaluation of the current Triennium and drafting process of the express plan
3. June 2021: Sharing the draft plan with NSOs for further inputs
4. August 2021: Adoption of the express plan

I hope this helps paint a picture of what we're looking forward to achieving in the year. As usual, we're open to continue with our support to National Scout Organizations. Feel free to reach out to us at the World Scout Bureau Africa Support Centre on africa@scout.org should you need any assistance.

We look forward to your continued cooperation in 2021 and beyond.

Yours in Scouting,



Frederic Tutu Kama-Kama
Regional Director – Africa



Encl.

- *Founders Day Celebrations Guidance Note*
- *Africa Scout Day Celebrations InfoPack*