



We see. We care. We act.

39th WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE

CAMBODIA 2026

DOCUMENT 6A PROPOSED MOTIONS

**Proposed Motions to change the
WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws**

JANUARY 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution and Bye-Laws is the fundamental governing document of WAGGGS.

A call for Proposed Motions for consideration at the 39th World Conference was circulated to Member Organisations on 10 October 2025.

The deadline for Proposed Motions that require a change in the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws was 27 November 2025. No new Proposed Motions affecting the Constitution or Bye-Laws can now be submitted.

This document lists the Proposed Motions to amend the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws to be considered at the 39th World Conference in June 2026. There are 12 Proposed Motions in total.

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals from all the Proposed Motions shown as tracked changes.

Call for Amendments

The deadline for Proposed Amendments to the Proposed Motions contained in this document is 26 February 2026. This is to ensure that there is sufficient time for them to be duly considered prior to the formal notice and Agenda for the World Conference being circulated on 15 April 2026.

If you would like to propose an amendment to any of the Proposed Motions in this document, please complete the Proposed Amendment form and return it by email to proceduralteam@waggggs.org by **23.59pm (UTC) on 26 February 2026**.

Non-Constitutional Motions

The deadline for submitting Proposed Motions which do not require a change in the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws is also **26 February 2026**.

Proposed Motions may also be submitted after this date up to the end of the first day of the World Conference. Such Proposed Motions (also known as tabled Proposed Motions) require the approval of the Conference Chair and Procedural Team Coordinator to be considered by the Conference and cannot be amended. Proposed Motions relating to: policy and standards, Triennial policy, Membership, general financial policy, or which require significant research must have been submitted by the 26 February 2026 deadline.

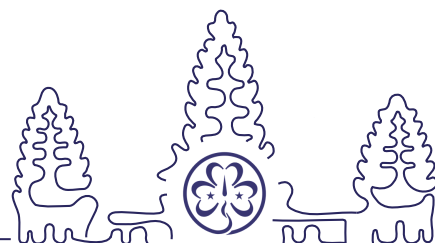
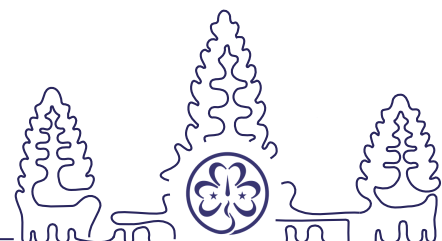


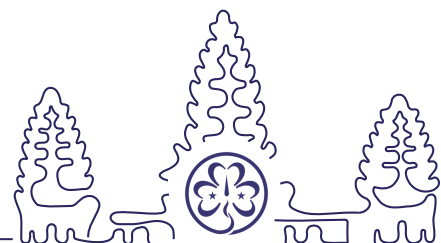
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PROPOSED MOTIONS FROM THE WORLD BOARD

INTRODUCTION From the World Board

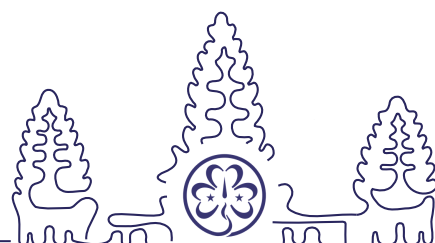
Shaping the Governance of Our Future Movement

WAGGGS has always been a Movement that evolves with purpose. For over a century, we have adapted our structures, leadership, and ways of working to remain strong, relevant, and able to serve girls and young women across the world. This evolution is reflected in our governance: for example, Regional Chairs began attending World Committee meetings in 1966, gained the right to vote in 1975, and, following WAGGGS's incorporation as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2014, became Trustees alongside other World Board members. As we continue to strengthen how we lead, we now have the opportunity to bring all Trustees into office at the same time, reinforcing shared accountability, cohesion, and truly collective leadership from the start of each term.

As our global reach, ambitions, and responsibilities continue to grow, so do expectations of how we govern ourselves. Member Organisations rightly seek a governance system that is representative, transparent, and capable of making timely, well-considered decisions—one that enables the World Board to lead effectively in an increasingly complex environment.

This conversation has been shaped by the Movement itself. More than **80 Member Organisations**, alongside supporters, former office holders, young women's focus groups, and members of the WAGGGS global team have contributed their perspectives and recommendations, forming the foundation of a comprehensive governance review. This work has been further strengthened by an independent external review from the UK-based National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)[1], drawing on recognised best practice in charity and membership-based governance operating in international contexts. Alongside this, a complementary project responding to Motion 24 of the 37th World Conference examined barriers and opportunities across different conference formats and developed practical proposals to strengthen participation. Together, these inputs have shaped a clear and shared vision for the future governance of WAGGGS.

[1] The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is a UK-based umbrella organisation for the charity and not-for-profit sector that offers advice, research, and consultancy and has significant experience working with international membership organisations like WAGGGS.



PROPOSED MOTION 1

Change to the term of office of Elected Trustees

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference decides to amend Constitution sub clause 14.7 as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

Each Elected Trustee shall be appointed for a term of ~~six~~three years at the end of which she shall retire and be eligible for re-election for one further term of three years only, at any future World Conference.

and approves that this amendment shall take immediate effect, meaning that the members of the World Board elected at the 39th World Conference shall serve for one term of three years (2026–2029) and will be eligible to stand for re-election for a second term of three years at any future World Conference.

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.

RATIONALE

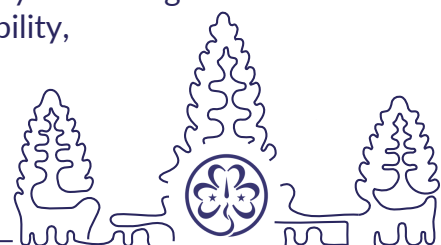
Strengthening inclusion and accountability

WAGGGS has always been shaped by the individuals who step forward to serve—bringing their skills, experience, and commitment to a global Movement that continues to grow and evolve. As the world changes, so too must the way we invite, support, and sustain leadership at the global level.

This motion proposes a shift from a single six-year term of office for Elected Trustees to a three-year term, renewable through election. This is not a technical adjustment, but a deliberate step towards a more agile, accountable, and future-ready World Board.

A renewable three-year term ensures that the World Board remains dynamic and responsive. It creates natural moments for reflection, accountability, and renewal—allowing Member Organisations to regularly shape the composition of their global leadership. At the same time, the option of re-election preserves continuity where it matters most, ensuring stability, institutional memory, and sustained progress on strategic priorities.

This change also opens the door to a wider and more diverse pool of candidates. For many women—particularly younger leaders or those balancing multiple responsibilities—a shorter initial commitment makes standing for election more realistic and accessible, without reducing the responsibility or impact of the role. By adopting this proposal, Member Organisations support a culture of renewal and shared ownership—one that values both continuity and change. It is a governance model that reflects how women lead today: with flexibility, accountability, and a strong sense of purpose.





As WAGGGS builds on a century of achievements and looks to the future, this Proposed Motion invites the Movement to invest in leadership that is inclusive, resilient, and ready for what lies ahead – strengthening the World Board in service of **One Team, One Movement, for every girl we serve.**

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITION

WAGGGS proposes that this change take effect for the World Board members elected at the 39th World Conference. In practice, this means that candidates standing for election in 2026 could be elected for either a six-year term (2026-2032) or, if the change is approved, a three-year term (2026–2029) with the opportunity to stand for re-election in 2029 for the 2029–2032 term or at any future World Conference.

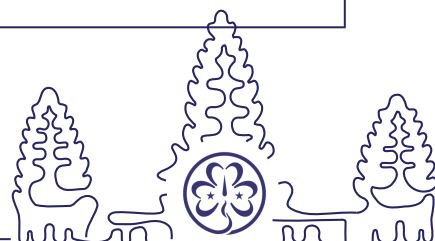
This proposal will be voted on at the World Conference before the election of World Board members, ensuring all candidates have full clarity about the term of office for which they are being elected.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The resource implications of this Proposed Motion are minimal. A possible outcome is that the Nominations Committee may need to process and support a larger pool of candidates, including both first-time nominees and those seeking re-election. They are used to working on this at regional level where there are often both first time nominees and those seeking re-election.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause in the Constitution and Bye-Laws	Suggestion
14.7 (currently 14.6)	Subject to clause 14.11 (transitional arrangements), eEach Elected Trustee shall be appointed for a term of six three years at the end of which she shall retire and be eligible for re-election for one further term of three years only, at any future World Conference.
14.10 (currently 14.9)	In relation to Elected Trustees and Regional Chairs, six years their term of office shall be calculated by reference to the relevant World Conference or Regional Conference at which they are elected. In circumstances where a World Conference [or Regional Conference] cannot be held in the normal triennial cycle, the Elected Trustees and Regional Chairs shall remain in office until such time as elections can be held (subject to their willingness to do so), at the direction of the World Board.
Insert new clause 14.11	Transitional arrangements (following the 39th World Conference) 14.11.1 Those Elected Trustees elected at the 38th World Conference for 2023-2029 shall hold office until the 40th World Conference and shall not automatically vacate office at the 39th World Conference.



PROPOSED MOTION 2

Change to the size of the World Board

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference:

- a. approves a change in the number of Elected Trustees on the World Board from 12 to 8; and
- b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws outlined in this paper and shown as tracked changes on the copy of the constitution available [here](#).

RATIONALE

A Smaller Board, A Stronger Movement

WAGGGS has always evolved to serve girls and young women, with our strength rooted in our ability to listen, learn, and adapt as one global Movement.

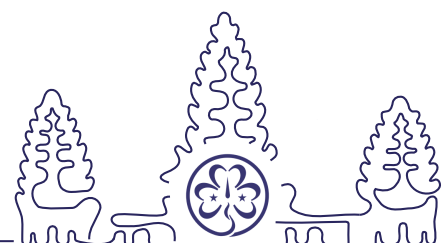
As our reach and complexity have grown, so too have the expectations on our global leadership. For several triennia, World Board members themselves have consistently named the same challenge: **a Board of this size struggles to operate at its best**. To think strategically together, engage fully, and act with confidence, the World Board must be structured in a way that enables—not limits—effective leadership.


Experience within WAGGGS, and across global membership organisations[2], shows that when Boards become too large, it becomes harder for every voice to be truly heard, for responsibility to be shared clearly, and for decisions to move with momentum. Smaller Boards, by contrast, create space for agility and deeper conversation, stronger trust, and real collective ownership and leadership.

This is why the World Board is proposing a smaller Board.

A smaller World Board allows all Trustees to bring their full skills and experience, challenge and support one another constructively, and focus on what matters most: the long-term strength of the Movement. It strengthens accountability, sharpens strategic focus, and enables the World Board to work not as individuals around a table, but as one leadership team.

[2] International governance bodies, including the King Report (South Africa), the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, consistently emphasise that Boards should be large enough to ensure balance, diversity, and effective oversight, while remaining small enough to be agile and decisive. For non-profit organisations, this guidance typically points to board sizes of around 8–12 members, a range also reflected in Canadian and Australian governance standards for larger non-profits. This approach is reflected in practice across international organisations. For example, Womankind International operates with a Board of 12 members; the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award with 9; and Islamic Relief Worldwide with 9.





The Proposed Motions presented by the World Board in this document form a connected and intentional set of proposals. They are designed to strengthen how we lead—without changing who we are as a Movement.

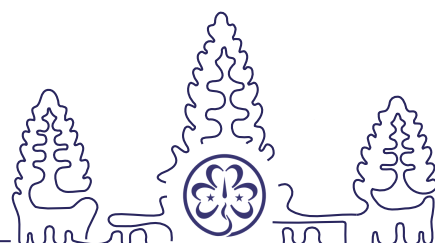
Together, they aim to create a governance model that is more coherent, inclusive, and effective, while remaining firmly rooted in regional representation and youth leadership. They reflect a shared ambition to ensure WAGGGS can respond with clarity, unity, and confidence—today and in the years ahead.


By adopting the World Board’s recommendations, Member Organisations will be:

- **Giving Member Organisations greater power** to shape global leadership by electing the World Board every three years.
- **Encouraging a wider and more diverse pool of candidates** by introducing flexible terms of office aligned with current regional practice.
- **Supporting a smaller, more agile World Board**, better able to focus on strategic leadership while maintaining regional and young women representation.
- **Improving alignment between global and regional planning cycles**, enabling the Movement to work towards shared priorities more effectively.
- **Strengthening cohesion** and collective leadership by electing one global team at the same time, maximising the effectiveness of a united leadership body.
- **Creating a mechanism to enable a co-opted board member to vote:** ensuring any co-opted World Board member can participate as a full peer with the same responsibilities, accountability, influence and voting rights as elected Trustees, and can contribute fully and equally to Board decisions.
- **Enabling greater accessibility and participation** by allowing more flexible remote engagement in general meetings.
- **Strengthening the Board’s collective capability** by enabling elections to be informed by the skills and portfolios needed on the World Board—encouraging Member Organisations to put forward nominees whose expertise best serves the Movement’s current strategic priorities.

These Proposed Motions are not about change for its own sake. They are intentionally designed to be **complementary**, to strengthen how WAGGGS is governed. By voting in favour of all of them, Member Organisations equip WAGGGS with a governance framework that is more representative, more effective, and better aligned to the realities of a global Movement—now and into the future.

Together, they invite the Movement to strengthen how we lead, decide, and act – so that WAGGGS remains **one representative, effective, and future-ready Movement**, empowered to support girls and young women to change the world.





In practical terms, this means reducing the number of Elected Trustees from twelve to eight, while retaining the five Regional Chairs. The change will happen gradually over two election cycles, ensuring continuity, stability, and clarity for current Trustees and future candidates.

What does not change is just as important. Representation, diversity, and youth participation remain at the heart of WAGGGS.

This proposal asks Member Organisations to vote for a governance model size that enables the World Board to operate at its best – maximising our ability to lead with unity and impact:
Smaller Board. One Team. One Movement.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITION

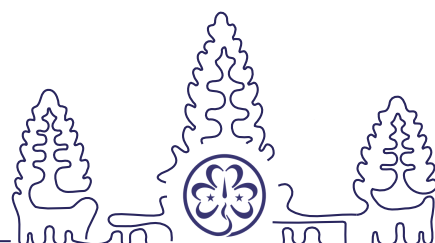
WAGGGS proposes that this change take effect for the World Board members elected at the 39th World Conference. It is suggested that the change be transitioned over two election cycles, reducing to 15 World Board members (five Regional Chairs, six continuing Elected Trustees and four new Elected Trustees) in 2026 and then 13 World Board members (five Regional Chairs, eight Elected Trustees) in 2029.

This proposal will be voted on at the World Conference before the election of World Board members, ensuring all candidates have full clarity about the number of World Board members being elected.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

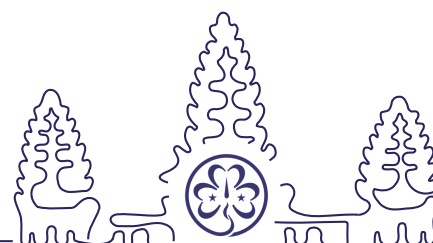
The resource implications of this Proposed Motion are minimal. Implementation will require some staff time to manage the transition across two election cycles (2026 and 2029). Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources.

In the long term, a smaller Board may slightly reduce operational costs, including travel, accommodation, meeting logistics, and administrative support. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated.



OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause in the Constitution and Bye-Laws	Suggestion
13.3	Subject to clause 14.11 (transitional arrangements), t The World Board shall consist of thirteen members consisting of eight Elected Trustees and five Regional Chairs; the maximum number of the World Board shall be seventeen consisting of twelve Elected Trustees and five Regional Chairs plus up to one Co-opted Trustee in accordance with clause 14.5.
14.1.1	Subject to clause 14.11 (transitional provisions), Twelve eight Elected Trustees shall be elected by an ordinary decision of the Full Members from a list of nominees submitted by the Member Organisations.
14.1.5	The twelve eight Elected Trustees shall include, in so far as practicable, at least two women under the age of thirty at the time of election.
14.11	<p>Transitional arrangements (following the 39th World Conference)</p> <p>14.11.2 Four Elected Trustees shall be elected at the 39th World Conference to replace the six Elected Trustees completing their term of office. As a result, the World Board will comprise fifteen members for the 2026–2029 triennium [plus up to one Co-opted Trustee in accordance with clause 14.5].</p> <p>14.11.3 At the 40th World Conference, four Elected Trustees shall be elected to replace the six Elected Trustees completing their term of office.</p>



PROPOSED MOTION 3

Provision to co-opt an additional World Board member

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference:

- a. approves the addition of a constitutional provision enabling the World Board to co-opt one additional Board Member, with voting rights, where it identifies a significant gap in skills, expertise, and/or perspective; and
- b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws outlined in this paper and shown as tracked changes on the copy of the constitution available [here](#).

RATIONALE

Co-option of a World Board Member: Strengthening Skills If and When Needed

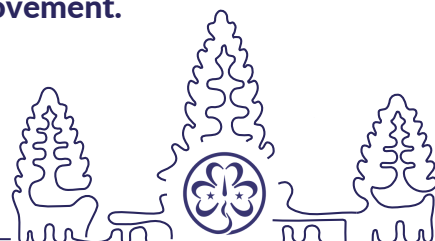
The World Board is elected to reflect the diversity, leadership, and lived experience of the Movement. Together, Trustees bring a wide range of skills and perspectives that enable the Board to lead on behalf of Member Organisations worldwide. At times, however, specific expertise may be needed during a triennium to ensure the Board can continue to lead effectively in a changing context.

WAGGGS currently benefits from the contribution of a co-opted Treasurer, whose expertise and responsibilities play a central role in the organisation's financial stewardship. While the Treasurer contributes actively to deliberations, without voting rights, the contribution remains advisory rather than fully embedded in collective Board accountability. This limits full and equitable participation in shared decision-making.

For this reason, the World Board proposes a limited and exceptional provision: the ability to co-opt up to one additional Board member with voting rights, and only when a clear gap in skills, experience, or perspective has been identified. This is not a routine practice, nor a move away from elected leadership. It is a targeted tool to strengthen the Board's effectiveness when it would otherwise be constrained.

Any co-opted World Board member would participate as a full peer — sharing the same responsibilities, accountability, and influence as elected Trustees. Wherever possible, recruitment would take place from within the Movement through an open and transparent process, with external recruitment considered only if essential skills cannot be found internally.

By limiting co-option to a single role, this proposal preserves the democratic foundation of the World Board, with elected Trustees always remaining the clear majority. It offers the flexibility needed to respond to emerging challenges, while ensuring the Board is fully equipped to lead with confidence, integrity, and impact—in service of **One Team, One Movement**.

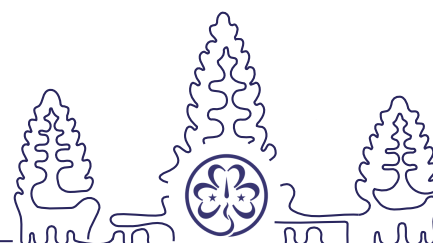


RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate resource implications associated with this Proposed Motion. If a need arises to co-opt a member, a nominations process would be required to fill the position. This would involve some staff time to coordinate the process, as well as support from the Nominations Committee. Any associated costs are expected to be modest and manageable within existing resources.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause in the Constitution and Bye-Laws	Suggestion
13.3	Subject to clause 14.11 (transitional arrangements), t The World Board shall consist of thirteen members consisting of eight Elected Trustees and five Regional Chairs, the maximum number of the World Board shall be seventeen consisting of twelve Elected Trustees and five Regional Chairs plus up to one Co-opted Trustee in accordance with clause 14.5.
Inserting new clause at 14.5 <i>(subsequent clauses in this section to be renumbered accordingly)</i>	The World Board may, at any time, co-opt an additional member of the World Board with full voting rights where it identifies a significant gap in skills, expertise, and/or perspective that would be beneficial to the governance of WAGGGS (the Co-opted Trustee). In relation to any such Co-opted Trustee: 14.5.1 so far as practicable, the Co-opted Trustee shall be a member of a Member Organisation; 14.5.2 the Co-opted Trustee shall remain a member of the World Board until the next World Conference. If the next World Conference is less than one year ahead, the Co-opted Trustee will be eligible for election to serve a full term at any subsequent World Conference provided they meet the criteria set out in clause 13.2.



PROPOSED MOTION 4

Aligning Regional Committee and World Board election cycles

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference:

- a. approves that the Constitution and Bye-Laws be amended to align the timing of World Board and Regional Committee election and planning cycles; and
- b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws outlined in this paper and shown as tracked changes on the copy of the Constitution available [here](#).

RATIONALE

Shared leadership Across Regions and World Board

At the heart of this proposal is a simple but powerful idea: **WAGGGS leads best when Regions and the World Board operate as one team**, across global and regional levels, with shared accountability, shared timing, and shared ownership of the Movement's direction.

Regions are, and will remain, the cornerstone of WAGGGS's governance. They are member-led spaces where priorities are shaped, leadership is developed, and regional realities are addressed. This proposal does not remove or dilute any constitutional rights of Regions or Member Organisations, nor does it change the authority of Regions to elect their leadership and shape their work.

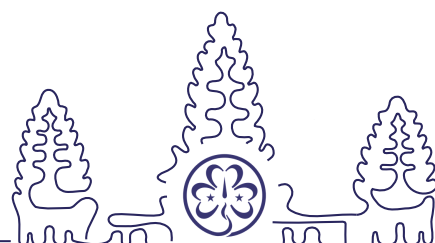
What this proposal seeks to strengthen is **how regional and global leadership work together**.

Reducing distinctions, strengthening shared leadership

Over time, structural differences between "types" of World Board members—Elected Trustees and Regional Chairs—have created practical and symbolic distinctions that can make collective leadership harder. Differences in election timing, induction, and mandate length mean that the World Board is rarely operating as a fully aligned team at any one time.

This proposal aims to reduce those distinctions by ensuring that **all World Board members—whether elected globally or through Regions—begin their terms together**, with the same horizon, mandate, and shared responsibility. This reinforces the principle that regional and global leadership are complementary, not separate.

Regions continue to play a central role. What changes is the **conditions for collaboration** — creating shared starting points, clearer mandates, and stronger collective accountability.





Alignment of elections: building one effective team

To support this shared model of leadership, the proposal realigns the timing of Regional Committee elections so that Regional Committees begin their terms at the same time as the World Board, and so that all Trustees take office at the same time. Elections for Regional Committees – and therefore Regional Chairs – would take place during Regional Conferences led by and for each Region, held within the World Conference.

Having all World Board members join simultaneously makes induction more coherent and less resource-intensive, while enabling a shared understanding of priorities from the outset of the triennium. It removes the current disruption caused by staggered changes to Board composition and allows the World Board to focus fully on delivery across the entire cycle.

Having Regional Committees elected at the same point in the cycle provides a clearer mandate and a more effective start to the triennium at regional level, as well as enhancing regional presence at World Conference. It allows induction to be aligned and ensures new committee members step into their roles at a natural transition point. This creates stronger conditions for Regional Committees to work collectively, build relationships early, and focus on delivering both strategically and operationally.

This alignment promotes stability, clarity of mandate, and collective accountability—key conditions for an effective leadership team.

Alignment of planning cycles: strengthening regional influence

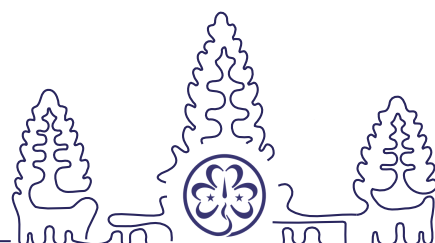
The proposal also realigns regional and global planning cycles so that **Regional Action Plans are adopted at the Regional Conferences at the World Conference**, alongside wider discussions around global strategy and priorities.

This change strengthens the regional voice. It ensures that regional priorities are fresh, visible, and actively shaping global decision-making from the start of the triennium—rather than arriving mid-cycle, when key strategic directions are already set.

Past experience has shown that misaligned cycles can reduce effectiveness. For example, regional triennial plans developed in 2022 for 2023–2025 were quickly out of step when the global strategy was updated in mid-2023. Aligning cycles enables Regions and the World Board to plan side by side, respond more effectively to emerging challenges, and work towards shared outcomes.

Strengthening the Role of Regional Conferences

What this proposal seeks to evolve is how and when Regional Conferences are used across the triennium. There would be two Regional Conferences for each Region during each triennium – one that would take place within a World Conference, as the space to elect Regional Committees and adopt Regional Action Plans, and one that would take place mid-triennium – offering Regions and Member Organisations greater flexibility to shape the content of these events around learning, exchange, consultations and regional priorities. This approach strengthens regional ownership, reduces duplication, and ensures alignment.





By moving the timing of elections and voting on Regional Action Plans, the mid-triennium Regional Conferences will have more time and space to focus on what matters most to Members: shaping regional priorities, sharing learning, strengthening relationships, and influencing the global agenda from the membership upwards.

Regions would also gain greater flexibility to decide when their mid-triennium Regional Conferences take place, and what format best serves their needs—recognising the unique contexts, partnerships, and ways of working across the Movement.

By supporting this proposal, Member Organisations strengthen shared leadership across Regions and the World Board—creating the conditions for one aligned, effective team.

This is a step towards **One Team** working together to deliver greater impact for girls and young women worldwide.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITION

If passed, the current Regional Committee members elected for the 2025–2028 term will be asked to extend their service until 2029, with elections for new Regional Committee members for the 2029–2032 triennium to be held at Regional Conferences during the 40th World Conference.

As the next Regional Action Plans will be adopted in 2029, the current Plans, which expire at the end of 2028, will be extended by one year to ensure continuity and effective regional delivery.

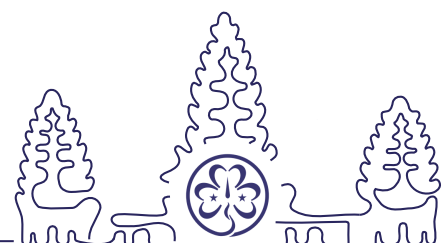
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No significant additional financial costs are anticipated, and any minor system or process adjustments required to support aligned cycles are expected to be accommodated within existing structures.

World Conferences may be busier due to increased regional content, but this approach also maximises the benefit of having regional leaders together.

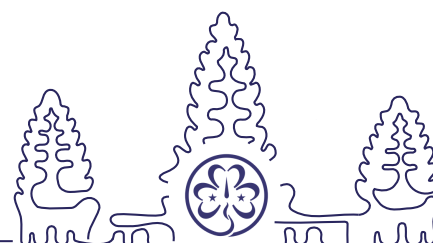
Aligning the World Board and Regional Committee cycles would reduce duplication of effort and overall workload, freeing up both volunteer and staff time and capacity. Consultation processes could be streamlined; for example, consultation on Regional Action Plans could take place alongside consultation on the Global Strategy, removing the need for separate processes. This would also reduce the consultation burden on Member Organisations.

The Nominations Committee would need to manage World Board and Regional Committee nominations concurrently, resulting in an increase in workload. This can be mitigated through forward planning and the provision of additional support to ensure sufficient capacity during peak periods.



OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause in the Constitution and Bye-Laws	Suggestion
14.2	<p>14.2.1 The Regional Chairs constituting the chairs of the five Regional Committees, elected by their respective Regional Committee in accordance with the regional policy document, shall serve on the World Board.</p> <p>14.2.2 Elections of Regional Chairs shall be by a counted vote or ballot (which may be conducted by using an electronic voting system) at the triennial meeting of the a Regional Conference [held within the World Conference] from those members elected to the Regional Committee.</p>
20.1	<p>AOne or more Regional Conferences shall be held each triennium, which all Members of the Region are entitled to attend.</p>
20.2	<p>The functions of Regional Conferences within a triennium shall be:</p>
21.1	<p>A Regional Committee of six members, including, so far as practicable, at least two women under the age of thirty at the time of election, shall be elected by Full Members attending thea Regional Conference [held within the World Conference]. The functions of each Regional Committee shall be defined in the terms of reference for Regional Committees.</p>
21.5	<p>Should vacancies be caused in the voting membership of a Regional Committee, by the resignation, removal or death of any of its members, these vacancies shall be filled by candidates elected by the Regional Committee from the list of candidates nominated by Member Organisations at the immediately previous Regional Conference at which elections were held. These persons shall remain on the Regional Committee as voting members until the next Regional Conference at which elections are held.</p>
21.6	<p>Should no candidates from the list of candidates nominated at the immediately previous Regional Conference be available, the Regional Committee may co-opt a member to serve as a member of the Regional Committee without a vote, in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference, until the next Regional Conference at which elections are held. If there is less than one year of the term remaining, she shall be eligible for election to serve a full term at any subsequent Regional Conference.</p>



PROPOSED MOTION 5

Greater flexibility for remote participation in general meetings

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference agrees to amend sub-clause 12.8.3 as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

The World Board may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it. This may include making arrangements for Member Organisations to attend a general meeting by televisual or other electronic or virtual means provided that all remote attendants may securely identify themselves, follow the proceedings and cast their votes on-line or in a manner otherwise acceptable to WAGGGS. The World Board ~~shall~~ **may** consider making arrangements for remote attendance ~~only in exceptional circumstances~~, **where they consider it is appropriate to do so, whilst** taking into account the wider benefits of in-person participation for Member Organisations and the Movement as a whole.

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.

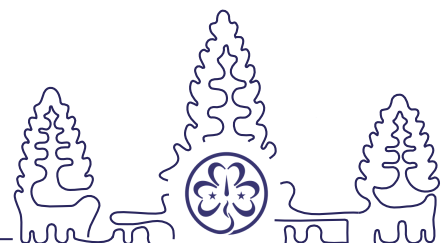
RATIONALE

Greater Flexibility for Remote Participation: Strengthening Access and Inclusion

WAGGGS is a global Movement, shaped by the voices of Member Organisations from every region of the world. Our strength lies in participation – when Members are able to gather, contribute, and take part in decisions that shape our shared future.

Yet we also know that participation is not always equally possible. For some Member Organisations, attending a World Conference in person can be challenging due to visa restrictions, travel barriers, or political constraints—factors that are increasingly common rather than exceptional. When these barriers prevent Members from being present, the Movement loses valuable voices from its global decision-making.

This is particularly true for young women. Financial constraints, travel costs, and visa processes can limit the ability of younger delegates to participate in global governance spaces. As a girl-led Movement, WAGGGS is committed to creating pathways that enable more young women to engage meaningfully in decision-making – regardless of age, socio-economic background, or geographic location.





It is proposed that the Constitution be amended to allow greater flexibility for remote participation in general meetings, including World Conferences, by removing restrictive language that limits remote participation to “exceptional circumstances.” This amendment would enable the World Board to determine appropriate meeting formats that better reflect the realities of a global Movement, including hybrid models that combine in-person and virtual participation, while remaining firmly grounded in our values and democratic principles.

By enabling the option of hybrid World Conferences, WAGGGS reduces barriers to engagement and enhances accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that more Member Organisations are able to be present, vote, and contribute meaningfully. This approach aligns with practices already adopted by many global organisations and supports a higher level of participation across the Movement.

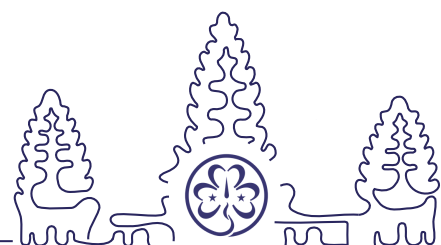
Importantly, this proposal strongly affirms the value of meeting face to face. In-person gatherings remain central to relationship-building, learning, and Movement cohesion. The intention is not to replace these experiences, but to complement them by providing a framework that allows WAGGGS to adapt meeting formats when appropriate. By enabling hybrid options, the proposal strengthens participation, representation, and democratic decision-making across the Movement, ensuring that engagement remains possible regardless of financial means, age, or external restrictions.

By adopting this motion, Member Organisations support a governance framework that is more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready – one that reflects the diversity of our Movement and ensures that every voice has the opportunity to be heard.

This is a step towards a World Conference that reflects who we are today: **a truly global, girl-led Movement—connected, inclusive, and empowered to lead together.**

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In order to facilitate the online connection and voting, it is necessary to have secure digital tools and staff time for preparation and delivery of the technical delivery. This is already the case with the existing wording in the constitution for remote participation, but the proposed change could mean that secure digital platforms would be needed for more, or potentially all, World Conferences.

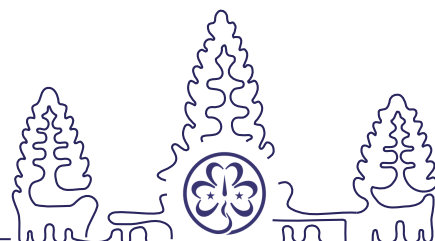


INTRODUCTION TO NON-SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS

A number of updates to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws have been identified to improve clarity, correct inconsistencies, and reduce the potential for differing interpretations of certain clauses. By refining the language, we aim to make the document more precise, internally consistent, and easier to read, understand, and apply.

The rationale for each proposed change is set out below, alongside the recommended amendment to the wording. Each explanation highlights the specific issue addressed and the benefit of making the adjustment.

These amendments do not represent a significant change in existing practice or intent. The changes are mainly wording improvements, designed to make WAGGGS's governing document clearer and easier to use, without changing what they mean. Approving these wording amendments will help ensure the governance framework remains clear, consistent, and reliable in practice.



PROPOSED MOTION 6

References to Country or Territory

Proposer: World Board
Voting Eligibility: Full Members
Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference:
 a. approves replacing references in the Constitution and Bye-Laws to ‘country’ with ‘country or territory’, to align with existing membership practice; and
 b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws outlined in this paper and shown as tracked changes on the copy of the constitution available [here](#).

RATIONALE

WAGGGS uses the following definitions of Country and Territory:

- A ‘country’ is recognised as a sovereign state if it has a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter relations with other states.
- A ‘territory’ is a geographical area subject to the sovereignty, control, or jurisdiction of a state or other entity.

Based on these definitions, the World Conference has already approved Full Membership for several territories, including Aruba, Curaçao, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China. Recognising that other territories have also expressed interest in joining WAGGGS as Member Organisations, and to provide clarity for future membership decisions, this Proposed Motion seeks to align the Constitution and Bye-Laws with current practice.

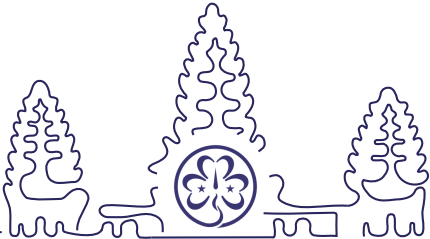
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In the short-term, staff time to coordinate the post-World Conference updating of the Constitution and Bye-Laws. Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated, as the change is non-substantive and procedural in nature.

No additional long-term resources will be required, as this Proposed Motion reflects current practice.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause in the Constitution and Bye-Laws	Suggestion
10.1.3.1; 10.9.1(f); 14.1.3; 34 Interpretation, “National Organisation”; Bye Law 2.5; Bye Law 2.9.1; Bye Law 2.9.2; Bye Law 2.13; Bye Law 2.14.1; Bye Law 3.4	Replace references to ‘country’ with ‘country or territory’.



PROPOSED MOTION 7

Realignment of process for admission to Full Membership

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference agrees to amend Constitution sub-clause 10.1.4.2 as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

10.1.4.2 If applications for admission to membership are approved by the World Board, ~~the World Board may grant recognition of Full or Associate Membership to a National Organisation, subject to ratification by the Full Members meeting at the next World Conference. ~~the applications shall be considered for admission to membership by the World Conference.~~~~ Prior to ratification of the recognition, the National Organisation shall have all responsibilities and privileges of membership, except for the exercise of voting rights at a World Conference or a Regional Conference. Membership shall ~~only~~ become effective upon ratification of admission by the Full Members meeting at the next World Conference decided ~~on~~ by a 75% majority of votes cast by Full Members ~~at a World Conference present and voting.~~

10.1.4.4 Where the requirements for Full Membership are met, a new [or Associate] Member Organisation may be ~~admitted to~~ ratified as a Full Member ~~membership with the agreement of~~ by the Full Members meeting at the next World Conference decided ~~on~~ by a 75% majority of votes cast by Full Members ~~at a World Conference present and voting.~~

Bye-Law Full Members

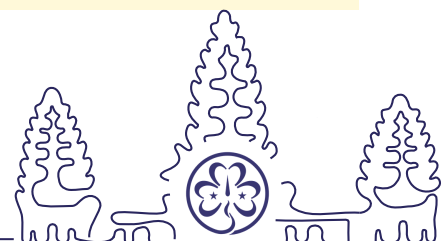
2.3

When a National Organisation wishes to become a Full Member it must satisfy the World Board that it is prepared and ready to fulfil the conditions of membership as set out at sub-clauses 10.1.2 and 10.9 and will be subject to the two-stage admission procedure set out at sub-clause 10.1.4.

If the World Board is satisfied that a Potential Membership Organisation satisfies the requirements of a Full Member, ~~the application will be submitted to the Full Members meeting at the World Conference, and, if approved, the Member Organisation will be recognised as a Full Member with immediate effect.~~ the World Board may grant recognition of Full Membership to a National Organisation, subject to ratification by the Full Members meeting at the next World Conference. Prior to ratification of the recognition, the National Organisation shall have all responsibilities and privileges of a Full Member, except for the exercise of voting rights at a World Conference or a Regional Conference.

The decision regarding recognition will be submitted by the World Board to the next World Conference for ratification by the Full Members. Following ratification, the appropriate certificate of membership shall be issued in accordance with WAGGGS membership policies.

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.





RATIONALE

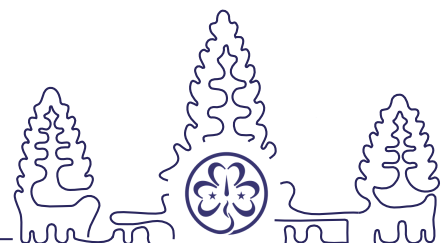
This Proposed Motion reflects and formalises current practice within WAGGGS.

Associate Members may already be approved in principle by the World Board, pending ratification at the next World Conference, which enables them to access membership benefits more quickly (except for voting rights at Regional or World Conferences).

Recognising that WAGGGS's membership pathway now allows for Potential Member Organisations to enter WAGGGS as either an Associate Member or a Full Member, this Proposed Motion seeks to achieve consistency in approach by also enabling new Full Members to access membership benefits more quickly and to benefit from the same conditions as new Associate Members, as described in Bye-Law 2.2.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In the short-term, staff time will be required to coordinate updates to the Constitution and Bye-Laws following the World Conference. Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated, as the change is non-substantive and procedural in nature.



PROPOSED MOTION 8

Clarification on alternates for Regional Chairs at World Board meetings

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

That, clause 21.4 of the WAGGGS Constitution be amended to read as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

A Regional Committee shall elect from its members a Regional Chair. Each Regional Committee shall also elect, from its members, a Regional Vice-Chair. In the event of a Regional Chair being unable to attend a meeting of the World Board, the Regional Vice-Chair or another member of the Regional Committee may attend the meeting without the right to vote. ~~shall attend in place of the Regional Chair, with the right to vote. In the event that both the Regional Chair and the Regional Vice-Chair are unable to attend a meeting of the World Board, the World Board may invite another member of the Regional Committee to attend the meeting. That member will have the right to vote.~~

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.

RATIONALE

A number of years ago we identified that clause of 21.4 of the Constitution does not comply with Charity Law within England and Wales where WAGGGS is registered.

Under the law, the Trustees of WAGGGS (i.e., World Board members) have ultimate legal responsibility for the management and administration of WAGGGS and as a matter of law cannot delegate their decision-making authority. This responsibility is ongoing and not limited to attendance at Board meetings; Trustees must always be fully informed and capable of exercising their duties.

Consequently, it is not legally permissible for a Regional Chair, as a Trustee, to transfer their voting rights to a Vice-Chair or any other member of the Regional Committee. In practice, Regional Vice-Chairs or other Committee members may attend World Board meetings and contribute to discussions, but without voting rights. The proposed clarification in the Constitution does not suggest any change in current practice; rather, it ensures that the Constitution accurately reflects the legal position, recognising that charity law takes precedence over constitutional provisions.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In the short-term, staff time to coordinate the post-World Conference updating of the Constitution and Bye-Laws. Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated, as the change is non-substantive and procedural in nature.

No additional long-term resources will be required, as this Proposed Motion reflects current practice.



PROPOSED MOTION 9

Tidying up/clarifying wording and removing inconsistencies

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference:

- a. acknowledges the need to make a number of editorial changes in the Constitution and Bye-Laws to improve clarity, correct inconsistencies and reduce the potential for differing interpretations; and
- b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws outlined in this paper, and shown as tracked changes on the copy of the constitution available [here](#).

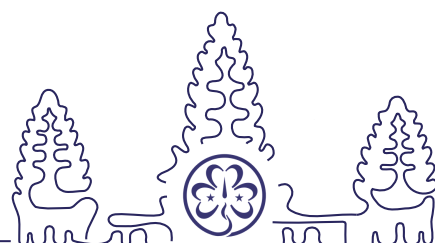
RATIONALE

A review of the Constitution and Bye-Laws has identified the need for a number of changes to improve clarity, correct inconsistencies, and reduce the potential for differing interpretations. The proposed changes to the Constitution and Bye-Laws are editorial or clarificatory in nature, except where explicitly noted, and do not alter the fundamental governance framework of WAGGGS.

The rationale for each proposed change is set out below, alongside the recommended change to the wording.

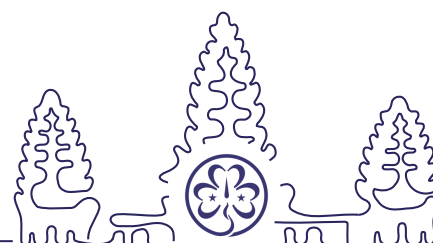
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The resource implications of this Proposed Motion are minimal. Implementation will involve limited staff time to coordinate the post-World Conference updating of the Constitution and Bye-Laws, including working with legal advisers to ensure accuracy and consistency with the Motions as passed. Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated, as the changes will be non-substantive and procedural in nature.



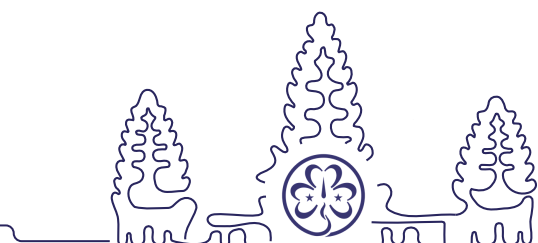
OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Clause	Suggestion	Notes/Rationale
10.9.1(h) Conditions of membership relating to categories of membership	Amend as follows: Pay annually to WAGGGS the membership fee, in accordance with the membership fee model agreed in advance by the World Conference. Appropriate membership fees will be payable annually commencing 1 January in the year following admission to membership.	The amendment clarifies that Member Organisations approve the model for calculating membership fees, rather than the individual fees resulting from that model. The removal of the wording specifying that fees become payable on 1 January in the year following admission reflects the decision by Member Organisations at the 2024 Extraordinary General Meeting on Global Membership Fees (Motion 1.1). This motion approved a free year of membership for any new Associate or Full Members upon joining WAGGGS. The change ensures the Constitution aligns with this decision, as already recorded in the Membership Fee Policy.
14.4.3 Vacancies on the World Board	vacancies occurring amongst the Regional Chairs shall be filled by the vice-chairs of the respective Regional Committees. These vice-chairs shall remain on the World Board as voting members until the end of their term onf their Regional Committee.	The original wording – “end of the term of their Regional Committee”—is ambiguous. The proposed amendment clarifies that the reference is to the end of the Vice Chair’s individual term of office on the Regional Committee.
17.2 (Taking of decisions by the World Board)	Amend as follows: “by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by a majority of all of the members of the World Board, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more, members of the World Board has signified their agreement. Such a resolution will be effective provided a copy of the resolution has been sent at, or as near as reasonably practicable to the same time, to all the members of the World Board.”	Decisions between meetings of the World Board are rare but, when necessary, can be made via email or written ballot. Under the current Constitution, such decisions must be unanimous, which limits the practical usefulness of email ballots as it requires active participation from every member usually within a short timeframe, for example, even if they are unwell, unable to access an internet connection, etc. In practice, email ballots have occasionally been used for straightforward matters to allow work to proceed efficiently. Under the proposed amendment, a decision can be made by a majority of Board members, while any Board member may request that a matter be deferred for discussion at the next Board meeting instead.





Clause	Suggestion	Notes/Rationale
21.5 and 21.6 <i>Regional Committees</i>	<p>21.5 Should vacancies be caused in the voting membership of a Regional Committee, by the resignation, removal or death of any of its members, these vacancies shall be filled by candidates elected by the Regional Committee from the list of candidates nominated by Member Organisations at the immediately previous Regional Conference. These persons shall remain on the Regional Committee as voting members until the next Regional Conference. <i>If there is less than one year of the term remaining, she shall be eligible for election to serve a full term at any subsequent Regional Conference.</i></p> <p>21.6 Should no candidates from the list of candidates nominated at the immediately previous Regional Conference be available, the Regional Committee may co-opt a member to serve as a member of the Regional Committee without a vote, in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference, until the next Regional Conference. <i>If there is less than one year of the term remaining, she shall be eligible for election to serve a full term at any subsequent Regional Conference.</i></p>	<p>This text is currently located under section 21.6 but appears more appropriately placed under section 21.5, as it relates to the composition and appointment of voting Regional Committee members. Moving this text ensures logical flow and consistency. Given that co-opted members serve initially in a non-voting capacity, the provision regarding eligibility for election to a full term remains relevant and does not create any inconsistency.</p>
34 Interpretation	<p>Communications Provisions means the Communications Provisions in Part 10, Chapter 4 Part 9 of the General Regulations.</p>	<p>The proposed change corrects the reference to reflect the current numbering of the relevant section in The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations.</p>
34 Interpretation	<p>World Centres means the designated international meeting places of WAGGGS, which at the date of adoption of this constitution are: Our Chalet (Adelboden, Switzerland), Pax Lodge (London, England), Our Nuestra Cabaña (Cuernavaca, Mexico), Sangam (Pune, India), and Kusafiri (in various locations in Africa).</p>	<p>It is proposed that the wording of the Constitution be amended to reflect the decision in 2023 for the World Centre in Mexico to revert to its original name, Nuestra Cabaña - the name chosen when the Centre was founded in 1957. This change reflected WAGGGS' commitment to honouring the Centre's history and heritage, as well as recognising the language of the host country and of many MOs within the Western Hemisphere Region.</p>



PROPOSED MOTION 10

Implementation of Motions passed at the 39th World Conference relating to the Constitution and Bye-Laws

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference authorises the World Board to make such minor changes to the Constitution and Bye-Laws as are necessary following the decisions made by Member Organisations at the 39th World Conference in order to implement the Motions as passed.

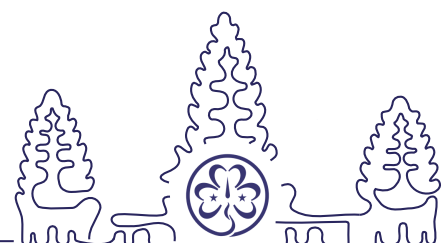
RATIONALE

There are a number of Proposed Motions being presented to the 39th World Conference, which are inter-related. This means that in some cases it is impossible to predict the final wording and numbering in the Constitution and Bye-Laws ahead of the World Conference as this is dependent on whether certain Motions are passed.

The World Conference is asked to approve this Proposed Motion which would enable WAGGGS, working closely with its lawyers, to make such minor changes to the Constitution and Bye-Laws as are necessary following the World Conference in order to implement the Motions as passed. This will enable WAGGGS to correct grammatical, formatting, numbering and other such non-substantive errors as may be necessary to ensure the integrity of the Constitution and Bye-Laws after World Conference. Anything requiring a substantive change would need to be returned to the Member Organisations for approval at the next World Conference.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

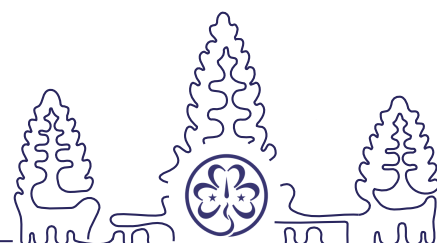
Implementation will involve limited staff time to coordinate the post-World Conference updating of the Constitution and Bye-Laws, including working with legal advisers to ensure accuracy and consistency with the Motions as passed. Any associated legal or administrative costs are expected to be modest and met within existing resources. No additional staffing or significant financial resources are anticipated, as the changes will be non-substantive and procedural in nature.



PROPOSED MOTIONS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

This section provides details of two Proposed Motions, submitted by Member Organisations, to amend the Constitution and Bye-Laws.

The Procedural Team have reviewed Proposed Motions 11 and 12 and suggested some minor adjustments to the relevant Member Organisations. These recommendations are currently under review. Therefore, it is possible that the text may be amended.



PROPOSED MOTION 11

Defining Regions

Proposer: Association des Guides du Bénin, Egyptian Federation for Scouts and Girl Guides, Ring Deutscher Pfadfinder*innenverbände e.V. (rdp), Kuwait Girl Guides Association, Fédération Libanaise des Eclaireuses et des Guides, Association des Scouts et Guides du Sénégal, Girl Scouts of Taiwan

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference decides to amend Constitution sub clause 19.1 as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

~~The World Board may define geographical areas, called Regions, in accordance with the requirements of this constitution and the Bye-Laws.~~ WAGGGS shall have five Regions: Africa Region; Arab Region; Asia Pacific Region; Europe Region; and Western Hemisphere Region. Each Region ~~shall~~ comprises all National Organisations in the defined geographical area.

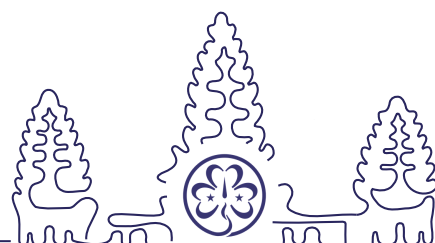
You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.


RATIONALE

The purpose of this constitutional amendment is to provide greater clarity, transparency and stability regarding the regional structure of WAGGGS.

At present, the Constitution only states that the World Board may define geographical areas called Regions and that each Region comprises all National Organisations in the defined geographical area, without specifying which Regions exist.

In practice, WAGGGS has worked with five Regions – Africa since 1975, Arab since 1999, Asia Pacific since 1969, Europe since 1971 and Western Hemisphere since 1940 (see WAGGGS website). These Regions are already fully integrated into WAGGGS' way of working, including Regional Conferences and Regional Committees.





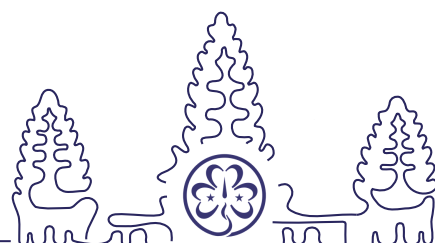
Writing the existing five Regions explicitly into the Constitution has several benefits for Member Organisations:

- **Clarity and transparency:** Member Organisations, volunteers and external partners will be able to see clearly in the Constitution which Regions currently exist and how they are referred to. This reduces ambiguity and aligns the Constitution with how WAGGGS actually works in practice.
- **Stability and predictability for Regions:** By defining the five Regions in the Constitution, any future changes to the regional structure would require a constitutional amendment, and therefore a decision by the World Conference. This strengthens the role of Full Members in decisions that have a major impact on governance, representation and participation at regional level.
- **Alignment with existing governance structures:** The current Regions are already represented through Regional Committees and Regional Conferences, and they form the basis for regional representation on the World Board. Anchoring the existing five Regions in the Constitution creates coherence between the core governing document and the way WAGGGS is organised operationally.
- **No change to membership or financial obligations:** This motion does not change the rights and responsibilities of Member Organisations, nor does it introduce any additional financial obligations. It simply clarifies the regional framework within which Member Organisations already participate.

For these reasons, we believe that the World Conference should adopt this constitutional amendment. It brings the Constitution in line with long-standing practice, strengthens regional structures, and ensures that any significant future changes to the regional set-up are taken by the World Conference as the highest decision-making body of WAGGGS.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Minimal. Requires staff time to update and translate the Constitution and communicate the change.



PROPOSED MOTION 12

Clarifying the Role of the Regional Conferences

Proposer: Association des Guides du Bénin, Egyptian Federation for Scouts and Girl Guides, Ring Deutscher Pfadfinder*innenverbände e.V.(rdp), Federazione Italiana dello Scouting, Kuwait Girl Guides Association, Fédération Libanaise des Eclaireuses et des Guides, Swiss Guide and Scout Movement, Association des Scouts et Guides du Sénégal, Girl Scouts of Taiwan

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority of votes cast

PROPOSED MOTION

The 39th World Conference decides to amend Constitution sub clause 20 as follows (the proposed changes are in blue in the following text):

20 Regional Conferences

20.1 A Regional Conference shall be held **once in each triennium for each Region. It shall not be held in the same calendar year as the World Conference. ~~which~~** All Members of the Region are entitled to attend the Regional Conference. The Regional Conferences across all regions respectively shall be held in the same calendar year if possible.

20.2 The functions of Regional Conferences shall be:

20.2.1 to discuss and agree regional priorities for the development and implementation of the global strategy and related action plans, in the context of the Region;

20.2.2 to elect the Regional Committee;

20.2.3 to promote and expand Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting within the Region and develop plans for assisting National Organisations;

20.2.4 to strengthen the visibility and standing of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and Member Organisations with governments, public authorities and other stakeholders in the Region;

20.2.5 to consider financial reports of the Region;

20.2.6 to provide opportunities for training and sharing concerns, experiences and human resources;

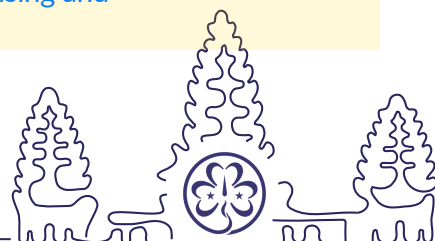
20.2.7 to exercise such functions as are provided for in this constitution and Bye-Laws and the terms of reference of the Region.

20.3 The Regional Committee, in consultation with the Member Organisations of the Region, shall propose the date, venue and format (in-person, hybrid or online) of the Regional Conference, taking into account the need for meaningful participation by all Member Organisations. The World Board shall approve the proposed arrangements in accordance with this constitution and the Bye-Laws

20.4 Regional Conferences shall normally be held as in-person or hybrid meetings in the Region. Where a Regional Conference is held fully or partly by electronic means, appropriate mechanisms for electronic participation and voting shall be provided, in accordance with procedures set out in the Rules of Procedure.

20.5 The WAGGGS World Board shall ensure that sufficient resources are budgeted to convene one Regional Conference per Region in each triennium. The World Conference shall take this obligation into account when adopting the general financial policy and plans for raising and administering the funds of WAGGGS.

You can view a copy of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws [here](#), with the proposals above shown as tracked changes.



RATIONALE

In recent years, Member Organisations across all Regions have expressed strong concerns about the format, frequency and perceived purpose of Regional Conferences. While Regional Conferences are mentioned in the Constitution, their role is described only in very general terms and does not reflect the strategic, political and financial significance that they have in practice.

This constitutional amendment aims to clarify and strengthen the role of the Regional Conference as the key decision-making space at regional level, closely linked to the World Strategy and the global governance of WAGGGS.

1. Clarity of purpose and strategic role

At present, the functions of Regional Conferences focus on programme development, training and the exercise of functions defined elsewhere. In reality, Regional Conferences also:

- shape how the global strategy and global action plans are implemented in diverse regional contexts;
- set regional priorities and expectations for Regional Committees;
- elect the Regional Committee;
- consider financial reports; and
- provide a unique moment to strengthen the visibility and standing of Member Organisations with governments and other stakeholders in their own countries.

By explicitly recognising these roles in the Constitution, the constitutional amendment aligns the formal description of Regional Conferences with their actual practice and importance. It makes clear that Regional Conferences are not just training events, but strategic decision-making spaces for the Region.

2. Clearer cycle and better alignment with global governance

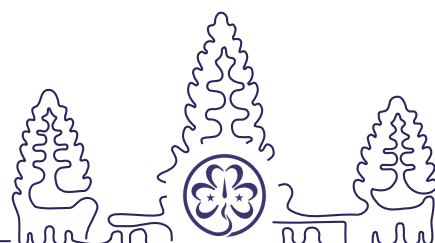
Currently, the Constitution requires that a Regional Conference is held each triennium, but it does not indicate how this relates to the World Conference cycle. In practice, this has sometimes led to congestion of events and uncertainty for Member Organisations.

Stating that Regional Conferences are held once per triennium and not in the same calendar year as the World Conference:

- provides predictability for Member Organisations when planning national calendars, budgets and delegations;
- allows sufficient time between World and Regional Conferences to implement decisions and prepare new ones; and
- supports a coherent cycle for the election of Regional Committees and Regional Chairs who serve on the World Board.

3. Participation, format and lessons learned from recent years

Experiments with different formats of Regional Conferences in 2025 have highlighted both opportunities and challenges. Many Member Organisations have raised concerns about decisions on format being taken without sufficient regional ownership, and about unequal access to (democratic) participation when the format or platform did not match regional realities.





The proposed clauses make clear that:

- the Regional Committee, in consultation with the Member Organisations of the Region, proposes the date, venue and format of the Regional Conference; and
- electronic participation and voting are possible, with appropriate procedures.

This strengthens the sense of regional self-determination while still ensuring that arrangements remain consistent with the overall Constitution, Bye-Laws and Governance Handbook.

4. Financial responsibility and regional self-determination

Regional Conferences are a constitutional right and responsibility of Member Organisations. However, in the recent triennium there has been significant uncertainty about whether Regional Conferences would take place at all in an in person format, mainly due to budget constraints.

By explicitly stating that WAGGGS shall budget for one Regional Conference per Region in each triennium, and by recognising that Regional Conferences may set regional financial priorities within the framework of the financial policy and plans adopted by the World Conference, the constitutional amendment:

- ensures that Regional Conferences cannot simply be cancelled for financial reasons;
- underlines the value of Regional Conferences as part of WAGGGS' core governance, not an optional "extra"; and
- supports the development of regional fundraising and the more efficient use of regional resources, including where regional staffing may be more cost-effective than central staffing.

5. Why the World Conference should vote in favour

Approving this constitutional amendment will:

- respond directly to Member Organisations' feedback and concerns about Regional Conferences;
- clarify the strategic purpose of Regional Conferences and their link to the World Strategy;
- strengthen regional ownership of decisions on format and finances; and
- provide a clear constitutional commitment to holding and resourcing Regional Conferences in every Region each triennium.

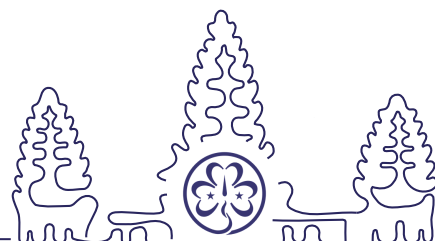
For these reasons, we invite the World Conference to support this constitutional amendment.

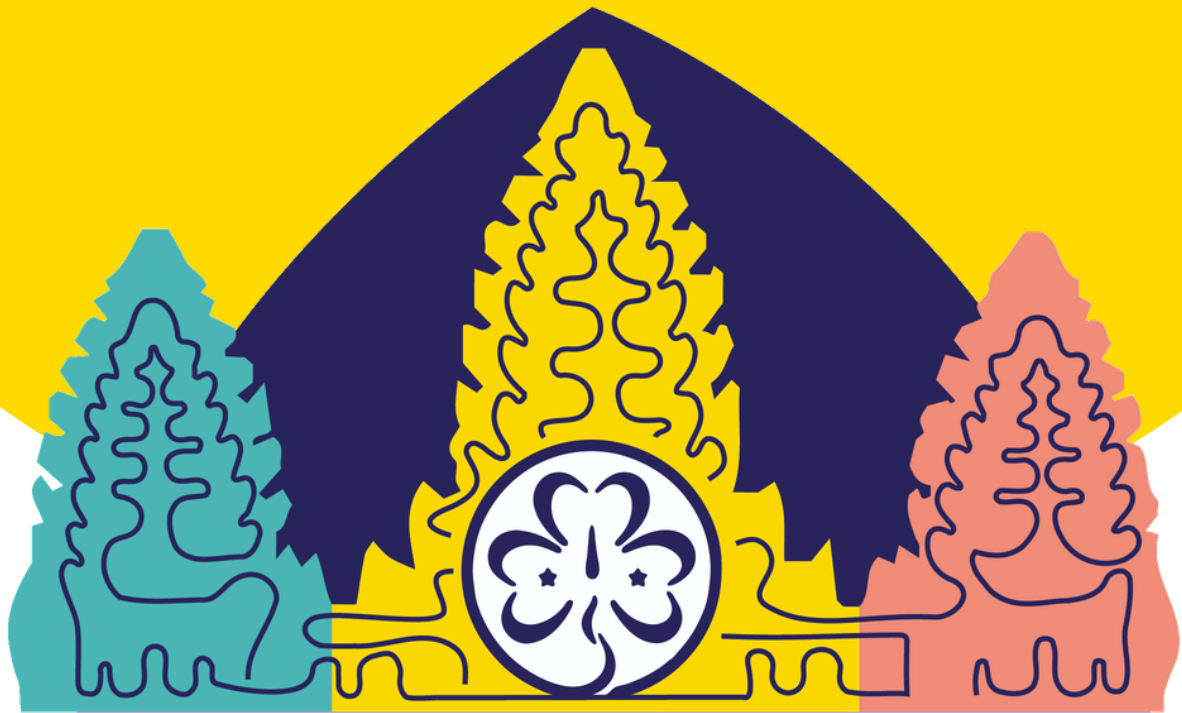
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This constitutional amendment clarifies and strengthens the role of Regional Conferences and makes explicit the expectation that one Regional Conference per Region is held and resourced in each triennium.

In practice, this means that the global and regional budgets must continue to provide for the costs of Regional Conferences (staff time, venue or online platform, facilitation, translation/interpretation and, where applicable, financial support for participation).

The constitutional amendment does not introduce new types of expenditure but may require more consistent planning and prioritisation of existing resources, including regional fundraising and the use of cost-efficient formats (e.g. hybrid or online elements).





We see. We care. We act.

39th WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE

CAMBODIA 2026