



**WORLD ASSOCIATION  
OF GIRL GUIDES  
AND GIRL SCOUTS**

# **GENERAL MEETING: AGENDA AND PROPOSED MOTION**

**Document GM1**

**Circulated on 20 October 2020**

# GENERAL MEETING

The World Board invites all Full and Associate Member Organisations to attend a General Meeting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from 12 noon UTC to 2pm UTC, via an online platform (more details soon).

This document gives details of the agenda for the General Meeting and the Proposed Motion to be discussed and voted upon. The Rules of Procedure will be circulated to Member Organisations at least one month before the General Meeting.

## AGENDA

General Meeting  
19 December 2020, 12 noon – 2pm UTC  
via an online platform

1. Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Opening business:
  - Approval of the Rules of Procedure
  - Approval of the Meeting Chair and Vice-Chair(s)
  - Approval of the Tellers
  - Approval of the Procedural Team
4. Update/presentation from the World Board
5. Proposed Motion
6. Closing Business

# PROPOSED MOTION

## Proposed Motion 1: Provision for remote participation

Proposer: World Board

Voting Eligibility: Full Members

Majority required: 75% majority

### Proposed Motion:

The General Meeting:

- a. agrees to make provision in the WAGGGS Constitution to facilitate the possibility of remote general meetings in future i.e. for Member Organisations to be able to participate in and vote at general meetings including the triennial World Conferences without being physically present, through the use of technology; and
- b. approves the necessary changes to the WAGGGS Constitution outlined in this paper.

### Rationale:

In recent years, the World Board has received a number of requests from Member Organisations for WAGGGS to explore alternative options for participation at World Conferences.

As the World Conference moves around the world, there are inevitably barriers preventing some Member Organisations physically attending. For example, high travel costs, combined with a number of additional expenses and practicalities which may include visas and health costs, has meant that some countries are not able to send a delegate to a World Conference. Additionally global health events or political situations or unrest might also prevent delegate travel. Given that the World Conference is the focal point of the triennium and the decision-making forum of the WAGGGS membership, these issues can effectively exclude some Member Organisations from participating in decision making that will subsequently impact them.

With significant advances in digital communications, and with the greater connectivity that technological globalization has brought to our world, the time is right to investigate the possibilities of remote attendance and voting for Member Organisations that cannot attend the World Conference in person. In our digital age, it should not be the case that strategic policy discussions and decisions that govern the direction of WAGGGS are limited to those attending. If Member Organisations cannot physically be present to articulate their support/concerns, the views of those in attendance will end up speaking for all, whether they are in line with each Member Organisation's needs or not. This goes against the spirit of the Conference and the Movement.

Finally, as a global organisation committed to reducing climate change, WAGGGS finds itself in a contradictory position. On one hand, through our programming, we are encouraging our members, volunteers and staff to reduce their impact on the environment, whilst on the other hand, we are insisting that delegations from 150 countries embark on lengthy air travel to the Conference, contributing significant carbon emissions to the air we breathe, and having related indirect impacts on global warming, food supplies, and the prevalence of respiratory disease in children. If we are truly committed to making the world a better place for girls, we cannot in good faith continue this practice.

The 'enabling clause' presented under this motion aims to provide additional ways for Member Organisations to participate in WAGGGS decision-making in the event they are unable to participate in person at the World Conference or other decision-making meetings.

*Outline of changes to the Constitution:*

Constitution Sub-clause	Suggestion
12.3.3.2	<p><b>Add the following words at the end of sub-clause 12.3.3.2:</b> “(which need not be a physical address)” so that the sub-clause reads:</p> <p>“give the address at which the meeting is to take place (which need not be a physical address)”</p>
12.9	<p><b>New clause as follows:</b></p> <p>12.9 Attendance and Speaking at general meetings</p> <p>12.9.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.</p> <p>12.9.2 A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:</p> <p>12.9.2.1 that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting, and</p> <p>12.9.2.2 that person’s vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.</p> <p>12.9.3 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.</p> <p>12.9.4 In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more Member Organisations attending it are in the same place as each other.</p> <p>12.9.5 Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.</p>

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