

## Role of Zones Workshop Outline for General Service Meetings

### **Handouts:**

- Two-sided mind map handout
- Role of zones ranking worksheet—one for each person
- Role of zones top priorities worksheet—one per table.
- Zonal maps—one per table
- Optional: 2014 *Conference Report* background essay

**Facilitator Note:** If possible, give the role of zones worksheet out ahead of time. If you do not, more time will be needed in small groups for people to familiarize themselves with and read the worksheet.

### Slide: Title Slide

### **Set-up/opening: (20 minutes)**

#### Slide: WSC 2014 Planning our Future Sessions-Background

1. At WSC 2014, we framed several sessions called Planning our Future. The purpose of these sessions was to offer ideas to help ensure that the WSC fulfills its role in answering the needs of NA today and in the future. No decisions were made at the conference. Those five sessions were part of an ongoing conversation, and this workshop is part of the next steps. We have a real opportunity to shape our future together, and gathering input at workshops like this is part of that process.

If you are interested in some of the history, there is a brief recap contained in the 2014 Conference Report which is posted on our website.

**[Facilitator note:** If there are conference participants present, you may want to ask one of them beforehand if they are willing to do the part of this introduction that involves describing the PoF conference sessions- (#2 below).]

#### Slide: Zonal map

There have been discussions and workgroups discussing the future of representation at the WSC for almost 30 years and we collectively have not been able to come to a decision as to what representation would work best for the future of the WSC. The WSC meets every two years, has delegates and alternates from 116 seated regions, and the event has direct costs to NA World Services of over \$500,000. We have no way to accurately state what it actually costs the fellowship. If you look at the meeting map, there are about 100 countries and regions who are not yet seated at the WSC. This makes the future a little daunting for the WSC in terms of effective discussion and sustainable costs.

At WSC 2012 the Board offered a resolution that “State/national/province boundaries are the primary criterion for seating consideration at the World Service Conference.” While the conference passed the resolution, it did so by a narrow margin (60-46-1-3), and the idea of state/nation/province—or SNP—seating never seemed to get any real traction. Resolutions are

the broad ideas about which we need to reach consensus before taking more specific decisions and actions. And it seems we never really reached **consensus** as a fellowship on SNP seating.

**Slide: WSC 2014 photo collage**

2. The Planning Our Future sessions at WSC were an attempt to restart the conversation about the future of the conference in the hopes that a consensus would begin to develop.

**Slide: WSC 2014 photo collage and participant stats**

After reviewing some of the history of these issues, we asked the 215 people seated on the floor of WSC 2014, representing 112 regions, 40 countries, and speaking 21 languages to identify the needs of NA now and for the next five years.

**Slide: Collapsed needs mind map**

What you see on the screen is a collapsed version of the mind map that resulted from those discussions. The handout on your tables is an expanded version of the slide overhead.

The needs of NA session and the next two sessions all took place in five breakout rooms because the size of the conference makes it impossible to hear from everyone during a small group discussion. One of the most amazing things about each of these sessions was the degree to which the five breakout rooms prioritized similar things.

**Slide: Collapsed reasons we come together mind map**

After the discussion about needs, the next session discussed what conference participants considered the most important roles and reasons for a worldwide service body to help meet some of those needs. Again, you have the mind map that resulted from those discussions on your tables. On screen is a collapsed version of that map.

After we collected and combined the results for the reasons to have a worldwide body, the next discussion looked at possible options for the future of that body.

**Slide: WSC PoF sessions discussion results**

The results of that discussion were overwhelmingly weighted towards zonal representation, though not necessarily zones in their current functions and composition. **This was not a decision – it was a discussion.**

**Slide: Where do we go from here?**

The final session in the Planning Our Future series asked the question “Where do we go from here?” The results from that session highlighted the importance of communication and the need to hold more workshops to share the discussions that are taking place about the future of the conference, and to involve the Fellowship in those discussions. This workshop today is part of that process.

The other two main ideas that came out of that session were to have discussions at zonal forums about ideas for the future of zonal forums, and to create workgroups to offer ideas or recommendations for the WSC and for zones in the future. Similar sessions to this one, with the focus on the possible future roles of zones, are being held at zonal forum meetings in different

parts of the world. In addition a Planning Our Future workgroup has been formed and is currently meeting virtually.

**Slide: Two conversations**

3. This workshop is the beginning of a continuation of that discussion. There are two related conversations about these issues—1. The size and shape of the conference, 2. The role of zones as they relate to the region, area, and all the way to the home group. This workshop is more clearly part of this second conversation: The role of zones is an integral part of the conversation about how we can meet our future needs globally as a fellowship. But it is important to remember that eventually the fellowship will need to make a decision about the first issue—the size and the shape of the conference.

**Slide: Ideas for zones 1**

4. The list of ideas generated by the WSC about what may need to happen at a zonal level was extensive and included:
  - Build a better sense and common understanding of what zones could be
  - Building zonal awareness and effectiveness
  - Consider redrawing some current zonal boundaries
  - Creating common purpose but allowing for zones to meet their own needs as they determine

**Slide: Ideas for zones 2**

Currently zones operate very differently around the world. We are not attempting to prescribe anything. We hope that these discussions can help us to find out what is most important to members about the functioning of zones and how much actual difference there is between zones. We believe your responses can serve an important part of furthering these discussions.

**Slide: Who's here?**

5. Ask what zones are present. Then have everyone who has ever attended a zonal meeting before raise their hands. Try to ensure that they are distributed throughout the tables. You may want to also ask whether there are members present who do not know what a zone is, and if so, read the definition off the zonal worksheet at the top and refer them to the zonal maps on the tables so that they can see the current zones today.

**Slide: Small group discussion**

We realize that the workshop today contains members from many different types of service bodies. We will try to involve everyone in sharing our different perspectives, even if some of us don't have zonal or world level service experience.

For people who have never attended a zone before, you might want to consider what type of collaboration you would like to see among neighboring regions. You can use the worksheet to talk about those ideas and can simply leave the column about how well your zone accomplishes those roles blank.

### **Small Group: (30-40 minutes)**

#### **Role of Zones work sheet**

[**Facilitator note:** the time needed for the small groups may vary depending on whether you have been able to distribute the zonal functions worksheet in advance of the workshop or not. If you were not able to distribute the worksheets in advance, you may want to take a few minutes to read the different roles on the worksheet aloud before breaking into the small groups.]

#### **Slide: Worksheet, small group instructions**

There are two worksheets on your tables. First you will take some time to each fill out the one titled “Role of Zones Worksheet.” Then as a table, you’ll fill out the one titled “Role of Zones Top Priorities.”

- a) We have developed a worksheet that identifies what we have heard as the most important roles for zones. Take 5-10 minutes to fill out the worksheets individually, ranking each role, with 1 being the least important and 5 most important. Also indicate how well you believe your zone accomplishes this now. We have left room on the worksheet for comments, as well as space for you to add roles to this list. Please do not feel limited to the space on this sheet.
- b) Then each small group should identify what you believe, as a group, to be the most important two roles for zones. You probably want to begin by just taking a show of hands and asking each group member to identify the two roles they would prioritize. Once you have identified the top two, have a discussion at each table about those roles. For a start, you could discuss why they are important and what successes you’ve seen with them as well as how they could be improved.
- c) Identify a facilitator and a recorder Record the compiled responses on a Role of Zones—Top Priorities worksheet. **We will collect both individual and group worksheets. Please write neatly. Your ideas are important!**

#### **Slide: Large group discussion-worksheet feedback**

### **Large Group: (30 minutes)**

[**Facilitator note:** you may want to pre-set easel pads with a list of the ten roles, which you can use to tally the feedback from small groups.]

#### **Slide: Large Group questions—Your Feedback**

Begin by asking groups to identify which two roles they prioritized. Take a quick show of hands (one hand per table) for each role and record the results.

Then ask for some discussion points on the highest ranking roles. Ask for the most interesting idea heard or items of agreement about that role. You may also want to hear from some of the tables that prioritized some of the roles that the rest of the room did not so that you can get a sense of why they felt the role was important.

Most of the mixed audiences will be larger and you will only be able to hear back from a limited number of tables.

Keep track of what you have heard at the front of the room. Highlight the points of agreement, as well as where they differ.

## **Closing (5-10 minutes)**

### **Slide: Continuing the conversation**

Explain again to the room that this workshop is part of an ongoing conversation.

Hopefully through the course of this year with various zones and members participating in this workshop, we can identify what is most important and begin to discuss what it will take for us to get there.

Ideas for continuing the conversation: Ask people what their experience was with the workshop and whether they have other ideas for how to carry this conversation forward in the fellowship. [Facilitator note: You may want to call attention to the challenges having a workshop like this in a room where people have different levels of experience with the topic and explain that is why we are asking them for communication ideas.]

### **Slide: Closing slide/WB email address**

Collect the sheets!