

Report #2: World Board Recommendations Regarding WSC 2022 16 August 2021

This is the second recommendation report from the World Board related to the 2022 World Service Conference. **If you have not yet read the first report, please do so before reading this one. This report amplifies the ideas spelled out in the initial recommendation. Both reports are posted at the top of the Conference page: www.na.org/conference**

Between the first recommendation report and this one, approximately 170 Conference participants discussed the board's recommendation at the July 2021 CP web meeting. Twelve of the fifteen small groups reported support for the recommendation; one group did not support the recommendation; and the two others did not report their overall level of support. The board read all of the notes from the small groups. We read and responded to the five emails with input from Conference participants. The board discussed all of this input, and the Executive Committee of the World Board again met with the Human Resource Panel and the WSC Cofacilitators. This recommendation report responds to some of the questions and concerns we have heard.

As a reminder, **the board's recommendation** is that due to current travel restrictions and safety concerns, the current 2020-2022 Conference cycle be extended to 2023. In the interim, a short, interim virtual Conference meeting would be held in 2022 to deal with the most immediately essential business. The 2022 meeting of the WSC will then recess and reconvene in 2023.

What is essential business, and how long will it take?

We believe **essential business** is limited to these four items:

1. NA World Services Budget for one year – 2022-2023
2. Extend existing FIPT moratorium on inspection clause for one year. (Acting as the trustor, the delegates present at the virtual WSC 2022, are continuing the suspension of Article 5, Section 3 of the FIPT Operational Rules, while we make a decision about the future. This suspension will expire at the close of WSC 2023.)
3. Adjustment of terms for WSC trusted servants. (the details of this will be provided)
4. The approval draft of the Spiritual Principle a Day book (SPAD)

We've had questions about whether essential business includes other items, such as approving minutes. Given that this would be a 36-month cycle, we believe those items could wait until 2023.

We estimate it will take no more than 4 days, with 2 two-hour sessions each day. If we are able to get through work in less time, we would like to spend some of the remaining time to begin planning for the future of the WSC together as a Conference—2023 and beyond.

We've heard suggestions that the body also should decide on the **10 motions remaining from WSC 2020** during the virtual sessions in 2022. The Conference did not prioritize these items for decision during the 2020 partial, virtual WSC. In 2020, the body believed that these items would be better dealt with in person. None of these motions falls into the category of legally essential or mandated by policy, and even if the body approved new projects or ideas for new projects, we would not be able to take on more work until after the 2023 WSC meeting. For all of these reasons, we believe it would be wise to wait until 2023 to address these 10 motions as well as any other business that is not legally mandated or essential aside from the SPAD draft.

We also believe it would not be a complicated matter to hold **elections** in 2023. That would give us another year to make any recommendations, based on what the Conference decides for the future.

Six World level trusted servants have terms that expire in 2022: three board members, two members of the HRP, and one WSC Cofacilitator. It makes sense to us that the WSC would keep these members in their positions for the length of the Conference cycle, which would be three-years if participants accept the Board's recommendation. That would help with continuity and familiarity with the work during the cycle. To accomplish that, the Conference would simply need to extend those terms one year.

Six board members' terms expire in 2024, but decisions about those terms do not need to be made in 2022. Participants can use the time between 2022 and 2023 to discuss issues such as these, and any recommendations coming from the board, and the WSC would take action during the 2023 Conference meeting to address those terms.

Some participants have suggested ways to deal with some items that are not essential business, including **recording presentations in advance** and providing space so that **participants can share with each other**. We believe that we can do both of those things

We believe we can prepare some reports in advance and prerecord them, as we have started to do with the financial reports for the CP web meetings. In this way, some of the information participants might get during a NAWS Report or FD or PR report, we can have available by video.

We also hope to be able to use one or two CP web meetings for participants to share with one another as they might during a Delegates' Sharing session at the WSC meeting.

What if we don't approve the board's recommendation?

A "full" virtual WSC in 2022 and an in-person WSC 2023 is not a viable approach. **The alternative to the board's recommendation** would be to have a virtual WSC similar to that from 2020 and not meet again until 2024.

We are not in favor of this approach partly because the experience of WSC 2020 indicates that we cannot accomplish much virtually. We only spent time on business at the partial virtual WSC 2020. The discussion we had was only in service of voting. Nothing non-decision making occurred besides the NAWS update. Even with a close look at technology and process alternatives, an online meeting of our size cannot get through business quickly in a virtual setting. The WSC currently has 142 voting members (123 seated regions, 6 seated zones, and 13 board members) and 129 possible alternates. Even if only ten percent of the voting members spoke on a given issue, that equals about a half hour of discussion time, not counting for the time it takes to introduce an item, answer questions about process, translate as necessary, and take polls.

The WSC is a cruise ship, not a speed boat. We operate by consensus-based processes, which necessitate discussion, and discussion takes time. Because of the variety of participant time zones and the fact that for most participants meeting virtually means balancing the needs of their daily life with the online meeting, we try not to schedule more than two two-hour sessions a day.

That is just our observations about decision-making. As we've reported repeatedly and many participants have mentioned in discussion, it's not really possible to replicate much of what occurs during an in-person WSC in an online environment.

When would everything take place?

As was the case in 2020, we would try to schedule the proposed meeting in **2022** for days during or near the existing Conference week, which begins 24 April 2022. Because we only anticipate 4 days

of sessions, we believe the 2022 meeting can take place the Friday and Saturday before the WSC is currently scheduled and the Friday and Saturday of the current WSC week, meaning the virtual 2022 meeting would be on 22, 23, 29, and 30 April (one day later for our participants over the dateline).

The business for the virtual session in 2022 would be distributed in one document, called an Interim CAR/CAT, using the current *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* deadlines:

The relevant **deadlines and dates as currently listed** in GWSNA are:

[Interim] English <i>Conference Agenda Report</i> available	24 November 2021
Translated [Interim] <i>Conference Agenda Report</i> available	24 December 2021
Amendments to CAR and CAT motions deadline	8 April 2022
World Service Conference 2022	24-30 April 2022

The board would announce dates and deadlines related to the 2023 meeting of the Conference, including the meeting dates, regional CAR motion deadlines, and seating application deadlines, as soon as we have them. We would provide an opportunity for Conference participants to give input before finalizing the dates. We would attempt to stick with the same basic schedule—with the WSC meeting falling at the end of April and beginning of May if possible. Because we do not have a hotel contract for 2023, we cannot be sure of exact dates until participants decide whether to hold a meeting in 2023.

How are we going to decide?

We reported on the **decision-making process** in our first recommendation report and at the last CP web meeting. The next two steps are:

CP Web Meeting: 21 August, 11am-1pm, Pacific Daylight Time: Conference participants will have a full-group discussion facilitated by the WSC Cofacilitators about the Board’s recommendation.

Decision-making Poll: Soon after that web meeting, delegates and board members will receive an email with a link to a decision-making poll in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Participants who require translation into another language should reach out to their translators if they need help completing the poll. The poll will include the decisions necessary to meet virtually in 2022 and plan an in-person 2023 meeting. A draft of the items we intend to poll is on the last page of this report. One of the items we intend to ask for a decision about is a modification to Motion V1 from WSC 2020 so that virtual decision is permitted by policy. That would mean that when the WSC chooses to do so, it can act virtually.

We will use the same software we utilized for decision-making polls during WSC 2020. As at WSC 2020, participants will have 3 days (72 hours) to respond. We will email at least one reminder before closing the polls.

We do not believe a **virtual workgroup** is necessary to plan for 2022 effectively. A workgroup would add another layer to an already challenging amount of discussion we all need to have together. The timeline between now and April 2022 is tight. The board has been meeting monthly, the executive committee has been meeting every two weeks, and Conference participants have been meeting every two months. All of the ideas about the WSC need to be discussed and decided upon within each of these populations, together with conversations with the HRP and WSC Cofacilitators. We

don't believe adding a workgroup to the mix can speak for or take the place of the discussions with all Conference participants.

What about after 2023?

A Guide to World Services in NA describes the WSC as taking place every two years. That means, barring any Conference decision to the contrary, if the WSC meeting takes place in 2023, the following Conference will take place in 2025.

As we mentioned in the previous recommendation report, one idea that has come up in our board discussions is moving to a three-year Conference cycle after 2023. We have received input about other ideas for the Conference beyond 2023, as well, including changes to funding, to decision-making processes, to motion and amendment deadlines, to the amount of work that takes place online in advance of the in-person meeting, and more.

There are many possibilities about how to make the WSC more sustainable in the future. The World Board will begin to frame some of these discussions after a decision is made about WSC 2022, so all participants can evolve ideas together leading up to WSC 2023.

We have not had any detailed discussion yet about the WSC after 2023. We are trying to get through the decisions and planning necessary for what is immediately in front of us.

It's clear that the crisis brought on by the pandemic has inspired a lot of participants' creative thinking about the WSC. Thank you for your passion and dedication. We look forward to whatever future we create together.

Draft Motions for August 2021 Epoll

Following are the three draft motions we intend to poll after the 21 August Conference participant web meeting. These motions may change after the CP web meeting, based on the discussion and input there, but we do not expect that the basic premise behind the motions will change.

As we have said in our recommendations report, we do not believe that an in-person WSC is viable in 2022. Rather than trying to have another lengthy virtual WSC in 2022, we are proposing only taking care of the most essential business virtually and planning for a full Conference meeting in 2023, in person if possible.

Motion #1 below would create policy so that the WSC can convene virtually when the body decides to do so. This motion was adopted by 98% consensus at WSC 2020 for that session only, This motion simply seeks to make it an ongoing ability of the WSC.

Motions #2 and #3 describe the proposal for the upcoming WSC. If the body approves Motion #3, the board will draft specific motions corresponding to the numbered items to be included in the interim CAR/CAT document. We can provide assistance to any delegate who needs help downloading the electronic document.

Motion V1 (from 2020 but revised to be a policy): When the WSC chooses to meet virtually, all World Service Conference participants may participate and vote remotely in the same manner as the current policy for participants who are unable to obtain visas:

“Participants who are unable to attend the WSC due to visa issues may participate remotely. Remote participants have the same rights as if they were at the WSC” 2020 GWSNA

To accommodate the variety of time zones and to ensure an accurate record, decisions of the WSC can be made outside of the WSC meeting by epoll that is sent to all seated Conference participants.

Maker: World Board

Intent: To allow the Conference to choose to make decisions virtually when necessary.

Motion V2: Due to travel restrictions and safety concerns from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2022 Conference cycle is extended to 2023. A short, interim, virtual, Conference business meeting shall be held in 2022 to fulfil our obligation to address legally essential business, as described in Motion V3, and to approve the Spiritual Principle a Day book. After the essential business is conducted, the 2022 virtual meeting of the WSC shall recess and reconvene in 2023. Dates and deadlines pertaining to the meeting of the Conference in 2023 shall be provided by the World Board, including *CAR* motion deadlines, and seating application deadlines.

Maker: World Board

Intent: To adapt the current Conference schedule due to the global pandemic.

Motion V3: The business for the virtual session of the WSC in 2022 shall be distributed in one electronic document, which for the purposes of business and decision-making shall serve as an interim *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* and Conference Approval Track (CAT) using the current *CAR* deadlines and distribution dates and shall include:

1. NA World Services Budget for one year – 2022-2023
2. Extend existing *FIPT* moratorium on inspection clause for one year. (Acting as the trustor, the delegates present at the virtual WSC 2022, are continuing the suspension of Article 5, Section 3 of the *FIPT* Operational Rules, while we make a decision about the future. This suspension will expire at the close of WSC 2023.)
3. Adjustment of terms for WSC trusted servants. (the details of this will be provided)
4. The approval draft of the *Spiritual Principle a Day* book (SPAD)

Maker: World Board

Intent: To describe what is legally required or essential for the Conference in 2022.

