

Service System Session Profiles – WSC Seating

Saturday 2:30pm – 4:00pm

On tables for this session - session note sheets with discussion questions and space for notes, markers, Post-its

Aim of session: *(Slide 1)*

- Present an overview of the two seating options: state/national/province service body and zonal
- Give a basic history of WSC seating and the challenges we have today
- Explain how these challenges are addressed by the proposals

Session Overview:

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| • Explanation of Seating Options | 20 minutes |
| • Small group discussion | 25 minutes |
| • Small group feedback | 20 minutes |
| • Straw Poll | 5 minutes |
| • Q&A | 20 minutes |

Introduction (10 minutes)

Take a moment to ensure everyone knows what we mean by WSC seating.

We know many of you (most of you!) have never been to the conference and so what it looks like as well as the notion of seating may only be theoretical to you. We hope this session gives you the opportunity to understand these issues even if you don't feel you have much to say about them.

These are all parts of an interdependent system. The issue of seating is about the relationship between service bodies—the World Service Conference and what are now regions. In these proposals, rather than regions, the seated bodies could be either state/province/national level bodies or zonal bodies.

These workshops give us a unique opportunity to talk about seating issues together (World Board members and members of regions and zones) outside of either of those service bodies (regions or the WSC).

Because this is a work in progress, we are trying to engage the fellowship in shaping these proposals.

Remind everyone that the details of further seating criteria are still to be determined. We know that whatever changes are made to seating, this is just a start. More criteria will need to be developed or these criteria will need to be detailed further.

Explain the basic history of WSC seating, touching on the following points:

- At the earliest conferences participation was informal and was guaranteed by attendance.
- As the fellowship grew seating new regions was voted on during the opening day of business.
- Funding of all conference participants began in 2000.
- There have been several motions since the Transition Group's proposals in 1997, to change the structure of participation at the WSC, including motions for zonal representation, but none have carried.
- In 2000, the conference passed a set of criteria that were offered by the World Board. The criteria at once seemed to be both too rigid and not comprehensive enough in some cases. The board's recommendations and the conference's decisions at times conflicted with the criteria for various reasons.

- At the 2008 WSC participants agreed to a two-cycle moratorium on The Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants with the understanding that the board would continue to make recommendations regarding regions that did not form as a result of a split. The intention of the motion was to enable a conversation to take place on the future of seating at the WSC. A motion to extend the moratorium by not seating any regions at all at the 2012 WSC did not pass.

Seating Options (10 minutes)

Explain the existing structure, including: *(Slide 2-3)*

- Existing regions may consist of some or all of a state, province, or country
- Some existing regions consist of multiple states, provinces, or countries
- For the most part, zones currently have a discussion forum role
- Some zones provide some services

Review the main challenges in our current structure, and the solutions offered by these options, referring to the box on page 18 of the report. *(Slide 4-7)*

Challenge: Growth of the WSC is not limited, creating resource and manageability problems

Solution: An upper limit of seated communities is set by the number of existing state, national, and provincial bodies or by the number of seats allocated to each zone

Challenge: There are no consistently applied seating criteria

Solution: Objective criteria are used to establish eligibility before any other criteria are examined, removing the personal element of seating decisions

Challenge: The lack of clear seating criteria is one factor that can encourage regional splits, which impacts our ability to deliver services and reach addicts

Solution: State/nation/province seating will encourage regional reunification

Challenge: There is a perceived inequality between US and other countries

Solution: The number of US delegates will be reduced in both seating models

Present the two proposed seating options. *(Slide 8)*

Refer attendees to the diagram on page 19 of their report for more information on the two options.

State/national/province seating:

- Delegates are selected from the state/national/province service bodies to participate in the WSC *(Slide 9)*
- Slows growth of WSC *(Slide 10)*
- No change for some, big change for others
- Establishes clear objective requirement for seating. Though we recognize that there will need to be further criteria. Brazil is not the same as Rhode Island, for instance. We will probably want to add some sort of provision for very large states or countries to have more than one delegate and for some smaller states and countries to combine (e.g., the Baltic States). These details have yet to be worked out.
- Encourages reunification and therefore provision of statewide services

Zonal seating:

- Delegates are selected from the zonal service bodies to participate in the WSC *(Slide 11)*
- Could significantly reduce the size of the WSC depending on the number of seats allocated to each zone *(Slide 12)*

- No alternates at WSC
- Changes the current role of zones
- Method of selecting delegates is as yet undetermined - the conference would need to establish the number of delegates from each zone as well as the boundaries of the zone itself
- Possible unforeseen circumstances such as decentralization of services

If there is time, call for unanswered questions about WSC seating here.

Small Group Discussion: (25 minutes)

Divide the room in half and give half the questions related to state-, province-, or national-level service body seating and half the questions about zonal seating.

Remind everyone that we have varying levels of experience with service at these levels. With a lot of experience often comes strong opinions, but with less experience comes a fresh perspective. Be mindful of the ways we can learn from each other.

Have the groups assign a facilitator and recorder. Briefly review the facilitator’s instructions, groundrules, and brainstorming guidelines again, remembering that many of the participants may not have participated in this style of workshop before. Re-emphasize that each person only has one minute to speak, that we take turns, and that everyone has something to contribute.

Stress that we are collecting all the input. Ask recorders to write clearly and title each sheet they use with the number of each question.

State-, Province-, or National-level Seating Questions (Slide 13)

Picture applying this model at what is now the regional and zonal level:

10. What excites you or concerns you about the effect these changes would have on the functioning of state-, province-, or national-level service in your community?
11. In what ways do you see this model providing a more effective voice or pipeline of communication between your community and world services?

Zonal Seating Questions (Slide 14)

Picture applying this model at what is now the regional and zonal level:

12. How would these proposals help you to maintain what is positive in our current system about zones or improve the functioning of your zone?
13. What excites you or concerns you about the effect these changes would have on the functioning of your zone?
14. In what ways do you see this model providing a more effective voice or pipeline of communication between your community and world services?

Advance to next slide with “Small Group Discussion” text (Slide 15)

Small Group Feedback (20 minutes)

Put the previous two slides (14 and 15) back up as each set of questions is discussed.

Devote half the time to state/province/national seating questions and half the time to zonal seating questions. Begin asking about challenges and then talk about improvements. Collect one major point from each group and synthesize as you go. Ask them not to repeat comments already heard, etc.

As each group finishes reporting have them put their post-its on the wall and invite participants to look at the small group results during the break.

Straw Poll (5 minutes)

Straw Poll: *(Slide 16)*

Explain that we want to conduct a quick straw poll just to give the board a sense of how people at this workshop feel about the different options. Explain that these are by no means binding and are just to give a pulse. Tell the workshop we're going to take a straw poll with four options. Your choices are do you prefer state/national/provincial seating or zonal seating, neither option, or do you not have enough information for a preference?

15. Do you prefer state/province/national seating, zonal seating, neither option, or not enough information for a preference?

We know the question in the input form only asks for two but we have some flexibility here. Announce general results of straw poll, then lead a short discussion as a large group to get some of the reasons participants chose one of the options. Record these reasons on Post-its at the front of the room.

Q&A (20 minutes) or until 4:00 pm

Ask if there are any questions that remain unanswered about the seating proposals. As stated in the earlier sessions, our hope is to provide clarity about these proposals so everyone can be caught up on the thinking to date. We want everyone to be able to consider the merits of the material and that's our priority rather than this being a place to provide input.

Remind everyone that we reviewed the basics of the two seating options and that all the material on seating is in the report they have on pages 17 through 19.

Close with final reference to the project webpage and the input deadline. *(Slide 17)*

Encourage people to utilize the online form to send input or email or write the World Board. We welcome input in any form on these proposals as well as any other ideas about how we can better provide local services.

4:00–4:30: Break