May 2023

**Statement of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) on Agenda Item 4.3 of the 24th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development (Arts 13-15)**

1. Mr Chairperson, your excellencies and distinguished delegates, thank you for the floor.
2. We will take this opportunity to address, the current formulation of Art. 15(1) of the draft convention.
3. In our written submission, made prior to the 24th Session, the World Organization of the Scout Movement proposed that in respect of Art. 15(1) of the draft convention a different approach should be taken. We have suggested this for two reasons. Firstly, we believe that the current approach fails to properly address the motivation for using special temporary measures. Secondly, in light of other international human rights law obligations with regard to the right to equality, we believe that the current formulation of Art. 15(1) lacks the necessary ambition to realize equality.
4. For this reason, we suggest restructuring Art. 15(1) of the draft convention, so that it in principle addresses the need to realize equality on a transformative and intersectional basis. This would act as to provide a clear guide as to what States ought to work towards. Within the major non-discrimination treaties, the use of temporary special measures is contextualized within the broader scope of the conventions. Given the nature of Art. 15(1), when compared with the non-discrimination conventions, the World Organization of the Scout Movement believes that it is important to set out explicitly what the ambition is: namely the realization of equality on a transformative and intersectional basis. In doing this, we have recognized the role that temporary special measures have in realizing this.
5. With regard to our latter assertion, the World Organization of the Scout Movement believe that in the formulation of Art. 15(1) it is important to recognize that the realization of the right to development for all people reinforces and is reinforced by equality. In the same manner the enjoyment of the right to development on a basis of equality is dependent on the realization of equality not just in the right to development, but in all other human rights. If Art. 15(1) is to be adequate it must clearly underline these intersections.
6. For these reasons, we would urge that the formulation of Art. 15(1) be revisited with a view to providing necessary contextualization and to ensure that its formulation reflects the importance of realizing equality more broadly as a means to realize equality in the right to development.