

Humanisation

Scouts



of globalisation



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout



Scouting and the humanisation of globalization

Arab, African and European Symposium

Algiers, originally planned for 1-4 December 2003

Foreword by the General Commissioner of Algerian Muslim Scouts and the Secretary General of WOSM

During the last twenty years, many successful efforts have been made to integrate development education, international solidarity and peace education into the Scout programme, as well as to reinforce the environmental dimension of Scouting.

However, these efforts need to be intensified, particularly in view of globalisation, the multiplication of armed conflicts and the ecological crisis. The complex challenges of the 21st century require men and women who are prepared to take action as active citizens of the world.

- The concept of "development " has changed. In the past, economic growth was often presented as the top priority, whilst health, education, human rights and the environment were considered secondary. Nowadays, it is widely believed that this approach focuses on short-term priorities at the expense of the long-term development of a country.
- Global issues are becoming increasingly complex and social, economic, political, ecological, technological and cultural aspects have to be taken into account. No country is free from ecological problems or conflicts and no country can tackle such issues alone.
- Educational values have also changed. Any educational programme, which focuses exclusively on national history and culture, cannot claim to prepare young people to play an active role in an increasingly interdependent world. Any educational programme, which is based upon competition and individualism, cannot claim to prepare young people for the co-operative efforts needed to tackle global issues.

One of the fundamental principles of Scouting is *duty to others*. In the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, it is formulated as follows:

- *Loyalty to one 's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and co-operation;*
- *Participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of one 's fellow-man and for the integrity of the natural world ¹.*



This focus was strengthened with the adoption of a Mission Statement by the World Scout Conference, held in Durban, South Africa, in 1999 ².

In the years to come, Scouting 's credibility as a non-formal educational movement will depend on its capacity to bring forth from its ranks tens of thousands of young men and women who have the knowledge, skills and motivation to take an active part in bringing about social change at local, national and international levels, in order to create a more open, just and peaceful society.

The concept of *Scouting and the Humanisation of Globalisation* as well as this Algiers Symposium have been designed with the above considerations in mind. They are inspired by the approach proposed by UNICEF under the title "Education for Human Development " ³. They are also inspired by the "Culture of Peace " programme adopted by the United Nations ⁴ and co-ordinated by UNESCO. This Symposium aims at helping national Scout associations enrich, with their partners from International Governmental and non-governmental Organizations, the programmes of their senior age sections by opening up new fields of action and genuine responsibility to young people, through partnerships with all the other actors in civil society.

At a time when the Scout Movement is preparing with renewed vigour to launch into its second century of activity, we call upon all national, regional and world Scout leaders to join in developing this programme and ensuring that it is a great success.

Let us keep in mind what Robert Baden-Powell wrote in the 1919 edition of "Aids to Scoutmastership ":

The aim of education generally has been well summarised in these words:

"No man can be called educated who has not a willingness and a desire, as well as a trained ability, to do his part in the world 's work ". And this is the main road to happiness and prosperity for all.

Noureddine Benbrahem

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Algerian Muslim Scouts*

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At the 55th. Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations ("Millennium Summit"), Resolution 55/2 was signed by 189 Member States. Their collective "Millennium Declaration" recognised "the duty to all the world's people especially the most vulnerable and particularly the children to whom the future belongs." Six *fundamental values* were held to be essential for international relations in the 21st. century: Freedom; Equality; Solidarity; Tolerance; Respect for Nature; Shared Responsibility. The "Road map towards the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration", adopted at the 56th. Session, in September 2001 accepted the "Millennium development Goals" (set-out in the Annex to A/56/326) and now simply called :

The "Millennium Goals" of the United Nations

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger***
- 2. Achieve universal primary education***
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women***
- 4. Reduce child mortality***
- 5. Improve maternal health***
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases***
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability***
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development.***

UN Resolution 55/29 of 18th.September 2000.

The 27th. Special session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution s-27/2,"A World Fit for Children" on the 10th.May 2002, calling for *a global movement* to uphold these ten imperatives, collectively called the "**Rallying call**" for the *global movement for Children, of which Scouting forms a significant part* -

- 1. Leave no child out***
- 2. Put children first***
- 3. Care for Every Child***
- 4. Fight HIV/AIDS***
- 5. Stop harming and exploiting children***
- 6. Listen to children***
- 7. Educate every child***
- 8. Protect children from war***
- 9. Protect the Earth for children***
- 10. Fight poverty :invest in children***

UNICEF, 2002.



Introduction to the Programme

Target audience

Ultimately the project of *Humanisation of Globalisation* is aimed at young people aged 15-25 years old, members and non members of Scouting. This is an age at which young people are preparing to carry out adult roles and find their place in society. Scouting offers them the opportunity to acquire the values, knowledge and skills to become citizens of the world, i.e. people who are able to play an active role in "making the world a better place" in which to live – starting with their local communities. This means helping to create a place in which each person's identity and dignity is recognised and respected, and in which everyone is able to live life to the full in a healthy and natural environment, without being threatened by injustice, intolerance or violence.

Aims

This Symposium, which also aims at launching the *Scouts of the World* programme has four main objectives: *environmental education, development education, peace education and solidarity*. These four aims interact: safeguarding the environment is at the heart of everything, as its destruction would threaten humanity's very existence. Safeguarding the environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development, as development that wastes environmental resources without replenishing them cannot last long. Without development (the key to improved human living conditions for everyone), there can be neither justice nor peace. But, in turn, development requires controlling conflicts: war, in addition to the cost in human lives, is a waste of resources and energy. It prohibits or destroys productive investment, blocks development and destroys the environment. And the cement that can hold it all together is worldwide solidarity.

Partnership

This Symposium and the project "Scouts of the World" aim at strengthening the partnership between World Scouting (and thus the future Scouts of the World) and International Organizations, be they governmental or not, who share these objectives of universal and active solidarity, of social justice and of world peace for "*Peace is not simply the absence of war. Peace is a dynamic process of collaboration between all states and peoples. This collaboration must be based on a respect for liberty, independence, national sovereignty, equality, respect for the law, human rights, as well as a just and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of people.*" It is only within such partnership that World Scouting, International Organizations and non-governmental organizations will, together, win this just struggle for humanity.



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The four Themes of the Symposium

Environmental education

The deterioration of the biophysical environment, which is linked to the exhaustion and degeneration of natural resources, threatens our quality of life and jeopardizes our well-being - perhaps even the survival of future generations. An awareness of the need to protect the biosphere is developing in most countries. However, people and societies are becoming increasingly alienated from their living environment. In addition, there is an increasing lack of solidarity towards other species on this planet. Human beings are becoming strangers to their natural environment, which used to unite them with the other elements of the biosphere. Moreover, people are all too often dominated by a technological universe that they find difficult to understand and use. People must develop a sense of equitable sharing and responsibility concerning the judicious use and sustainable development of collective resources.

People need to rediscover the fact that they cannot live a fully human and happy life without respecting and protecting the natural environment and other living beings, which play a part in maintaining a balance in the biosphere and in perpetuating it. Nature can no longer be considered an inexhaustible source of raw materials that people can exploit as they wish, nor as an infinite space in which they can thoughtlessly get rid of all their rubbish. People have to understand that they themselves are part of nature and that by destroying it they are destroying themselves.

A country that is conscious of the importance of the environment is more likely to succeed in its development. Where the importance of preserving the environment is not understood, development will fail.

Scouting has played a pioneering role in environmental education. Today, it must take more action in this area, particularly by incorporating education for sustainable development and not only conservation in its programmes, in order to truly respond to current needs.

The *Scouts of the World* must be the guardians and protectors of the environment. They will strive to reveal to others the splendours of nature and the spiritual dimension that it expresses. They will take action in their communities in order to make people more aware of the need to live in symbiosis with the environment and use its resources responsibly. They will mobilise other young people to take part in environmental protection activities : saving endangered animal and plant species, fighting against desertification and pollution, promoting renewable energies, and developing sustainable lifestyles.

This would be a Scouting contribution towards UN Millennium Goals 1, 7 and 8.



Development education

In 1800, there were one billion human beings. Today, there are six billion. By 2050, it is expected that there will be 10 billion. Twenty-five percent of the world's population lives in wealthy countries and consumes 75% of the energy. Two billion people do not have access to modern forms of energy, in particular electricity. The world will soon have 60 giant conurbations comprising 650 million inhabitants. Of the 21 mega-cities (over 10 million inhabitants), 17 are in poor countries. It seems that generalised urbanisation and industrialisation are creating a "dual" society. Those who cannot gain access to good employment and housing are living in ghettos and slums. This phenomenon exists even in rich countries: 35 million human beings live below the poverty line in the United States of America.

Development does not just mean technological development and economic growth. Such a conception of development has created a lot of damage by imposing a Western model on other cultures. Western industrialised societies suffer from moral and intellectual underdevelopment, which also needs to be addressed. True development can be defined as a process that enables a community to acquire greater autonomy with regard to the ecological, social and political conditions in its environment, and to move from less humane to more humane conditions. In this sense, development education is needed everywhere in the world, whatever a country's standard of living might be.

The *Scouts of the World* must be the agents of development, i.e. men and women who are able to:

- develop positive social relations in their communities and with other communities at national and international levels;
- recognise their own characteristics in terms of culture and identity, to respect them and to ensure that they are respected by others;
- identify the problems (ecological, cultural, economic and social) that affect their communities
- take part in developing and carrying out individual and collective projects with a view to improving the ecological, cultural, economic or social situation through volunteer commitment, work and the constructive control of modern techniques;
- take part in associative and political processes so as to influence long-term global changes.

This would be a Scouting contribution towards UN Millennium Goals 1, 7 and 8.



Peace education

Numerous antagonisms are appearing in our world, which is becoming smaller and smaller due to the increase of means of transport and communication and due to the rapid dissemination of information from one end of the world to the other. The collapse of empires into independent nation-states has awakened interethnic conflicts and strategic and economic rivalry among the great powers, and culture shock has reactivated antagonism among religions, antagonism between the North and the South and antagonism between modernity and fundamentalism. Our planet has been shaken by numerous conflicts that have led to millions of deaths over the past years.

The United Nations appeals to us to replace the culture of war in which we live, that only glorifies war heroes, by a culture of peace that proposes models of justice, mediation and brotherhood to young people.

Violence is presented everywhere as the only way to resolve conflicts, yet both history and current events show that no problem has been resolved in the long term in any way other than through mediation and negotiation.

Here, we are at the heart of the project called Scouting that our founder, Robert Baden-Powell, saw as a world brotherhood.

As Robert Baden-Powell appealed to us to do, we must develop builders of peace. Peace is not the absence of war; peace is not an appeal for quiet, nor a blanket of silence thrown over injustice to silence those who revolt. There is no peace without justice. By humanising globalisation Scouts of the World will be able to identify and reject nationalistic and ethnic prejudices, which cause injustice to be accepted when it applies to a foreigner or to someone who is different.

The *Scouts of the World* must be able to mediate, first in their communities, to help people to manage their conflicts and to find just solutions. They will know how to use active non-violence and negotiation to resolve issues. In a spirit of justice and brotherhood, they will know how to take action so as to reconcile those who have torn each other apart in conflicts.

This would be a Scouting contribution towards UN Millennium Goals 1 and 4.



Solidarity

The Common denominator of all the themes of this Symposium is that of Solidarity.

At the start, the Scout solidarity, according to the promise and law which unites us all: "*A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every Scout*" says our promise.

And the WOSM Constitution to add that the purpose of Scouting is the integral development of young people ... "*as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities*".

It is therefore as "citizens of the world" that Scouts must manifest and encourage *this international solidarity which is the only way to give a human face to globalisation*.

Solidarity between men and women of good will, between peoples, nations, states and their leaders. Solidarity which makes each one conscious not only to which extent we depend on others, but also how often we live *at the cost* of others; conscious that the price of the comfort of rich countries is usually paid by poorer ones, who will not know similar comfort until greater social and economic justice reigns worldwide, namely at the cost of certain sacrifices on the part of the "*beati posidentes*". This Symposium aims at proposing still other concrete contributions of World Scouting to this greater justice on our "Global Village".

This would be a Scouting contribution towards UN Millennium Goals 7 and 8.



References

¹ Constitution and By-laws of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Chapter I, Article II, paragraph 2.

² The Mission of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

³ The concept of human development used by UNICEF includes the three concepts of environment, development and peace. It is defined as follows : "A process which promotes the development, in children and young people, of attitudes and values such as global solidarity, peace, tolerance, social justice and environmental awareness, and which equips them with the knowledge and skills which will empower them to promote these values and bring about change in their own lives and in their communities, both locally and globally ".("Education for Development : a Teacher 's Resource for Global Learning ",by Susan Fountain. Published by De Bœck and Larcier,Brussels,1996.)

⁴ "The culture of peace is based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and on respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance, the promotion of development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women as an integral approach to preventing violence and conflicts, and efforts aimed at the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation."
(A/Res/52/13,15 January 1998,para.2)