



World Organization of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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To: International Commissioners

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## Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and WOSM

Dear colleagues,

On 7 July 2004 in Nairobi a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was signed by Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director, and myself in my position as Secretary General of WOSM.

This agreement is very important because Scouts mainly undertake outdoor activities and are therefore exposed and closely linked to nature. This exposure and interaction with nature has sensitized Scouts on the need to conserve and care for the environment. Members of the Scout Movement worldwide undertake clean-ups and tree planting campaigns, engage in reforestation and soil conservation activities and develop and use energy saving devices. Perhaps the best way to summarize how Robert Baden-Powell considered the educational impact of activities in nature is to quote this paragraph addressed to Rover Scouts. Talking about the forest, he wrote:

*"...And yet in it all there is life and sensation, reproduction, death and evolution going on steadily under the same great law by which we are governed. Man and his Nature-comrades among the forest plants and creatures. **For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, the forest is at once a laboratory, a club and a temple.**"*

UNEP started its work with young people in 1985, the International Youth Year. Since then, it has developed several global and regional initiatives, activities and networks for children and youth and published information materials for young people. In February 2003, UNEP adopted a long-term strategy for engaging and involving children and youth in its work. One of the key activities envisaged in the strategy is the development of partnerships with international and regional organizations dealing with young people. The Memorandum of Understanding is in direct response to the need to increase UNEP's partnerships with international youth organizations.

The Memorandum provides for a partnership between WOSM and UNEP to develop joint activities in order to promote environmental activities and actions among members of WOSM including organizing public awareness campaigns, participating in World Environment Day commemorations and endorsing and participating in Scout actions and advocacy. WOSM will also support the implementation of UNEP's long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues, which was adopted by governments in 2003. UNEP will also support the implementation of WOSM's environmental actions.

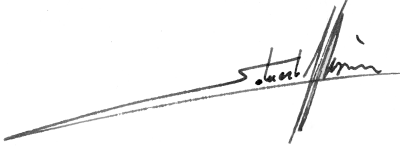
By establishing partnerships at a global level, WOSM helps NSOs to establish partnerships at local level.

I would like to encourage co-operation at the regional and national level with UNEP. Therefore it is very important to share information on this agreement as widely as possible.

Attached you can find a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding and two resolutions from the World Scout Conference which deal directly with this topic.

A digital PDF format of the document is available online at:  
[http://www.scout.org/front/docs/unesp\\_wosm\\_e.pdf](http://www.scout.org/front/docs/unesp_wosm_e.pdf) (English)  
[http://www.scout.org/front/docs/unesp\\_wosm\\_f.pdf](http://www.scout.org/front/docs/unesp_wosm_f.pdf) (French)

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Missoni', written over a horizontal line.

**Eduardo Missoni**  
Secretary General

**Enclosure document:**  
Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP  
Resolutions from the World Scout Conference concerning environment

## Resolutions from the World Scout Conference concerning environment

### 13/90 Environment

The Conference

- noting that, within the Constitution of the World Organization, respect for the integrity of the natural world is part of the fundamental principles of the Scout Movement and programmes taking place in contact with nature are part of its educational method
- recognizing that the protection of nature and of the environment represents one of the greatest and most vital challenges of our times
- aware that the Scout Movement has historically played a pioneering role in environmental education and action
- conscious of the need to revitalize the role of Scouting and its visibility in that key sector
- urges national Scout organizations to strengthen the ecological and environmental dimensions within their youth programmes, adult leader training and the totality of the operation of the organization
- requests the World Committee to assist national Scout organizations with tools needed to achieve this objective.

### 14/90 World Scout Environment Year

The Conference

- applauds the decision of the World Committee to declare World Scout Environment Year and urges national Scout organizations to find new and creative ways to encourage their Scouts to participate in activities related to environmental education and action throughout the Year
- welcomes the publication of Help to Save the World and Scouting: Action for the Environment and expresses its appreciation to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their generous technical and financial support which enabled these important tools to be made available to Scout associations
- encourages further close cooperation between these organizations and the Scout Movement at world, regional and national levels.

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding (herein referred to as the Memorandum) is concluded between:

### **The World Organisation for Scout Movement (WOSM)**

P.O Box 241  
CH - 1211 Geneva 4  
Switzerland

and

### **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

P. O. Box 30552  
Nairobi  
Kenya

#### **1. Background**

1.1 UNEP is the world's leading environmental agency and the environmental arm of the United Nations system. It was created in 1972 and its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Among its major goals are; raising environmental awareness and promoting actions at all levels of society worldwide.

1.2 UNEP started its work with young people in 1985, the International Youth Year. Since then, it has developed several global and regional initiatives, activities and networks for children and youth and published information materials for young people. UNEP has also involved young people in its Governing Council sessions and in the development of regional and global environmental reports. UNEP also supports activities of children and youth in school and universities and has held regular conferences for young people and promoted environmental awareness through competitions, recognition and partnerships with international, regional and national organizations working with young people. In February 2003, the UNEP Governing Council unanimously adopted a long-term strategy for engaging and involving children and youth in UNEP's work. One of the key activities envisaged in the strategy is the development of partnerships with international and regional organizations dealing with young people. This Memorandum of Understanding is in direct response to the need to increase UNEP's partnerships with international youth organizations.

## **2. The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)**

2.1 The Scout Movement is the largest youth organisation worldwide, with two-thirds of its over 30 million members living in developing countries. This Movement of and for young people (6 to 30 years) is present in over 215 countries and territories and has a membership of more than 30 million youth (boys and girls). It works with recognized National Scout Organizations in 154 countries. The Scout Movement was started by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907. The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. This is done through active and progressive self-education under the guidance of trained volunteer adult leaders to produce an individual who is responsible and autonomously able to operate in multi-cultural groups with a purposeful outlook.

2.2 The Scouting Movement has been intractably connected to the environment since its inception. Scouts mainly undertake outdoor activities and are therefore exposed to nature. This exposure and interaction with nature has sensitized scouts on the need to conserve and care for the environment. On a regular basis, the Scout Movement world wide undertake clean-ups and tree planting campaigns, engage in reforestation and soil conservation activities and develop and use energy saving devices.

## **3. A Strategic Alliance on the Environment**

3.1 This Memorandum provides for a partnership between WOSM and UNEP to develop joint activities in order to promote environmental activities and actions among members of WOSM including organizing public awareness campaigns, participating in World Environment Day commemorations and endorsing and participating in scout actions and advocacy. WOSM will also support the implementation of the new long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues between 2004 to 2008 and UNEP will support the implementation of WOSM's environmental actions.

3.2 By joining efforts WOSM and UNEP will maximize their resources and expand their networking capacities among young people globally. This will enable them to reach out to young people in all corners of the world with messages related to their respective areas of concentration.

## **4. Activities and Responsibilities**

Under the terms of this Memorandum, UNEP and WOSM hereby agree that:

### **UNEP will:**

- Invite the participation of WOSM members in its Tunza Global Youth Retreat/Governing Council sessions, Tunza International Youth Conference, Tunza International Children's Conference and regional processes and events for children and youth;
- Where applicable, seek the participation, input and views of WOSM in the production of its publications;

- Invite inputs from WOSM on scout initiatives on environmental activities for Tunza publications for children and youth;
- Provide inputs towards the publication of environmental information materials for young people by WOSM and when possible, provide financial assistance towards these publications;
- Partner with WOSM in developing and supporting programmes and activities for young people related to the environment;
- Involve WOSM in UNEP's global campaigns such as the Plant for the Planet and the Play for the Planet initiatives.
- Where possible, make references of the valuable contribution made by Scouts worldwide to the environment in its Annual Reports and other milestone publications.

**WOSM will:**

- Organize national, regional and global campaigns on environmental awareness and enlighten young people on their role in caring for and conserving the environment and use existing channels such as Scouts radio programmes, theatre, drama, essay competitions, songs and poems to spread these messages;
- Distribute UNEP publications and information materials through its network worldwide;
- Include, when applicable, information on UNEP's activities and environmental articles in its newsletters and publications;
- Incorporate environmental discourse and debate in the programme of the scout Jamborees, camps and other official Scout programmes at the national, regional and global levels;
- Participate in the celebration of the World Environment Day and include this day in its annual calendar of activities;
- Submit names of individuals and outstanding projects to be considered for UNEP's "Champions of the Earth" and also encourage local scout groups to participate in the Volvo – UNEP award programme for young people;
- Continue with their local environmental initiatives such as clean ups, tree planting and waste management and approach industries to promote the use of environmentally friendly products as well as proper disposal of waste and effluents.

**UNEP and WOSM will:**

- Share this agreement with their respective regional and national structures, members and staff world-wide to encourage co-operation at these levels;

- Communicate and publicize the agreement in their respective publications and meetings;
- Work together in developing information, education and communication materials for use in awareness creation and capacity building for the young people on environment;
- Exchange addresses of national and regional representatives and contacts to facilitate communication between representatives of the two organizations at the national and regional level;

5. All correspondence regarding this Memorandum between WOSM and UNEP should be addressed to:

**At WOSM**

Mr. Kinuthia Murugu  
 Regional Director  
 World Organisation of the Scout Movement  
 Africa Regional Officer  
 P.O. Box 63070-00200  
 Nairobi, Kenya  
 Tel: 254 (0)20 57 71 23 /57 34 36  
 Fax: 254 (0)20 57 83 42  
 E-mail: [kmurugu@africa.scout.org](mailto:kmurugu@africa.scout.org)

**At UNEP**

Mr. Eric Falt  
 Spokesperson/Director  
 E-mail: [eric.falt@unep.org](mailto:eric.falt@unep.org)  
 And/or  
 Mr. Theodore Oben  
 Head  
 Children & Youth/Sport & the Environment Unit  
 E-mail: [theodore.oben@unep.org](mailto:theodore.oben@unep.org)

Division of Communications and Public Information  
 United Nations Environment Programme  
 P.O Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya  
 Tel: 254 20 623262  
 Fax: 254 20 623692

6. This Memorandum shall take effect upon signature by both parties and will be reviewed every two years thereafter and renewed for another 2 years if there is no objection from one of the parties.

7. It is agreed that, UNEP and WOSM will meet, preferably once a year, to review progress made on the implementation of this Memorandum.

8. Both organizations shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend at their own expense, their officers, agents and employees from and against all suits, claims, demands and liability of any nature or kind, including costs and expenses, arising out of negligent misconduct of the other organization or its employees in the performance of the terms of this Memorandum.

9. WOSM shall be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor. Agents or employees of WOSM shall not be considered in any respect as being officials or staff members of UNEP.

10. WOSM shall not use the name or emblem of UNEP in advertising, commercial or promotional context. UNEP's name and emblem may only appear in materials approved by UNEP that promote the children and youth activities and programmes supported by this Memorandum.

11. Both organizations shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect the other and shall fulfill their commitments with fullest regard of the interest of the other.

12. Any controversy or claim arising out of, or in accordance with this Memorandum or breach thereof, shall, unless it is settled by direct negotiation, be settled in accordance with UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force. The Parties shall be bound by an arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy or claim.

13. Nothing in or relating to this Memorandum shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

14. This Memorandum may be terminated by either party before the expiry date of the Memorandum by giving notice in writing to the other party. The period of notice shall be 30 days.

15. No change in or modification of this Memorandum shall be made except by prior written agreement between UNEP and WOSM. Both organizations shall not assign, transfer, pledge, sub-contract or make other disposition of this Memorandum or any part thereof, or of any of their rights, claims or obligations under this Memorandum except with the prior written consent of the other.

Eduardo Missoni  
Secretary General  
World Organization of the Scout Movement

Klaus Teopfer  
Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, July 7, 2004