

Joint UNESCO-WOSM kit for the Decade for a Culture of Peace (2002)



World Organization
of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale
du Mouvement Scout



Paris and Geneva, November 2002.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

The kit that we are presenting to you today for your consideration has been published at a very timely moment. It is the result of the work achieved by the World Organization of the Scout Movement before and during the International Year for the Culture of Peace and it is published at the beginning of the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and non-violence for the children of the world", for which UNESCO plays the role of the leading agency within the United Nations system.

The kit comprises two complementary elements:

- The reference document "Scouting and Peace", which includes both a conceptual and a historical perspective. It examines Scouting's contributions to the cause of peace in its many facets, notably by creating a feeling of brotherhood and understanding that goes far beyond national borders, by developing respect and understanding towards other cultures, by working for justice and social development, by creating an ethic of responsibility towards the environment;
- and the booklet "Building Peace Together, 12 Workshops for a Global Development Village", which contains a collection of group dynamics, games and exercises, all in connection with peace, which are the result of three successive World Scout Jamborees during which the Global Development Village featured among the most relevant activities of the Youth Programme.

Concerning the content of the kit we would like to underline the coherence between its two elements and, concerning the methodology, its eminently active character, faithful to the Scout educational method in tune with modern educational principles.

The kit has been prepared to be read, to be consulted but above all to be used. It should become a working tool in the hands of:

- Scout leaders at all levels,
- leaders of international governmental and non-governmental organizations who work with the Scout Movement in the Global Development Village and in other similar events,
- leaders of other non-governmental organizations, and social, cultural, ecological, sport and similar associations,
- all men and women of goodwill who want to promote the cause of peace around the world.

As the World Scout Conference in Durban in 1999 stated, "WOSM and UNESCO share the same vision of the contribution education makes to establishing lasting peace". It is therefore not surprising that this coincidence of long-term goals has produced over the years many concrete actions which go in several directions: from the Culture of Peace to research on violence on the screen, from the protection of cultural heritage to literacy, without mentioning the permanent consultation that takes place between WOSM and UNESCO within the framework of youth work.


Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jacques Moreillon.

Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organization of the Scout Movement

Handwritten signature of Koïchiro Matsuura.

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director General
UNESCO

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE 2002  2010 AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD