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## **CIRCULAR N° 33/2004**

To: International Commissioners

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### **Report on the cooperation between WOSM, Youth Organisations and the World Bank & Suggestions for action at national level**



Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure to transmit to you a report presented to the World Bank last September. It is useful to examine how you can use this document in your relations with the representatives of the World Bank in each of your countries.

The report "Learning to Work Together" was presented jointly by the World Organization of the Scout Movement and of the European Youth Forum in September 2004 in Sarajevo, at the beginning of the event "Youth, Development and Peace 2004" which was co-organised by the World Bank, WOSM and the European Youth Forum.

The report is an evaluation of the dialogue that has been ongoing since September 2003 between the World Bank and youth organisations at global and local level. The aim of this dialogue is to produce a "Framework for Action" that will define the Youth Policy of the World Bank and its implementation. The report is a response to a progress report prepared by the Human Development Network of the World Bank.

Information on the Sarajevo meeting and all the documents are available on the World Bank website [www.worldbank.org/ydp2004](http://www.worldbank.org/ydp2004)

#### **1. THE SCOUT MOVEMENT, INITIATOR OF A POLICY CHANGE OF THE WORLD BANK IN FAVOUR OF YOUTH**

After the last World Scout Jamboree in Thailand, WOSM relaunched its cooperation with the World Bank. It was strengthened in March 2003 in Athens at a meeting, organised with the support of WOSM, between representatives of global youth organisations and James D. Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank.

On the basis of this crucial meeting, the World Bank took the decision:

- To elaborate and to implement a youth strategy, targeting especially developing countries.
- To launch a consultation process with youth organisations in order to define this strategy on global and local levels.
- To consult with the youth organisations on the type of dialogue that should be established between the Bank and the youth organisations.

WOSM, after a global-level advocacy working together with its regular partners (Alliance of CEOs "Big 7" and ICMYO<sup>1</sup>), is now pursuing this initiative and invites National Scout Organisations to become part of the process on the national level. It is on national level that the concrete implementation of the World Bank policy will take place<sup>2</sup>.

It should be noted that the World Bank has already supported the organising of the "Pan-African Youth Forum: AIDS, a Question of Education" in March 2004 in Dakar.

## **2. HOW TO USE THIS REPORT**

### **2.1 NSOs in developing countries**

It is important that NSOs in developing countries gain access to the processes through which the future of their country is negotiated:

- the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper), prepared by the beneficiary country
- the CAS (Country Assistance Strategy), the document defining the support agreed by the World Bank

Through these two mechanisms youth organisations – including Scouting – can be associated to the preparation of youth policies. Contact should be made through the country representatives of the World Bank in each country. Such contacts may also lead to other forms of direct support by the World Bank.

The contact information by country can be found under the section "Countries and Regions" of the World Bank homepage [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

### **2.2 NSOs in developed countries**

Some NSOs have the possibility to participate in the definition of their country's development cooperation policies through civil society involvement. This participation is usually organised through the National Youth Council, the European Youth Forum or through specialised NGO platforms.

The World Bank is dependent of the funding allocated by the donor countries. Advocacy work towards national governments in favour of the developing countries can be supported by NSOs. At the same time, NSOs can strengthen the existing cooperation initiatives between National Scout Organisations from the North and the South.

## **3. WHAT IS THE YOUTH POLICY OF THE WORLD BANK ?**

The World Bank has decided to create a global, long-term policy framework for its actions in favour of youth. In agreement with the youth organisations, it has decided to put its focus on the following areas:

- Education
- Healthy behaviour
- Youth employment
- Conflicts / peace
- Youth participation and engagement in the development process
- Youth participation in the finalisation of the children and youth strategy

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<sup>1</sup> The International Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations represent over 20 international youth non-governmental organisations and regional youth platforms which co-operate on a daily basis in institutional processes at the global level.

<sup>2</sup> The lobby action towards World Bank representatives should be undertaken in each country.

WOSM's inputs to the reflection have been developed together with Scout volunteers who have been involved in the process. These Scout volunteers represent specific Scout development projects from all six regions. In this way the inputs of Scouting correspond to an overall vision based on the living conditions of young people and their communities.

#### 4. MAIN POINTS OF THE REPORT

The following main points of the report will be useful arguments in your discussions with the representatives of the World Bank in your country:

- Expectations, reciprocal commitments, and shared values: The issue was to measure the expectations of youth and the responses given until now by the World Bank. The conclusion is that the commitments made by the Bank on the cooperation framework and the instruments have been largely respected.
- A global approach to development issues: Despite the personal commitment of President Wolfensohn, much work remains to be done on the mutual understanding regarding the model of human development that has been proposed.
- Maintain the agreed priorities in youth policies: The efforts made by the various public and private actors in global and local levels should not be fragmented by creating a new political agenda. Instead, the priorities agreed in the World Programme of Action for Youth need to be supported and implemented.
- Invest in youth and define national youth policies: This point concerns the work done since 1998 by the Alliance of CEOs (Big 7) in promoting National Youth Policies. The work continues, and proposals from 1998 are still valid.<sup>3</sup>
- Invest in youth organisations: National and local authorities should be made to recognise that youth organisations – Scouting in particular – have a crucial role in the field of non-formal education. Any support given to these organisations directly benefits the young people that compose them, and their communities. The document of the Big 7 from 1997 on the value of Non-Formal Education<sup>4</sup> still remains valid to support your argumentation.
- Continue advocacy on global level: Networks of non-governmental and civil society organisations in which WOSM participates should be the spokesmen of local and regional realities and particularities. In this way the policies defined on the global level correspond with the expectations of the local population.
- Act on national level: The main challenge for the World Bank is now to prepare its national network to implement the future policy in favour of children and youth. The country directors, who are in charge of negotiating the grants to developing countries, need to ensure that the national youth policy is defined according to the agreed criteria. They can play the role of mediators between youth organisations and national authorities.

#### 5. COORDINATION OF ACTION

In order to improve the process and in order to strengthen the position of Scouting on local and global level, it is important to collect and coordinate information on all experiences of the interaction between NSOs and the World Bank (positive and/or negative), and on the results of the projects that have been initiated.

This coordination work is done by the department in charge of Partnerships, Events and Global Initiatives. Please contact:

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Yours sincerely,

Eduardo Missoni  
Secretary General

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<sup>3</sup> The document "National Youth Policies" is downloadable on the website of WOSM.

<sup>4</sup> The document "The education of young people, a statement at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" is also downloadable.