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World Organization of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout  
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения  
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout  
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

## UNICEF and Scouts join forces

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*GENEVA, 8 April 2005* ? UNICEF and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) are pleased to announce the launch of a new formal alliance to promote the participation of young people in decision-making processes at all levels (global, regional and local). The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held at the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland. The headquarters for WOSM are based in Geneva.

UNICEF and WOSM will work together to help equip young people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to contribute in the building of a more peaceful world. Joint initiatives will include the Scouts? Gift for Peace project, the use of internet technology for youth exchange through the websites ?Voices of Youth? (UNICEF) and ?Youth of the World? (WOSM), the promotion of child-friendly education and life-skills to fight HIV/AIDS and roll back malaria and special events such as the WOSM Centenary Celebration (2007) and regional and worldwide jamborees.

Scouts participating in the ceremony asked Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, her opinions on the current direction of youth participation. Bellamy emphasized the need to focus on the potential of adolescents, not just their problems. A Girl Scout in her own childhood, Bellamy also remarked that the scout experience gave her confidence and skills which have helped her throughout her life.

Eduardo Missoni, Secretary-General of WOSM, spoke of the importance of this new MoU as a tool to use the powers of each organization to mobilize young people in education for peace and tolerance.

WOSM and UNICEF have a long history of collaboration worldwide. Activities have included campaigns and projects for the elimination of polio, oral dehydration therapy, community development, sanitary latrines, life-skills based education, girls? education, and fighting HIV and AIDS.

WOSM is one of the largest youth organizations in the world, representing more than 28 million Scouts in 215 countries and territories and is committed to helping young people develop their full potential as individuals and active members of their communities.

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