



Closing remarks

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World Scout Committee Member

Mr. Director General,
Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. Chairman of the Scientific Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Representatives of the United Nations System and Partners,
Dear Friends,

How to build on the results of the World Scientific Congress on Education that now just ends?

This is the challenge that the World Scout Committee and the members of the Educational Methods Committee will have to respond to.

Since two days in Geneva, we reached to re-open the link between World Scouting and the Academic. We have seen that this relationship already existed at the time of our founder. How to continue after the congress? The Declaration that you have presented helps to look at ways of cooperating to reinforce that relationship, which is based on a triangle where we meet :

- Partners such as the UNESCO, the Jacobs Foundation, the Council of Europe- who supported this event
- The scientific community
- Scout practioners who have experienced a special reality of the Scout Movement

Our presence here pre-design a powerful network which can help create new subjects of scientific researches, new educational tools and training programmes.

The Educational Methods Committee, which is an advisory body to the World Scout Committee, will meet tomorrow and already look at a special agenda to follow up the first results of the Congress. To enrich our programmes, we will have to think about integrating transversal issues which were debated during the workshops: spiritual dimension, gender, environment, employability,...

Another follow up will be the publication of the results of the congress through a book that will reflect the spirit of our meetings, and the achievement of our discussions, obviously including proposals.

We also know that the congress should support other works that are organised in parallel to this intellectual process:

- The governance review of the World Organization
- The social marketing plan
- The campaign on membership growth and the improvement of the quality of our public offer

But what I feel as being the main achievement of this gathering is the capacity we created to conduct an exercise of critical thinking. We cannot think about the future without having had experienced such an analytic step.

Let me address a special thank you to all the ones who have worked for this success:

- The contributors
- The partners
- My colleague Gualtiero Zanolini for the support given to the preparation of the content of the Congress
- Patrick Gallaud, Scientific Advisor seconded by the French Ministry of Youth
- Dominique Bénard who provided his expertise
- The staff of the World Scout Bureau, coordinated by Saad Zian
- The members of the Educational Methods Committee and my other colleagues of the Committee

To be faithful to the original intuition of its founder, the Scout Movement needs to respect a tradition. This tradition is not covered of dust. This tradition has a name : innovation. During the last two days we have opened innovative ways of addressing the challenges of better serving young people.

I hope you will quickly re-invest everything you have shared here.

Thank you to all of you.