Building Bridges

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December 16, 2009 WOSM delegates held a side event at the Bella Centre that was to serve as the platform for some of the youth of the movement attending the Scouts for Climate Summit sharing with us their stories of how environmental awareness and education from within Scouting continues to affect their lives, the lives of their communities and the lives of all people around the world.

The event was attended by Laurence Pollier from UNFCCC Secretariat. Mrs Pollier was happy to note that World Scouting is a ?fantastic network of young people doing a lot of work at the local level?. Issuing a challenge she quoted Nicolas Hulot, stated that ?should an agreement come out of COP 15, young people should be ready to lead by example?. Falko Mohrs UN youth delegate for Germany in 2009 also made an intervention, speaking about advocacy and how to represent and engage public figures on behalf of a cause.

Due to restrictive access to the Bella Centre, the event initially to involve scouts attending the Scouts for Climate Summit held by the Danish Scouts and Guides Association and have them present their projects to their audience was modified to a live video streaming event with the scouts from the Scouts for Climate Summit participating from an offsite venue. They put together a video in which they introduce themselves and their projects and was diffused to the participants of the event. You can watch their powerful and inspiring message here and soon on www.unfccc.int (as well as other Scouting documents)

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The event ended with WOSM being invited to sign a UN Intergenerational Commitment book in which important personalities such as John Kerry as well us other NGOs made commitments and promise to accomplish them by COP16. The statement was that:

The environment has been part of Scouting since it started over 100 years ago. Regarding Climate Change, over 30 Millions Scouts, spread in 160 countries, recognised they could be part of the solution. Their aims are to work towards a world where:

- People and natural systems have clean water and clean air.
- Sufficient natural habitat exists to support native species.
- The risk of harmful substances to people and environment are minimised.
- The most suitable environment practices are used.
- People are prepared to respond to environmental hazards and natural disasters.

With this WOSM commits to continue affirm its message that it is part of the solution, continues to serve its youth and promises to deliver as it has been delivering for the past centenary.