

FINAL REPORT



7th
WORLD SCOUT
YOUTH FORUM

SOUTH
AFRICA
1999

7^e FORUM
DES JEUNES DU
SCOUTISME
MONDIAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 7th World Scout Youth Forum was held at Michaelhouse, Balgowan, South Africa, from 19-22 July 1999. It was the second Forum linked to the World Scout Conference, so implementing for the second time a decision taken by the Conference itself in order to strengthen youth involvement in the decision-making process of our organization.

1.1 Nature and purpose of the World Scout Youth Forum

The 33rd World Scout Conference in 1993 adopted a *Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making*. This policy states, as a basic principle, that Scouting is a Movement *of* young people, supported by adults; it is not a Movement *for* young people managed by adults only. Thus, Scouting offers the potential for a learning community of young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience.

The policy makes it a responsibility, amongst others, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement to provide opportunities for young adults to participate in decision-making processes and training to be effective in such decision-making, and to organise Youth Forums for the expression of views and for the training of young members in appropriate skills.

The same Conference adopted Resolution 10/93 on Youth Forums, recognising that such meetings constitute one useful method to complement genuine participation by young people in decision-making at all levels.

The same resolution recommended that Youth Forums be held in conjunction with all statutory meetings such as national general assemblies, regional and world conferences; that these Youth Forums make recommendations to and advise the statutory meetings and other decision-making bodies; and that Youth Forum delegates also participate in these statutory meetings as delegates or observers.

A World Scout Youth Forum, therefore, provide a dual opportunity for young members:

- To discuss and express their views on issues of interest to them, preparing inputs and making recommendations to the World Conference to which the Forum is linked, and to the World Scout Committee; and
- To develop the skills necessary to strengthen their capacity to take part in decision-making processes.

Resolution 10/93 made the World Scout Committee ultimately responsible for the agenda and procedures of the World Scout Youth Forum and a Host Committee responsible for facilities and support services. The resolution encourages these committees to delegate to young members the planning, organizing and running of such events. The Conference directed the World Committee to devote the necessary human, financial and material resources for the Youth Forum.

Guidelines were adopted by the World Scout Committee in 1995 and revised in 1997 in order to give a more detailed framework for the organization of these events.

1.2 Organizing Committees

As specified in the guidelines, three committees were in charge of the organization and conduct of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum: the Host Committee, the Planning Committee and the Steering Committee.

1.21 Host Committee



This committee was responsible for the physical organization of the event from the reception of the participants to their departure. The committee was composed of South African young leaders appointed by the Host Association and was chaired by Richard Beeson. This committee got guidance and support from the Conference Director Winston Adams and the World Scout Bureau. The work of this committee was very effective and particularly very well appreciated by the participants (see Evaluation report in Appendix).

1.22 Planning Committee

This committee was responsible for preparing the content of the Forum, choosing the working methods and developing the detailed agenda. It was an international committee, whose members had been appointed by the World Scout Committee.

Its members were:



- The Chairperson-designate of the Forum, Mbanjwa Bhekizitha Percival, South Africa.
- Two members of the Steering Committee of the preceding Forum:
 - Håkon Lund, Chairperson of the 6th World Scout Youth Forum, Norway;
 - Wendy Mei Lin Lee, Singapore;
- One member of the World Programme Committee: Tania Roach, United Kingdom;
- One member of the World Scout Committee: Jocelyne Gendrin, Vice-Chairman of the World Scout Committee, France;
- Additional member:
 - Melissa Martins Casagrande, Brazil;
- One executive from the World Scout Bureau: Jean-Luc Bertrand.

1.23 Steering Committee

After its election, this committee was responsible for the conduct of the Forum, assisting the Forum in achieving its objectives and adapting the agenda and working methods to the needs of the Forum. It also prepared the Summary report and represented the Forum at the World Scout Conference.

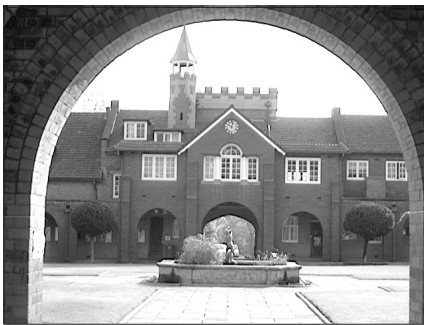


The committee consisted of:

- the designated Chairperson; Mbanjwa Bhekizitha Percival from South Africa
- five Vice-Chairpersons, one from each Region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement represented at this Forum, elected by all Forum delegates from among themselves: Stephen Razafindratsima, from Madagascar, Africa Region; Hassene Chaâbane from Tunisia, Arab Region; Dong-Wook Lee, from Korea, Asia-Pacific Region; Grégory Sanchez-Rodriguez, from Belgium, European Region; and Arturo Romboli, from Argentina, Interamerican Region;
- a General Rapporteur appointed by the World Programme Committee: Shana McElroy, U.S.A.
- one executive from the World Scout Bureau: Jean-Luc Bertrand.

1.3 Venue

The Forum was held at Michaelhouse College, which is located in the town of Balgowan, near Pietermaritzburg and one-and-a-half hours from Durban. Founded in 1896, Michaelhouse College is one of the most prestigious secondary schools in South Africa.



The Rector, Mr. Dudley Forde, is the Chief Commissioner of the South African Scout Association. The Rector, together with the Michaelhouse staff and the Host Committee, despite the African winter temperatures, made the participants' stay most enjoyable. That is clearly reflected in the very high rating given by the participants in their written evaluation to the items concerning welcome, accommodation, working conditions and services: close to or over 90% of positive ratings (see Evaluation report in Appendix).

1.4 Participation

113 young people, comprising 78 delegates and 35 observers from 53 countries, participated in this event. Only 5 of the 6 WOSM regions were represented, since unfortunately Eurasia was unable to be present. The distribution of participants among the regions was as follows:

- 23 from the African Region (13 out of 34 countries)
- 6 from the Arab Region (4 out of 19 countries)
- 33 from the Asia-Pacific Region (11 out of 23 countries)
- 40 from the European Region (20 out of 40 countries)
- 11 from the Interamerican Region (5 out of 31 countries).

Two countries, Mozambique and Bhutan, which were to be recognised as members of WOSM at the World Scout Conference, sent observers to the Forum.

Comparing these figures to the previous Forum indicates that the total number of participants is stable but that there is a better balance among

the regions. However, the number of National Scout Organizations present still represents only one third of the recognised NSOs in WOSM.

It is important to note that 75% of the Forum participants were present at the Conference.

The balance between men and women (32% of the participants and 26% of delegates being female) is very encouraging and better than at the Conference (where 15% of the participants and 9% of the delegates were female).

For more detailed information see the Evaluation report in Appendix.

1.5 Main topics

As specified in the guidelines, the Forum Planning Committee identified the main topics to be discussed at the Forum. The World Scout Committee approved these proposals.

The themes were:

1.51 The essential characteristics of Scouting

The sessions devoted to this topic aimed to prepare the participants to take a full part in the discussions at the World Scout Conference on the mission of Scouting by informing them about the process which would be followed at the Conference on that topic, by giving them the opportunity to reflect on their own Scout experience and by helping them to better understand the Conference document "The Essential Characteristics of Scouting".

1.52 Youth participation

The sessions devoted to this subject offered participants the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision Making, to share experiences concerning youth involvement in the decision-making process at all levels in their own context, identifying difficulties and possibilities, to be better prepared for the Conference and, back at home, to contribute to implementing this policy in a real spirit of partnership.

1.53 A vision for Scouting

The sessions devoted to this topic stimulated among the participants reflection about what the world may be like in 2007 and about what should be the role of Scouting as an educational movement in such a context. It was the Forum's contribution to the preparation of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

Human Rights was the topic of one special evening during the Forum; these were considered by the participants in a very active and participative way (audio-visual, games, and testimonies...).

Other topics were proposed by the participants and were discussed during the Open Forum and the workshops sessions.

1.6 Working methods



The working methods were varied and participative, with brief introductory sessions in plenary and longer sessions in small groups. International teams were established to ensure that members got to know each other well and were able to have in-depth discussions.

Simultaneous interpretation during the plenary sessions was provided in English and French, the two official languages of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

The working methods were considered by the participants as having greatly facilitated the sharing of experience among themselves (87% positive ratings) and participants getting to know each other (82%) and, less but still well, the active participation (70%) and the contribution to the work of the Forum (67%) of each young person.

1.7 Documents

Different documents were prepared and distributed to the participants to support them in their work.

Sent in advance:

- Doc. 1, Provisional Agenda
- Doc. 2, Guidelines and Rules of Procedure
- Doc. 3, The Essential Characteristics of Scouting
- Doc. 4, Youth Participation

Distributed during the Forum:

- Revised Agenda
- List of Participants
- Recommendations Committee Report

Distributed after the Forum at the World Scout Conference:

- Summary Report and Recommendations

2. AGENDA

MONDAY 19 JULY

15.00

WELCOME SESSION

Meditation

Welcome

Welcome by the Rector of Michaelhouse.

Introduction

Introduction of the members of the Host Committee and of the Planning Committee.

Information

Information about the Steering Committee, the election of the Vice-Chairpersons and the procedures to follow concerning any amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

Presentation of the objectives, contents and working methods of the Forum.

Call for subjects to be discussed in the Open Forum or the Workshops.

16.00

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” SESSION

Games

17.30

OPENING CEREMONY

HUMAN RIGHTS EVENING

Various activities and testimonies related to action by Scouts in favour of human rights were presented in a series of workshops.

TUESDAY 20 JULY

09.00

OPENING SESSION

Meditation

Wake-up activities

Announcements

Approval of Rules of Procedure

Presentation of candidates for election as Vice-Chairpersons

Report of Chairperson, 6th World Scout Youth Forum

7th World Scout Youth Forum and 35th World Scout Conference

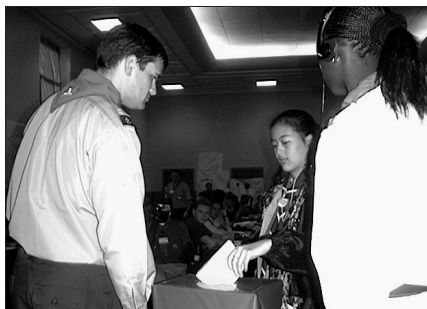
A presentation was made on this subject and then participants were given time to individually reflect about Scouting and to work in international teams to create a collage that reflected their collective experiences.

11.00

THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SCOUTING (1)

The sessions devoted to this topic aimed at preparing participants to take a full part in the discussions at the 35th World Scout Conference on the mission of Scouting, by informing them about the process which would be followed at the Conference on this topic. The sessions offered participants the opportunity to reflect on their own Scout experience and help them better understand the Conference document, "The Essential Characteristics of Scouting".

14.00



ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SCOUTING (2)

A presentation was made to help participants understand the "Essential Characteristics of Scouting" document. Participants were divided into groups in which they focussed on one of the 9 characteristics. There also was a question and answer time in an open plenary with World Scout Bureau and World Scout Committee members who had been involved in preparing this document.

16.00

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AN AFTERNOON IN A LOCAL COMMUNITY

16.15

FREE EVENING

20.00

WEDNESDAY 21 JULY

09.00

OPENING SESSION

Meditation

Wake-up activities

Announcements

09.10

YOUTH PARTICIPATION (1)

Participants were invited to share in their international teams their experience of youth participation at all levels of their organizations, and identify obstacles and opportunities. This was followed by a presentation of the Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making.

11.00 HOW SCOUTS IMAGINE THE FUTURE (1)

After the presentation made by a guest speaker, participants were invited to identify challenges and opportunities in Scouting.

11.00 HOW SCOUTS IMAGINE THE FUTURE (2)

During the second session participants, in their international teams, were invited to express their vision for the future of Scouting.

16.30 OPEN FORUM

19.30 SOUTH AFRICAN EVENING

Dinner and Campfire: cultural presentations by South African Scout groups.

THURSDAY 22 JULY

09.00 Distribution of the Recommendations Committee Report

09.00 OPENING SESSION

Meditation

Wake-up activities

Announcements

09.10 WORKSHOPS

11.00 YOUTH PARTICIPATION (2)

In the Plenary hall and then in the workshops rooms.

14.30 VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

18.00 CLOSING CEREMONY

18.30 CLOSING RECEPTION AND CONCERT

Drakensburg Boys Choir

VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

20.30 INTERNATIONAL EVENING

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

As Scouts, and thus world citizens, we considered it essential to examine the role of our Movement and our personal responsibility in promoting human rights in our various countries.

It is our duty to ensure that the Universal Declaration is made truly meaningful to young people and to put the respect for human rights at the heart of our educational proposals, in accordance with our fundamental principles.

During this Forum, one evening was dedicated to discussions on this topic. Jocelyne Gendrin, Vice-Chairman of the World Scout Committee and member of the Planning Committee, gave a stimulating introduction of what Human Rights are and the background to the Human Rights Declaration.

The participants then watched an animated video produced by Amnesty International in which each one of the articles was read and illustrated.

This was followed by a series of workshops conducted by the participants themselves who presented a project of their Scout Association related to Human Rights. In these workshops participants were able to participate in some activities that are implemented by Scouts in the context of these programmes.

The various subjects covered were:

- Children affected by war – Croatia

Lidija Pozaic, from the Scout Association of Croatia, led participants in games that children who are affected by war play at the post-traumatic rehabilitation camp called the Sunrise-City Project.

- Anti-personnel mines – Switzerland

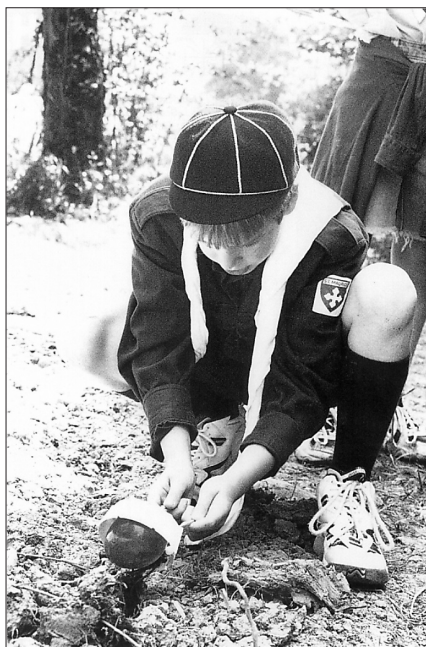
Axel Marion, from the Mouvement Scout de Suisse, conducted one of the 5 games contained in the Mines kit designed by the Scouts of Geneva, with the technical support of Handicap International, to raise awareness of Scouts of this issue.

- Family vegetable gardens – South Africa

Bbeki Mbanjwa introduced this project that the South African Scout Association conducts for rural communities who have residents who are unemployed and in need of food.

- The right to be different – United Kingdom

Kate Geddes, from The Scout Association, conducted this activity on how the different economic status of people gives them certain rights; she then gave the participants the opportunity to adapt the game based upon different situations that lead to discrimination in their respective countries.



- Children's rights – Thailand

Scouts from the National Scout Organization of Thailand taught participants how to play "The Rights of the Child Game"

- The right to be educated – Belgium

Gregory Sanchez Rodriguez, from the Fédération des Scouts Catholiques, presented a discussion on how to offer Scouting to all young people, including less privileged ones.

Through these workshops, the participants discovered that what might be considered a basic right in some countries might not necessarily be so in others. These discussions provided ideas for new actions which could be launched at home. In this way, each participant was made aware of the real issues involved in promoting human rights in different countries.

At the end of the workshops, each participant was given a form in which the following questions were asked of them:

What do I do for Human Rights? As a person? As a member of my community?

What could I do regarding my duties related to Human Rights? As a person? As a member of my community?

Some responses given were as follows:

- to develop my own personality;
- to better know and understand human rights;
- to translate the declaration into local languages and make it available in all countries, to inform with leaflets or videos at school or in other places, to organize workshops;
- to "live" the human rights, to be a good model;
- to express myself while being open to the other's opinion;
- to respect people who are different and make them comfortable, to fight against prejudices, to respect elders;
- to promote equality between genders, races starting in our own association;
- to help others who have less opportunities, minorities...;
- to be an active and participative member of society;
- to insure survival of peoples (food and water), to contribute to improve standards of living, to live secured and happy, to take part in community service;

- to contribute to peace keeping;
- to fully use freedom of gathering and associating, to take part and influence the decision making process;
- to vote responsibly during elections, to be candidate for a political position, to respect laws and regulations but being critical to them, to fight against dictatorship, to act as an advocate for change if needed;
- to invest only in companies with ethical values;
- to join, as an individual, a human rights organization, to make alliance as an organization with such an organization.

4. ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SCOUTING

Regarding the importance of that topic in the perspective of the World Scout Conference, two sessions were devoted to the subject.

The main objective was to prepare young participants for the discussions on Scouting's mission statement at the World Scout Conference.

The first session was introduced by a presentation by Tania Roach, the key points of which were: What is a mission statement for Scouting? Why do we need a mission statement? What will be the process during the World Scout Conference in Durban?

After this presentation, participants were invited to think on their own and fill in a questionnaire about what Scouting had meant to them, what they had gained from Scouting in terms of their own personal development, and which aspects of Scouting were most important to them today; and after this individual work to share ideas in international teams and prepare a poster or collage which represented their collective experience of Scouting. These posters were hung up in the plenary hall and commented on later.

You will find hereunder a summary of the key ideas expressed by the participants on the occasion of this session:

- *What has Scouting meant to you?*



Way of life, a possibility to realise some of my dreams, becoming better, a second family, proud to be a Scout, integral development, involvement in society, education, opening my mind, an ideal never reached, life long process, non-formal education, helping me to help others, helping me to advance myself, helping me to develop abilities which are making me a different person, having a vision of my own life and future, making friends from all over the world, having fun, challenge, personal growth through taking responsibilities, growing up among other young people, helping me to understand how I can do my best in my life, learning democratic skills, outdoor adventure, service, leadership development, fantastic childhood memories that I would like to pass on to others, a place to meet new people, Scouting has been my life, my way of being happy, it has modelled me as a person, learning from others, it has turned me into a responsible person who tries his utmost to insure that a better life for my people is realised, knowing better my environment and through that who I am, has given invaluable experiences in most aspects of my life, the best way to serve community and develop a future person, a school of life, taught me to express myself and to have influence on society to improve it, has challenged me not only physically but also mentally provoking me to think on issues of relevance to my life, doing things that I would never have done otherwise.

- *What have you gained from Scouting in terms of your own personal development?*

An optimistic personality, flexibility, respect for the other, sense of responsibility, good will to build a better world, confidence in myself, to know more clearly about my own abilities and potentials, teamwork and leadership skills, respect for laws and regulations, consolidating my own faith, motivation to always do my best, to improve myself, to develop a value system, to develop my strong points and remedy my weaknesses, to become who I am, to fully develop all my potentialities, to be willing to improve the world, to be positive and constructive, being with and for God, changing my mind about social issues thanks to exchanging ideas with others, realise that I have some duties to myself to others and to God, accepting and expressing myself, learning to live together, overcome my shyness, sense of responsibilities, communications skills, courage to act and intervene, friendship across cultures and ages, able to make ideas into action, extra-school knowledge, how to deal with my own future, learned to become more independent, to work with others in various settings, form my own opinion, to be prepared for anything at any time, life skills.

- *Which aspects of Scouting are the most important to you today?*

Duty to God and to country, self education, involving everybody before making any decision, education for citizenship, long term education in a worldwide movement, involvement in society, character building, learning to make decisions, learning by doing, by playing, open to all without discrimination, learning how to live together, contact and service to the community, friendship, moral values, international dimension, outdoor activities, a chance to experience yourself, youth leadership, work about environment, never be discouraged to be involved in new challenges, the Scout Law, the Scout Promise “to do my best”, responsibility as a leader to guide younger members to develop themselves in a pleasant and learning environment, the chance to challenge myself in everything I do.

- *5 key words to summarise what Scouting is about for you:*

The five most frequent responses were:

- Personal development/full development/education;
- Friendship;
- Responsible citizen/making a better world;
- Service/helping others;
- Life style.

The second session was introduced by Jocelyne Gendrin who presented the document “The Essential Characteristics of Scouting”: Why this document? How will it be used? What does it contain?

After this presentation, each participant had the opportunity to discuss, in international teams, one of the 9 characteristics described in the document. They were then able to ask questions of clarification to a panel composed of members of the World Scout Committee and World Scout Bureau who had been involved in preparing the document.

5. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

During the first session, the participants were invited to share in small groups their experiences relating to youth participation in decision-making at all levels, from local to world level. They were asked to identify the various obstacles involved, as well as ways of transforming these obstacles into opportunities. To summarise these discussions, a wall of obstacles and another of opportunities were created in the plenary hall.

Amongst the obstacles identified by the young people were:

- A lack of communication between youth representatives at national level and young people at local level;
- A lack of open-mindedness on the part of adults;
- Tokenism;
- A lack of unity among different countries and cultures;
- A lack of motivation on the part of young people.

Amongst the opportunities:

- Partnership among young adults and adults in the decision-making process;
- A desire for change;
- Training and support for young adults and adults to overcome communication barriers.

5.1 Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making

This first session was concluded by the following presentation on the Policy of the Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making.

The text of the policy, which was adopted by Resolution 2/93 at the World Scout Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, is contained in Forum Document No. 4.

The policy is founded on one basic principle:

Scouting is a Movement of young people, supported by adults; it is not a Movement for young people managed by adults only.

Thus, Scouting offers the potential for a learning community of young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience.

This basic principle contains the essence of the policy: Scouting is a Movement of young people, who are supported by adults; it is not a movement for young people managed only by adults. Scouting is a Movement in which young people can work together in a *partnership* of youth and experience

The policy contains a total of five main sections: the statement of basic principle mentioned above, a section on Youth Programme, a section on management structures, a description of the responsibilities of

National Scout Associations (which those Forum participants who had asked questions about how to deal with their own association's attitudes might want to look at more closely) and a description of the responsibilities of WOSM at world and regional levels (which those who work at world and regional levels also need to keep in mind at all times, and strive constantly to do better).

Why the policy? Three key reasons:

First, because it is a fundamental element of Scouting. You can't have Scouting without the involvement of young members in decision-making. The very purpose, principles and method of Scouting include specific references to developing young people as responsible citizens through active participation in the development of society and progressive acceptance of responsibility for the direction of their lives.

Second, because – whatever people may say – it is not a new idea. The concept of participation is one that goes back to the days of the Founder. Baden-Powell made it a corner stone of the Scout method. Phrases such as “Ask the boy” – which no doubt, if he were alive today, he would change to “ask the boy or girl” – feature throughout his writings and his speeches.

And third, because the importance of educating young people to take a constructive place in society – which is what involvement in decision-making is ultimately all about – is even more important in today's context of change and evolution taking place in society. The document mentions two examples: the issues of human rights and of democracy – but there could be many others.

So where should all this participation in decision-making be taking place? First of all, within the Youth Programme! Since involvement with decision-making is so intrinsically linked with the Scout method, it is evident that it is through the Youth Programme that young members must be first provided with opportunities to make decisions for themselves. “Self-government” within the Cub pack and the Scout troop is an essential element of Scouting's educational process – but one that is, sadly, often not used to its full potential.

And, second, in the organization and management of the Movement, at all levels, from local to national to international...young people providing the enthusiasm, working in partnership with older adults who bring their experience.

5.2 Building partnership

The second session was aimed at preparing participants for the World Scout Conference and their return to their associations. It was introduced with a presentation made by Melissa Casagrande under the title “Building Partnership”.

The involvement of young members in the decision-making process has been for a long time an aim for the World Organization of the Scout Movement. For at least four World Scout Conferences this aim was

expressed, but definitively concretised at the 33rd World Scout Conference, when Resolution 2/93 was adopted, highlighting the following principle:

Scouting is a Movement *of* young people, supported by adults; it is not a Movement *for* young people managed by adults only. Thus, Scouting offers the potential for a learning community of young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience.

Great ideas are created everyday. These ideas can be suggested both by young people and by those who are not so young anymore. For every suggestion there must be an established procedure in progress in order to handle such ideas efficiently. On the other hand it is widely known that, because of their enthusiasm, young people tend to become disillusioned if they perceive that their ideas are being shelved.

Scouting is truly a Youth Movement and not simply a Movement for Youth. The success of the initiative depends on young and old, sharing views and ideas in a climate of mutual respect and understanding. The main point is not to fight against everything and everybody in our own associations, but to find ways of making the adult leaders realise how important youth participation is and how it can be improved with simple actions.

But enthusiasm alone can not make a good idea come true. The idea is not to attribute a responsibility to young adults or even youth members because of their age, but the goal is to have these people in key positions contributing effectively, because they have had their competency recognised. The associations are encouraged to train their young members in practical skills of decision-making and leadership. But it depends mainly on the initiative of the young adults to prepare themselves for this participation, analysing their present situation and working out which responsibilities they would like to take, in order to cope with them properly.

The policy on involvement of young members in decision-making is part of the Youth Programme, which is the means to achieving Scouting's educational purpose, including developing the capability of its youth members, of all ages, to make decisions. Considering that the policy is implemented at all levels, the partnership has to be built at all levels as well. We must never forget that on the one hand we are young adults, the ones with the enthusiasm, but on the other hand sometimes we can also be the experienced ones. We should provide the youngest members with the same opportunities we are claiming for ourselves, especially practical skills, training and leadership.

The tools are at our disposal; we just need to improve the ways of using them, especially in our Scout associations. It is a challenge to each of us to learn together how to take and improve this opportunity.

After this presentation the participants worked on case studies by teams. For each case, they tried to find a solution based on the notion of partnership between young people and older people.

These case studies were the following:

- a) After the Forum you go to the World Scout Conference. You are excited at seeing everybody and they all want to know how the 7th WSYF went. After telling them about some of the experiences you have had, your International Commissioner says that youth involvement is a very important topic and that he feels that the association takes it seriously.

During the resolution session, the delegation votes on several topics relating to youth participation. You are surprised that these issues have not been discussed with you. After asking other members of the delegation, you find out that the delegation had a meeting last night to which you were not invited. When asked why you had not been invited, they reply that they thought it would not interest you, and that you would probably prefer to go to the beach.

- b) You return home with a lot of good ideas. You write a report and the feedback you get is that your report is wonderful, and that the national association really appreciates the effort and the energy that you have put into this. Four months pass, you hear nothing else about this meeting, and none of your recommendations is taken into account.
- c) The national delegation for the 7th World Scout Youth Forum returns back home. None of the delegates hears anything from the National Scout Association. After some time everyone seems to have forgotten about the Youth Forum. You get a call from one of the other delegates to the Forum asking for your help in writing an article called “Youth Participation – an illusion”.

Some positive points noted by the young people were:

- Designing a training system for young adult leaders to enable them to play a more active role in their associations;
- Increasing the participation of young people at world level;
- Establishing a democratic system;
- Working together for change rather than working independently;
- Using the ideas from the World Scout Youth Forum to run workshops at national level.

And some negative ones:

- Young people do not play an important role in the decision-making process;
- Adults pretend to listen to young people, but often they do not follow this up with action or fulfil requests made to them;
- Decision-making bodies are often too bureaucratic and far removed from everyday Scouting.

6. HOW SCOUTS IMAGINE THE FUTURE

Nowadays, dreaming is often considered utopian. However, a Scout's dreams are often transformed into concrete projects. It is only a question of the time needed to transform these dreams into projects.

During the Forum, the young people indulged in dreaming – imagining what the future could bring to our Movement.

The session was introduced with a presentation made by the Rector of the Peninsula Technicon in Cape Town and the President of the Cape Western Area of the South African Scout Association, who had been asked to paint a picture of our future world to stimulate our own reflection about Scouting.

Prof. B Figali was our guest speaker. Here are some extracts from his speech entitled "Our World in 2020":

I want you to join me this morning in thinking about what the world will be like in the next 10 - 20 years. Let us just look back for a very brief moment:

Personal computers came onto the market in +/- 1982 – less than 20 years ago. Fax machines came into commercial use in 1985 – only 15 years ago. In 1990 the mobile telephone or cell phone came into use – less than 10 years ago (can you believe that?). Last year, in this country, an innovator launched a prototype gun that can only be fired by the owner. The grip of the gun has an electronic mechanism that identifies the owner's hand. This year in Japan they launched a laptop computer with a built-in camera that allows you to send a message and a picture of yourself or your surroundings as you type.

Two things are important about this history:

1. the rate of change in technology; and
2. the impact of this change on our lives and on our society.

If we just examine the technological advancement I referred to earlier then we must conclude that there is a social good (convenience, safety, etc), but there is also the consequence of speeding up one's life. In the past you received a letter in the post and you would post a reply. However, when the fax machine became widely used, the sender expected a response the next day. With the mobile phone, they now find you anywhere. What took 7 days before, now happens almost immediately. This must increase our stress levels.

Allow me now to turn to a few issues that may help us construct this picture of our future world:

Population:

In the next 25 years the population aged 65 and above will have increased by 82% compared to a 46% increase in the 20-64 year old cohort and only 3% in newborns. For every child born today in an industrialised country there are 10 people aged 65 years and older.

Therefore, there are fewer young people to support the larger social security needs of the elderly; hence the working cohort will have to work harder to produce more to support the state so that the elderly can be looked after.

In non-industrialised countries the opposite is the norm: close to half the population is between 12 and 26. Many young people are reared by the grandparents while both parents work or try to find work.

In both situations the family unit is under threat for very different reasons.

Health:

One success the world can claim is that the immunisation of children against the six major childhood diseases has reached the 80%+ level. So in one sense we are almost rid of childhood diseases when a new epidemic, HIV/AIDS, rears its head.

Infectious diseases can no longer be regarded as restricted to developing countries. This is clearly observed from the evidence of their international resurgence and the inter-continental spread of AIDS.

Unlike the nuclear blasts of Hiroshima or Nagasaki or the World Wars, the AIDS crisis is a catastrophic explosion in slow motion, a creeping chain reaction with no perceivable end in sight. There is no audible sound, no searing heat, no mushroom cloud, no buildings reduced to rubble. Just one death after another.

Last year's world AIDS campaign – "Young people: Force for change" – was prompted in part by the epidemic's threat to those under 25 years old. Young people are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS. Around half of new HIV infections are in people aged 15-24, the range in which most people start their sexual lives. In 1998, nearly 3 million young people became infected with the virus, equivalent to more than five young men and women every minute of the day, every day of the year. And as HIV rates rise in the general population, new infections are increasingly concentrated in the younger age groups.

This epidemic is going to impact on our societies in a way that we have difficulty anticipating: No workers to make a country's economy sustain the state expenditure leads to escalating state costs. Countries that are poor and have high levels of promiscuity are most at risk. Countries that are poor but have a strong moral base have a much lower risk profile, as do wealthy countries where the literacy level and the AIDS awareness level are high.

Economy:

As much as I would like to see a better distribution of wealth throughout the world, I am somewhat pessimistic about this. I think the gap between the rich nations and the poor will remain, despite the

international talk about debt relief. The rich will get richer, and some of the poor will become richer, but the gap will remain the same.

I think the East, including China, will become an economy that will rival the West and there will be greater stability in Africa. The challenge is for the poorer countries to become more industrialised.

Communication:

International communication will become one of the most sophisticated areas of technology. The Internet will also become more freely available as the cost of connectivity decreases and we may even end up with a few virtual Scout groups – young people sitting at their terminals and communicating with their leader as well as learning some skills on-line.

The distribution of video games, the cinema or other electronic attractions will increase. The television will be replaced by home visual and sound experiences that are so close to real life that it will impact on the social behaviour of the family and the individuals.

Travel:

We will develop along two axes in this area – the exotic and the mass travel. Boeing is already working on planes that will carry 2 or 3 times the current passenger loads over longer distances. This may make travel by air cheaper and hence give it mass appeal. The exotic travel will be faster than the Concorde. All this will continue to make the world a global village in the true sense of the word.

Education:

It is said that if employees are not kept up to date technologically then their knowledge will be of little value after 7 years. In the computer world, organizations that want to remain at the cutting edge must change their equipment every 3-4 years. Lifelong learning must be a feature of any society that wants to maintain its standard of living. This means people will return to education more often. The need for unskilled workers is decreasing at an alarming rate. Knowledge workers, i.e. skilled people, are what is said to be needed.

Here again, the computer and the Internet together with other electronic media will change the way education is provided. We already have virtual institutions and many higher education programmes are being offered via the Internet. We could end up with no educational institutions, as we know them today, but rather transmitting centres with students sitting at home at a terminal. On-line learning and education is a possibility, but the social consequences will be disastrous for our societies. No social interactions, therefore young people do not learn any social skills.

Finally, I believe the Scout Movement needs to consider more seriously the stark differences between the countries that make up the Scouting

fraternity. All of us have to understand and appreciate our diversity – what is morally acceptable in one country may be regarded as a serious offence in another. If we are brothers and sisters then we need to value these differences by recognising them, understanding them, and respecting them. I have given you my view of the future, but we also know that the present creates the future – you can shape the future by what you do today.

Let me end with a verse that asks you a very specific question:

Some never do – just sit and take.

Some lag behind, just let things go,

And never help their community to grow.

Some drag, some pull. Some don't, some do,

Consider which of these are YOU.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

BHAG. What is that?

After this presentation Håkon Lund, Chairperson of the 6th World Scout Youth Forum and a member of the Planning Committee, challenged participants to express their vision for Scouting in the form of a BHAG. What is a BHAG? This is how Håkon introduced this task to the participants.

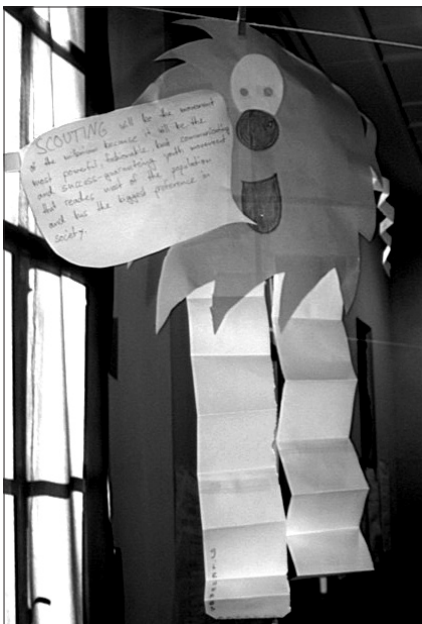
Each group should, by focusing on a Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals (BHAG) picture the Scout Movement 20-30 years from now. Your task is as follows:

Formulate a sentence that describes Scouting 20 to 30 years from now the way you would like to see it - giving it all your dreams. "We will be...."

And give it a vivid description. It should be clear and compelling, be a unifying focal point and a catalyst for team spirit. It should have a clear finishing line so we know when we have reached it. It should engage people, it should reach out and grab them – tangible, energising and highly focused. Setting it 20 to 30 years from now gets us thinking beyond the current capabilities of the Movement. The vision should not be a sure bet, but you must believe that the goal can be reached if extraordinary effort – and perhaps a little luck – is put into it.

Here are some of the dreams expressed by the participants:

- Scouting existing in all countries and truly open to all young people;
- Scouting making the best use of new technologies to develop communication among different national organizations;
- Scouting recognised by the United Nations as a movement building peace;



- Scouting as a partner and supporter of different humanitarian actions and socio-cultural integration;
- A movement focused on young people and children;
- A movement offering educational programmes closely linked to life outdoors and in which nature occupies an important place in educational proposals;
- Scouting which is up-to-date and trendy;
- A movement which preserves its image and represents a community of young male and female citizens committed to their local communities, rather than a club for adults and young people who want to save the world from all its misfortunes;
- One world organization uniting men and women in Scouting.

Participants also had a lot of fun preparing what they thought the headlines of newspapers would be in 2025, and there were many imaginative ideas. Here are some of the most funny:

- “Disney World faces financial crisis because of kids are attending a summer Scout Camp.”
- “Schools are closed for today for holiday: it’s B-P’s Birthday.”
- “Seminar being conducted next week: Adults in Decision-Making“.

7. OPEN FORUM

One Forum session was devoted to discussing topics proposed by the participants themselves. Each participant was invited to choose 2 of the 7 topics proposed. After a brief introduction by the young people who had proposed the topic, there was an open discussion.

The list of discussion topics was:

- Scouting and religion

Proposed by Axel Marion, Switzerland, and run by Mary Metcalf, Australia.

To share different views on the relationship between Scouting and religion based on experiences in different associations.

- Scouting and armed conflict

Proposed by Prossy Molly Njabi, Uganda, and run by Amged Aboul-Fotob, Egypt.

To discuss the causes of armed conflict, consequences for populations and what Scouts can do in this context.

- A youth declaration for Scouting

Proposed by Valéry Pitra, France, and run by Fernando J. Piaz-Lopez, Mexico.

To define who we are as young people in Scouting and identify our own needs, so that we can put our ideas into practice through Scouting.

- Scouting and street children

Proposed by Marie-Virginie Mbulnum, Cameroon, and run by Tyler Arrell, Canada.

To discuss the causes and consequences of the phenomenon of street children and enable participants to identify what Scouts can do to help solve this problem.

- Cooperation between men and women in Scouting

Proposed by Anders Vej-Hansen, Denmark, and run by Pau Noguera Borel, Spain.

To share views on coeducation and ways of promoting equal opportunities and the sharing of responsibilities between men and women within WOSM.

- Scouting and youth violence

Proposed by Jonathan Fulkerson, USA, and run by Borre Gunnerund, Norway.

To analyse violence among young people in numerous countries and discuss what Scouting can do about this problem.

- Cross-cultural differences in Scouting

Proposed by Chanyaswad Nithivaddee, Thailand, and run by Hsiao-May Wang, Brazil.

To discuss cultural differences, problems which may arise from them and ways in which Scouting can help each individual to understand his or her own culture better, as well as respect that of others.

It was not intended that each Open Forum session should reach a consensus, but merely that it should enable participants to exchange different opinions on the proposed topics.

8. WORKSHOPS

At a later stage during the Forum, 4 workshops were proposed and run by the participants. Their main purpose was to offer participants the opportunity to exchange their experiences on concrete projects undertaken in their Scout Association.

The following subjects were discussed:

- Practical decision-making process

by Amged Aboul-Fotoh, Egypt

This method was developed to help Scouts make their own decisions by following a specific process presented in the form of a diagram.

- The participation of Scouts in youth councils

by Pau Noguera Borel, Spain

To define how Scouts could participate in national youth councils and identify the main contributions which Scouts could make to these councils.

- Community development projects

by Stephen Razafindratsima, Madagascar

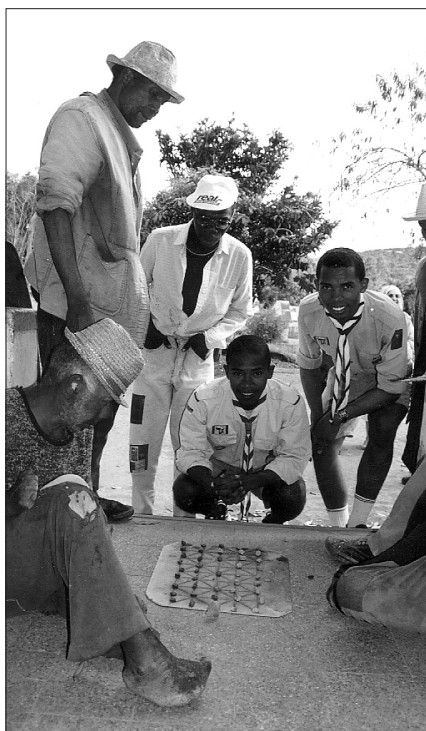
To present community development projects as a means of enabling young people to become more aware of problems in their own country.

- The Scout Honor Society “Order of the Arrow”

by Will Parker, USA

To share with Forum participants the benefits of the “Order of the Arrow” and the methods it uses to serve Scouting efficiently.

The workshops gave participants a chance to share their experiences with Scouts from other countries and to discover new ideas to implement back home.



9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum adopted the following recommendations:

CONTACT WITH NATURE

The Forum

- considering that, according to the words of Baden-Powell, “Nature is the real purpose of Scouting and the key for its success”
- considering the present rapid technological development
- recommends to the World Scout Committee to do more to inspire National Scout Associations to keep their programmes closely linked with Nature, for example by supporting various multinational environmental projects.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Forum

- noting that the World Scout Youth Forum seeks the relationship between adult members and youth to be one of partnership and respect
- recognising the work that has been done at the “Youth Participation” session of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum
- recognising that in most National Scout Organizations a lot of progress has been made
- believing that there are still steps to take before World Scout Conference Resolution 2/93 (adopting the Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making) is achieved
- recommends that a day be spent in workgroups critically discussing Youth participation at the next World Scout Conference (2002)
- suggests topics for this discussion focus on, among others:
 - a discussion amongst youth and adult members as to how each interact in the decision-making process within their organization today;
 - evaluation of resolution 2/93 after 9 years of progress
- recommends that work be done before the next World Scout Conference to stimulate critical discussion within NSOs on the above discussion.



YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Forum

- considering that involvement of young members in decision-making is based on the principle that “Scouting is a Movement of young people supported by adults; it is not a Movement for young people managed by adults only”
- recommends
 - that at least one member of the World Scout Committee should be under the age of 30
 - that the Chairman of each WOSM Scout Region should have a youth equivalent
 - that WOSM distributes the final report of any Regional Scout Youth Forums to National Scout Organizations in all WOSM Scout Regions.

SOLIDARITY AND PARTNERSHIP

The Forum

- noting that only 53 out of 151 Member Organizations are present at the World Scout Youth Forum
- acknowledging that many countries are frequently less equitably represented than others in world Scout events such as World Scout Youth Forums, World Scout Jamborees, World Scout Moots and, most importantly, World Scout Conferences where decisions are made
- recognising that many Member Organizations in poorer countries themselves require financial support for their operations
- being reminded of one of our Scout laws, “A Scout is a brother to all Scouts”
- recommends that the World Scout Bureau continue to seek opportunities to help support poorer Member Organizations and the participation of their members in world Scout events, while seeking ways and means to ensure proper accountability by these associations
- recommends that a scheme similar to the solidarity “Operations” launched for World Scout Jamborees and World Scout Moots be introduced to support the participation of young members in World Scout Youth Forums.

GUIDELINES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Forum

- believing that the current vote on the Rules of Procedure does not enable delegates to gain influence on how the Forum should be run
- recommends to the World Scout Committee that, as well as adopting the Rules of Procedure, it should be possible for the participants to alter by a 2/3 majority the Guidelines for World Scout Youth Forums.

PREPARATION OF DELEGATES

The Forum

- recommends that young participants going to the Youth Forum be appointed at least 6 months before the Forum to ensure that they be properly prepared
- requests the World Bureau to ensure that Forum documents are sent at least 3 months in advance.

LENGTH OF YOUTH FORUMS

The Forum

- “recognising that youth forums in Scouting provide a dual opportunity for young members to discuss issues of interest to them and to make recommendations on them; and to learn the skills necessary to enable them to take a part in decision making in the Movement” (Resolution 10/93 of 33rd World Scout Conference)
- recommends that future World Scout Youth Forums should last a total of six days:
 - two days of appropriate training in the issues and structures currently in World Scouting, as well as specifically developing negotiation, presentation and public speaking skills; the aim being to enable youth delegates to fully participate and contribute to both the Forum and the Conference.
 - four days to discuss issues which will appear on the subsequent Conference agenda and to debate and make recommendations on other issues raised by the youth participants.

TOPIC FOR SCOUT YOUTH FORUM

The Forum

- considering that Scouting and Guiding are based on common heritage
- repeating that the conviction of WOSM is that in today's society coeducation of the two sexes should be the general norm
- taking attentive note of the will expressed at the 30th World Conference of WAGGGS (July 1999) to explore during the next triennium the possibility of uniting with WOSM
- declares that in its opinion one united world organization would best serve the needs of scout in the world
- asks the World Scout Committee to propose the topic of creating one united World Organization on the agenda of the next Regional and World Scout Youth Forums.

10. THE 7TH WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUM AT THE 35TH WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE

On Monday, 26 July, first day of the World Scout Conference, the Chairperson of the Forum was invited to address the Conference to report on the Forum and its recommendations. The Chairperson invited the 5 Vice-chairpersons to join him in this presentation. This presentation was accompanied by a written document prepared in the two official languages of the World Organization and distributed to each delegation attending the Conference.

Here is the text of the report:

‘Sanibona!’ In Zulu, this means hello, so ‘Sanibona’ Scouters from around the world. Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Bheki Mbanjwa. I am from South Africa. We have brought with us some photographs of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum. Enjoy!

(Short audio-visual presentation)

I served as the chairman of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum, which was held at Michaelhouse, Balgowan, last week. It was the second Forum linked to the Conference. We will try to capture the highlights of the Forum in the next few minutes. As chairperson one of my responsibilities is to present to you a report of the Forum and I have asked the Steering Committee to assist me with this.

I call upon Dong-Wook Lee from Korea to give us some statistics of the Forum:

I will now introduce some of the main accomplishments of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum. Through these presentations, we will be able to recognize the developing progress in the recent World Scout Youth Forums.

We had 113 participants from 53 different countries. We are very excited to inform you that two of these are newly recognized countries, Mozambique and Bhutan, who were present at the Forum before they were officially recognized here. Amongst these 113 participants, we had 78 delegates and 35 observers.

The statistics show an increase in youth participation at the Youth Forums as well as at World Conferences. We can also happily say that at this Forum, there was a better balance in the regional participation than in previous Forums.

Now I would like to introduce to you Arturo Romboli from Argentina, who will speak in Spanish:

I am now going to present to you the themes which were discussed at the Forum, as well as some of the activities we undertook.

We began with a Human Rights Evening, during which we heard of various experiences related to Scout actions in favour of human rights around the world.

This was followed by a discussion on the Essential Characteristics of Scouting, the purpose of which was to prepare Forum participants to take part in the discussions on the mission of the Movement during the World Conference and to inform them on the way in which the Conference would deal with the subject. The discussion enabled participants to reflect on their own Scouting experience as a basis for a better understanding of the document "The Essential Characteristics of Scouting". There were two sessions of the Forum on this topic.

We also worked on the participation of young people. The sessions on this topic enabled us to better understand the Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making. Participants shared their experiences of youth involvement in decision-making at all levels, highlighting the difficulties as well as the possibilities.

"How Scouts Imagine the Future" was the subject that encouraged participants to imagine what the world would look like in 2007 and to think about the role of Scouting as an educational movement. This reflection was the World Scout Youth Forum's contribution to the preparations for the centenary of our Movement.

Subjects proposed by the participants themselves were discussed in the Open Forum, enabling them to learn of the experiences and realities in other countries. A series of workshops were also offered by the Steering Committee, based on suggestions from participants.

I pass you now to Grégory Sanchez, from Belgium, who will speak in French:

During the World Scout Youth Forum, 8 recommendations were adopted. The full text of these is in the printed Summary Report. However, we believe it is important to highlight the main points in this report to the Conference:

CONTACT WITH NATURE

In view of the rapid development of new technologies, the Forum recommends that National Scout Organizations develop educational proposals closely linked with Nature.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Forum recommends: that, at the next World Scout Conference, a day be spent working on the partnership between youth and adults in the process of decision-making; that at least one member of the World Scout Committee be under the age of 30; that each Regional Chairman have a youth equivalent.

SOLIDARITY AND PARTNERSHIP

Noting that only 53 countries were present at the Forum, the Forum recommends that the world bodies seek the funds needed to enable poorer countries to be represented.

GUIDELINES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Just as for the Rules of Procedure, the Forum recommends that it be given the right to decide, by a 2/3 majority, on the Forum Guidelines.

PREPARATION OF DELEGATES

The Forum recommends that the event be of 6 days duration, 2 days of training on issues and structures and 4 days discussing issues that appear on the Conference agenda.

TOPIC FOR SCOUT YOUTH FORUMS

The Forum recommends that, at the next Forum, the topic of one single world organization be discussed seriously.

I would now like to introduce Hassene Chaâbane, who will speak in Arabic:

Nowadays, dreaming is often considered utopian. However every Scout has dreams, which are often transformed into concrete projects. Here are some of our big, hairy, audacious goals (BHAGs)!

- Scouting open to all and existing in every country
- Making the best use of communications technology
- Recognised by the United Nations as a movement building peace
- Scouting up-to-date and trendy.

One world organisation uniting men and women in Scouting is an idea held by some participants who wish to implement it rapidly, and by others who consider it a long-term vision, whereas others prefer to preserve a variety of proposals.

Among some of our wilder dreams were:

- “Disney World faces financial crisis because of kids are attending a summer Scout Camp”
- “Schools are closed for today for holiday: it’s B-P’s Birthday”
- “B-P’s birthday will be Love and Peace celebration day”
- “Seminar being conducted next week: Adults in Decision-Making”
- “Inauguration of Scout Base on Jupiter”
- “Foundation of World Submarine Jamboree and the Intergalactic Jamboree”.

I will now pass you back to our chairman, Bheki Mbanjwa:

And so 'Ubuntu', which is the South African way of being able to live with others, was practised throughout the Forum. The spirit of the Rainbow Nation with the Mbeki/Mandela Magic was transferred to the Scouting spirit of Brotherhood as 'Shosholoza', the song of the Rainbow Nation, was sung now and then. May the spirit of partnership between young adults and adults continue to grow and live on.

And now, I invite Stephen from Madagascar to lead all of us into the singing of the 'Shosholoza':

Shosholoza

Shosholoza

Kulezontaba stimela siqonda South Africa

Wenu yabaleka

Wenu yabaleka

Kulezontaba stimela siqonda South Africa

11. RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE

The Conference adopted 4 resolutions dealing with Youth Participation and Youth Forum:

10/99 7th WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUM

The Conference

- appreciating and admiring the work done by the young people at the 7th World Scout Youth Forum
- stating its firm belief in the importance of paying great attention to the opinions of the young people in our Movement
- urges the World Scout Committee in its further work to consider the recommendations made by the 7th World Scout Youth Forum.

11/99 FUTURE ROLE OF WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUMS

The Conference

- welcoming the steps that have been taken to move towards the position adopted in Conference Resolution 2/93, but accepting that there are still steps to take
- believing that the World Scout Youth Forum is a transitional tool in the process of developing youth participation in partnership with adults within National Scout Organizations and national delegations to the World Scout Conference
- believing that the World Scout Youth Forum should respond to the challenges faced by young adults in engaging actively in decision-making within National Scout Organizations
- hoping that, in due course, the need for the World Scout Youth Forum will disappear due to the full and active participation of young adults in partnership at the World Scout Conference and at all levels of decision-making
- recommends that the World Scout Committee carry out a major review, involving young adults and adults in partnership, of the role and format of the World Scout Youth Forum
- recommends that the results of this study be presented to the next World Scout Conference and taken into consideration in the planning of the next World Scout Youth Forum.

12/99 WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUM

The Conference

- thanking the Organizing Committee and the World Scout Committee for organizing the 7th World Scout Youth Forum
- appreciating and respecting the way that young people work and the need for youth involvement in the World Scout Conference
- recommends to the World Scout Committee to continue working to incorporate young people in the World Scout Conference through the preparation done at the World Scout Youth Forum.

13/99 YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Conference

- noting that the World Scout Youth Forum seeks the relationship between adult members and youth to be one of partnership and mutual respect
- recognising the work that has been done at the Youth Participation session of the 7th World Scout Youth Forum
- recognising that in most National Scout Organizations substantial progress has been made
- believing that there are still steps to take before World Scout Conference Resolution 2/93 (adopting the Policy on involvement of young members in decision-making) is achieved
- recommends to the World Scout Committee
 - that, at the next World Scout Conference in 2002, a day is spent in workgroups critically discussing Youth Participation
 - that suggested topics for this discussion focus on, among others:
 - a discussion between youth and adult members as to how each interacts in the decision-making process within their organizations today
 - evaluation of Resolution 2/93 after 9 years of progress
 - that work be done before the next World Scout Conference to stimulate critical discussion within National Scout Organizations on the above.

FORUM EVALUATION SUMMARY

1. ANALYSIS OF FORUM REGISTRATIONS

1.1 Level of participation

51 (34%) of the 151 National Scout Organizations, members of WOSM, were present at Michaelhouse. This compares to 49 (35%) out of 142 Organizations which participated in the previous World Scout Youth Forum held in Moss, Norway, in 1996. The proportion of NSOs is therefore stable but represents only slightly over one third of Member Organizations.

1.2 Level of participation by Region

By Region, the level of participation of National Scout Organizations in the last two World Scout Youth Forums was:

	Michaelhouse	Moss
Afrique	35%	21%
Arabe	21%	16%
Asie-Pacifique	43%	35%
Eurasie	0%	-
Europe	53%	63%
Inter-Amérique	16%	28%

The regional representation was more balanced on this occasion, the rate of representation from Europe having fallen, and the Africa, Arab and Asia-Pacific Regions having increased, sometimes significantly, their proportion.

1.3 Delegates and observers

The total number of participants was 113 (116 in Moss). 78 were delegates (79 in Moss) and 35 were observers (37 in Moss). Here also the figures are stable.

1.4 Men and women

32% of the Forum participants, 26% of the delegates and 46% of the observers, were women. This compares to 34% female participants in Moss, 33% of the delegates and 35% of the observers.

The Michaelhouse figures are particularly significant when these percentages are compared to those for the World Scout Conference in Durban, where only 14% of the participants (9% of the delegates and 25% of the observers) were female. The percentage of female participants is, therefore, not only higher in the Forum, but also more equitably spread between delegates and observers.

1.5 World Scout Youth Forum and World Scout Conference participants

85 of the 113 participants at the Forum (75%) also took part in the World Conference, almost the same proportion as in Norway three years earlier. 45 (53%) were registered as Conference delegates and 40 (47%) were observers. Forum participants represented 78% of all participants under the age of 26 attending the Conference (83% in Norway). As was the case in Norway, the linkage of the Forum to the Conference has had a very significant impact on the number of young people participating in the Conference.

2. ANALYSIS OF EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

2.1 Level of response

104 evaluation questionnaires were completed by participants, a rate of return of 72%. This figure is highly significant and has never before been reached for this type of survey.

2.2 Response by Region

Of the total number of questionnaires completed, the return by Region was as follows:

	En % du nombre de participants de la Région	En % du nombre total des réponses
Afrique	100%	27%
Arabe	33%	2%
Asie-Pacifique	91%	31%
Europe	78%	31%
Inter-Amérique	75%	9%
Monde	72%	100%

The languages of the questionnaire (English and French) probably affected the rate of return from the Regions; only 33% of the Arab Region participants, for example, completed the questionnaire.

2.3 Results of the Forum evaluation

2.3.1 Objectives

The Forum objective which was most highly rated in terms of its achievement was “to discuss and express views on issues that are of interest to young people”: 86% positive ratings.

The other two objectives were rated slightly less highly:

- “to prepare inputs and make recommendations to the World Scout Conference”: 76% positive ratings.
- “to develop skills needed to participate more effectively in decision-making”: 63% positive ratings.

2.3.2 Working methods The questions posed under this heading dealt with the impact of the working methods used. In this respect, the highest ratings were accorded to “sharing of experiences between participants” (87% positive) and “participants getting to know each other” (82% positive). “Active participation by each young person” (70% positive) and “the contribution of each young person to the work of the Forum” (67% positive) were less highly rated. These figures are similar to those at the previous Forum.

2.3.3 Selection of participants Notwithstanding that there were a significant proportion of “no answers” in this section, participants evaluated in a generally negative way the manner in which they had been selected by their Organizations as Forum participants. Only 41% positive ratings were given to “selected in a democratic way”; 43% positive to “...by a method involving young people”; 46% positive to “... on the basis of geographic, ethnic and social representation and by gender”; and 69% positive to “... based on their capacity to contribute to the Forum”.

2.3.4 Pre-Forum information While participants were very satisfied with the content of pre-Forum documents (73% positive), they were less satisfied with the timing of their arrival (47% positive).

2.3.5 Forum documents In terms of timing, Documents 1 and 2, mailed to NSOs in May, and Documents 3 and 4 mailed in June (later than for the previous Forum) were not thought to have been received in good time by participants (61% positive for the first series; 47% positive for the second).

In terms of content, Documents 1 (Provisional Agenda), 3 (Essential Characteristics) and 4 (Youth Participation) were well appreciated (77% – 79% positive). Document 2 (Guidelines and Rules of Procedure) received a 69% positive rating.

2.3.6 Preparation of participants As they did with respect to their selection, participants gave generally quite negative ratings to their preparation. “Support from their association” received a 61% positive rating, but “individual preparation” and “preparation by delegation” received only 50% and 51% positive ratings respectively.

2.3.7 Working sessions Most of the working sessions received very good ratings. After the “get to know you” session (81% positive), the best rated sessions were the one on young people’s “vision of Scouting” (77% positive) and by those on: “Essential characteristics” and “Youth participation” (73% – 75% positive).

2.3.8 Other activities By contrast, the lowest rating was given to the session devoted to the discussion and voting on the recommendations (56% positive).

The two most highly rated were the closing South African evening (91% positive) and the afternoon in the local community (84% positive). Other activities were also highly rated with scores above 70% positive.

2.3.9 Welcome Welcome, accommodation and working conditions at Michaelhouse were especially highly rated, with 87% – 89% positive ratings. The best score of the whole evaluation (93% positive, including 68% very positive) was given to the services provided in Michaelhouse, which obviously rewards the particularly good job done by the Host Committee.

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