
**Partnership
and
solidarity**



***Evaluation of the use of
the Marrakech Charter***



**36th
World Scout
Conference**

**36e Conférence
Mondiale
du Scoutisme**

H E L L A S 2 0 0 2

EVALUATION OF THE USE OF THE MARRAKECH CHARTER

Mr. Chairman, dear friends,

Humankind has entered an era of global interdependence. No educational programme focused exclusively on national culture and history can claim to prepare young people for playing an active role in an increasingly interdependent world.

No educational programme focused exclusively on competition and individualism can claim to prepare young people for the collective efforts needed to overcome the world's problems.

As a world movement and international fraternity, Scouting has long been aware of this challenge.

In the seventies, development education and participation in community development were essential priorities for the Movement, supported by numerous North-South partnership projects.

At the end of 1989 and the beginning of 1990, the Kigali Forum in Rwanda developed the "Kigali Charter", a reference framework for partnership agreements, which was adopted by the World Scout Conference in Paris in 1990.

The Marrakech Symposium, held in 1994 at the invitation of Moroccan Scouting, had a similar focus but extended it to the whole world and to East-West co-operation.

It brought together 440 participants from 118 associations in 94 countries, as well as several international organisations.

It produced the Marrakech Charter, a reference framework for partnerships between associations aiming at promoting greater North-South and East-West solidarity.

The Marrakech Charter was adopted by the World Scout Conference in Oslo in 1996.

In 1999, the World Scout Conference in Durban adopted a recommendation requesting that the World Committee evaluate the implementation of the Marrakech Charter and propose ways of improving the Charter's use.

During 2002, a Scout volunteer from the Ivory Coast, Pascal Kouamé, spent three months working at the World Scout Bureau to undertake this task and help prepare the report which I am honoured to present to you today. The final version of this report will be published in the coming weeks.

The evaluation highlighted the following points:

- The Marrakech Charter is known and used by at the most one third of NSOs.
- For its users, the Marrakech Charter has had a significant impact:
 - On the development of youth programmes,
 - On the development of youth exchanges,
 - On material and financial support for associations.

However, numerous inadequacies were noted, leading to the recommendations proposed to this conference.

I will now develop these points further.

The charter is known and used by barely one third of NSOs:

- Don't know and don't use the Charter: 19% of NSOs.
- Know it a little and use it a little or not at all: 43% of NSOs.
- Know it quite well and use it a little: 24% of NSOs.
- Know it very well and use it as a reference framework: 14% of NSOs.

How can we explain the fact that the Charter has not been disseminated widely? The evaluation has enabled us to identify four main reasons:

- Lack of effective means of communication and dissemination.
- No version available in the national language of numerous countries.
- Many associations have more urgent priorities or do not consider the Charter useful.
- The text of the Charter is too general and does not propose guidelines which are sufficiently concrete and practical.

For those who know and use it, is the Charter useful? Has it had an impact on partnerships?

There has been an impact on youth programmes, which is significant in several aspects:

- In numerous cases, partnership between a well-established association and a developing association has enabled the latter to benefit from vital contributions and support to develop its youth programme.
- It is important for an association to take care not to promote its own model, but to support its partner in developing a programme which is well adapted to its specific situation and culture, as well as to the needs of the young people and the country.

- In practice, North-South and East-West partnerships have enabled many associations to enrich their programmes, particularly in the following fields:
 - Intercultural learning and international education,
 - Development education and involvement in community development,
 - Education for citizenship and social involvement,
 - Peace education.

There is often mutual benefit but affecting different aspects:

- For example, in the case of North-South partnership, the northern association discovers the value of the southern association's contributions to society and therefore integrates community involvement and development education into its own programme;
- Similarly, the southern association discovers the benefit of the educational practices developed by its northern partner and, for example, strengthens the aspect of youth participation in decision making in its own educational approach;
- Numerous partnerships focus on youth exchanges, mainly for young people aged 14-24;
- Certain associations have developed programmes to prepare young people for intercultural encounters;
- Others merely help partners to establish contact and facilitate meetings;
- Many associations have not developed any educational objectives or material to present the principles of equality, reciprocity and sharing to young people;
- Nevertheless, the impact of exchanges is generally considered extremely positive from an educational point of view;
- The level of participation of young people in planning exchange projects is variable and should be encouraged more systematically;
- Since the partners involved in North-South exchanges have unequal means at their disposal, this often results in the northern partner having the decision-making power.

Several partnerships are established so that a well-established association can provide financial and material support to a developing association.

- Some bilateral partnerships last several years and have multiple objectives:
 - Reinforcing infrastructure,
 - Developing programmes and publications,

- Leader training,
- Etc.
- These require that joint structures be established to monitor the partnership, manage the resources and evaluate it, in order to guarantee reciprocity and transparency.
- These structures do not exist in every case.
- In this type of partnership, the partners from well-established associations are not always aware of the reciprocal nature of the exchanges. They keen to “give”, but are not always aware of what they receive in return.
- Certain partnerships, on the other hand, put the emphasis on twinnings between local groups.
- There is a risk that these multiple actions do not fit within a coherent plan at national level.
- There have been attempts at promoting multilateral partnership, but they are few and far between.
- There is clearly a lack of tools to facilitate the implementation of the principles enshrined in the Marrakech Charter: equality, reciprocity and transparency:
 - Models of partnership agreements,
 - Guidelines on drafting, using and evaluating such agreements.

Here are the recommendations proposed by the report:

Promotion

- Make the Charter available to all by putting it on WOSM’s website.
- Propose a workshop on partnership inspired by the Charter at each World or Regional Conference.
- At world level, produce a kit on partnership based on the Charter and containing practical tools and guidelines.
- Encourage Regional Offices to disseminate this kit and promote the spirit of the Marrakech Charter.

Youth programme development

- At world and regional level, develop tools to better integrate the following issues into youth programmes:
 - Intercultural learning,
 - Development education,
 - Peace education.

- Collect and disseminate “promising practices” via the Regional Offices to show how bilateral and multilateral partnership can contribute to this work.

Youth exchanges

- At world level, develop a website to facilitate contacts and enable young people in the senior age sections to develop exchange projects and encounters.
- Design tools to prepare youth exchanges:
 - Intercultural discovery and respect,
 - Equality and reciprocity,
 - Methods for designing and evaluating a project.
- Collect and disseminate “promising practices” via the Regional Offices to show how bilateral and multilateral partnership can contribute to this work.

Material and financial support

- Support NSOs in fundraising, in particular by encouraging the Regional Offices to play the role of intermediaries among potential partners.
- Develop and disseminate partnership tools, such as: models of agreements, methods of project management and evaluation.
- Reinforce and develop multilateral partnership networks.

In conclusion

I hope that all WOSM member organizations appreciate the relevance of the Marrakech Charter. A considerable number of organizations were involved in developing it, in order to encourage reciprocal and equitable partnership as the only way of promoting genuine international solidarity. Without this, our Movement could not be the global, creative and innovative fraternity intended by our founder.

Moreover, this international solidarity is an essential vehicle for educating the future world citizens which are currently needed more than at any other time in history.

Let us remember Robert Baden-Powell’s words, quoted by Jacques Moreillon in his report:

«The aim of education has been summarised in these words:

No man can be called educated who has not a willingness and a desire, as well as a trained ability, to do his part in the world’s work. And this is the main road to happiness and prosperity for all.»