



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

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

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The World Scouting Report

Why?

This first edition of the World Scouting Report was written in order to understand the problems that young people face in today's world, and to create a desire for debate, so as to find answers to them.

YOUTH, A FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

How many generations of young people have heard political leaders say that they were the future? How many young people have hoped to see a decline in poverty and a settlement of conflicts? How many of them are convinced that their environment is safe? Many of them think that the future is today rather than tomorrow, and they hope that decisions will be taken to change their everyday lives. Amongst them, there are some who believe that globalisation provides a great opportunity to access information from all over the world, and that it has created new opportunities for exchanges. However, there are also those who doubt that it will bring them the economic and social improvements they hope for, and those who feel that its effects are unjust.

The countries that signed the Millennium Declaration pledged to invest in young people. Eveline Herfkens is the Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Campaign and is the main guest in the first part of this report. She encourages young people to be a force for development and knows that the Scout Movement supports the United Nations' efforts. She believes that creating the right conditions for development, preserving the environment, understanding the effects of globalisation, reducing poverty and educating for peace, are all challenges that Scouts can meet.

SCOUTING AS A SOCIAL FORCE

"What is the purpose of Scouting?" It offers alternative forms of leisure and it stems from an innovative educational method that is the foundation of its unity. However, like any undertaking that tries to provide solutions, Scouting has to address the issue of its social utility. It must therefore assess its educational practices from the point of view of the problems affecting young people today. Is it capable of meeting this challenge?

Education, health and safety, youth employment, equal opportunities for men and women, youth participation, and understanding the spiritual dimension are all subjects for which Scouting can provide original proposals. The Movement is also aware that subjects such as these require partners who can respond more effectively to the demands of young people and society. This is certainly true in the case of youth employment, a vital subject and the reason why Scouting has agreed to join forces with the Youth Employment Network under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Regina Monticone, the Network Coordinator, is the main guest in the second part of this report.

SCOUTING TODAY

How is Scouting organised? What is its geographic and demographic breakdown? Why is it still banned in some countries? How can a movement that is one-hundred years old still be in a position to meet the challenges of our times? It has adapted its growth and development strategy by defining a clear vision and is undertaking a review of its governance at international level. It also intends to play a role in renewing global governance. By doing so, it will be able to face the challenges of the twenty-first century, while retaining both its original insight and its capacity to innovate, which is its trademark.

In 2007, 28 million Scouts will celebrate Scouting's centenary. They are preparing for this event by organising Gifts for Peace, which they will start offering at sunrise on 1st August 2007, following the time zones from East to West throughout the world. As they follow the sun, they will be hoping to carry along with them all those who believe that it really is possible to build a better world.

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