



## CONCLUSION

Seeing the culture of peace become established in the whole world, not only in individuals but also in communities, large and small, rural and urban, at the level of nations and continents, then at world level, is it just a dream or could it become a reality? The answer depends on each of us.

To quote Vladimir Lomeiko, the organiser of UNESCO's international forums on the "Meeting of Civilisations: Conflict or Dialogue?": "...The problem of aggressive intolerance and of violence may look like a local issue at first sight... but (it) always constitutes a global threat, like the source of a fire which, if it is not extinguished, may spread next door and turn into a world disaster". We have explored the many roots and manifestations in this kit, always with the aim of embedding an attitude of peace and of respect towards others in the hearts of young people.

Indeed, as indicated by Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO: "Peace cannot be guaranteed exclusively by political, economic or military agreements. In the final analysis it depends upon the unanimous, sincere and sustained engagement of peoples. Each one of us, no matter what our age, sex, social position, religious affiliation or cultural origin is called upon to create a peaceful world."

"Peace can only be achieved through our behaviour, attitudes and everyday acts. The Culture of Peace is the universal culture that all peoples, all human beings must share. The culture of peace ... is essential to our common humanity."



UNESCO and WOSM share ideals that are rooted in the *raison d'être* of the two organisations. The World Scout Conference in Durban in 1999 acknowledged this fact when it declared that: "...WOSM and UNESCO share the same vision of the contribution education makes to establishing lasting peace".

It is therefore not surprising that this coincidence of long-term goals has, over the years, resulted in various types of co-operation. However, there is no doubt that the most evident proof of this co-operation was displayed at the 19<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Chile. In the words of Malick M'Baye, the representative of the Director General of UNESCO at the World Scout Conference in Durban, and a former Scout leader, the list of activities carried out is striking in itself:



- Culture of Peace: Discovery of the eight treasures of the Culture of Peace through an interactive computer game.
- Violence on the screen: Workshops and stands on the subject to discuss the results of research carried out with the involvement of 23 National Scout Organizations.
- Cultural heritage: Exhibition of UNESCO's work to protect cultural heritage, and presentation by the Scouts of Korea on their research concerning castles, watch-towers and beacons.
- Street children: Interactive stand run by a patrol from "Scouts de Honduras" composed of former street children who are now in Scouting and have returned to school or apprenticeship.
- Amerindian Scouts from Latin America took part in the Jamboree: Tarahumaras from Mexico, Incas from Peru, Aymaras and Quechuas from Bolivia, Mapuches from Chile, etc., thanks to a grant from the UNESCO Participation Programme.



The World Scout Movement provides a place where children and young people can already shape their environment, where they can already make a concrete contribution to the culture of peace.

The expectation of this publication – and of the Global Development Village in general – is that they will do so all the better if they are more aware, better armed from an intellectual point of view, and more motivated to take on a task which will certainly be both an individual one (in their families, at school, in the community) as well as a joint effort (in their Scout unit, group and National Scout Association).

To quote the former Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, addressing the European Scout and Guide Conference in Salzburg in 1995: "Peace is a dynamic notion which evolves constantly; therefore, the Culture of Peace must be defined within the context of a world in constant evolution".

Scouting is also ready to take on this task. At the World Scout Conference in Durban in 1999, the delegates unanimously adopted a text defining the Mission of Scouting. The introductory paragraph states that:

"The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people...to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society."

The following statements define the non-formal educational process where "...each individual (is) the principal agent of his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person":



Scouting is today developing fulfilled young people who are preparing to be the builders of a new world, a world of peace where the scourge of war will no longer exist because the profound causes of war will have been eradicated: egoism, injustice, hatred, distrust and poverty. The blasé and cynical may think this is a utopian view, but they should not forget that the idealistic dreams of today can become tomorrow's realities.

The transition to a new century and a new millennium, and the fast approaching celebration of the centenary of Scouting, provide a symbolic opportunity to give a new impetus to our efforts. Let's not miss out on the opportunity!

#### REFERENCES

1. *Message from the Director General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, 1st January 2000, UNESCO, Paris, p. 1.*



### *Photographs*

Jean-Luc Bertrand  
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INTERNATIONAL DECADE  
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE  
AND NON-VIOLENCE  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD



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