

## Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF (2005)



**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (this "MoU") is signed between UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF"), a subsidiary organ of the United Nations established by the General Assembly of the United Nations pursuant to resolution 57(I) of 11 December 1946, having its headquarters at UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York, USA, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement ("WOSM"), Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5 – CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland (together with UNICEF, the "Parties").

**WHEREAS**, UNICEF works with governments, civil society organisations and other partners world-wide to advance children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation, and is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In programme countries, UNICEF works primarily with Governments to implement a Government-approved Country Programme of Co-operation. In thirty-seven countries in the developed world there are National Committees for UNICEF, private charitable organisations whose mandate is to raise awareness of, and support (including financial support) for, UNICEF's work, among people and institutions within their respective countries;

**WHEREAS**, WOSM is one of the largest youth organisations worldwide, being the global organisation of individual national scout organisations, representing more than 28 million scouts in 215 countries and territories, with two thirds of its members living in developing countries. The Scout Movement was founded in 1907 as a Movement of and for young people. Its mission is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and active members of their local, national and international communities. It is organised in several age sections from childhood to early adulthood and its method is primarily based on "learning by doing", "youth involvement" and "peer education". The Scout Movement considers young people as citizen of today and not only as future citizens. All over the world Scout activities engage young people in working for peace and sustainable development. In 1946, WOSM was granted ECOSOC status and since then has been continuously involved in numerous programmes, projects and initiatives with different bodies in the United Nations system. WOSM is one of the organisations whose chief executives make up the Alliance for Youth CEOs.

**WHEREAS**, UNICEF and WOSM are both committed to promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to realising the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the declaration of the Special Session on Children, "A World Fit for Children" (WFFC) as a step in realising these rights.

**AND WHEREAS**, UNICEF and WOSM have collaborated in the past on an *ad hoc* basis to pursue projects of mutual interest but wish to make their existing partnership more structured and strategic.

**NOW THEREFORE**, building on the past collaboration, UNICEF and WOSM wish to enter into a closer partnership on projects of mutual importance to strengthening partnerships with and among children and young people, and building their capacity for gender responsive and rights'-based interventions to making the world a better place for all.

### **Goals of the Partnership**

1. UNICEF and WOSM will work together, in a non-exclusive relationship, to support programmes, activities and events that support their mutual goals, and in particular that will enhance the development and meaningful participation of children and young people in decision-making processes at all levels (global, regional and local), and will equip them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to work for fulfilling the commitments of the Millennium Declaration, the achievement of the MDGs and the WFFC goals in order to contribute to building a more peaceful world.

## **Strategies of the Partnership**

2. In order to achieve the goals of this collaboration, UNICEF and WOSM will identify particular strategies, programmes and projects that will be pursued as part of this collaboration, including the following strategies:

- a. They will use the platform of the two organisations' and other key international future events – for example the review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, September 2005, the regional and world jamborees, Scouting's Centenary Celebrations in 2007, and other appropriate national and/or international events – to advance their common goals as set out in this MoU.
- b. They will promote children's and young people's participation in decision-making with a particular emphasis on the Call for Action set out in the guidance document on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making prepared by the Alliance of Youth CEOs and UNICEF.
- c. They will encourage greater co-operation between the UNICEF Regional and Country Offices, UNICEF National Committees and WOSM Regional Offices and National Scout Organizations in order to develop, at appropriate level, activities that promote the principles of this MoU.
- d. They will identify specific countries and activities that will reflect the organisations' mutual goals, and to work, support and promote these joint activities in accordance with their respective structures.

## **Implementation of the Partnership**

3. In implementing their partnership, the Parties will focus on a number of priority areas, including the following:

- a. The "Gifts for Peace" project, a key initiative as part of Scouting worldwide centenary. As part of their partnership around this project, possible activities include UNICEF doing such things as endorsing the aims of the overall project and raising its profile through the support of one or more UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors, recognizing outstanding projects through the UNICEF Award for Peace Building in situations of conflict, emergencies and transition, assisting National Scout Organizations (NSOs) at country level, for example, in the selection, elaboration and delivery of their Gifts for Peace; participating in the elaboration and dissemination of Scout PAX, the educational resource to support Gifts for Peace; and participating in the celebrations of the Centenary of Scouting, including the 21<sup>st</sup> World Scout Jamboree, in 2007;
- b. Joint Projects and Activities to be developed and implemented by the Parties at global, regional, or national (or sub-national) level, especially those aimed at improving the quality of life of children and young people worldwide, particularly those living in very difficult circumstances (child labour, street children, children facing conflicts). Five areas are of particular interest to the Parties:

collaboration using internet technology to connect children and young people all over the world – for example, through the active use of the websites "Voices of Youth" (UNICEF) and "Youth of the World" (WOSM) for the exchange of expertise, opinions and information especially regarding issues related to the involvement of children and youth in conflict, post conflict situations and peace building;

participation by both organizations in activities, projects and/or events of a common purpose at national, regional and global levels;

the promotion of life-skills based education activities to fight HIV/AIDS and roll back malaria;

the joint promotion of child-friendly education systems (both formal and informal systems) through programme advocacy – ones that are acting in the best interests of the child, leading to the realisation of the child's full potential, and concerned both about the "whole" child (including her health, nutritional status, and well-being) and about what happens to children — in their families and

communities - before they enter school and after they leave it. It is inclusive, healthy and protective of children, effective for learning and gender-sensitive; and

the production of informative and educational materials to further disseminate WOSM and UNICEF joint projects and activities;

#### **Operational Principles**

4. In order to operationalise their partnership, the Parties will do the following:
  - a. WOSM Regional Directors, National Scouts Organizations and UNICEF offices (Headquarters, Regional and National Offices) as well as UNICEF National Committees will be informed of the two organisations' commitment to a closer collaboration in these priority areas. WOSM members and UNICEF Regional Directors, Country Representatives and UNICEF National Committee CEOs, as well as their communication officers will be encouraged to work together in these priority areas. However, the decision to implement this programme of collaboration between WOSM and UNICEF lies at the country level.
  - b. UNICEF and WOSM will develop an annual Activity Plan, to be developed by the Parties at the end of each year for implementation during the following year. The Activity Plan will address global, regional and national initiatives, including local collaborations. However, it is understood that local collaborations need not be restricted to those anticipated in the initial Activity Plan, and that the agreed upon Activity Plan will be amended to incorporate these additional local collaborations.
  - c. Each of the Parties will designate representatives to develop a draft Activity Plan for review and approval further to the respective decision-making processes of each Party. Thereafter, each of the Parties will designate a Partnership Co-ordinator, who will co-ordinate that Party's work, as agreed in the Activity Plan, and who will serve as principal liaison between that Party and the other.
  - d. Specific collaborations and projects developed within the framework of this MoU will be formalised through a letter agreement between the Parties.
  - e. In order to ensure an effective collaboration, the Parties intend to meet at least one a year, if possible in January, to review their collaboration against agreed-upon benchmarks (including the implementation of the Activity Plan).

#### **Publicity**

5. Neither Party shall use the name or emblem of the other party, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or otherwise without the express prior written approval of the other Party in each case. The Parties acknowledge that they are familiar with each other's ideals and objectives and recognise that the other's name and emblem may not be associated with any partisan, political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status, reputation and neutrality of each of the Parties.
6. Neither Party will issue press releases, advertisements, or other publicity-related public statements about the partnership without prior approval of the other Party.
7. Each Party will give recognition (mention in agreed-upon press releases, on internet sites, in speeches and in other appropriate ways) to the other Party within projects implemented pursuant to this MoU and in conjunction with this MoU.

#### **Other Matters**

8. This MoU will continue for so long as both Parties desire to work under this MoU. Either Party may withdraw from this MoU (and terminate this MoU) at any time by informing the other Party of its withdrawal. The termination of this MoU does not terminate any letter agreements relating to specific collaborations under this MoU, which will be governed by their own terms.
9. Nothing in or relating to this MoU shall be deemed a waiver, express, or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs. The Parties will resolve any differences relating to this MoU through good faith discussions.

10. Nothing in or relating to this MoU will be construed as creating a joint venture or legal partnership between the Parties, nor shall any Party be deemed an agent of any other Party as a result of this MoU. More particularly, nothing in or relating to this MoU will cause WOSM staff to be construed as UNICEF staff or officials of the United Nations. UNICEF and WOSM are each responsible for their own acts or omissions, and those of their employees, contractors or any other personnel engaged by them in the execution of the MoU.

SIGNED this 8 day of April, 2005 at Geneva

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund

World Organization of the Scout Movement  
(WOSM)

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Carol Bellamy  
UNICEF Executive Director

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Dr. Eduardo Missoni  
WOSM Secretary General