



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

Speech by Chairperson of the World Scout Committee
João Armando Gonçalves

Closing Ceremony of the 40th World Scout Conference
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dear brothers and sisters in Scouting

It is an extraordinary privilege to stand before you as the new Chairman of YOUR World Scout Committee. A Committee which is so full of talented and committed people. A Committee full of people who have tremendous passion for Scouting. I am, therefore, humbled to have been chosen by my peers to lead them in the upcoming triennium.

My first words go to the outgoing members of the World Scout Committee. Starting with those who were elected at the Korea Conference. They have given a lot of themselves to this Movement and there are no doubts that the organisation today has changed, for the better, from what it was 6 years ago. Therefore, I would like to wholeheartedly thank Simon Rhee, Wahid Labidi, John May, John Neysmith and Oscar Palmquist.

I also want to acknowledge an extraordinary group of people with whom I learned so much: the outgoing Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee. Young people in Scouting should be very proud to have been represented by these talented and intelligent personalities to whom I extend my heartfelt gratitude: Felipe de Paulo, Esben Holager, Sarah-Rita Kattan, Doina Postica and Vemund Ovesen. Thank you.

I wish you well in your next adventures and I'm sure you'll be ready to serve when the Movement calls you again.

Dear friends

WOSM is going through exciting times, both externally and internally:

- On one hand, the organisation is operating in an increasingly interconnected world that changes every day. A world in which great progress is achieved in a number of areas, but still suffers from severe inequalities. We need to be able to "read the external signs" better and adapt when necessary. But also to contribute more actively to shape those changes in the world.



- On the other hand, if we want to be more effective in creating a better world, we also need to work internally to reinforce our spirit and values, our relations, the positions we take externally, and also our processes and systems. We need to develop a constructive attitude of striving for continuous improvement, as well as to nurture strong and healthy relationships.

I see us, your new World Scout Committee, as playing an important role in a collective effort of taking WOSM to the next level, through the challenging and exciting times we're living in. For that to happen, I believe a focus need to be given to 3 issues:

1. Unity

There have been changes in WOSM in recent years, partly as a consequence of the social, economic and political shifts that we experienced at global and regional levels. And some of the tensions that we've experienced in the organisation may have been an expression of those shifts.

Progress been made in the last 3 years to unify World Scouting in this complex landscape, but there is still work to be done in strengthening the bonds between people, NSOs and Regions. Efforts will be made to increase the opportunities for people to come together, to develop common ideas and projects, to understand and value their differences, and to build from them.

The implementation of the new Strategy for WOSM that you have just approved, is a golden opportunity, not only to increase our social impact, but also to strengthen our internal relations and reinforce the common values. Because we will all be working together in making Scouting the "world's leading educational youth movement".

2. Impact

Scouting exists to bring positive change to the world, both to its individual members and to the communities in which they live in. And we have been doing that for more than 100 years now. However, in this world of tremendous opportunities which we're living in, we can do even better. A global movement of over 40 million members (and growing) is in a privileged position to bring positive change to the world, in each family, each neighbourhood, each village, each city and each country.

To be more effective in transforming lives, we need to reinforce our educational profile and our culture of service. We need to be able to



respond to societal challenges and to communicate better, all the good things we are doing.

And everybody needs to be involved, especially young people. Because, as stated by the outgoing World Scout Committee in the position paper "Unlocking our Potential", and I quote:

"Young people are a tremendous source of energy, creativity and values that can shape a better future, both inside Scouting and in the local communities in which they live."

3. Organisation

All over the world, societies are claiming for transparency, for good governance, for collaboration and closer involvement in decision making, for flexibility, for innovation, for effectiveness and swift delivery. It is therefore normal that we have the same demands from the different levels of our Organization. And we have the obligation to take concrete steps in improving the ways we organise ourselves and how we operate. This does not necessarily imply that radical changes need to be made; sometimes, even small moves can create big impact.

Unity, Impact and Organisation.

I consider these 3 issues as key in the coming future if we want to have Scouting as a united (and yet, diverse) global educational movement, shaping positive changes in the world by transforming the lives of individuals and communities.

Dear friends

All of us, the participants of the 40th World Scout Conference, have been direct contributors towards the dawn of a new era that WOSM is entering into:

- We now have a new Strategy for the next 9 years and a Triennial Plan for 2014-2017. They have been designed and enriched with a positive and constructive spirit which I personally felt was lacking in WOSM for some time.
- You also have a new World Scout Committee, a new group of Youth Advisors and a restructured World Scout Bureau.

It is like a fresh start; a fantastic opportunity to push this Movement forward.

A collective adventure that can make us impact the lives of millions and millions of young people, the future of their communities, and the world at large.



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A collective adventure to which, each one of us is called, regardless of age, origin, creed or gender.

A collective adventure to be experienced and lived in a constructive and positive way.

I invite you to join your World Scout Committee in this endeavour.
Count on us to give our best. We'll be counting on you.

Thank you.