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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

PRESS RELEASE

World Scouting's Largest Conference Opens in Baku

Scouting leadership to accelerate the growth and impact of the Movement and achieve Vision 2023

14 August 2017, Baku, Azerbaijan: The 41st World Scout Conference opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, with the largest participation in its history. The Conference had representation from at least 160 National Scout Organizations, which accounts for 90% of the Member Organizations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) worldwide.

In the opening session, the World Scout Committee Chairperson, João Armando Gonçalves and WOSM Secretary General, Ahmad Alhendawi presented their joint report, showcasing the Movement's achievements throughout the 2014-2017 triennium.

Among the guests invited to the Conference was His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania who delivered the keynote speech.

"Your strength is not only in your numbers, but in the spirit and energy that you have decided to invest in this noble course. With a strong Scout Movement, no challenge in this world is insurmountable to solve and no barrier impossible to overcome", said Kikwete as he concluded.

The report on the 13th World Scout Youth Forum was also delivered at the opening session, highlighting the extraordinary work that was done at the largest ever World Scout Youth Forum held just prior to the Conference. The Forum was attended by 236 participants from 116 countries.

"The World Organization of the Scout Movement today is set on a path of innovation and modernisation. We are transforming our operations to focus on offering the best services to our members," affirmed Ahmad who believes that the spirit of diversity and unity, which lies in the heart of the World Scouting, is stronger now than ever before. He attributes this to the hard work of the World Scout Committee, devoted staff of the World Scout Bureau, Scouts, volunteers and individuals involved.

In the next four days, the World Scout Conference will review the progress made in the past triennium and discuss current trends affecting Scouting worldwide. It is also expected to decide on various issues and deliberate on the Movement's collective efforts to realise Vision 2023.

Ends

About the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Scouting is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907, WOSM is a confederation of 167 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million Scouts in at least 224 countries and territories worldwide. As it has been doing for more than a century – creating a better world – it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

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