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## Introduction

In 1996 the World Scout Conference approved as policy the Marrakech Charter. The purpose of this paper is to propose an approach to partnerships which will be acted on by the International Commissioner and team on behalf of Scouting Ireland.

This paper outlines why it is important for us to participate in working with Scouts in other countries in a sustained way over a period of time. It identifies the significant features which will apply to such work, proposes a number of specific initiatives to be undertaken in the immediate future and outlines some resources which are available to help us.

In summary it proposes to apply the guidelines of the Marrakech Charter to all of our efforts in relation to a specific number of partnerships; organisational development work with a South East European Country, a series of projects with an African Country and a focused campaign to support the work of Bóthar.

In addition it is recommended that the following Youth Programme opportunities will be pursued;

- Scouting Ireland will encourage and support members to participate in “One World Week” which is currently facilitated in Ireland by the National Youth Council of Ireland
- Scouting Ireland will promote and support the “Scouts of the World” Programme to complement the core youth programme of Scouting Ireland and to contribute to the achievement of the UN development goals
- Scouting Ireland’s “Gift for Peace” for the Centenary will provide a unique opportunity to build on the Peace Education already developed by Scouting in Ireland and this opportunity should be utilised to its fullest.

## Why should we reach out?

In our commitment to youth we not only pledge to facilitate young people in learning about the World but also we pledge that they will learn how to make the World a better place. This learning will best happen through our educational programme and through using the Scout Method of learning by doing in small groups, utilising the out of doors.

We live in an increasingly global society where not only do we see poverty, hunger, suffering and injustice on a daily basis in foreign countries and in our own towns and cities but those who are suffering, poor and hungry also witness our affluence. As the gap between the rich and the poor widens the disillusionment and the sense of helplessness that good people feel at their inability to stop this negative development increases.

Scouting instils in young people a sense of values through the promise and the law. The challenge for Scouting Ireland is to give young people the opportunity to put those values into action and to be of service to their community and the World, thereby helping individual scouts to make the world a better place. Young people can

help bring about the change they wish to see in this World and in turn this will give them a sense of fulfilment and self-worth.

In the years to come, Scouting's credibility as a non-formal educational movement will depend on its capacity to develop tens of thousands of young men and women who have the knowledge, skills and motivation to take an active part in bringing about social change and thus make this world a better place.

## **Partnerships as a way forward**

Specific Partnerships are of more benefit than ad-hoc engagements as they enable a focus of effort and resources over a period of time in order to achieve with a planned outcome for all parties to the partnership.

The Marrakech Charter specifies that Partnerships should;

- Meet the young peoples needs and aspirations and involve them in all stages of action
- Be based on the fundamental principles of Scouting
- Serve to enrich the youth programme, strengthen human and financial resources and/or develop infrastructure
- Be built upon the principles of equality, autonomy, reciprocity and fraternity
- Be implemented in a transparent and collaborative manner

## **Proposed approach**

In light of the above, the following approach is proposed.

We will undertake a limited number of partnerships and focussed initiatives to cover all aspects of the Marrakech Charter. We will start this work with two specific countries for the present and review our approach over time to see if we could or should extend this number. Initially we will work with one Eastern European country and one African Country. Serbia & Montenegro has approached us recently to see if we would commence a partnership. The African Regional Office has also approached us in relation to working on projects in the region they have been asked to compose a list of suggested projects for us to peruse. We propose to start work on creating partnerships with both of these areas right away.

Bóthar expressed an interest in developing a scheme whereby in partnership Bóthar and Scouting Ireland would raise the money to send in-calf cows to families in developing countries. The calves once born would be given as a gift to other families. Scouting Ireland would raise €1000 euro for each cow and Bóthar would source €800 euro to cover the costs of sending the cows. An opportunity would be afforded to scouts to meet and name the cows before they depart.

The principles outlined below will apply to each partnership.

### **Partnership and Youth Programme**

- Youth Programme will form an integral part of any international partnership with other Scout Associations or other Non governmental organisations, which Scouting Ireland enters into

- Where possible this Youth Programme will include age appropriate activities for all member age groups in Scouting Ireland, these activities will complement and extend the core Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland
- Programme materials, which support Peace Education or Development Education, will be sourced or developed to provide continuous education in the area of global solidarity for all members

### **Partnership and Youth Exchanges**

- Youth Exchanges with our selected partner countries will be particularly encouraged
- Each exchange will have a purpose and will adhere to the guidelines for Youth Exchanges in the Marrakech Charter

### **Partnership in the area of Adult Resources**

- Specific projects will be taken by the partners with a view to improving the organisational structure of either or both partners, strengthening their Adult Management practices and/or fulfilling specific adult training needs which would not otherwise be filled
- Such projects will aim to develop the skills and competencies of those involved in their delivery
- They will also, where possible, provide material for subsequent re-use by the partner countries and/or other parts of WOSM
- Each project will adhere to the guidelines for the area of Adult Resources in the Marrakech Charter

### **Partnership and Material & Financial Resources**

- Initially our efforts in this regard will focus on funding the specific partnership programmes outlined in this paper.

### **Multilateral Partnership**

- Where appropriate, to enable or assist us in pursuing the specific partnership programmes outlined in this paper, we will look to involving other Scouting associations and/or governmental and/or non-governmental organisations

### **Partnership with other organisations**

- Where appropriate, to enable or assist us in pursuing the specific partnership programmes

### **Partnership, Scout Associations and WOSM**

- We will provide information to the European Region throughout each of the undertakings outlined in this paper and we will seek their support as appropriate
- We will share our experiences through the appropriate Regional events and publications
- We will provide advice, support and guidance to other countries interested in similar undertakings, if called upon

### **Partnership and Emergency Relief**

- We undertake that if any of our partner countries encounter the need for Emergency Relief during the term of our partnership with them we will play a lead role in organising a Scouting response to this need

### **Partnership Contract**

- We will develop jointly with each partner a formal document outlining our commitments and expectations for each of the partnership programmes outlined in this paper

### **Resources**

Many resources exist to support this work, such as;

#### **Programme**

- The Scouts of the World Programme - published and supported by WOSM
- Workshops on Peace Education - which have been published by WOSM
- The GAPP project - which has been published by the Scout Association UK

#### **Financial**

- Development Co-operation Ireland - which is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs, provides financial grants for qualifying Development Education programmes and capacity building projects
- Léargas and the Euro Med Programme - are both programmes of the European Youth Programme and fund youth exchanges between EU member countries and also third countries

#### **Human**

- The European Scout Region Support Officer for South East Europe - has offered to help develop a project with Serbia Montenegro and Ireland
- The European Scout Region Director of Communications and External Relations - has also offered to assist with a project between Ireland and Serbia Montenegro and to meet with The International Commissioner Scouting Ireland in April to discuss same
- The National Youth Council of Ireland - has full time programme officers in the area of Development Education who have offered to assist Scouting Ireland in this area

#### **Tools**

- Child safety and Youth Exchange Programmes - Guidelines for Good Practice which was produced by member organisations of the NYCI