



THE MANILA DECLARATION

The Parliamentarians from 41 Countries representing the six regions of World Scouting (Africa, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Europe and Inter-America) meeting in Manila, Philippines, from 18 to 21 August 1997, on the occasion of the 2nd General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union, have devoted the most substantial part of their work to study youth policies both at national and at international level.

They have realized that everywhere in the world, even if manifestations are very important repercussions on young people, and that it is necessary to take this into account when considering educational opportunities offered to them.

They have stressed that one of the major current problems is the fact that formal education, be it school education or university education, is very often considered as the only indispensable form of education. For that reason, non-formal education (as proposed by scouting) which is better placed to prepare children and young people to adapt themselves to the evolution of society, is sometimes under-estimated and under-utilized.

As a consequence, the 2nd General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union declares that it is urgent to recognize, at national level as well as by the international community, the universal value of non-formal education for young people, and in particular, the work accomplished by youth organizations such as Scouting.

Within the spirit of the Commitment of Valparaiso, adopted by the 1st General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union on 19 January 1994, the Scout parliamentarians meeting in Manila commit themselves to continue their efforts to "promote non-formal education and legislate in favor of its development as an integral part of the overall educational process." (Commitment of Valparaiso, article 4).

Concretely, the World Scout Parliamentary Union shall:

- Collect all national laws dealing with non-formal education in general, and with Scouting in particular, with the view of compiling them and make them be recognized;
- Promote, through meetings and exchanges with National Scout Organizations, the reflection on the substantive subjects discussed during this General Assembly, notably the importance of non-formal education and the contribution of Scouting as an educational movement;
- Make the parliaments of different countries aware of the role played by the non-governmental youth organizations, notably Scouting, in the socialization process of young people in order to obtain a better understanding and stronger support from these legislative bodies.
- Help in the dissemination, understanding and implementation of the document "The Education of young People, a Statement at the Dawn of the 21st Century"
- Contribute, within the spirit of this Declaration, either directly or
- through the World Organization of the Scout Movement, to the work of the 1st International Conference of Youth Ministers which will be organized by the United Nations in Lisbon, in August 1998, at the invitation of the Portuguese Government, as well as to the forthcoming International Conference Education organized by the International Bureau of Education (UNESCO) in Geneva in the year 2000.

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