

JOTA-JOTI - 16 October 2010
from Ginebra

Dear sisters and brothers Scouts,

I am very happy to speak to you on occasion of the Jamboree on the Air and on the Internet, a true symbol and experience of the planetary interconnectedness existing among Scouts.

Long before the world started to discuss about globalization, the scouts considered themselves Citizens of the World. Citizens without borders, that meet, live and work together without discriminating anybody, citizens who are able to recognise and value the thoughts and the human experience of everybody. True Scouts do recognise the value of diversity.

To be Citizens of the world implies also to have the conciousness that we all share the Planet, the *Pacha Mama* of the Andean populations, Mother Earth; and we have the responsibility to respect and preserve its resources from which our life depends and that of all living beings, including future generations.

That is why, to be Scouts today implies to be prepared to build alternatives to the present world that sees us only as stupid consumers; it implies building alternatives to consumerism and to a society based on competition and constant search for economic wealth, with increasing inequalities, conflicts and an unlimited production of waste and pollution.

To be scouts today, Citizens of the World, means to discover new social paths, based on solidarity, on cooperation, on sincere and open human relations which allow to overcome difficulties together, building initiatives that do repect and promote the natural environment, starting from participation and civic engagement in our local communities.

Let's globally interconnect these local experiencs and actions, into a single action capable to trasform the world both globally and locally, a g-local action.

Many say they are scouts because they participate in scout organizations, because they wear a uniform and earn badges and may be they occupy important positions in those organizations.

Few, however, are true Scouts, with a capital "S", those who live all their life according to the commitment deriving from the Scout Promise and Law. They are those who create a better world and this should be the ambition of every true Scout.

Sisters and brothers, even if far away we are interconnected and let's continue to walk together.

I send my best wishes to you and a big hug

Eduardo

Eduardo Missoni was the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement from 2004 to 2007, year of the Centenary of scouting