

Messengers of Peace

International Day of Peace 2023 Guideline

(A reference document for NSOs action teams)



1. Background

A UN resolution established the International Day of Peace in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the UN General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in 1982 and was held on the third Tuesday of September each year.

In 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the day as a period of non-violence. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace. In 2002, the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent annual date for the International Day of Peace celebration.

To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City). The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents except Africa and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan, as "a reminder of the human cost of war"; the inscription on its side reads, "Long live absolute world peace". (Ref: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>)

2. IDP 2023 Theme: *Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals*

The 2023 theme for the International Day of Peace is **Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals**. *It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all.*

In 2023, as we reach the halfway point in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Day of Peace coincides with the SDG Summit (18-19 September) to commemorate this significant milestone. The SDGs are designed to advance our progress towards building more peaceful, equitable, and inclusive societies, where fear and violence have no place. However, the realization of these goals depends on the active involvement and contributions of various stakeholders, including the 1.2 billion young people currently alive.

We urge you to respond to the United Nations' call for action by advocating for peace, addressing inequality, taking decisive measures to combat climate change, and upholding and safeguarding human rights.

3. Messengers of Peace for International Day of Peace

Scouts in Asia-Pacific Region are vigorously involved in peace actions since the launch of Messengers of Peace Initiative in 2011. Since 2015, the International Day of Peace has been celebrated by almost all National Scout Organizations (NSOs) in the Asia-Pacific Region, taking the opportunity to engage young people and leaders in peace actions and inspiring them to become active global citizens. In many NSOs, peace actions and doing good deeds are spread for the entire month of September.

4. Objectives

- 4.1 To commemorate the International Day of Peace through active involvement of Scouts in their communities
- 4.2 To inspire and support Scouts to talk on Peace Actions with other Scouts, non-Scouts, and community members
- 4.3 To raise awareness on issues in their communities and the importance of everyone in the undertaking actions towards development of peace culture
- 4.4 To actively contribute to Sustainable Development Goals through community service, community development, development education initiatives based on the context/need of the respective community

5. Action Period

1-30 September 2023
Gala Celebration – 21 September 2023

6. Participants

- 6.1 Scouts of all ages: executing the activities and interacting with community members
- 6.2 Non-Scouts: understanding peace, undertaking peace activities with Scouts, and committing to continue to be Messengers of Peace

7. Planning and Guidance

- 7.1 NSO to assign a national team to plan and execute the celebration/activities at national level and extending support to local leaders who will organize, plan, coordinate, implement and report local activities happening around the country.
- 7.2 Entrust coordination responsibility to NSO MoP Coordinator or as may be befitting who will be responsible to support the national and local teams in planning and advancing the initiative at national level through its local structure, supporting the promotion through social media channels and directly with Scout groups with the involvement of Scout leaders.
- 7.3 Ensuring involvement of the public in undertaking actions and documenting and reporting
- 7.4 Submission of reports to Asia-Pacific Support Center by **30 September 2023** so that it can be compiled and be shared globally. This is with the intention that Scouts contribution be recognized at appropriate platforms.

We are also looking forward that within the week if we get the complete data, we can summarize the total number of **accomplishments on a single day by Scouts e.g.*

- *How many young people attended the peace activities nationwide?*
- *How many saplings planted in a day?*
- *The largest number of youth participation in peace run/walk? Etc.*

8. IDP Activity Ideas Collection

There is a vast selection of activity ideas for International Day of Peace which can be chosen and applied addressing the 2023 theme for the International Day of Peace, "**Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals**".

As Scouts, let's act towards "*Creating a Better World*" in which everyone makes significant contributions towards the attainment of the SDGs, ultimately fostering a culture of peace that transcends borders and benefits all individuals.

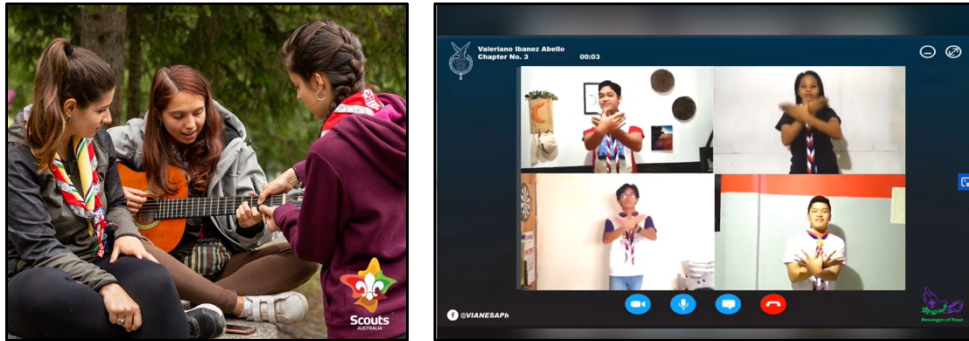
Below are some of activity ideas:

8.1) Peace Video Clip

To provide social media platforms where Scouts can share their video clips, for example:

- What peace means to individuals and their own peace perception speech
- Their peace activities serving in the communities
- Tell personal experiences and stories on happiness they find in helping others
- MoP Dance Music Video (with their own choreography or unique dance moves)
- Scout talents such as singing inspiring songs with the theme of peace, play music, or any other performances that would provoke thinking in the viewers

This can be done by individuals or even could be organized as talent shows or competitions at group, sub-national or national levels.



Everyone can post their videos:

- on <https://sdgs.scout.org/> with hashtag **#IDP2023** or
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mop.apr/> with hashtag **#IDP2023**

8.2) Peace Picture and Pledges

8.2.1) Are you into photography? Then take some pictures that reflect any expression, ideal or messages of peace. Share them in social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.) with a nice message that includes the word SCOUT. Pictures must be original.

8.2.2) Pictures can also be taken in "selfie" style displaying a pledge to build awareness that peace culture is a daily effort with small acts of kindness. It is important to recognize that **"Peace starts with me"**.

Step 1: Take a selfie showing commitment towards peace actions in line with the theme **"Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals"**.

Step 2: Think about own declaration of commitment towards peace, to express what you would do starting today to start building peace.

Step 3: Post your selfie and your declaration of peace. Share on <https://sdgs.scout.org/> and other social media platforms.



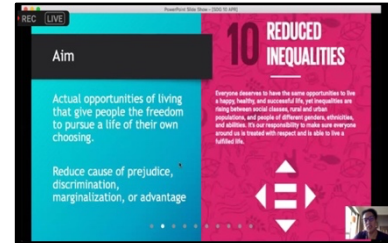
Some suggested activities (you may be innovative based on local needs)

8.3) Live Interview or Webinar

A series of live interviews or webinars on how we can contribute to **"Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals"** and be used as a step towards the International Day of Peace (21 September).

Step 1: Plan and Organize

- Develop the concept: choose topic, participants, objectives.....
- Choose your speaker
- Choose a date and time to execute the webinar
- Choose the platform (zoom, google meet)
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Step 2: Choose the right Format

- Choose the right format that can best relay your message to the participants. It can be in single speaker, interview format, panel discussion or question and answer format.

Step 3: Publicize your Webinar

- Let the people know about the webinar to get maximum participation. Promote your webinars through creating a page, banner, advertisement, emails especially on media sites like Facebook. Send multiple follow up to your participants to encourage them to attend the event.

Step 4: Practice your webinar

- As much as possible have a checklist. Always remember that everything may not go smoothly, you may experience any technical difficulties that may be crucial for your webinar. Practice dry run, check and run a test on your webinar software, finalize your presentation, check activities that need to be monitored.

Step 5: Execute your webinar

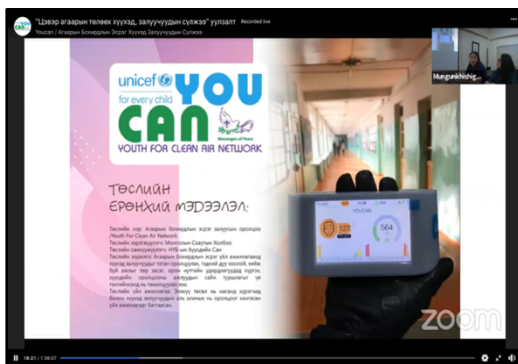
- Have at least 10 minutes for the question and answer to discuss with participants points for clarification. Ask if there are further questions or requests.

Possible topic:

- "Peace starts with oneself"
- "Gender Equality"
- "The role of media in manifestation of Peace towards the world"
- "Harmony and Balance in the World"
- "Contributing to sustainable World"
- "Role of young people today towards building future"

Possible questions:

1. Why did you choose that topic?
2. What is the meaning of peace for you?
3. How can you share your knowledge with your community?
4. What are the possible projects or activities we can implement in the community?



8.4) Peace Talk - on radio/podcast

If we can reach more, we can inspire more. Contact your local radio station asking for a slot to talk about "how Scouts contribute to peace/SDGs through service". Invite people to join our global effort to promote Peace Culture with small acts of kindness towards creating a better world.

Step 1: Make a list of radio stations with numbers and contact persons

Step 2: Contact them to ask for a slot to talk about Scouts and Peace

Step 3: Agree on a specific program and schedule

Step 4: Prepare some key points to use in your radio show. Share it with other Scouts if they are also joining. Prepare a token of appreciation for the radio station.

Step 5: Go and enjoy the radio world. Ask someone to record or ask the radio to provide you with the recording. You can even talk on TV! An interview with national and local leader on TV/Radio would draw attention of viewers to Scouting.



8.5) Dialogue for Peace Awareness Workshop

Invite your existing or potential volunteers to join this activity, with the aim to develop and revitalize our volunteers in promoting peace in our network.

Step 1: Plan and Organize

- Build your Team, your team can help you determine the goals and plot the tasks accordingly.
- Determine the goals considering community issues that need to be addressed.
- Determine the participants
- Have a trained facilitator
- Choose a place, date and time
- Choose a suitable and conducive environment

Step 2: Invite Participants

Step 3: Prepare the equipment or tools for the discussion

Step 4: Record your dialogue

Step 5: Conduct the dialogue

Step 6: Conclude the dialogue



8.6) One-day Peace Gathering (Messengers of Peace Day)

On 21 September, the International Day of Peace is a great opportunity to organize a reunion of MoP people to meet. Some important ceremonies can take place on this one-day event, for example:

- Sharing of best practices
- Promoting peace
- MoP or Peace action awards presentation
- MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) Signing Ceremony between MoP and other organizations to create partnership on Peace Culture
- Reunion/conference of MoP Coordinators/Heroes including a commitment towards undertaking another yearlong peace project individually or as a group.
- MoP badges and scarves presentation



8.7) Peace Sports Day

As sport can bring harmony among players/participants organizing sports events on International Day of Peace can gather MoP network, local coordinators, Scouts, and non-Scouts to play sports for health and fun!

Step 1: Plan

Plan what are the materials needed, choice of games to be conducted, the number of participants to be included, the venue where the sports day will be held, the prices and other technical materials for the event.



Step 2: Participants

Gather participants. Let the people know about the event. Promote the Sports Day through creating a page, banner, advertisement, emails especially on media sites like, Facebook.

Step 3: Prepare for the materials for each game.

Step 4: Conduct the Peace Sports Day

Step 5: Gather feedback from the participants



Possible Games or Activities:

1. Catch the dragon's tail
2. Relay Race
3. Scavenger's Hunt

8.8) Peace Parade/Peace Rally

Embrace your peace culture or cultural diversity by inviting Scouts and non-Scouts to join peace awareness rally or cultural parade in your community. The International Day of Peace Theme 2023 can be used as a parade/rally concept.



8.9) Peace Booth/Peace Road Show

The Peace/MoP Booth can be set up in public places, for example, public parks, malls, etc. engaging young people and adults. Exhibits may include:

- 1) Peace Actions Banners
- 2) What peace means to you?
3. Activity Corner (booth visitors will draw or write their meaning of peace on papers).
- 4) Photo Exhibit depicting activities of Scouts, and their positive contribution to the communities.



8.10) Peace Pantry of Sharing

This activity promotes a nourishing neighborhood to the communities by offering food to those who need it most.



8.11) Health Care Service

To build a wider impact, you can partner with a government institution, such as Health Department/private hospital/individual doctors/Red Cross to help you organize a free health check, vaccination, eye camp, blood donation etc.



**Ensure you have complete record of blood donated on the day in your NSO and is included in the report*

8.12) Scout MoP Reporter

What about other people? Do they know they are also entitled to create peace in the world? How are they engaging themselves in contributing to Sustainable Development Goals? As MoP "Reporter" you may interview non-Scouts and community members with video to raise awareness about the issue. Some criteria for your interview:

Step 1: Introduce yourself as a Scout and what is the purpose of the interview, and how will this be used.

Step 2: Once you are ready to record - introduce yourself with your name and where you come from; introduce the person you are interviewing. Then you are free for your interview. Ensure you have developed appropriate questions for the interview.

Step 3: Report and upload your video on

<https://sdgs.scout.org/>

Key points to highlight in the promotion and conduct of Peace Run:

- What does peace mean to you?
- What do you think you can do to create peace?
- What are global issues that affect us in our country related to peace?
- What is the peace message you want to convey to other people?



8.13) Plant a Tree

This could be organized as a group or individually.

Young people (Scouts and Non-Scouts) plant saplings in a place (home, school, public garden) and take care of them until fully grown. It is highly recommended that each one plant a sapling in your own kitchen garden, rooftop, nearby available place, and those staying in multistorey building can plant in the balcony or terrace.

Step 1: Choose a place and right kind of trees

Step 2: Plant the trees in the suitable area (suggested by the local authority if you are doing mass planting)

Step 3: Write a story about the activity with photos

Step 4: Share your tree planting activity on sdgs.scout.org and other social media



**Ensure you have complete record of Tree Plantation on the day in your NSO and is included in the report*

8.14) Books for All

Collect books and donate them to those in need.

Step 1: Find out who are in need of books.

Step 2: Contact potential donors of books.

Step 3: Arrange the place and time to give them to those in need.

Step 4: Share your story on

<https://sdgs.scout.org/> and other social media platforms.



8.15) Enroll new Scouts

Enroll an eligible, interested, and willing young person to your pack/troop/crew.

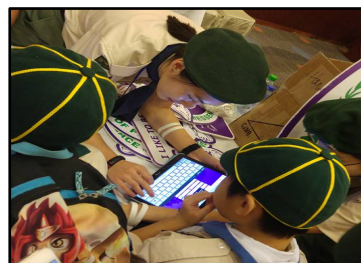
Step 1: Introduce Scouting to this person

Step 2: Arrange for his/her registration

Step 3: Take some video or photo in action for the new member.

Step 4: Share the video or photo in sdgs.scout.org and social media.

This can also be done by individual Scouts with the slogan “**each one recruit one**”.



8.16) Running the modules on "Peace and Community Engagement for young people"

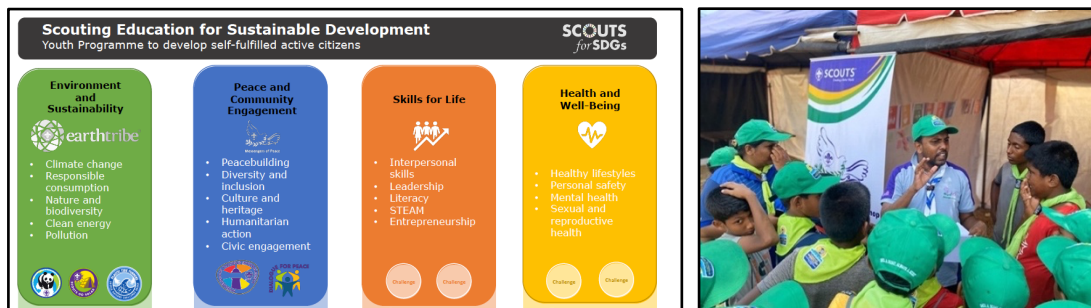
By sending your teams to schools, invite young people to your campsite, or organize a camp in your school.

Step 1: Set up the Team who will deliver the program

Step 2: Go to schools, camp sites or public hall to run the program.

Step 3: Take some video or photo in action for the new member.

Step 4: Share the video or photo in <https://sdgs.scout.org/> and social media.



8.17) Peace Run

This is trendy amongst young people and an effective way for creating awareness.

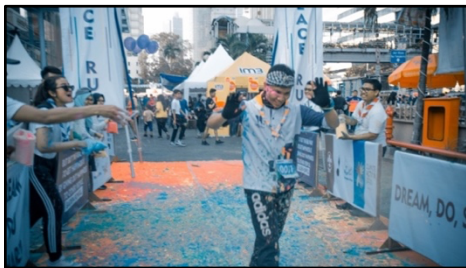
Step 1: Promote participation through pamphlet, poster, social media and mass media (the team can also hire a local event organizer who is specialized in walk/run events).

Step 2: Choose the proper place for Peace Run for greater visibility to the public.

Step 3: Ensure to take necessary permission/permits to organize the run as per local requirements

Step 4: Take good photos during the Run.

Step 5: Share your photo on <https://sdgs.scout.org/> and other social media.



**Ensure you have complete record Peace Run data on the day in your NSO and is included in the report e.g., what was the advocacy topic for the run, how many young people attended (if by age great), number of kilometers, other highlights etc.*

There are several agencies who are professional in conduct of such activities, NSOs can explore this

8.18) Contribution to SDGs

As an active global citizen, Scouts also have the responsibility to take actions contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are some actions that you may take based on SDGs.



SDG 1: No Poverty

- Discuss in your patrol what poverty means and what needs to be done to eliminate it in your community.
- Support a family in need to start a business and organize a fundraising campaign in your Scout group to help them get it off the ground.
- Donate clothes that you no longer need to a local charity instead of reselling or throwing them away.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- Put yourself in someone else's shoes, try to buy food for the day with the least amount of money possible.
- Buy your fresh food from a local market to support local farmers and business-owners
- Reduce food waste at home and during camps by preserving food through drying, freezing or any other preservation methods.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- Start a blood donation campaign with your Scout group to support local blood banks.
- Plan a group visit to a hospital to learn about important health issues in your community.
- Do a short presentation in your Scout group meeting about the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse.

SDG 4: Quality Education

- Collect used books with your Scout group and donate them to a library or school in a low-income neighborhood.
- Tell your friends about the SDGs and the importance of sustainability. Make a video about Scouts and the SDGs and share it on social media with the hashtag #Scouts4SDGs.
- Learn about different career paths by inviting local artists and experts to have an afternoon mentorship and idea exchange session with your Scout group.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- Support a local awareness campaign about ending child marriage. Volunteer to educate parents and kids about a girl's right to not marry early.
- Deliver the activities in the HeForShe and WOSM action kit and commit to being an ambassador for gender equality in Scouting.
- Use social media to raise awareness about gender imbalances in your community, for example when women and girls aren't well represented in concerts, conferences, or events.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Learn importance of Clean Water and Water Conservation.
- Be an activist on water conservation by starting a project on educating young people on importance of water and how to preserve water by adopting good practices.
- Undertake a safe water project in a community that has water challenge.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- Develop small habits to save energy at home by unplug unused electronics setting the thermostat to cost-effective temperatures, wash your clothes with cold water and hang-dry then, use modern, energy efficient lightbulbs.
- Green your commute! Ride a bike, use public transportation, when possible, car-share and walk.
- Stop using one-use batteries, only use rechargeable electronics and even try out solar-powered batteries.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Run a career counseling activity with experts' facilitation for young people
- Reach out to underprivileged young adults to help them learn some livelihood skills (vocational center)
- Prepare your own future employment plan

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- Encourage your family and friends to use technology and innovation in advancing the other SDGs and spreading awareness and take action.
- Invest and pursue your entrepreneurial dream through many entrepreneurship platforms that will help you share that dream into reality.
- Organize and participate together with your Scout troops in various science events/fairs that will widen your knowledge in new technologies and industry.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Participate and encourage other Scouts to promote HeforShe on your community and strengthen the awareness and network for safer space for women.
- Start a support campaign for further government support for SMEs and emerging online business.
- Join a cultural knowledge exchange campaign between refugees/migrants.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Strengthen Intra-city Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Response through organizing and joining volunteer disaster response and relief logistics teams and partnering with the local government unit.
- Use bicycle or public transport on travelling to improve community mobility and reduces pollution.
- Encourage the LGUs to pursue telecommunication companies to prioritize the strengthening of their cities internet capacity/bandwidth especially in their populous areas to further support community.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- Advocate for Responsible Consumption practices by sharing infographics detailing the wholistic and long-term impacts of irresponsible consumption
- Encourage the company you work for to adapt guidelines on responsible resource consumption.
- Incorporate responsible consumption practices in your lifestyle and household such as re-using products, reducing resource consumption, and recycling materials for other function

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Raise awareness on Climate Change and what is happening to the planet by sharing infographics on your social media accounts
- Conduct scout group activities that will contribute to Climate Action such as tree planting activities and coastal clean-up.
- Conduct seminars for the young people to educate them on what is the current situation and how they can contribute to Climate Action

SDG 14: Life Below Water

- By 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. Stop using plastic bags, straws and other single-use plastics and convince all of your friends and family to do the same.
- Run an awareness campaign about how plastic use affects the seas, oceans and the entire ecosystem.
- Take your Scout group to a local river or seaside to run a clean-up project.

SDG 15: Life on Land

- Run campaign awareness with your Scout troops on the importance of terrestrial biodiversity and the actions to protect and conserve the life on land.
- Partner with your community and other organizations to conduct a tree planting activity.
- Reduce your use of paper. Avoid printing and substitute it with electronic devices carriers.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Register and exercise your rights to vote and participate and join the efforts of campaign awareness towards strong and clean governance.
- Hold a dialogue session with someone from a different religion, culture, age or gender.

- Take peace actions and address the issues in your community together with your Scout troops and share your actions in <https://sdgs.scout.org/>.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Engage your community to crowdfund your next project using the Scout Donation Platform (<https://donate.scout.org/>)
- Partner with other Scout groups in your district and implement a service project together.
- Connect with a Scout group from another province or NSO online and share how you are contributing to the SDGs in your local community and learn how they are also creating a better world in theirs.

9. Promoting IDP Activities

One of the most important tasks of MoP is to INSPIRE others to do good deeds. Therefore, the International Day of Peace Promotion should be done through these platforms such as <https://sdgs.scout.org/>, [Messengers of Peace|Asia-Pacific Region Facebook group](#) and your own national administered social media sites (Facebook pages/groups, YouTube, Instagram, etc.) for uploading projects and stories.

10. Reporting

For reporting, you may please use the report forms attached to the circular. Ensure that all activities held in celebration of the International Day of Peace are well documented and reported.

There are two forms, one for NSO to summarize all the activities that took place in the IDP Celebration throughout the country either at unit level or at national level which is exclusive for the MoP NSO Coordinator.

The other form is designed to report each activity/event. NSO can use it to circulate to subnational and grass roots for them to submit this report forms to National that will help NSO to prepare the summarized report. NSO can also give this form to each of the in-charge of National Event/Activity to fill-up, so all national activities have the detailed information available with NSO.

In submitting to APR Support Center, NSO needs to send the summarized report form. And if NSO wishes, may also attach all the event/activity forms.