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Brief report of the World Social Forum IC meeting¹ **Parma, Italy (October 10-12, 2006)**

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¹ *This brief report is a summary of the main decisions taken in Parma. It is based on notes taken by Chris Selig (GGJ), Fanny Gomez (Repem), Francisco Whitaker (CBJP), Pierre George (Caritas), Rolando Lopez and Sergio Haddad (Abong)*

1. Agenda and debated issues

The items on the IC agenda were developed in the following way:

October 10th

Chairpersons: Sergio Haddad (Abong), Virginia Vargas (Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur) and Diane Matte (World March of Women)

- a) General information on Nairobi 2007 preparation
- b) Debate on the context (*for a summary, read annex 2*)
- c) Debate on the methodology for the WSF 2007

October 11th

Chairpersons: Giampiero Rasimelli (People's UN Assembly) and Taoufik Abdallah (ENDA)

- Morning: Information given by the Nairobi committee
- Afternoon: presentation of the document on financial strategy for WSF and debate. The whole report is available for download on the links below:

*English:

http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/download/WSF_finstrategy_FinalReport_EN.pdf

*Castellano:

http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/download/WSF_finstrategy_FinalReport_ES.pdf

*French:

http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/download/WSF_finstrategy_FinalReport_FR.pdf

- Night: work in commissions

October, 12th

Chairpersons: Sergio Haddad (Abong - morning), Giampiero Rasimelli (People's UN Assembly - afternoon) and Nandita Shah (NNAWG)

- Morning: presentation of the work prepared by the commissions
- Afternoon: decisions about:
- a) WSF 2007 Methodology
 - b) 2008
 - c) New IC members
 - d) Working groups

2. Information on the Solidarity Fund

Solidarity Fund Report for Parma IC meeting: North organizations were asked to make a 300 Euro contribution to a solidarity fund to help subsidize participants from the global south. 19 organizations gave 5,863 Euros to the solidarity fund for this meeting, which made possible to reimburse 96% of the tickets of 9 organizations of the south (last meeting the proportion was only 40%). The Parma hosts gave 11 tickets. 20 people total were subsidized.

3. Information given by Nairobi committee

Nairobi WSF Forum Dates: January 20-25, 2007

WSF 2007 website and registration: www.wsf2007.org. The work around the webpage is made by a Kenyan group, with the support from Europeans, Indians and Brazilians. On the site, there are forms for registration and further information.

Venue/Location: Moi International Sports Center, in Kasarani, located 17 Kilometers from the city center. The Forum organizing committee will arrange free buses from the city center. The opening and closing ceremonies will be in the city center. The venue was changed to the Kasarani sports center because it was more adequate for hosting the WSF. Although not in downtown Nairobi, the venue is well located and it is easily accessed by the people who are lodged in more precarious areas.

WSF 2007 fundraising

All funds necessary for the WSF are not yet available, but the WSF committee is trying to solve this problem. The budget is ready since beginning July, but only 35% of it was raised so far. The rest has not

arrived and it is an important factor of risk for the mobilization and preparation. There is a budget of 6 millions shillings, for African mobilization. Oxfam has promised to donate 6.2 millions shillings. New offers also were received. This represents a total income estimative of 13.366.000 shillings (local currency), representing around 35% of the budget. The local committee is seeking to reduce the budget to a maximum. Taking the registration fees into account, which are expected to represent US\$ 1,3 million, 60% of the total expenses must be covered.

WSF 2007 mobilization

Sensibilization / Mobilization: actions towards mobilization are being carried out: there is the need of multiplying efforts to ensure full participation of key groups like youth and local people. How international caravans will be organized and promoted as a specificity of this Forum? This a pending issue. It is important to reinforce as well the sensibilization towards the mass media in order they can get in touch with the WSF culture.

WSF 2007 registration costs:

Individual Participants			
Category	Fee		
	Kes	Euro	USD
Africa	504	5	7
Rest of the South	2.016	20	28
Northern Nationals	7.920	80	110
Organizations (delegations)			
Category	Fee		
	Kes	Euro	USD
Africa	1.512	15	21
Rest of the South	9.072	90	126
Northern Nationals	39.312	390	546
<i>Please note that each registered organization will be entitled to five free individual registrations. Any extra delegate will be required to pay the full individual registration fee according to category. There is no limitation to the number of delegates an organization can send to the World Social Forum.</i>			
Events			
Category	Fee		
	Kes	Euro	USD
Up to 50 people	7.500	85	100
51-100 people	10.000	130	150
101-200 people	15.000	170	200
201-300 people	30.000	350	450
301-400 people	45.000	450	550
More than 400 people	50.000	500	600
Stalls			
Non-commercial (Exhibition/office only)			
Category	Fee		
	Kes	Euro	USD
3m x 3m	27.500	300	400
3m x 6m	55.000	600	800
Commercial			
Category	Fee		
	Kes	Euro	USD
3m x 2m	30.000	350	400
3m x 6m	55.000	600	800

4. Summary of the decisions/definitions

a) WSF 2007 Methodology

General definitions concerning the WSF 2007 program format (self organized and co-organized activities) were agreed. The exception was the relation among the methodology for 2007 and the WSF 2008 (*see next item*). A small change was made around the goal number 6, in relation to those who were decided in the Content and Methodology commissions meeting, held in Nairobi (September). See below the final version of the objectives for 2007.

In summary, the 2007 program will be organized in the following way:

* Opening Ceremony: **January 20th**

* **January 21th-23th**: self organized activities by participants and co-organized activities, under responsibility of the African organizing committee and WSF International Council.

* **January 24th** (fourth day) will be a day of convergence of activities and planning for 2008 actions, specially the world journey in January.

* **January 25th** closing ceremony.

4th day

The fourth day will be dedicated to evaluations that each participant organization wants to do as well as planning and preparation of its own activities in 2007, in continuation of any kind of actions that it has been already developing in local, national, regional and world level or new initiatives. During this day, it will be also possible to program activities that each organization or group of organizations wants to carry out during January 2008 as part of the mobilization journey. It will be possible also to start discussion around the global WSF in 2009. For these program and debates, participants must necessarily take into account what will be discussed and proposed during the three first days of the forum.

These activities will be also self-organized around the themes, struggles or campaigns that the same participants decide and, if possible, they will have to be registered previously, like those from the first three days, around the nine goals/objectives (*see them below*) that design the WSF terrain/territory. In that registration it must be informed the kind and dimension of the activity that is intended to be developed (assemblies, meetings etc.) The Forum organizers, with the support of the IC Content and Methodology commissions (which will be meeting in December), will distribute the activities registered for the fourth day in the spaces and times of that day. They will keep the flexibility required to deal with demands that will arise during the first three days of the WSF. These needs will have to be presented to the organizers along those days.

General objectives WSF 2007 proposed activities by WSF participants will be organized around:

1. Building a world of peace, justice, ethics and respect for diverse spiritualities;
2. Liberating the world from the domination of multinational and financial capital;
3. Ensuring universal and sustainable access to the common goods of humanity and nature;
4. Democratization of knowledge and information;
5. Ensuring dignity, defending diversity, guaranteeing gender equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination;
6. Guaranteeing economic, social, human and cultural rights especially the right to food, healthcare, education, housing, employment and decent work;
7. Building a world order based on sovereignty, self-determination and rights of peoples;
8. Constructing a people-centred and sustainable economy;
9. Building real democratic political structures and institutions with full people's participation on decisions and control of public affairs and resources.

b) 2008

For 2008, it was agreed what is expressed on the item 3 of the information note below. Nairobi will be the starting point of this process. The 3 months between now and Nairobi will be used to take proposal back to networks and develop and reflect on this idea. A working group will continue to work to develop the idea.

Read the complete IC information note about this issue:

**INFORMATION NOTE FROM THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
IN ITS MEETING HELD IN PARMA, ITALY, FROM OCTOBER 10 TO 12, 2006**

1. The next edition of World Social Forum will be held from January 20 to 25, 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya. We have advanced in the preparation for this event and we confirm our commitment in making it an important moment in the World Social Forum process. We invite everybody to come to Nairobi.
2. The World Social Forum is an innovative process, which continues to expand and deepen itself through world, regional, national, local and thematic events as well as struggles, campaigns and actions that reaffirm our commitment for another world that is possible, necessary and urgent.
3. During 2007, we will continue to share our energies, time and resources to enrich and consolidate the diversity of this process. A working group, composed by organizations and movements, will be created to facilitate the organizing of a global journey of mobilization in 2008, around the dates of Davos World Economic Forum. We will work together to make this world journey and its themes which will be decided by various actors, a reality. The WSF in Nairobi will be a privileged moment to debate, contribute and enrich this initiative and to evolve commitment from its participants.
4. We also favour the creation of working groups that will provide continuity to the the International Council's recommendations, the facilitation process and the internal and external communications, giving special attention to the process to be accomplished up to Nairobi. The existing International Council Commissions will continue their work before, during and after Nairobi.
5. This process will lead us to a new world edition of the World Social Forum in 2009, full of renewed energy and new capacities for mobilization.

Parma, October 12, 2006

c) New IC members

IC Expansion commission has assessed the request of membership from two organizations. Their inclusion in the IC was accepted:

- Herriak Aske
- Ittijah - Union of Arab Community Based Associations

d) Working Groups

Three working groups were formed as result of the discussions in Parma IC meeting. See below the initial composition. Those organizations who intended to join these groups had to do that up to the deadline of **October 30th, 2006**:

1. Facilitation: Nandita Shah, Demba/Taoufik, Chico W. Virginia Vargas, Jean-Marie Fardeau, Giampiero Rasimelli, Moema Miranda, José Miguel, Pierre George.

This group was formed after suggestion made by the Resources Commission consultants that, during the meeting, presented the conclusions of the report on WSF financial strategy. The group will have to prepare a proposal of how could be formed an international facilitating committee (composition, mandate and concrete tasks) to be debated in the Nairobi IC meeting.

2. Communication: Roberto Savio, Mónica Sabata, Candido Grzybowski, Diana Senghor, Oduor Ongwen, Mathias Mormino, PK Murthy.

The working group was established, composed by IC and local organizers, to implement a communication plan that has both internal and external communication aspects.

Click in the link http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/download/WSF-Parma_Nairobi_communication.ppt to see the proposal presented by the Communication commission in Parma.

3. Mobilization journey:

CO India, CO Brasil, CO África, Foro Social Américas, Sindicatos, Vía Campesina, Deuda (Jubileo), Marcha Mundial de Mujeres, Articulación Feminista Marco Sur, Alianza Internacional de los Habitantes, Alianza Social Continental, Grassroots for Global Justice, OCLAE, and others

4. A fourth working group was formed around the preparation of the **US Social Forum**: a list of interested people was gathered. It was requested to the WSF office to create a list serve for this working group and to send out an announcement to join the USSF WG. It was proposed that the USSF be an agenda item at the next full IC meeting, to take place in January 26-27, 2007.

5. Next meetings

December 2006:

Meeting of the Content and Methodology commissions, Nairobi, Kenya (date to be set)

Meeting of the working groups formed in Parma (date and venue to be set)

January 2007:

26 and 27: meeting of the Internacional Council and its commissions, in Nairobi, Kenya

ANNEX 1 – List of members and observer organizations that were present at the IC meeting

1. IC organizations present at the meeting

1. AAWC - Palestinian grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign
2. ABONG - Associação Brasileira de ONGs
3. Action Aid International - AAI
4. APRODEV - Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe
5. Articulación Feminista Marco Sur
6. Assembléia das Nações Unidas dos Povos
7. CADTM- Comité pour l'Annulation de la Dette du Tiers Monde
8. Caritas Internationalis
9. CBJP - Comissão Brasileira de Justiça e Paz
10. CES – European Trade Union Confederation
11. CIDSE – Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité
12. CIOSL - Confederação Internacional de Organizações Sindicais Livres
13. CIVES – Associação Brasileira de Empresários pela Cidadania
14. CMT – Confederação Mundial do Trabalho
15. Coligação para a Justiça Economica
16. COMPA - Convergencia de los Movimientos de los Pueblos de las Américas
17. Conselho Mundial de Igrejas
18. COSATU - Congress of South African Trade Unions
19. CRID - Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement
20. Encuentros Hemisféricos contra el ALCA
21. ENDA – Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde
22. EURALAT - Observatorio Eurolatinoamericano sobre el Desarrollo Democrático y Social
23. FAMES – Forum des Femmes africaines pour une Economie Solidaire
24. FIDH – Fed. Internacional Direitos Humanos
25. Forum Mondial des Alternatives
26. Grassroots Global Justice
27. HIC – Habitat International Coalition
28. IBASE – Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas
29. ICAE - Consejo Internacional de Educacion de Adultos
30. IFAT - International Federation of Alternative Trade
31. IFTDH - International Federation Terre des Hommes
32. International Alliance of Habitants
33. IPAQ – Institut Panos Afrique de l'Ouest
34. IPF - Instituto Paulo Freire
35. IPS – Inter Press Service

36. Italian Coordination of European Social Forum
37. NIGD - Network Institute for Global Democratization
38. NNAWG - National Network of Autonomous Women's Groups
39. OATUU - Organization of African Trade Unions Unity
40. OCLAE - Continental Organization of Latin America and Caribbean Students
41. PPEHRC - Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign
42. Projeto K
43. REMTE - Red Latinoamericana Mujeres Transformando la Economía
44. REPEM - Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres
45. ROAD - Réseau Ouest Africain des Alternatives pour le Développement
46. Social Watch
47. SODNET - Social Development Network
48. Transform!
49. UBUNTU - Foro Mundial de Redes de la Sociedad Civil
50. Via Campesina
51. World March of Women

Observadores

1. ACLI
2. African SF Council
3. Arci, National Coordinator for Migrants rights
4. FAL
5. Forum parlementaire
6. Herriak Aske
7. Kenya Organizing Committee
8. Legambiente
9. WSF India
10. WSF OC Pakistan

ANNEX 2 - General summary of the debate about the context

In face of neoliberal crisis and Bush policy we can note social movement's vulnerability and fragmentation. Some have pointed the increasing low visibility of the WSF. It is necessary to reinforce our capacity of mobilization and propose alternatives with the aim of making possible a new world scenario. We are in a moment of resistance to the preventive war. Some people preview that neoliberalism is changing in order to adapt to the new realities. An example of that change would be the reforms proposed for the multilateral institutions.

The crisis of the development model, the international governability, the US, Europe (that was incapable of dealing with the expansion to the East countries and to dialogue with the Islam) can be put together with the crisis of values that were the basis of the UN system. It is mentioned the WSF incapacity to answer to the crisis in Lebanon, to the construction of the walls between USA and Mexico, between Israel and Palestine and to the sea of death between Europe and Africa. Also, it was pointed out the lack of capacity for WSF to answer to the commercial and financial themes. For these reasons, it was highlighted the need of increase WSF expansion to Asia, to the Arabic world and Russia.

References were made to religious and market fundamentalisms and to the continuity of patriarchy as a result of more and more aggressive neoliberal policies. It was mentioned also the crisis of environment sustainability, of the democracy corrupted by electoral processes oriented to economical ends and to the large demand for totalitarian systems, to which can be added the crisis of social movements and solidarity. As WSF, we should focus our actions to the solution of this problem. Concerning the dialogue with the Islam, we have to create space for this debate. Israel imperialist strategy, that challenges the Islamic resistance, attempts to block / close the line of defense in Iran and Syria. It is said that this is a war against terror or the terrorists and all of these is identified with the Islam leading to a conflict of civilizations. We risk to believe in these arguments when we speak about Islamic world and forget that the resistance is made by progressive Arabs and Christians from Lebanon, who have the support of the local people. It is suggested to give a real space to this issue in Nairobi.

The world government is in the hands of the financial capital, specially of the speculative capital. In a globalized world it is important the world governance, for this reason it is a priority the reform of the international institutions, in order they can be more democratic and participative. We have the responsibility of making the WSF the space of answer and construction of plural, common and solidary alternatives.

Many times we have debated what the WSF is: an actor, an open space or a set of alternatives that we propose to the world? Today, we go further and speak about the WSF role in the world. The level of communication in the WSF was lowered so it is difficult to speak that we are a real alternative. We should remember our responsibility, who we are and to whom we are talking but above all about our responsibility.

Highlight points of the global context discussion summarized by the meeting facilitator

1. There is a crisis of the different religions
2. A lot of people in the US are convinced by Bush and in Canada where they have a conservative government
3. Religion has had an impact on elections and controlling the majority of people. Patriarchy and capitalism go hand in hand affecting many aspects of our lives. It is necessary to think about how all this is connected and not put it to the side.
4. We need to build from consciousness to accomplish our goals, the voices of poor women are not heard, the WSF begins in the home and is necessary for the movement.
5. Capitalism is stronger than ever, militarism is stronger than ever, and there is a structural crisis in the world.
6. The crisis is an opportunity to generate and train folks to take part in alternative actions.
7. We need to build from commonalities
8. We need to be more prepared in structuring discussions like this one, create more of a continuum with previous discussions on the same topic, build discussions within the IC.