

**WSF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AND SEMINAR ON WSF ASSESSMENT**  
**BERLIN – GERMANY – MAY 29-31, 2007**

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## **1) WSF in 2008**

### **a) Nairobi resolution on WSF Process in 2008**

During last WSF International Council (WSF-IC) meeting, held at the end of January in Nairobi, some decisions were taken on process in 2008:

1. The WSF process will be characterized in 2008 by a set of simultaneous activities conducted regionally and/or locally all over the world, and by a common day of global impact and visibility, reinforced by common communication strategy and tools.
2. The overarching slogan will be "Another World is Possible-Another World in under construction" to be decided at the next IC meeting.
3. Proposed actions will be in continuity with the 2007 Nairobi WSF discussions, particularly the outcomes of the forth day (plans of actions and campaigns).
4. Dynamics and activities should be open, inclusive and plural, in the spirit of the WFS process, and have to be in accordance with the World Social Forum Charter of Principles.
5. The dates of the activities for WSF2008 should remain around the Davos date, and the global day of action/visibility will be January 26th/27th.

There is a Work Group (WG) at IC framework responsible to draft a plan to encourage 2008 mobilisation. This plan will be one of the issues in the agenda of the next IC meeting, to be held at the end of May in Germany.

## **b) Proposal for 2008 and 2009 discussion**

### **The WSF process in 2008 and 2009**

After seven years of its inception, the World Social Forum (WSF) faces quite a distinct situation from the time of its birth. First held in 2000, following on the Seattle events—a moment in which neo-liberal globalization had on a more multilateral facade and a burgeoning social movement confronted globalization's institutions for an alternative world—, the WSF, initially anchored in Porto Alegre, Brazil's southernmost capital city, offered an important contribution to turn around an ideological landscape then dominated by a monolithic thought. Furthermore, the WSF became the most strategically relevant arena for coalition-building, dialoguing, debating, mobilizing and campaigning around the makings of an anti-globalization movement. Under the slogan "another world is possible," the WSF events allowed for the self-organization of what the world press has once called "the other super-power."

Since then, the pathways of the WSF have been mixed, as one would expect, with those of the global civil society and its resistance movements, of all the peoples battling neoliberalism, militarization and the planet's destruction. The WSF has equally suffered from the fact that anti-globalization movements have been greatly impacted lately by the militarization of international relations generated by the Bush government, mainly after the 2003 Iraq invasion. This re-organization of the terms of political disputes in the planet has raised the confrontation between the establishment and alternative propositions to a level we were not, at that moment, capable to cope with. No other social movement was capable of occupying the place held by the anti-globalization mobilizations between 1999 and 2003.

From then on, the several editions of the WSF have become more international and widespread, helping forge a new citizenship political culture. But they have also lost some of their momentum—which should have been reasonably expected. From Mumbai to Nairobi, and back to Porto Alegre, passing through Caracas, Bamako and Karachi, open arenas have been established, some more successful and distinguished than others, and used for dialoguing, meetings and the convergence of resistance and alternative-searching initiatives.

In this structural framing of political forces, it was expected that dispersal-inducing trends would emerge and nationwide or sector-based social movements would gain more centrality than in previous moments. It was also predictable that each component of the "movement of all movements" being confederated would go back to celebrating their historical traditions and own political concepts—be they state-like trends, anti-state trends, leanings towards partisan politics or civil-society and grassroots politics, or the favoring of either pyramidal or networked structures. It is very difficult to develop a counter-power and a counter-hegemonic strategy, especially in a global conundrum, when going through a moment of dispersal in which different, particularized projects seem to have set their priorities on their own protagonism.

#### **2008 global mobilizations and the latest contradictions**

It can be agreed that this defensive scenario, still back in 2006, has defined our proposals to be carried on through 2008. The WSF process, as steered by its International Council (IC), is relatively slow, which can be attributed to the multiple actors it involves and its global reach. Nevertheless, certain decisions at the IC can be made rather quickly and in a flexible manner. Key decisions must be made at least two years in advance

Based on the proposal that calls for global mobilizations in 2008, we have made an effort to multiply initiatives, to make diversity visible and to demonstrate reach, and to identify our strength as we search to break away from the paralysis caused by the latest period's dispersal of critically savvy social movements and progressive sectors of society.

It is important that we can work efficiently in the mobilization process set for 2008 in order to ensure—in different regions of the planet, in all multiple forms, and in various activities—the organization of a series of events, demonstrations, protests, cultural gatherings, and highly visible days of action capable of communicating to the world's opinion makers a sense of collective achievement.

But we also should make the 2008 WSF process a forward-thinking, strategic strength-gathering activity. New and sharp contradictions set in motion by neo-liberal globalization have grown in the past few years. There has been a change in the ideological and political scenarios, which can foster fresh thinking and allow for the generation of gathering-inducing political actions, provided that we can pinpoint the path towards bridging the expectations from different sectors of the social movements.

In the past few years, the national resistance to the U.S. invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan has grown considerably. President Bush's imperial, portentous politics has lost some of its legitimacy within his own country, although it continues to be pushed forward. Progressive governments, mostly in Latin America, have shown that winning over elections does not necessarily mean accommodating to the interests of corporate

globalization and transnational elites. Important processes stemming from progressive social transformations are ongoing worldwide, even though they cannot translate, at the moment, an alternative capable of bringing together the world's hopes. Nevertheless, institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, partly because of these processes' impacts, have lost much of their previous legitimacy.

Perhaps the issue that has emerged most strongly is the greater perception of neo-liberal globalization's destructive effects, which not only increases inequalities, but also generates an ecological crisis that, when seen in perspective, challenges Western civilization and its brutish models of market profitability. The fast worsening of the planet's climate warming is simply the most visible problem in the roster of environmental issues connected to the existing establishment, and which has gained more evidence lately.

#### 2009 challenges

The new political scenario demands from the WSF an equally renewed answer and the ability to reinvent itself, to "freshen up." It also offers a more favorable setting for gathering-inducing initiatives that can support a vigorous comeback to highly visible movements, such as those that impacted the last decade's final years, if the WSF can capture the aspirations that bind people and ideas together.

It is crucial to build the 2009 WSF as a moment of gathering and convergence, with proposals that can draw in the largest possible number of those struggling for another world. In this sense, we would like to share the proposition, to us rather timely and presented by the Amazonian Working Group (GTA) to be discussed in the forthcoming IC meeting, that the 2009 centralized event be held in a large city of the Amazon region-to be determined by the Pan-Amazonian Forum.

Given its symbolic potential, possibility for logistical and organizational success and the opportunity it offers for presenting an effective counterpoint to the neoliberal answers to the environmental crisis and the Western civilization model, we believe that holding the 2009 WSF under such premise can renovate our anti-globalization movement with a gathering momentum. We believe that, in preparing this event, we can utilize the positive and negative experiences learnt from previous WSFs about polemic subjects (such as the relationship with governments, large corporations and international agencies, the WSF sustainability, and the protagonism of grassroots and popular movements within the WSF) and organize a qualitatively different WSF event in its process. We believe that it can establish a dialogue with the most forward experiences in Latin America and bring back the debate about alternatives, but to a new plateau.

Lastly, we believe that it is through the organizing model of an "open arena"-which seems to us the best yet in the last decades in terms of method for promoting political-democratic action-that we can build a shared understanding about the disastrous situation in the planet and the necessary tasks to overcome it. A different format to this method would be to break the broad coalition and practice of sharing experiences that have given a peculiar shape to the WSF and return to the competition among initiatives based on particularized experiences, a path we fall into sometimes due to the natural impatience in all of us seeking to change the world-a path that is, however, incompatible with the historical challenge we have set for ourselves.

In closing, we want to conceive the key events in the WSF process during 2008 and 2009 as a cohesive process, capable of re-establishing a movement of convergence and display of efforts from all those struggling for another world, still possible, and more than ever, urgent.

Good wishes

Cândido Grzybowski (IBASE)  
José Corrêa Leite (Attac Brazil)  
Oded Grajew (CIVES)

### **c) Proposal about 2008 sent by ARCI (Rafaela Bollini)**

Sent in: March 21, 2007

To the member of the IC Working Group on 2008 global mobilization.

Dear friends,

in the last IC meeting in Nairobi, our Working Group on 2008 global mobilization took the responsibility to facilitate the IC debate in the next meeting in Berlin, by preparing a draft paper.

As you remember, IC already took some important decisions concerning 2008. I try to make a summary of them, using the text approved by IC in Nairobi:

1. The WSF process will be characterized in 2008 by a set of simultaneous activities conducted regionally and/or locally all over the world, and by a common day of global impact and visibility, reinforced by common communication strategy and tools.
2. The overarching slogan will be "Another World is Possible-Another World in under construction" to be decided at the next IC meeting.
3. Proposed actions will be in continuity with the 2007 Nairobi WSF discussions, particularly the outcomes of the fourth day (plans of actions and campaigns).
4. Dynamics and activities should be open, inclusive and plural, in the spirit of the WSF process, and have to be in accordance with the World Social Forum Charter of Principles.
5. The dates of the activities for WSF2008 should remain around the Davos date, and the global day of action/visibility will be January 26th/27th.

According to the text approved by the last IC, something very important has been already fixed:

1. general characteristics of 2008 global mobilization
2. date

I would like to submit you two proposals, with the aim to help our discussion, which is now necessary to prepare the next IC.

First proposal:

#### **To spread as soon as possible the already taken decisions on 2008 all over the world.**

We could use the text approved in Nairobi (the 5 points written above).  
We could write the 5 points in a visible way.

We can send them by mail to all the mail addresses of movements, Forums and campaigns we have.  
A part of the job could be done by the Secretariat in Sao Paulo, another part could be done by each of us.

We can add to the text a dedicated mail address, so movements and Forums can start sending us info about 2008.

In this way, we could reach to goals:

- to arrive in Berlin with some more info concerning the debate on 2008 in the different countries
- to spread precise info (in different countries the debate is starting without precise info)

Second proposal:

#### **To start immediately a debate between us on the list.**

Our debate should make possible to share ideas, in order to make a proposal for the IC concerning what we need to decide in Berlin:

1. title
2. methodology for spreading information
3. how to collect actions decided at local, national, regional level and by campaigns and coalitions
4. how to stimulate participation all over the world
5. how to stimulate eventual interconnections between actions
6. tools for global communication (to be discussed together with the IC Communication Commission)

I'll forward this message to all the IC list, for knowledge. Perhaps somebody else would like to join the group.

I hope to receive answers from you.  
Thank you and warm greetings

Raffaella Bolini  
Arci - Italy

## 2) WSF 2009

### a) Churches propose that Africa will be again the host of the WSF2009

**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2007 1:15 PM

**Subject:** Churches propose that Africa will be again the host of the WSF2009

**to all WSF IC members,  
to the IC working group on WSF09**

Greetings from Nairobi and the Caritas/AACC Ecumenical Platform!

The Caritas/AACC Ecumenical Platform in unity with a wide number of organizations and institutions involved in the WSF process has participated actively in the WSF2007.

After a reflection and an evaluation of the event, we suggest Africa to be again the host of the WSF2009.

Attached please find a letter addressed to regarding the Caritas/AACC Ecumenical Platform's reflections for the WSF2009.

In solidarity,

Caritas/AACC Ecumenical Platform for the World Social Forum  
Together for Social Justice!

To check the complete letter, see attachment [ProposalWSF2009toIC.pdf](#)

## **b) Amazon region's candidature to host the World Social Forum 2009**

To the Brazilian Organizing Committee

To the WSF International Council

Amazon region's candidature to host the World Social Forum 2009

We, social movements and non-governmental organizations from the Amazon region, have come to this Council to request the Amazon region's candidature to host the 2009 edition of the WSF to be considered.

The candidature is proved to be relevant not only due to different political, cultural and environmental aspects, but also because of the global appeal that climate change has gained after the United Nations IPCC report. The Amazon region is the planet's last forest frontier. Besides, it has the planet's most valuable freshwater resources, biodiversity and great social diversity, which is represented by its traditional populations and indigenous peoples. The threats upon this human patrimony do not involve only climate changes. They are also accelerated by current development policies that point towards the growth of predatory activities such as single-crop farming and cattle-breeding, exploration of mineral commodities and installation of infrastructures that open up space to these predatory processes, which are proved to have very little positive effect on the Amazonian society as a whole. Therefore, hosting the World Social Forum has a great symbolic value to the region and will reinforce various efforts that aim at giving visibility to the importance of protecting natural resources and respecting the diversity of lifestyles, which are being threatened by the growth of neoliberal globalization process in this region, one of great strategic importance to the planet.

The support given by Amazonian social movements to this proposal is very significant, since it would strengthen fights against deforestation, for the reduction of poverty and for the maintenance of Amazon's social and environmental diversity. Grassroots organizations and NGOs that act in regional and national levels have been supportive of this initiative. They are building a network whose aim is to legitimate the process among the organized civil society and, therefore, creating a positive scenario for the success of this challenge of hosting the WSF. The Amazon region is often forgotten by their countries, increasing the risks of extinction of hundreds of cultures that are isolated and distant from their governments' actions. The WSF taking place in the Amazon region would give voice and visibility to thousands of ethnic groups whose territory are often invaded, while public authorities neglect their extermination of these groups. This situation can be seen, for example, in Javáí Valley, which borders Brazil's, Peru's and Colombia's Amazon region.

The region has a very good history in hosting big international events organized by social movements. Since 2002, it hosts the Pan-Amazonian Forum. The event has a wide participation of the 9 amazonian countries and it is already consolidated in the international agenda as a space for discussing struggles that concern the whole American continent.

The region's urban centers are perfectly suitable for hosting the WSF and, in this sense, we present the city of Belém, in the state of Pará, the second biggest urban center in the Amazon region. The city has a population of 1.500.000 people. Belém has ideal conditions for hosting the 2009 World Social Forum edition. It is a historical city with revolutionary traditions, since the biggest popular insurgence in the Amazon region – *A Revolta dos Cabanos* (Cabanos' Insurgence) - took place in Belém, from 1835 to 1840. This rebellion is known for being the only one in which the rebels actually rose to power. Belém is a privileged city, since it is strategically located on the mouth of Amazonas river and in the extreme north of Brazil's road system, besides having an international airport, which facilitates traveling conditions for people in Brazil and abroad.

Finally, we would like this candidature not to be considered a Brazilian one. On the contrary, it is the candidature of a region that reunites nine countries, thousands of indigenous peoples with hundreds of languages and one of the richest social-environmental diversity of the planet. It has also big social differences and it is viewed nowadays as a strategic region by big corporations and transnational companies that explore inadequately our people and wealth.

If another world is possible, the Amazon region gathers more than enough conditions to build this new world!

Let's bring the world to Amazonia! World Social Forum in Belém – Pará - Amazonia 2009

GTA - Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico  
Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros  
Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas  
da Amazônia Brasileira.  
Sociedade Maranhense de Direitos Humanos  
Associação Brasileira de ONGs – ABONG

Regional Amazônia  
Fórum da Amazônia Oriental  
UNIPOP  
STTR/Santarém.  
Fórum Matogrossense de meio Ambiente e  
Desenvolvimento

Projeto saúde e Alegria  
Instituto de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento Amazônico  
Fundação vitória Amazônica  
Associação etnoambiental Kanindé  
Argonautas Ambientalistas da Amazônia  
FASE  
IBASE  
Instituto Paulo Freire  
Cives - Associação Brasileira de Empresários pela Cidadania  
Movimento Humanista  
Soweto  
Centro Cultural Afro-Brasileiro Solando  
Trindade  
Espaço Negro Padre Batista  
APNs - Agentes de de Pastoral Negros do

Brasil  
Associação Movimento Paulo Jackson - Ética, Justiça, Cidadania (Salvador - Bahia)  
Ciranda  
ONG Sociedade do Sol  
Comitê Afro Brasil  
Cooperativa Pedra Sobre Pedra nas assinaturas de apoio  
Comitê Afro do Brasil  
Fórum de Mulheres da Amazônia Paraense  
Espaço Negro  
Instituto do Negro Padre Batista  
Associação Movimento Paulo Jackson - Bahia  
Sociedade Maranhense de Direitos Humanos  
Projeto Saúde e Alegria

### c) Other candidatures

At the Nairobi meeting, it were presented also the candidatures of Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul), Curitiba (Paraná) and Salvador (Bahia), in Brazil, to host WSF.

## 3) Communication

Proposal of communication plan for 2007-2008: new version, after debates in Firenze from May 17-19, will be sent by Jason Nardi.

## 4) Facilitation

### a) Discussion about objectives of the IC

(new version of the IC set of objectives after discussions using the blog: <http://wsf-facilitation.blogspot.com/>).  
*In English and Portuguese.*

#### 1- Objectives linked to 2008 and 2009 events / Objetivos para os eventos de 2008 e 2009

1. To gather all information regarding 2008 WSF events and to be able to answer to the questions to be raised by the participants to organise the 2008 events.
2. To make a survey and a feasibility study on 2009 WSF edition, making the necessary contacts of opportunities and interest all over the world, to present a range of possibilities at the IC meeting in the middle of 2007.
3. To integrate "2008 decentralized event" in continuity with the networking taking place in the virtual networking space provided in objective 6C.

#### 1 – Objetivos para os eventos de 2008 e 2009:

1. Reunir todas as informações sobre os eventos do FSM 2008 e ser capazes de responder as questões dos participantes sobre como organizar os eventos em 2008.
2. Fazer um survey e um estudo de viabilidade sobre a edição do FSM 2009, através de contatos necessários para identificar as oportunidades e interesses em todo o mundo, e então apresentar uma série de possibilidades na reunião do CI em meados de 2007.
3. Integrar "o evento 2008 descentralizado" com o networking, que vêm acontecendo no espaço virtual de networking propiciado pelo objetivo 6C.

#### 2- At the Expansion level / No nível de Expansão

1. To expand WSF process in Central and Eastern Europe, in Eastern Asia and African regions.
2. To integrate more deeply Arab world into the WSF process
3. To call more social movements in the process and to identify possible difficulties for them to give continuity to their implication in the process.
4. To facilitate and stimulate the organisation of Local Social Forums.

5. To define, based on survey and consultation, a "set of recommendations and how to's" for organizing WSF events that can be transposed to regional or national scale.

#### 2- No nível de Expansão

1. Expandir o processo FSM na Europa Central e do Leste, no Leste Asiático e nas regiões Africanas.
2. Integrar mais profundamente o mundo árabe no processo FSM
3. Chamar mais movimentos sociais para o processo e identificar suas possíveis dificuldades em dar continuidade ao seu engajamento no processo.
4. Facilitar e estimular a organização de Fóruns Sociais locais.
5. Definir, com base no survey e na consulta, um "conjunto de recomendações e de como fazer" sobre a organização de eventos do FSM que possa ser adaptada aos níveis regional ou nacional.

#### 3- At the Resources level / No nível de Recursos

1. To build and implement a fundraising strategy for the process (IC, Commissions, Working Group, Liaison Group, Office)
2. To elaborate a draft code of conduct for the financing of the WSF process and specially for the WSF events, to be adopted by the IC and become a Charter of principles on event funding.
3. Set up and promote as politically realistic for now a citizen funding mechanism of WSF process by participants organisations and individuals, (as tested currently in Brazil) ready for start in January 2008 and able to grow in importance according to process dynamics in the next years.

#### 3- No nível de Recursos

1. Construir e implementar uma estratégia para a captação de recursos para o processo (CI, Comissões, Grupos de Trabalho, Grupo de Facilitação, Escritório).
2. Elaborar um código de conduta preliminar para o financiamento do processo FSM e especialmente para os eventos do FSM, que serão adotados pelo CI e se tornarão uma Carta de Princípios sobre o financiamento de eventos.
3. Pôr em funcionamento e promover até o ponto em que seja politicamente realista neste momento, um sistema de arrecadação de fundos por cidadãos e organizações participantes para o processo FSM (como vêm sendo testado atualmente no Brasil), para ser iniciado em janeiro de 2008 e ampliado de acordo com a dinâmica do processo nos próximos anos.

#### 4- At the Content level / No nível de Conteúdo

1. To make an inventory of the action/campaign proposals which have emerged from the World Forums, beginning from 2007, when they were best systematized.
2. To make an inventory of the action/campaign proposals which have emerged from the Regional Forums.

#### 4- No nível de Conteúdo

1. Fazer um inventário das propostas de ação/campanha que emergiram nos Fóruns Mundiais, a partir de 2007, quando foram melhor sistematizadas.
2. Fazer um inventário das propostas de ação/campanhas que emergiram nos Fóruns Regionais.

#### 5- At the Communication level / No nível da Comunicação

1. To build efficient tools to help the WGs/Commissions/IC to meet regularly.
2. To identify resistances in the public to get a clear, precise and positive image of the Forum Process.
3. To identify resistances in the general public and in different countries to the central idea that "another world is possible".
4. To produce communication tools explaining WSF objectives and nature.
5. To stimulate development of local capacity to have decentralized and collective internet meetings ("cyberactivities") at no extra cost and minimal logistics between groups sharing interests and concerns in different part of the world , and disseminate the international aspect and practice in the forum process

#### 5 – No nível da Comunicação

1. Construir ferramentas eficientes para ajudar os Gts/Comissões/CI a fazerem reuniões regularmente.
2. Identificar resistências no público em ter uma imagem clara, precisa e positiva do Processo Fórum.
3. Identificar resistências no público geral e de diferentes países sobre a idéia central de "outro mundo é possível".

4. Produzir ferramentas de comunicação explicando os objetivos e a natureza do FSM.
5. Estimular o desenvolvimento da capacidade local em realizar reuniões descentralizadas e coletivas via internet ("cyber atividades") sem custo extra e com pouca logística entre os grupos para compartilhar interesses e questões em diferentes partes do mundo, e disseminar o aspecto internacional e prático no processo Fórum

#### **6- At the Strategy level / No nível de Estratégias**

1. To organise a seminar on the strategy of neoliberalism key actors
2. To make an inventory of the social movements strategies to counter neoliberalism.

#### 6 – No nível de Estratégias

1. Organizar um seminário sobre a estratégia dos atores principais do neoliberalismo.
2. Fazer um inventário das estratégias dos movimentos sociais contra o neoliberalismo.

#### **7- At the Methodology level / No nível de Metodologia**

1. To learn from WSF 7 innovations (4th day, co-organised activity, terrains by objectives) in order to propose methodological ideas for the next Forums.
2. Develop broadly a discussion process that provides the debate and the idea contributions to the methodological construction for next Forums.

#### 7 – No nível de Metodologia

1. Aprender com as inovações do 7º WSF (4º dia, atividades co-organizadas, espaços por objetivos) para propor idéias metodológicas para os próximos Fóruns.
2. Desenvolver amplamente um processo de discussão que permita o debate e o aporte de idéias em favor da construção metodológica dos próximos Fóruns.

### **b) Contribution about composition of facilitation group (by José Miguel)**

#### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING OF THE FACILITATION WORKING GROUP – BERLIN 2007**

As we already know, our Facilitation WG has advanced on its tasks during the meetings in Nairobi in a group of consensual elements, around which it is not necessary to discuss again. But there are remaining issues around which we have not reached a consensus or definitions are simply stopped, particularly on what refers to the composition of the Facilitation Group.

In that sense, I have already insisted on the need of, taking the functions and responsibilities of that group (which are already a consensus) as starting point, minimum criteria should be then set to its composition and, from that point, to set up a procedure to its definitive conformation.

Proposal of minimal criteria for the FG composition:

#### **> Expressiveness**

In order to accomplish well its tasks (already approved), the Facilitation WG needs to welcome and dialogue with the different traditions, movements, entities and dynamics that today conform the IC. The WG must be capable of connecting with distinct realities – be it regional or sectorial. In this regard, it should assure in its composition the following expressions:

- Regional: in this sense, it should be taken into account the hemispheric processes already being carried out and structured, in larger or minor scales, like the Americas and the African Social Forums, as well as European and Asian expressions. In the same way, as recognition of the historical and effective contribution, it also must be taken into account the presence of Brazil (International Secretariat presence) and the Indian committee.
- Sectorial: among the sectors that should not be left out there are women, workers, youth, rural workers, NGOs and others, considered by its effective participation in the WSF process and the IC
- Active and systematic participation at the IC is another essential required characteristic of the organization candidates that wish to integrate the group

- Finally, the real desire, possibility and commitment with the work to be developed by the group is another requirement

□ **Procedures and working calendar:**

- Arrive to Berlin (May 2007) with a proposal to solve those aspects where there is no consensus

- In the same meeting, arriving to a consensus about the minimal criteria of selection, procedures and calendar to conform the FG

- After reaching consensus about the criteria of selection, in a IC meeting, open for the possibility of proposals made by the IC member organizations to integrate the FG, without limiting the number of candidates

- Even if we reach a consensus of 7 members + 7 alternates, that number would be kept depending on the needs of expression, even if the same should be sufficiently rational in order to assure the real operational capacity of the group. The number of 7 must be kept as reference. Even if the alternate factor can be valid, it also can be questioned from one part and from other to serve as "consolation" for a larger number of organizations interested in the matter.

- It is necessary to take into account the possible coincidences among *Regional and Sectorial* expressions; duplicity in both senses must be avoided

- After all "candidates" are presented (we should also decide if the self proposed "candidatures" must be closed in the same meeting or if we give some time to receive online propositions), today's FG will assess the same online or face-to-face, according the possibilities, in 30 days, conforming a proposal of composition that would be sent to the IC list for its approval.

- In the next IC meeting, that composition must be approved and the plan of tasks to be developed by the FG presented

I am sure that this proposal can be improved, but we should start to "land" the issue since the time passes and the need of FG is equally a reality.

We should leave Berlin with definitions. If we continue extending or postponing them it can be worst. As worst, what can happen are procedures without consultation, by designation of few and in a non democratic way. We must take the risk of mistaking.

Greetings,

José Miguel

## 5) Assessment of WSF events

### a) Terms of reference

See attachment [WSF assesement draft\\_EN.pdf](#)

### b) Texts about WSF 2007 in Nairobi sent to the IC lists

\*Another World is Possible in Diversity: Affirming the struggle for sexual and reproductive rights

EN - [http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias\\_textos.php?cd\\_news=390](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_textos.php?cd_news=390)

ES - [http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias\\_textos.php?cd\\_news=389](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_textos.php?cd_news=389)

\*Critical Reflections on WSF Nairobi 2007, Onyango Oloo

EN -

<http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/download/Critical%20Reflections%20on%20WSF%20Nairobi%202007.pdf>

\*Collective contribution to the debates within the International Council (IC) of the World Social Forum to take place at Berlin from May 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2007. Subject: Evaluation of the 7<sup>th</sup> WSF

EN - [http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias\\_textos.php?cd\\_news=393](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_textos.php?cd_news=393)

ES - [http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias\\_textos.php?cd\\_news=391](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_textos.php?cd_news=391)

FR - [http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias\\_textos.php?cd\\_news=394](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_textos.php?cd_news=394)

**6) Expansion****a) Summary table of requests****Applications to the IC received up to 24/05/2007**

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>WEBSITE</b>	<b>QUESTIONNAIRE (OK/NO)</b>	<b>TWO SUPPORT LETTERS FROM IC MEMBERS (YES / NO)</b>
<b>Social Movement Indaba (SMI)*</b>	Mondli Hlatshwayo Email: <a href="mailto:mondlih@gmail.com">mondlih@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Mondli.Hlatshwayo@khanyacollege.org.za">Mondli.Hlatshwayo@khanyacollege.org.za</a>		No	Focus
<b>General Union of Oil Employees in Southern Iraq.</b>	Farouk M. Sadiq Ismaa'l <a href="mailto:101small@yahoo.com">101small@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="http://www.basraoilunion.org">www.basraoilunion.org</a>	Yes	CADTM Focus on the Global South
<b>Zanzibar International Film Festival Of Dhow</b>	Fatma ALLOO <a href="mailto:faloo@zitec.org">faloo@zitec.org</a>	<a href="http://www.ziff.or.tz">www.ziff.or.tz</a>	Yes	ENDA, Ibase, CBJP
<b>Fórum Social das Migrações</b>	Luiz Bassegio <a href="mailto:gritoexcluidos@uol.com.br">gritoexcluidos@uol.com.br</a>		Yes	Jubileu Sul Associação Grito dos Excluídos Continental
<b>Foro de São Paulo*</b>	*Asks to be permanent observer at the IC (letter of request presented at Nairobi IC meeting). Supported by CUT, ORIT / CSI and Alianza Social Continental (Hemispheric Social Alliance)			

Check on the attachments for the application forms and letter sent by the Foro Sao Paulo.

## **ANNEXES**

### **A. Debate on the working group 2008, IC list and WSF process site about the WSF process in 2008**

#### **input by Prabir**

Posted by Group facilitation tasks at 2007-04-15 23:41

Posted by Prabir Purkayastha at 2007-04-02 14:00

The global day of visibility needs to be thought through carefully: Is it primarily a day of action, in which case it needs to be owned by the movements with WSF playing the role of an open space, or is it organised as a set of common visible activities by WSF? We need to consider certain aspects:

- a) Organisations will need to "own" the call for a day of action around some central demands
- b) WSF cannot issue such a call, but can facilitate such calls using its "open space": that is calls are given by organisations but WSF space is used to facilitate this
- c) We use the WSF process space (could be blogs, wsfprocess.net, etc.,) to let organisations work out some joint calls, common themes in which a large consensus can be built by the organisations giving the calls
- d) I do feel that we need to see that the WSF space also allows street demonstrations also to emerge from within its space, even if WSF does not own the call/calls
- e) A visible set of seminars/workshops/cultural events will not have the impact that a common global action would have.

Prabir Purkayastha

#### **Input by pierre**

Posted by Group facilitation tasks at 2007-04-15 23:49

contribution on a b c d e points

Posted by pierre at 2007-04-10 08:27

Dear alessandra, Prabir and all

- a) Marches are not an easy issues

"Marches" are in the activities drop down list in wsfprocess site - however these are marches in social territory -the only march in public territory is the opening march run by organizing committee now in 2008 marches are in public territory, they will be dispersed ,with the risk of political leverage, fragmentation, competitiveness and exclusions -

May be this should be accepted and framed this way : " this is not a wsf march this is a march which its organizers inscribe as an activity in the wsf process of 2008 " as long as the wsf criteria are respected (no parties, organizations abiding by wsf charters ..) it can be connected to wsf process So there will be marches that are more inclusive than others, as there are activities less inclusive than others

"WSF inclusiveness ranking" of those marches should be made very perceptible on the wsfprocess site through the number of organisations involved in a march - all marches should be declared and prepared here to be considered part of global mobilization

Some collective objective protocol is needed here -number of organisation and number of people in the cyberdelegation of these organisations being objective criteria, and diversity of organisations being a more subtle one

- b)Networking in the open cyberspace can host and give rise to inclusive groups willing to co organized activities including public marches and demos

Non sectarian behavior of those groups will be scrutinized by everyone interested and if there is a non consensual approach the wsf ranking of those activities/marches will be lowered in the site

- c) Educational effort around the wsfprocess site has not been made so far, but it can be boosted after Berlin

Some "minisites" are being prepared for this - a demonstration call ministe can be proposed for cloning to any demonstration initiative group ( copy pasting is powerful in the site)

Resistance to online cooperation is varied- ranging from lack of information – lack of familiarity – to lack on motivation to act collectively –  
However a lot of progress can be done if the political discussion in Berlin is supporting this use of the tool and with WSF bulletin as an educational vector

d) Improvements and complements on existing wsfprocess.net need to be defined collectively in a working group that would reactivate the dynamics of wsf2006.org

This needs some funding and enlarging the development team – something will be done also on the side of esf 2008 in Scandinavia

We would be better off getting out of Berlin IC with a mandated working group and some perspective of IC funding a next generation of site will have to be discussed in parallel inside this group

e / A set of event before during and after the “peak days” will contribute to the mobilization on the peak days

In particular cyberactivities will maintain the international flavour of wsf that home marches will not have ,  
Through these activities people will build motivation to participate in the marches inasmuch these are inclusive enough

That is why we only have to consider say a wide time bracket January 17th to February 3rd and include as “2008 activities” anything that will be register in this time bracket of 17days

### **Truth-force. The date(s) of the Day(s). The library.**

Posted by Mikael Böök at 2007-04-21 10:37

I agree with the proposal of Tord Björk, Luciana Castellina , Ramon Duran, Susan George and Thomas Wallgren - to choose 9/11 as our worldwide Day of Action. [This proposal has recently been presented, for instance, via the list of the Network Institute of Global Deocratizatio, NIGD]

However, in the present context of the WSF, the Day of Action is generally thought to be organised instead of the WSF event itself, and therefore preferably at the time when the WSF has previously been arranged, which means January 2008. So I think we need to have it then.

But why could not the WSF also decide to have 9/11 as a Day of Action?

I must admit that my very first, spontaneous reaction was negative, because 9/11 is to such an owerwhelming extent a negative date. But then, at closer sight, we find also that positive link to Gandhi and non-violence, which we can celebrate and be inspired of.

Permit me to add a few more words about 9/11 2001. Some, like Alexander Cockburn in "Le monde diplomatique", and Georges Monbiot in "The Guardian" seem to ask us to forget about digging into the inconsistencies of the official story about that past event in order to concentrate more intensely on the crimes that are being committed now. They have not convinced me. I do not pretend to know precisely what happened at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon on that day, but I continue to be vexed by what has been said, and not said, about it.

But here, again, it is good to remember the birth of the Gandhian "movement of non-violent resistance and truth-force -- on 9/11 1906"!

What force is the truth-force? Is it power? And what power is that, if not the power of information and of communication?

At a certain point the New York Times ranked us as "The Second Superpower". But we were not what we were called. We were no more than a gesture, and so was that epithet. It was an empty word.

The WSF must become a strong and powerful "movement of non-violent resistance and truth-force" [this is a quotation from the above-mentioned proposal], as was the Gandhian movement. The "form that the Forum was given" (Chico Whitaker) is the right one. Global democracy can grow out of it. But more than an open space (even if the forum would be much broader than it is) is needed to make the democracy possible. It cannot live for long without institutions and a constitution.

One of the pre-existing institutions, which history has created for the sake of the coming global democracy, is: The Library. Thus it was an event of some importance when the then chair of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) participated in the WSF in Mumbai 2004. But it went almost unnoticed in the circles of the WSF. Again, in Nairobi, when about 70 East African librarians participated in the WSF in order to collect information about it and contribute to its own Memory Project, the International Council of the WSF paid no particular attention.

This situation has to be changed. The International Council of the WSF must recognise the need to achieve permanent links between the social forum and the libraries and librarians of the world. I would like the representatives of the organisations and movements to take up this subject at the next meeting of the IC in Berlin, and to decide, that the Memory Project and the Communication Plan must be extended to the Library.

If it does not link to the libraries, the Memory Project of the WSF is not worth its name. What are we going to do with the memory of the Memory Project (the memory of the civil society!), and how shall we transmit it, if not via the institution of society which exists for precisely this purpose? - The Library, obviously, also should have a place in the Communication Plan of the Forum.

Individual librarians, mostly, are in favor of the social forum. However, as a group, the librarians, like engineers, economists, doctors, lawyers, journalists, scientists and other professional, intellectually highly educated groups, tend to be loyal, in the first place, to their national governments. But that loyalty, hopefully, shall fade away, and the professionals in the various countries shall become more loyal to the common causes of humanity than to the leaders of their nations. Are we not talking about a new political world-system? Global democratization? (All the professionals are needed to build it.)

The internet, too, is part of the library, and henceforward of prime importance for the construction of political power in so far as power consists of "truth-force". Let's build the public library system of the world together with the librarians, in the libraries and in that new extension of libraries, the internet. Both the librarians and the social activists need to be pushed in the right direction, though. The Memory Project might have a positive role to play in this regard.

As a short-term goal, let's try to get the IFLA and the library associations on board. - The East African library Associations of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda already activated themselves towards the WSF in Nairobi! (See <http://www.wsflibrary.org/>)

The WSF-IC should be able to send out clear signals to the library community about the need to link the libraries to the civil society at the world level.

( The above is a slightly amended and adapted version of a message which I posted to friends in the NIGD and the WSF earlier this month. Has it occurred to you that the points, which we discuss here, and which I also touch upon - such as deciding on the date of the Day of Action, the symbolic meaning of 9/11 and the Memory Project of the WSF - are almost inedited (in the sense of 'not published'). This discussion only goes on in private and/or closed fora like the mailing list of the International Council (IC) of the WSF! Or this forum here. --- The very fact that the IC is soon to meet in Berlin is unknown to the public. Have you seen something about it in your newspaper? Or heard about it on the radio? No, the media silence around the process of the social forum is almost total. --- ) - Mikael

### **On the mobilisations**

Posted by Ruby van der Wekken at 2007-04-23 12:21

Hi,

I personally feel that the mobilisation for 2008 should be left to selfdetermination and result in plural and diverse action around the globe. I do for instance not believe that actions as stopping consumption for a day will impress, for we already have such days? We already have stand up days and wearing white band days, and company boycott campaigns (as good as they are!), buy nothing for a day campaigns... I think the WSF process is novel in its plurality, in its attempt to bring all issues together, interlink them and their solutions and attempt to work towards the envisioning of a new whole. I feel therefore that the mobilisations of 2008 should be exactly such?

It might be a very simplistic idea, but in my mind it would be good for some coordinating group to ask for (brief summary) info from around the globe on what actions are planned. The WSF global day of action program can be written on the basis of this. One listing could be according to start off time of the global day of action in the different time zones, and thus geographical. A second listing of the same actions could be thematical, in order to point to how different themes are worked on in different parts of the world, the global nature of many issues and the global struggle around them - something like this. This program could certainly be ready in time, be put as a pdf file on the net, distributed to media etc.

This weekend we had the Finnish Social Forum in Helsinki. With several organisations we organised a session to start off the process of thinking about the global day of action in Finland. I unfortunately can not report that there was mass attendance of the event.. but we will certainly call for a new meeting to discuss Finnish participation and use as a basis the interesting discussion and ideas that came up with those present at the session. I hope to soon send also a note from there to this discussion forum.

Ruby van der Wekken (NIGD)

----- Original Message -----

From: "prabir" <[prabirp@gmail.com](mailto:prabirp@gmail.com)>  
To: <[wsf08journey@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsf08journey@listas.rits.org.br)>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2007 8:08 PM  
Subject: [Wsf08journey] Moving on

Friends,

Rafaela had put forward some ideas in her mail on how we should proceed regarding the wsf2008 de-centralised activities and the global day of visibility. This along with the original IC minutes, a few comments are now posted in the process website [www.wsfprocess.net](http://www.wsfprocess.net) with the following link

[http://wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day/folder\\_listing](http://wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day/folder_listing)

For those that are already in the group on the wsfprocess group on 2008 action day, can post your comments directly or post new documents that you would like to propose. Those who are not, please register yourself and your organisation and then ask for an invitation while viewing the group [wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day](http://wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day). At present, we have a number of people registered, but not all the members of the working group are still a part of the group. The advantage of the [wsfprocess.net](http://wsfprocess.net) is the bulletin board and documents that stay up permanently, so that you don't have to hunt for old emails and docs in your mailbox/computer. And once we start to use the group feature, navigation will become easier with familiarity. I know the navigation is not as easy as say, googlegroups, but still seems quite intuitive and simple.

We should try and post mails on the list and also post our comments simultaneously on the comment space/bulletin board of the [wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day](http://wsfprocess.net/groups/2008-action-day). This way, those who are not in the space will follow the discussion while we maintain a record. So if you post a comment, also post this on the list.

I hope we can organise a lively discussion on the visibility day and how to build this. We need to move beyond the discussion on what tools to use to a discussion on what needs to be done and how to do it!

In solidarity.

Prabir Purkayastha

Dear Friends,

I am quite confused by the multiplicity of collaborative tools that we are now proposing to work together for both WSF IC facilitation and on WSF 2008 journey. We also have proposals for using Skype and so on. At this rate, we will need first a common place to discuss tools and then only be able to work together! And if each working group chooses a different platform, we would have then have a complete fragmentation of the WSF process.

I have no problem with Google Docs or the proposed blogs. And also the processnet, in which we have addressed a number of issues that are now being discussed vide google docs and proposed blog. The requirement for us are the follows

1) Forming a private group 2) A bulletin Board for comments 3) A set of documents that is being collaboratively being developed.

The processnet permits all of this, we have used it now in the last wsf2007 Nairobi event and some of us are now familiar with it. It has already about 4,000 people registered and the IC members should now be involved in this as it has been developed within WSF process. Pierre has done some initial work for setting up a group for testing the processnet for this purpose. However, other platforms also can do this, and some of them more easily than the processnet. Afterall, they do have more resources than we!

It is time now that we follow a common set of tools for our future work so that all of us are on a similar platform. So I think that this discussion is very important for the future of WSF. Travelling to finalise a document seems a very expensive and time consuming way of doing things. We still need to meet, but a lot of home work can be done if we use collaborative tools.

Regarding the WSF2008, we have to address the following two issues arising out of Rafaela's mail:

1) If we have a de-centralised WSF2008 process - a number of events happening in a number of places -- do we have any common place where the broad details would be visible?

2) The global day of visibility needs to be thought through carefully: is it primarily a day of action, in which case it needs to be owned by the movements with WSF playing the role of an open space, or its organised as a set of common visible activities by WSF?

For discussions on Rafaela's mail and the Nairobi decisions, I am suggesting that we try and use the processnet. If people agree, we can then set up a group on this. If not, we can then use Google docs, or a riseup list which also allows documents to be shared. As you can see, each of us have their personal preferences for what tools to use for collaborative work!

In solidarity

Prabir

**From: Joel Suárez**

To: wsfic\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br

Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2007 2:24 AM

Subject: [Wsfic\_fsmci] de joel suarez about mobilization

(plis la gentileza solidaria de alguien llevarlo al ingles)

Saludos

Lamentablemente, no pude estar en Nairobi por razones de fuerza mayor, lo lamento realmente. Desde que revisamos las memorias de la reunión y ahora que rafaela las recuerda, me preocupa en sobre manera que el espíritu de los acuerdos de Nairobi tal como se relatan en la propuesta de abajo (sobre todo punto 1), entran en tensión con el sólido consenso alcanzado en Parma, a raíz de la iniciativa presentada por el colectivo italiano, que expresaba la clara voluntad de empeñarnos y esforzarnos en un arduo trabajo de coordinación y comunicación para "la organización de una jornada de movilización mundial en el 2008 alrededor de la fecha del Foro de Davos. Trabajaremos para que esta jornada mundial ocurra em todos los rincones del planeta, con sus temas y contenidos definidos por los actores involucrados".

El consenso de Parma, en cuya construcción estuve más que involucrado, fue claro que hablabamos de movilización, de intentar poner a las gentes en la calle....lo que ciertamente no elimina otro tipo de iniciativas alli donde las dificultades para la movilización lo impidan u otras razones.

Me preocupa reitero, que el punto 1(del texto de nairobi mencionado en el correo de raffaela), debilite el espíritu de ese acuerdo duramente trabajado y acordado en Parma. Y deja abierta la posibilidad que se generen iniciativas (actividades) que, en contradicción también con el espíritu de Parma, roben la energía, tiempo, recursos y la atención que demanda una movilizacion a escala planetaria.....

Saludos y lo bueno es que iniciamos el debate

Y finalmente consensuemos bien los sentidos de lo que ciertamente hay que divulgar ya sobre el 2008 antes de hacerlo....porque no solo es divulgar lo acordado y quizas enmendado en Nairobi con relación a Parma, sino lo que esta también firme y claro en los acuerdos de Parma y que debe ser también divulgado, que siendo "el Forum Social Mundial (...) um inovador proceso que continúa sua expansão y profundización en eventos mundiales, regionales, nacionales, locales y temáticos y en las luchas, campañas y acciones (...) vamos a compartir nuestras energias, tiempo y recursos para consolidar la riqueza y diversidad de este proceso".

JOEL SUAREZ

**Chico Whitaker escribió:**

De : wsfic\_fsmci-bounces@listas.rits.org.br [mailto:wsfic\_fsmci-bounces@listas.rits.org.br] De la part de Chico Whitaker

Envoyé : dimanche 25 mars 2007 15:48

À : wsfic\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br

Objet : Re: [Wsfic\_fsmci] de joel suarez about mobilization

Saludos, Joel,

(espero que quien haga la gentileza de llevar tu texto al inglés sea gentil tambien conmigo...)

Creo que entiendo tu preocupacion. De hecho seria muy bueno que llenáramos las calles en enero de 2008, en protesta contra el neoliberalismo. Esto era seguramente lo que estaba en tu mente cuando trabajamos juntos en Parma. Yo mismo ya tenia en esa ocasion un entendimiento diferente, considerando que esto seria muy dificil, y que habria que diversificar las manifestaciones.

Manifestaciones de calle tienen algunas exigencias que no son siempre posibles de atender. Alguien de nuestra lista CI ya lo ha observado no sé cuando. Para que vayan a la calle no solamente los "organizados" en movimientos y partidos, sino que el máximo posible de ciudadanos, participar de la manifestacion tiene que tener un carater casi vital para los que se pretende que vengán. Esa ha sido la gran razon, a mi juicio, para el suceso de aquella de febrero de 2003. Muchisima gente "sentia" profundamente que la locura de la invasion del Iraque estaba muy proxima, y era necesario pararla de alguna manera, para que el mundo (y el Iraque) no entraran en la dinamica suicida en que Bush nos ha lanzado.

Pero salir ahora a la calle para protestar contra Davos, o para mostrar que somos muchos a luchar por un "otro mundo posible", no cuenta con una motivación tan fuerte.

Quizás adelante ocurran cosas que puedan crear esa motivación. Pero por ahora considero que es mejor luchar para multiplicar iniciativas y darles visibilidad conjunta, en la más grande diversidad posible. Incluso con gente que irá a la calle (lo que no es muy fácil en enero en el hemisferio norte, lo que es el argumento de algunos para cambiar la fecha de los Foros). De esa manera más gente será estimulada a hacer algo.

Creo que es ese razonamiento que ha conducido al grupo que ha discutido 2008 en Nairobi, y que ha redactado las conclusiones que aparecen en el informe de la reunión, que de hecho complementan y precisan las conclusiones de Parma. Las transcribo (con líneas subrayadas por mí ahora):

1) El proceso FSM en 2008 tendrá como principal momento un Día Global de Movilización, caracterizado por actividades simultáneas organizadas regional y/o localmente en todo el mundo. El formato específico (incluyendo el número de días) y el eslogan de esas actividades serán decididos por estos que organizan estas actividades en un día común de impacto global y con visibilidad reforzada por estrategias y herramientas de comunicación comunes.

Las actividades deben alargar y profundizar el proceso FSM. (En este párrafo hay dos problemas serios de traducción. La primera frase está en inglés un poco distinto de la traducción:

The WSF process will be characterised in 2008 by a Global Day of Mobilisation, which will consist in a decentralized set of simultaneous activities conducted regionally and/or locally all over the world.

Pero tan grave como eso es lo que se cambia más adelante: en el original no se dice en un día común sino que con un día común de impacto global. Son cosas que cambian en mucho la perspectiva adoptada en Nairobi... Esto me lleva a constatar que tenemos que cuidar más de las traducciones, para evitar malentendidos...)

2) El eslogan general será "Un Otro mundo es posible/en construcción – que será decidido durante la próxima reunión del CI. Los temas específicos serán elegidos por los foros, redes y organizaciones. Mientras tanto, y deben respetar las discusiones realizadas durante el FSM en Nairobi, especialmente los resultados del cuarto día (planes de acción y campañas), y otros temas de importancia global, regional nacional y local. Tener en cuenta, la diversidad, garantizando que todos los sectores y grupos participen. Dinámicas y actividades abiertas, inclusivas y plurales, siguiendo el espíritu del proceso Foro Social Mundial, respetando su Carta de Principios.

(Aquí hay otro problema de traducción, en la parte que trata de los temas específicos. Vea el original: The specific themes will be chosen by all the forums, networks and organisations and would be in continuity with the 2007 Nairobi WSF discussions, particularly the outcomes of the fourth day (plans of action and campaigns) and other issues that are important in global, regional, national or local areas).

3) Proponemos mantener la decisión de la reunión del CI en Parma, de desarrollar las actividades del FSM 2008 acerca de las fechas de Davos y que el día de acción global será 26/27 de Enero.

O sea, Joel, lo que tendríamos que ver es como efectivamente estimular el máximo posible de actividades en enero de 2008, en los formatos que la gente decida hacer, pidiendo-les especial cuidado con lo que cada uno piensa hacer para dar visibilidad a lo que hagan (asumiendo nosotros la tarea de ayudar a conectarlos todos, y visibilizarlos como un conjunto mundial).

Un gran abrazo, Chico Whitaker

**From: Magdalena León T.**

To: [wsfic\\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br)

Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2007 6:14 PM

Subject: Re: [Wsfic\_fsmci] de joel suarez about mobilization

Queridos Chico, Joel y todas/os:

De manera muy breve, quisiera llamar la atención sobre la importancia política, para el Foro y para el mundo, de llevar nuestras energías y esfuerzos hacia una movilización en 2008 que tenga UN mensaje común.

Quizá ahora como en ningún otro momento cercano la humanidad afronta problemas comunes, que conectan sus causas particulares y diversas con el orden mundial, con el poder hegemónico. Hay una inconformidad organizada y no organizada que espera un canal de expresión con resonancia global.

Hay la urgencia de encontrar salidas de cambio para la devastación impuesta militarmente por EU y para la devastación ambiental consustancial al modelo. Este es el papel del Foro ahora. Para que cada quien se manifieste en torno a su causa particular no haría falta ningún Foro; son dinámicas que ocurren de por sí.

Ya hemos dejado pasar momentos cruciales en silencio: por ejemplo la invasión a Líbano en 2006, hecho ante el cual se esperaba una voz y una convocatoria del Foro. Esto lo confirmamos a través de las reacciones a una idea que planteó el Foro Social Américas para hacer una demanda ante la Corte Penal Internacional de la Haya. Hubo centenares de mensajes de apoyo, especialmente de personas no organizadas, en los que se expresaba la expectativa de que haya UNA iniciativa mundial que recoja toda esa indignación y esperanza de cambio.

Esta propuesta no implica pasar por alto las diversidades y la pluralidad sino, al contrario, fortalecerlas en torno al desafío y a la sensibilidad que compartimos como humanidad. Es también una oportunidad para reconocer y

reforzar la solidaridad como motor de los cambios: salir de 'mi' causa y 'mi' agenda para ir a la nuestra.

Un abrazo,

Magdalena

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [marialuisa1](mailto:marialuisa1)

**To:** [wsfic\\_fsmci](mailto:wsfic_fsmci)

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2007 3:54 PM

**Subject:** Re: [Wsfic\_fsmci] de joel suarez about mobilization

**(Desculpem a mistura português/espanhol. English below)**

Companheiros/as,

Creio que o ponto central dessa discussão é a origem da proposta de não realizar o FSM todos os anos, pois tende a concentrar energia e recursos de outras articulações. Portanto, o importante é que, independente dos temas e dos "slogans", o caráter da jornada de lutas mundial seja de MOBILIZAÇÃO, ou seja, marchas e atividades em LAS CALLES. Se for mantida a metodologia de eventos/seminários/debates, perdemos o sentido da proposta original, defendida pelos movimentos sociais no CI há muito tempo.

Saludos,

Maisa

**De : Eric Toussaint [mailto:[cadtm@skynet.be](mailto:cadtm@skynet.be)]**

Envoyé : mardi 27 mars 2007 13:07

À : '[wsfic\\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br)'

O

2008 : ESP/FR/Engl Eric (CADTM) 27 Mars 2007

1. Estoy de acuerdo con las inquietudes de Maisa (26/03) y de Joel Suarez (23/03).
2. Quisiera añadir lo siguiente: Conforme a la decision del CI de Nairobi (dentro de la cual yo me ubico), la decision sobre la forma y contenido de las acciones sera tomada por el CI en Berlin a final de Mayo 2007. El grupo de trabajo sobre Movilización Global 2008 hara una propuesta para facilitar la decisión del CI.
3. Habra que buscar consenso sobre como evitar que la Movilización Global 2008 sea limita en la mayoría de los países a seminarios/conferencias/actos culturales. No es fácil (como lo dice Chico) pero por favor hace falta no descartar desde el principio un llamado a acciones/marchas en las calles. Mi inquietud respecto a la respuesta de Chico a Joel es la siguiente: con los argumentos de Chico se esta favoreciendo un forma de aparecer y actuar que considera que las marchas en las calles serán muy limitadas. Chico tiene todo el derecho en pensarlo pero esto no es consensuado.
4. No se trata solamente de las formas de actuar durante la Movilización Global 2008 SINO TAMBIEN las demandas y tematicas que estaran puestas en evidencia por las organizaciones que adherirán a la Movilización Global 2008 dentro de la diversidad a la cual tod@s tenemos. Creo que vari@s miembr@s del CI desde hace varios anos subrayan la necesidad de determinar temáticas comunes (dentro de la diversidad). También es complicado pero al menos podríamos ver durante el CI si hay demandas/temáticas comunes. Buscaremos convergencias.
5. Término con lo siguiente: de acuerdo con Raffaella, hace falta "Empezar inmediatamente el debate entre nosotros en el listado del GT".

La decisión de Nairobi es de alguna manera imprecisa sobre la(s) forma(s) y el contenido de la movilización (por eso el grupo de trabajo esta encargado de hacer una propuesta al CI de Berlin). PERO NO estoy de acuerdo con el hecho de mandar hacia todos los movimientos un mensaje sobre Movilización Global 2008 que podria favorecer una interpretación NO consensuado de esta Mobilizacion.

Los mensajes de Chico, Joel y Maisa muestran que no hay TODAVIA consenso.

Eric Toussaint

[international@cadtm.org](mailto:international@cadtm.org)

----- Original Message -----

From: [marialuisa1](mailto:marialuisa1)

To: [wsfic\\_fsmci](mailto:wsfic_fsmci)

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 4:37 PM

Subject: Re: [Wsfic\_fsmci] Now in English: Eric T (CADTM) onGlobalMobilization 2008

Dear Eric (and all),

thanks for your response.

Another concern I have is the possibility of having grassroots movements participation in the Berlin meeting.

Is it realistic to think that grassroots movements can keep up with so many international meetings, in so many

different countries?

I think we need to think of ways to keep the main idea proposed several times (since the second WSF in Porto Alegre), of NOT having WSF events every year.

If a small group in Berlin makes a different decision, I´m afraid this will create a problem in the future.

Best,  
Maisa

----- Original Message -----

From: "Katarina Sehm Patomäki" <[katarina@nigd.org](mailto:katarina@nigd.org)>

To: <[wsfic\\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br)>

Cc: "'Ruby van der Wekken'" <[ruby@nigd.org](mailto:ruby@nigd.org)>

Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 6:05 AM

Subject: [Wsfic\_fsmci] thoughts on the mobilisations in 2008

Greetings from Finland!

Dear friends,

During the 6th Finnish social forum held recently in Helsinki a session was organised around the day of mobilization in 2008. Attending were apart from Finnish friends of the World Social Forum process and actors in social movements, also activists (one each) from Germany, Norway and Sweden. As the WSF International Council and its working groups are preparing for the discussions on the issue at the next WSF IC meeting in Berlin, we report from the session some main comments and concrete proposals. Please note that the following is not in any way a joint statement from the Finnish social forum or any organisations on the mobilisation issue, but presents our personal opinions and constitutes a mere beginning point of discussions in our localities and movements (see also a brief report with further justifications from the meeting below):

1. We support the decision taken at the WSF IC meeting in Parma of a WSF mobilisation week in 2008, with a global day of action on 26-27 January 2008.
2. We support the idea as put forward in the WSF IC meeting of Nairobi of a ticking clock accompanying, symbolising and visualising the time for change, and the mobilisations around the world.
3. We feel that a clear global interconnectedness between the mobilisations all over the world would be crucial, whilst leaving room for plurality and diversity as to the exact nature of the mobilisations.
4. We feel that the slogan of Another World is Possible as well as the alternatives the WSF process wants to be instrumental to should be upfront during the mobilisations.

We suggest:

- a. a coordinating body to gather one liner information on the initiatives of mobilisation from all over the world into a program of mobilisations, in which the actions could be listed both according to time zone as well as according to theme in order to point to the global nature of struggles.
  - b. interactive communication means as video (screens) set up between different mobilizing venues during the mobilisation day.
  - c. innovative activities to bring the theme of Another world is possible as well as the theme of alternatives out in the open, with some elements which could be carried out globally. Concrete suggestions: - Making the slogan Another World is Possible visible in as many different ways (and different languages) as possible in the mobilizations around the world. Hanging banners from buildings, wearing it on one's clothing, forming the words with torches...the possibilities for creative experimentation are endless. These activities can have a global nature and be a form of connecting throughout the mobilising moment.
- We see a need to bring in more people, especially youth, into our movements and the WSF process. Therefore, cultural activities such as parties and concerts should be important elements of the global day of action, next to events focusing more directly on the proactive political content.

with kind regards,

Otto Bruun, ATTAC Finland  
Hanna Kuusela, Attac Finland  
Lisa Larnesjö, Attac Sweden

Marte Nilsen, Attac Norway  
Mikko Sauli, Attac Finland  
Ruby van der Wekken, NIGD  
Tuomas Ylä-Anttila, NIGD  
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Session notes - Suomen sosiaalifoorum - towards WSF-mobilization January 2008. 23.4.2007

#### Background

A session was arranged during the 6th Finnish social forum about the day of mobilization in 2008. Attending the session was apart from Finnish friends of the World Social Forum and actors in social movements, also activists from Germany, Norway and Sweden.

The session started off with noting the decisions made by the international council in Nairobi during the WSF 2007, notably, that no WSF as such will be organised in 2008 - but rather that a week/day/weekend of mobilization will take place. More accurately this was defined as a minimum of a day of action around the world, during which people from all over could mobilize around the world. This is important to keep the WSF-process alive and vital, it has been thought.

#### General notes

The participants in the session felt that 1) the mobilization is meaningful 2) it is definitely worth putting effort in organising something on the 26th of January 3) the day of action poses some challenges in the Nordic countries due to weather reasons, while the time of year is really dark and cold 4) we should try to arrange something else upon the typical open meeting/demonstration -like activities, which are already quite common and used as a general setting in most social movements. 5) plurality and openness need to be respected 6) securing the global feeling of any events during the mobilizations is important 7) strengthening the role of expressing and showing alternatives during the mobilization is important, to make the alternatives more outspoken.

#### Questions of slogan, common themes etc.

We thoroughly discussed the question of the need for a common slogan. Several participants felt a sense of fatigue with the old "another world is possible" -slogan. A common worldwide slogan is still needed - and one of the ideas could be to revitalize the "another world is possible" -slogan, by making it figure in many different contexts and making visual renewal. We need to symbolically use the slogan in a more innovative and inspiring way. Another possibility was the theme of "Another world is under construction".

Both slogans are viewed as potentially good, and they allow for the crucial plurality. A concrete proposal that rose was to make the slogan of "Another world is possible" figure in as many forms as possible - one idea was to light it up with torches in the dark Nordic cities. This would mean making the slogan Another World is Possible visible in as many different ways (and different languages) as possible in the mobilizations around the world. Hanging banners from buildings, wearing it on one's clothing, etc.

Participants did not straight away see one common thematic to be agreed upon as easy or even desirable. Still, having the theme of alternatives (see next section) could make the mobilizations more concrete, and some elements of the theme could maybe be carried out even globally. The possible idea of a theme related to human dignity was also discussed, but still left open. Later during the forum, the idea of mobilizing together under the banner of democratic initiatives was discussed, but was not taken into account during the session itself.

#### Thoughts on possible action and some proposals

Besides allowing for plurality, the Finnish social forum session participants called for a global collection of initiatives before the day of action. These could then by the secretariat be distributed globally - strengthening the global common spirit and allowing for better mutual awareness of initiatives around the world. Whereas it is difficult to agree on just one theme, it would be great to know what social movements are mobilizing for in different countries. This would support the efforts to add content and concrete initiatives to the process. Adding to this, it would also be in line with the theme another world is possible - as several initiatives for change would be gathered and presented.

To make the idea of "another world is possible" more concrete and use more of its potential, we also called for the concrete alternatives to be more present during the day/week of mobilizations, for instance like being some kind of theme. Both the slogan of Another World is Possible as well as the alternatives the WSF process wishes to be instrumental should be upfront during the mobilizations.

Furthermore we concluded that local mobilisations are important to contribute to the specific needs of the local movements.

The key challenge for the global mobilization is to figure in the global media in some way - how to do that is still an open question. Otherwise the mobilizations will be mostly felt as national ones.

Action proposals in Finland concerned both a joyful party-like come together and activities outside in the snow, adding light or torches to the manifestations. This planning did not take speed, but will be continued when more people will be able to join our forces in the planning of the January mobilization. The idea of a party-like manifestation for another world would especially be important, as we later noticed the importance of more young people joining the movement.

We support the idea as put forward in the WSF IC meeting of Nairobi of a ticking clock accompanying, symbolising and visualising the time for change, and the mobilisations around the world. We hope that the feelings and the mobilization of this could also be shared in some way via modern technology (live videos and screens, maybe?), in order to strengthen the sense of a really global mobilization, although we see that this will be very challenging to achieve with the limitation of resources in mind.

Background - social movements in Finland

Inspired by the Norwegian analysis of social movements we discussed the challenges Finnish social movements have in general.

Some of the challenging questions are related to political culture - others relate to the spreading of the movement and of the few new activists that have joined lately. Moreover, concerning the results of our activities, more co-operation with trade unions and the likes was called for. These challenges seemed to be shared by many of the international guests, at least those from other Scandinavian countries.

The Finnish Social Forum also included a seminar on the ESF and its future path, as it will take place in either Malmö or Copenhagen in the late summer of 2008.

## **B. Debate on Communication (after version of Communication plan sent in May 4th)**

----- Original Message -----

From: "ALAI redaccion" <[info@alainet.org](mailto:info@alainet.org)>

To: <[wsfic-communication@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic-communication@listas.rits.org.br)>; <[wsfic\\_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic_fsmci@listas.rits.org.br)>

Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 12:32 AM

Subject: [Wsfic-communication] Sobre plan comunicacion / On communicationplan

English below.

Compañeros/as:

Lamentablemente no pudimos comentar el plan de comunicación antes de la reunión de Florencia, y no sabemos qué se avanzó allá. Pero aprovechamos para hacer algunos aportes que ojala puedan contribuir a los debates en Berlín.

Teniendo en cuenta lo indispensable del componente comunicación para la dinámica propuesta para el 2008, queremos aportar algunos elementos que no vemos claramente reflejados en el plan elaborado por la comisión de comunicación (2da versión, de inicios de mayo).

Primero, un factor clave para lograr una movilización amplia e interconectada son las fuerzas sociales. Un reto es, entonces, cómo y con qué mecanismos lograr el enlace con y entre los medios e instancias de comunicación propios de los movimientos sociales (que no es lo mismo que los medios alternativos). Sería importante que el plan los incorpore. (Y esta necesidad no se resuelve con el "process site"). En América Latina, ya existe una base de articulación en este sentido, que es la Minga Informativa de Movimientos Sociales; pero no sabemos de algo parecido en otros continentes.

Segundo, se intuye, pero no se ve muy claro un mecanismo de enlace entre los foros continentales y entre foros nacionales, etc.

En nuestro criterio, la estrategia para 2008 debe apuntar a un mecanismo altamente descentralizado, a la vez que estrechamente enlazado y con espacios de coordinación y visibilidad común (mas no una iniciativa centralizada). Eso, porque nadie, desde ningún punto del mundo, podrá informar sobre lo planificado y lo que ocurre, si no se está produciendo y difundiendo información desde cada país y núcleo de actividad. Va sin decir que es fundamental alentar que cada actividad local/nacional incorpore la comunicación como parte integral de su planificación y recursos. Y eso, a varios niveles: entre organizaciones del propio país, hacia los medios locales/nacionales, y también hacia la dinámica mundial.

A la vez, vale tener presente, justamente, que la cobertura mediática que se logre dependerá en gran parte de la acción local hacia los medios; y que ésta debería incluir información, no solo sobre el propio país, sino también sobre lo que está pasando en el resto del mundo. Un rol importante de la comisión de comunicación podría ser elaborar una pauta de recomendaciones sobre estos aspectos, para la planificación de las iniciativas locales.

Por último, dos observaciones sobre el plan:

Como lo hemos expresado con anterioridad, la idea de tener una persona dedicada a escribir boletines de prensa para el Foro/CI es compleja. Por un lado, será difícil lograr un producto que responda a las particularidades culturales y los intereses temáticos de los medios en todo el mundo. Por otro, nos chocamos con el problema de qué línea editorial va a seguir (cuales organizaciones y actividades destacar, qué contenidos privilegiar, qué figuras citar; y hasta donde ceder en los principios del FSM para complacer los criterios mediáticos...) Siendo que hasta ahora el CI no ha debatido seriamente este tema (lo cual sería muy oportuno que se haga a futuro), y que no es evidente que se lograría consenso, no vemos que sea factible.

Una alternativa podría ser que varios medios (con capacidad de producir información "digerible" para los grandes medios) se comprometan a crear su propio "servicio especial FSM", o algo parecido, desde el período previo al Foro; pero no como vocero oficial del Foro sino bajo su propia firma y criterios editoriales. Incluso se podría hacerlo colectivamente. Estos materiales se podrían compartir y hacer llegar a un conjunto de medios, según los criterios de cada país o región.

Segundo, -y eso también lo hemos expresado con anterioridad- es muy bueno que del Foro surjan iniciativas de articulaciones -de hecho ya han surgido muchas-; y si hay quienes están dispuestos a impulsar una asociación de periodistas y/o de comunicadores vinculados al Foro, en buena hora. Pero no vemos que le corresponde al CI tomar la iniciativa en este plano.

Saludos,

Sally Burch ALAI

English  
Friends:

Unfortunately, we were not able to comment the communication plan before the meeting in Florence, and we do not know what happened there. But we want to make some input that hopefully can contribute to the debates in Berlin.

Considering how indispensable the communication component will be for the proposed actions for 2008, we are contributing some elements that we do not see clearly reflected in the plan drawn up by the communication commission (2nd version, of early May).

First, since a fundamental factor to ensure a broad and interconnected mobilization are the social forces, then one challenge is how and through what mechanisms to ensure the linkages with and among the media and communications initiatives of social movements (which is not the same as alternative media). It would be important to incorporate them in the plan. (And this need is not solved with the "process site"). In Latin America, there is already the basis for a network of this kind, which is the Minga Informativa de Movimientos Sociales (Social Movements Information Pool); but we do not know of similar initiatives in other continents.

Secondly, the mechanism for connecting among the continental forums and among national forums is not very clear, etc.

From our point of view, the strategy for 2008 should aim at a highly decentralized mechanism, that's closely networked, and a few spaces for coordination and common visibility (but not a centralized initiative). This is because nobody, from any one point in the world, will be able to inform about what's being planned and what's going on, unless each country and centre of activity is producing and sending out information. It goes without saying that it is fundamental to encourage each local/national activity to incorporate communication as an integral part of its planning and resources. And that, at several levels: among organizations of the home country, towards the local/national media, and also towards the world-wide dynamics.

At the same time, we should keep in mind that media coverage will depend to a large extent on local action to engage the media; and that this should include information, not just about the home country, but also about what is happening in the rest of the world. An important role of the communications commission could be to draw up guidelines of recommendations on these aspects, for the planning of local initiatives.

Finally, two observations on the plan:

As we have expressed previously, the idea of having a person dedicated to writing press bulletins for the Forum/IC is complex. On the one hand, it will be difficult to produce articles that respond to all the cultural particularities and thematic interests of media across the world. On the other hand, we will run up against the problem of what editorial line to follow (which organizations and activities to emphasize, what contents to privilege, what personalities to mention; and how far we can bend the Forum principles to respond to media criteria...) Since the CI has still not debated this issue seriously (though it would be very opportune to do so in the near future), and as it's not evident that consensus would be obtained, we do not see that it is feasible.

An alternative could be that several media (able to produce information that's "digestible" for the mainstream media) commit to creating their own "WSF special news service", or something similar, during the run-up to the Forum; however not as an official voice of the Forum, but under their own signature and publishing criteria. It could even be done collectively. These materials could be shared and made available to a group of mainstream media, according to the criteria of each country or region.

Secondly, - and this too we have expressed previously - is excellent that initiatives of networking and coordination arise from the Forum - in fact many already have; and if there are organizations that are willing to promote an association of journalists and/or communicators around the Forum, that is very welcome. But we do not see it as the IC's role to take on initiatives of this kind.

Greetings,

Sally Burch ALAI

**From:** [Norma Fernandez](#)

**To:** [wsfic-communication@listas.rits.org.br](mailto:wsfic-communication@listas.rits.org.br)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2007 4:41 PM

**Subject:** Re: [Wsfic-communication] Sobre plan comunicacion / Oncommunication plan

Sally:

es una pena que no hayan llegado estas observaciones la semana pasada, para incorporarlas a la discusión en Florencia, pero de todos modos creo que están en la misma línea de lo que debatimos allí. Hay cosas que ya se quitaron (lo de la asociación de periodistas, la persona que escriba los artículos de prensa, etc., que no son atributos del Foro). Sí se trabajó mucho sobre el sitio "proceso" y su relación con el "reloj" del 28/29 de enero. La descentralización fue también un criterio comunicacional fundamental para esa fecha, priorizando las acciones locales, y se pensó en múltiples conferencias de prensa paralelas en los lugares donde hubo FSM y Foros regionales. Ciranda quedó encargada de hacer un listado de medios alternativos y de comunicadores ligados a movimientos sociales (creo que sería muy importante que ustedes se puedan sumar a ello); IPS de los medios masivos convencionales. Jason va a redactar el último borrador antes de Berlín y lo circulará por la lista.

Tu idea del "servicio especial FSM" es parecida a la que yo había planteado el año pasado como "equipo receptor-distribuidor" de mensajes de los medios ligados al espacio, pero no se avanzó sobre eso, nos queda para seguir pensando. Al igual que lo que decís al comienzo sobre los mecanismos de intercomunicación de los movimientos sociales, que es el gran reto a futuro.

Yo no voy a Berlín, pero todos los otros compañeros que estuvieron en Florencia sí, de modo que podrán avanzar allí con todas estas cuestiones. El tiempo quedó muy corto para tantas necesidades comunicacionales. Si Jason logra mandar el texto pronto aún habrá tiempo para incorporarle cosas antes del encuentro.

Un abrazo, y gracias por los aportes.

Norma Fernández

### C. Forms of applicants to IC membership and letter from the Foro São Paulo

#### a) For the application forms, look at the attachments:

Check the attachments to this message:

<b>General Union of Oil Employees in Southern Iraq</b>	GUOE_application form -Iraq.rtf
<b>Zanzibar International Film Festival Of Dhow</b>	Zanzibar_International.doc
<b>Fórum Social das Migrações</b>	FSMigracoes.doc

São Paulo, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**To  
International Council  
World Social Forum**

The Foro de São Paulo is an organization of left-wing and progressive parties, and its main objective is the struggle for democracy, social justice, sovereignty and hemispheric integration among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meetings organized by the Foro de São Paulo, since 1990 until the most recent XIII Meeting in El Salvador, have been events for a rich interchange of experiences among the several members, as well as with social movements, churches and other organizations of the so-called civil society.

The political militancy which integrates the parties of the Foro de São Paulo has collaborated, since the beginning, with the World Social Forum. Despite the specific initiatives from each one, we can say that we share the same general idea – that another world is possible.

For all the exposed, we would like to collaborate with the International Council of the World Social Forum, in the terms you consider to be more convenient and according to your traditions.

We are looking forward to your support to our demand.

Best regards,

**Working Group  
Foro de São Paulo**