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**Report on WSF International Council Meeting**  
**Mexico City – Mexico**  
**May 05<sup>th</sup> to 07<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**INDEX:**

- 1) Agenda of the Meeting
- 2) Summary of Decisions
- 3) WSF 2010 towards Dakar
- 4) Dakar
- 5) Reports of IC Commissions
  - 5.1 Report of Communication Commission
  - 5.2 Report of Methodology Commission
  - 5.3 Report of Strategy Commission
  - 5.4 Report of Resources Commission
- 6) New IC Liaison Group
- 7) Next IC Meeting

ANNEX 1: Report on Solidarity Fund for Mexico City IC meeting.  
ANNEX 2: List of attendance – IC members and Observers.  
ANNEX 3: WSF Funding Structure  
ANNEX 4: Liaison Group Mandate  
ANNEX 5: Strategy Commission Project for 2010  
ANNEX 6: Shared Communication Document  
ANNEX 7: Meeting on Climate Justice – from Cochabamba to Cancún

## 1) Agenda of the Meeting

	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	May 7 <sup>th</sup>
Morning session	9h/10h <b>Opening</b>  10h30 / <b>Commissions</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Dakar</b>
Afternoon Session 1	/ 15h30 <b>Commissions</b>	14h / 16h <b>2010 + Strategies towards Dakar</b>	14h / 16h <b>Commissions</b>
Afternoon Session 2	16h <b>LG Renewal</b>	16h <b>Dakar</b>	16h <b>Final Session</b>

During the IC Meeting several other side meetings were held. They were not part of the IC Meeting agenda, but were open and involved many IC members. Some of them produced texts on these meetings, which does not express the IC opinion. You can find them in the annexes:  
Meeting on Climate Justice – from Cochabamba to Cancún: Annex 8.  
Meeting on Social Movements: Annex 9.

## 2) Summary of Decisions

- The seminar held in November 2009 chose the venue of the WSF: the University of Dakar.
- In July 2010 there will be another seminar to see what has been done and also to prepare the other seminars. The Dakar Committee will work on the proposals up until June. The Seminar in July will discuss the axes of the event, and this will allow the Organizing Committee to launch the aggregation and registration process. The three main axes are:

critics to the system; struggles against capitalism, imperialism, wars, and oppression; alternatives to the crises. It is important to take into account the question of a new universality.

- The University will be able to host the WSF event from February the 6th to the 13th. The Forum won't take place at the same time of the World Economic Forum. The coincidence of dates in previous events was always symbolic and politically important, but this time there are important logistic issues.

- Proposed calendar:

February 2011

6th (Sunday): Opening and March

7th: African Day

8th: self-organized activities

9th: self-organized activities

10th: Thematic Convergence

11th: Assemblies and Assembly of Assemblies.

- The Communication debate ended with the agreed proposal to continue discussing in the next IC and to open it even further with a special seminar during the WSF 2011. Final remarks pointed out:

a. the need to evaluate the relevance of the WSF for movements and how it can be renewed.

b. we need to strengthen the cooperation among us (starting by members of Comcom participating in mailing lists of other commissions)

c. we need to clarify responsibilities

d. communication is not just a technical matter but a matter of a vision

e. the challenge is not just to elaborate a “message” of the Forum, but how we can renew the spirit of the Forum and communicate it

- At the IC in Montreal there was a proposal of the Strategy Commission to put 4 strategic questions to social movements and scholars concerning all the crises and the alternatives to it. This project can now be put on the rails and will be linked to the more than 40 events happening in 2010. A window will be available on the WSF website and this will give space for debate. All the strategies sent by movements will be gathered and uploaded on the website. This process should be discussed at the 2011 WSF Dakar. It could lead up in the future to a kind of Wikipedia.
- The Resources commission proposes that we'll conduct a survey to capture the lessons of these forums – how they are being resourced and organized, what variations and innovations they contribute to the methodology of the WSF process, and how we can support their efforts. This survey would be done in coordination with other commissions, especially the Strategy Commission, which as engaged in a similar process.

Together with the other commissions, the resources commission proposes to identify and develop commons that can be shared and used by different forums (e.g. translation and interpretation resources, website, database, communications, etc.).

- New mandate of the Liaison Group: The gender balance is in favor of women, 8 women/6 men; there are 3 European, 3 African, 1 Asian, 2 Latin American (excluding Brazil) and 5 Brazilian delegates. The sectoral affiliation is very balanced, with 3 women organizations, 3 trade unions, 2 regional, 2 human rights, 1 youth, 1 communication and 1 debt organization. 10 of these organizations were already members of the LG before and 4 are new ones (CADTM, CIRANDA, FDIM and FMAS).

### **3) WSF 2010 towards Dakar**

During this session, some members of the IC presented the thematic and regional Social Forums that have been organized, till now and the ones they will take part in, support or are somehow involved with during the next months

- The International Alliance of Inhabitants supports the Assembly of Peoples in the Caribbean (to be held in August, in Barbados), the Assembly of Jubilee South, the World Social Forum of Migrations and is involved in the organization of the World Assembly of Inhabitants to be held during the 2011 WSF in Dakar.

- The organizations from the United States participating in the WSF process took back home the concept that another United States is not only possible but necessary. After Atlanta 3 years ago there has been an increasing process of mobilization in the US and they have great expectations to the US. Social Forum to be held in June.

- Forum of Culture for Transformation, in Brazil, a small intimate space of experimentation and diversity of expressions.

- The Fifth Social Forum of Pan-Amazonic Region was organized in such way to allow communities to have the main role. It counts of the participation of 96 organizations from different countries in the Amazon region.

- The Maghreb Social Forum was very important in terms of expansion of the movements and the WSF process in the region. It is important to make this process more visible for Dakar, and also in order to prepare the WSF.

- Social Forum Americas (August 11-15): The Hemispheric Council wanted the SFA to be held in Paraguay since they are going through a big political turmoil and the Forum will come as help to the Paraguayan struggle against the current state of emergency, which is affecting social organizations.

- The organizers of the Thematic Social Forum – Mexico stated how important it was to hold the IC Meeting in Mexico, so the WSF expansion process reaches Mexico and make visible the agenda of local and national movements and struggles in Mexico. “We who live inside the guts of the monster, we were able to build alternatives to the American imperialist domination”.

- European Social Forum: to be held in Turkey. There will be discussion mainly on immigration, climate justice, economic crisis in Greece and across Europe and conflicts coming from it.

- World Forum of Education, to be held in Palestine in October and that will have participation of many IC organizations.

In the end of the session, it was raised the question of what should the WSF IC do in order to connect these scattered events all over 2010. Two main proposals were presented, the new Strategy Commission page on the website – the project can be found as annex to this report; and the idea to hold a space in the 2011 WSF so the outcomes of these events could be presented and discussed.

### **4) Dakar**

The project for the 2011 WSF was presented for the IC session by members of the Dakar Facilitating Committee.

Functions and activities for the preparations of the 2011 WSF have been distributed within Senegalese Social Movements and the African Council of the African Social Forum. They are working in nine different commissions. Women movements are involved in commissions and the process, as well as unions, human rights, youth, students, peasants, NGOs and grassroots organizations - no one was left behind. Social Movements of all categories and from all parts of the country are debating together in order to build the WSF in Dakar.

The mobilization and information work should be conducted throughout the territory, the outskirts and periphery of Dakar as well as in a regional level. Organizations in Northern Africa and Palestine as well as from several African regions are organizing themselves to send people to Dakar 4 months prior to the event to help in the organization. An Extended Secretariat (Senegal, Africa, World) was created in order to facilitate the presence of organizations and participants in the WSF. Pan-African organizations are helping with the continental mobilization process. The Organizing Committee is currently organizing caravans of movements and people from all around Western Africa to Dakar. Otherwise they wouldn't be able to participate.

The African Council is trying to hold Forums in Burkina Faso and Nigeria - which is very important as Nigeria is Western Africa's most populated country, because the political impact of a forum there will be huge. And they are also trying to hold an African Council meeting before February in order to organize support of mobilization of people with all member organizations.

The president of Senegal and his cabinet said the WSF will have their full support.

The seminar held in November 2009 chose the venue of the WSF. The Committee met with the University and students, deans and professors' organizations for discussing and agreeing in relation to the date of the Forum. The rector of the University accepted to hold the WSF in February, as well as other instances of the university bureaucracy and institutional system.

There was a seminar in March 2010 with all commissions and regional organizations as well as the mobilization committee. They discussed and presented the WSF Charter of Principles to activists and movements there, as most of them were not used to the culture of the WSF. In July 2010 there will be another seminar to see what has been done and also to prepare the other seminars. The Dakar Committee will work on the proposals up until June.

The Seminar in July will discuss the axes of the event, and this will allow the Organizing Committee to launch the aggregation and registration process. The three main axes are:

- critics to the system: crisis, capitalism, neoliberalism, crisis in the world
- struggles against capitalism, imperialism, wars, and oppression;
- alternatives to the crises: economic, social, cultural and political transformations all over the world; reflections and alternatives in all continents.

It is important to take into account the question of a new universality. One shouldn't address only the geographical South, but the integration of all people who are excluded in the South with those who are excluded in the North - people suffering from capitalist hegemony throughout the globe. One should also consider essential the integration with Indigenous Populations, women etc. One has to think on how is the best way to give visibility to new values, such as Mother Earth, to new ways of struggle and new types of movements. And in regard to the African process, one must consider the new relations between African governments and African social movements.

Considering the issue of the new universality, one must focus on guaranteeing good interpretation and translation, because that is how different cultures are able to relate. The Organizing Committee is mobilizing solidarity interpreters from Mali and Morocco, and already has the commitment of some volunteer interpreters - the committee will pay for airplane fare and lodging in order to

guarantee their presence.

The Dakar WSF should give voice and space to struggles regarding the African Diaspora. There is a strong and urgent need to build some solidarity towards them. Migration is also a big problem in Africa - not just in Europe and North America. There are huge migration processes going on across the continent, it is a serious problem in some borders, and the WSF should address it.

The University will be able to host the WSF event from February the 6th to the 13th. The Forum won't take place at the same time of the World Economic Forum. The coincidence of dates in previous events was always symbolic and politically important, but this time there are important logistic issues. The date is still not settled yet, but of those 8 days, 6 will be used for the WSF and 2 could be used for local and thematic forums, to be scheduled yet. There was a proposal to start the Forum on the 6th, because it is a Sunday, with the Opening session and a March; to make an "African Day" on the second day, just like there was an "Pan-Amazon day" in Belém; and to hold assemblies and an Assembly of Assemblies in the final day (11th), like in Belém, but with some important changes, which are and will be discussed by the Methodology Commission.

February 2011

6th (Sunday): Opening and March

7th: African Day

8th: self-organized activities

9th: self-organized activities

10th: Thematic Convergence

11th: Assemblies and Assembly of Assemblies.

## **5) Reports of IC Commissions**

### **5.1 Report of Communication Commission**

The Communication commission met on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May and had an intense day of work, discussing and preparing the meeting for the second day of the IC. As the suggested methodology of having meetings between all commissions, one-to-one, on the first day had been only partially included in the IC agenda, it was decided that the best way to work on all issues involving communication in the other commissions was to have those exchanges included in the plenary, as a way to start a more intense interaction and exchange of ideas within the IC.

Three main goals of the plenary session were proposed: assessing the work done until now, in particular for the WSF 2010; laying the grounds for the preparation of a seminar on communication policies and strategy in the Dakar IC; building together the elements for a 2011 communication plan.

The IC plenary on communication was thus structured with a dialogic method using words, music and dance, to allow a concrete circulation of ideas, in three parts:

- a) a presentation of the work and proposals of the Com Com for 2010 and towards the Dakar WSF (see annex)
- b) a "face to face" dialogue in groups split according to the IC Commissions (Methodology, Expansion, Strategy and Resources) to share ideas, priorities and suggestions to start building a new strategy on communication on a mid-term basis
- c) a debate in plenary starting from feedbacks coming from the dialogue groups.

The presentation was based on the activities of the Communication commission in 2010 and the tools which have been implemented up to now. The concerns discussed revolved around issues of internal and external communication and the politics of communication and explored some alternative methodologies to interact and generate debate and transformation, while producing useful material for the communication practices of the IC member organizations.

Though it was pointed out that the WSF in itself is no longer news – after 10 years of history -, issues of concern were explored on how to broaden and deepen the reach of the WSF idea, both within its space and to a larger audience. It was highlighted how the communication among the different spaces that make the WSF could be further developed on the principles expressed in its Charter and with a view to generate a new culture of politics.

The presentation highlighted history, process, values and outcomes of the work of the Communication Commission and its members, such as the shared projects of Ciranda, WSFtv and radio, Terraviva, the experiments of Social Forum Expanded (such as the successful Mexican one), the Virtual Media Centre, the work of the techies involved in generating tools and opportunities of engagement, as well as potential collaborations towards Dakar 2011 such as that with Flame of Africa. Communication hubs as those presented are different ways to establish virtual spaces of convergence which resemble in their virtual form the spaces facilitated by the WSF events.

Establishing a connection between the two dimensions of the WSF, the real and the virtual, could generate virtuous cycles of exchange between spheres that at the moment are not fully explored. At the same time, such hubs could contribute to document the expressions of the new culture of politics in the making, its challenges and its opportunities.

But websites are only a part of the work; international press facilitation, alternative press articulation and informing a larger number of potential participants, in different countries, contexts and languages, are all challenges that need to be taken steps further. The general vision of the communication commission is that of being a means to help make the WSF process visible worldwide, to help facilitate the dialogical and participatory practices, to promote the exchange of information between different actors and the accumulation of experiences, in other words to promote a culture of transformation.

**The following issues have been discussed and emerged as priorities from the second part of the plenary:**

### **Strategy and Communication**

- Communication is political, not because it is an expression of power, but because it is a way to mainstream the WSF issues. This is the reason why there is a strong need to share WSF movements' and participant organizations' (in particular, IC members) views on communication to build together effective strategies.

- Strategy and Communication commissions can work together to open different spaces to solicit and host views and analysis from different movements and thematic issues

- A first concrete example is the Strategy project to collect analysis from “strategy debates” happening at different levels/topics/subjects:

> The «strategies debates of movements» selected questions (situation and crisis; development of movements; alternatives; expectations of the process and of Dakar).

> The «strategies debates of events» related to questions and discussions presented by participants in 2010 events.

> The « thematic policy debate » with a list of topics determined by the Working group of the Strategy commission. It will consider the strategic axes of the WSF 2011 in Dakar.

The strategic debate could be further extended by the creation of a socialforumpedia, a WSF Wikipedia - together with the Communication Commission.

**- The group affirmed that a permanent debate between Strategy and Communication is needed, to search together for new ways to make the WSF more visible and relevant for social movements and civil society worldwide and to understand how a strategic use of the internet can help it.**

### **Methodology and Communication**

Communication and Methodology have to understand how to present the WSF core message “Another world it’s possible” in a more attractive, updated and meaningful way.

Among the major concerns / priorities to debate and solve, the following emerged:

- How to make the successful alternatives more visible
- How to reach different political cultures
  - How to use different modalities to communicate: not just media, but also music, dance and other cultural and artistic dimensions.
  - How to invite and give space in Dakar to other networks and perspectives which have not participated in the past.

Members of the Methodology and Communication commissions agreed that:

- all WSF IC members should implement one/some of those priorities
- both are engage to create inside WSF process a space of good practices of communication
- they will work to empower the communication between commissions in WSF process through the IC agenda.

A simple decentralized communication strategy was proposed in the working group consisting in inviting wsf process participant organizations to disseminate actively 4 common messages:

- 1- Another world is possible
- 2- There are alternatives and successful experiences showing this
- 3- We in WSF process are trying to build a new political culture
- 4- We invite you to participate in WSF2011 to discuss these three messages with us

This communication effort can be adapted in many forms (non verbal, music etc ). The group proposed to start exploring this communication strategy with the organizations engaged in the methodology commission list. Some questions will be circulated about how the organizations intend to be active on these 4 messages towards Dakar and what kind of support they expect from IC communication commission. Answers will be shared in a "space for good practices of communication on WSF" where organizations can exchange and share links to informative material.

### **Expansion and Communication**

- Expansion posed the question on how Communication commission could support the WSF communication process more than communicate it by itself. A different approach is needed, with the help of Methodology, to mix together small training events, caravans, traditional communication tools, virtual expansion of local events.

- There is a perception of too many WSF communication tools in place
- How can Communication empower EXP work with a more active use of the e-lists (list/regular meetings)?
- Internet access is limited: how to mitigate this imbalance? Community radio, satellite tv, cellphones technologies can help
- There is a challenge with the plurality of languages to face with accurate translations, allowing local translators/organizations to support the WSF process

### **Resources and communication**

- Tools: linked to the process (Openfsm), event (Dakar). The use of the common websites and tools is positive, but poses problems around the table in relation to accountability, responsibility, technology.
  - Two approaches: look what's key for Dakar as immediate needs, but also on a long term.
  - How to reach a broader view than the WSF events (events like Cochabamba or Cancun, which are not directly linked to the WSF).
  - Mainstream media: good media team especially for Dakar
- Seminar in July to finalize a workplan for Dakar: how to resource it.

**In the third part of the session, after sharing back from the workgroups, several issues were discussed in the debate. These are the main topics which emerged:**

– **The “WSF message”: should the IC shape it? The focus on “alternatives”**  
 While the role of the IC is not that of determining which is the most important topic or the central issue of the WSF, it can help to give visibility to the common messages, in which the more universal focuses emerge from the debates. Yet there is a general contradiction in the fact that the IC cannot prioritize issues, but realize that each forum has its main histories and approaches. Since no one can “speak on behalf” of the WSF (Charter of principles), what the IC can do is try to give impulse to methodologies and ways of communicating that favor synergies and convergences, and help keep the focus on broad trends (the focus on existing alternatives, which is part of the main vision of the WSF: “Another world is possible”). The Charter of principles doesn't stop to the “WSF movement” in general to communicate itself. The needs we face are to establish the relationship between message and communication. It's not a problem of the Com Commission but of the IC. How the “message” can be elaborate in a new way, linked to our “public”: WSF movements, Movements outside WSF, General public.

### **- The role of the Communication in the WSF process**

Communication does not start and finish with a Forum event and is a responsibility of the whole IC as well as of the organizing committees. All IC members' organizations should take into account in their everyday operations how to relate to the WSF process and make it visible to their members. Concerns were expressed on how to help the visibility of the multiple realities inside and outside WSF process. And how to make evident that the WSF is the space/dynamic that could help solve the crises by bringing together and helping network civil society actors and citizens worldwide. Some also find a permanent tension on how to make struggles and alternatives more visible and on who is in charge to communicate this: the IC or the organizations participating in the WSF? It was also pointed the role the WSF has been taking in proposing “another communication” for the social movements and organizations, in developing and supporting policies of shared communication based in open softwares and collaborative practices (check out Annex 6 on Shared Communication).

### **- The role of the Com Com to support the WSF process**

Members of the Com com see their role as not to be the communication of the WSF itself, but to facilitate and to support who does it (be it mainstream or independent media, organizers or participants of the events, etc.), making sure it is not dispersed, by stimulating convergence and sharing platforms (hubs) and resources. The role of the IC Communication Commission, some argue, is not merely that of a technical group, but is to be a support Commission. The challenge is how to use all the technical skills we accumulated to elaborate and disseminate issues and how to push it and stimulate WSF Organizations to contribute as well.

Some have pointed out that the Communication Commission works more for the WSF process, than for the IC itself and that there is a need for more dialogue and communication between IC commissions.

### **- The “tools” to make an international facilitation concrete**

While the development of common tools at the international level have been positively commented, stressing the need for more cooperation between the Forum tools and the concrete dynamics of the movements; some see too much focus about tools (and too many of the latter), whereas they would concentrate on defining issues and priorities for the communication of the WSF process. As this is a work in progress, it will be an issue for further debate in the next IC meeting, as well as the necessary increase in collaboration with the work of the WSF office and the challenge of solving the language and interpretation issues both during WSF events and for the WSF process in general.

### **- The Communication process towards Dakar**

The Dakar forum, as people of its organizing committee affirm, needs to have materials and means to communicate it as soon as possible. We have to identify different tasks: the Com Com has its responsibilities, but it's not enough. The local organizing committees have their own responsibilities for communication and the key is cooperation. We have to identify task/tools/resources to be transferred to local groups when needed by event's promotion and communication.

The shared projects, through Ciranda, Flamme

D'Afrique and IPS Terra Viva, representing also participants of Radio and Tvs shared projects, proposed to give special attention to themes related to peoples and concerns of the African Diaspora in the WSF process towards Dakar.

The delegate of the African Organization of the 2010 WSF emphasized the importance of strengthening relations of South-South Communication between alternative means in the building process of the 2011 WSF.

A seminar will be organized in Dakar in July to discuss the collaboration and cooperation needed. The date still needs to be found.

The debate ended with the approved proposal to continue the discussion in the next IC and open it even more in a special thematic seminar of Communication during the 2011 WSF, that should be called by the International Council and opened to the WSF universe.

Based on proposals debated in the Methodology Commission that the WSF promotes International Thematic Seminars, the Communication Commission proposed that a Thematic Communication Seminar should be held as a first experience.

**The debate ended with the agreed proposal to continue discussing in the next IC and to open it even further with a special seminar during the WSF 2011. Final remarks pointed out:**

- the need to evaluate the relevance of the WSF for movements and how it can be renewed.
- we need to strengthen the cooperation among us (starting by members of Comcom participating in mailing lists of other commissions)
- we need to clarify responsibilities
- communication is not just a technical matter but a matter of a vision
- the challenge is not just to elaborate a “message” of the Forum, but how we can renew the spirit of the Forum and communicate it

**Other documents of the Communication Commission were presented during the IC Meeting:**

**- Presentation in plenary**

PPT: <http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF-presentation-def.ppt>

PDF: [http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF\\_comcom\\_presentation\\_060510.pdf](http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF_comcom_presentation_060510.pdf)

**- Communication questions table**

RTF: [http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF\\_comcom\\_question\\_table.rtf](http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF_comcom_question_table.rtf)

**- Activity report January-April 2010**

RTF: [http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF\\_comcom\\_activity\\_report\\_1\\_2010.rtf](http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/WSF_comcom_activity_report_1_2010.rtf)

**- Report by Giuseppe Caruso (NIGD)**

PDF: [http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/Communication-Mexico-IC\\_Caruso.pdf](http://openfsm.net/projects/communication-commission/report-of-mexico-city-ic-meeting-may.10/Communication-Mexico-IC_Caruso.pdf)

**- Shared communication projects: ANNEX 6 of this Report.**

## **5.2 Report of Methodology Commission**

### **Methodology and Strategy Commissions Meeting**

1. The Methodology Commission informed what were the axes of discussion during its meeting and informed on the methodological preparations of our colleagues in Dakar for the 2011 WSF.
2. The Strategies Commission informed that they have decided on three aspects:
  - a. to add methodological reflection and perspective to the actions and workplan of the Strategy Commission.

b. Continue the Commission's project, presented by Gus, focusing it in the process and events of 2010 towards Dakar and beyond.

c. an open point still not defined is to make a connection with and between concrete struggles of social movements. It was considered that the WSF should have direct utility for social movements and give more visibility to its social struggles. This dimension is going to be discussed with the Dakar Organizing Committee and it will be encouraged to add important issues to the discussion, such as: war, poverty, climate change.

3. Regarding Gus' proposal, it will:

a. create a strategy debate space of social movements and organizations in the WSF, with an open space in the website with 4 questions: analysis on the different crisis, analysis of the anti-globalization movement: what proposals and alternatives to face the crisis, what is expected from the WSF and for Dakar.

b. Accumulate from the process, of the 40 events in 2010, getting reflections from them, putting them on the web.

c. Stress themes that look more necessary to us and which could be developed.

These proposals echo in the discussions and developments that happened in the Methodology Commission; in the aforementioned themes, as well as in the perspective of recovering new paradigms and worldviews, different from the Western hegemony, towards a new inclusive universalism. Another coincidence was also the privilege given to concrete struggles as a substantial dimension of the WSF.

**d. It was stressed the importance of also putting all this reflection in supporting new relations that will feed a new political culture.**

### **5.3 Report of Strategy Commission**

The Strategy Commission had several meetings:

- Several members were present at the seminar of the Methodology Commission
- A proper meeting of the Strategy Commission
- A meeting with members of the Methodology Commission
- A meeting with members of the Communication Commission

1. Seminar of Methodology Commission:

What became clear at the Methodology Seminar was that methodology and strategy are closely linked. Some of the problems that the IC and the WSF are faced with cannot be solved by methodology alone. The belief that our methodology can change anything is fading. Every problem in terms of 'either/or' is changed in an 'and'. The WSF intends creating a new political culture, a new way of doing politics, but what exactly is it that we want to change? The IC is in many ways non transparent, it inhibits an open discussion on many issues and is perceived as being a closed

elite. There is a lot of frustration among members of the IC and we should avoid fragmentation. Should we not try to decolonize our methodology? The world had changed since 2001, so we too may have to change our ways of working. No solutions can be found if we are not connected to the concrete struggles in today's world.

For Dakar, a clear objective is necessary, based on cooperation. Civil society does not work in the same way as political parties. The IC is in a permanent process of adaptation, and we should not forget the positive steps that have been taken. Looking at the objectives and to 2011 Dakar, we should see up till where the self-organized events can help, how we can help the movements and organizations to interconnect, how we can plan the program, how to organize the thematic assemblies. There should be no methodological fundamentalism, a process of inclusion is needed. Convergence can be stimulated, not by imposing points of view but by indicating directions. But also our divergences can be made visible. And the importance is to create spaces for debate.

## 2. The Strategy Commission

a. Short discussion on the draft guidelines: in fact they are a kind of methodology for the Strategy Commission and should help to guide further discussions. The text will be further distributed. Comments and amendments can be made until the next IC, where the text can be finally adopted.

b. At the IC in Montreal there was a proposal to put 4 strategic questions to social movements and scholars concerning all the crises and the alternatives to it. This project can now be put on the rails and will be linked to the more than 40 events happening in 2010. A window will be available on the WSF website and this will give space for debate. All the strategies sent by movements will be gathered and uploaded on the website. This process should be discussed at the 2011 WSF Dakar. It could lead up in the future to a kind of Wikipedia.

Once we have started aggregating strategies from different movements, we will be able to gather solutions and proposals movements are making to their struggles and then cross them with others. This way we could make efforts to build coalitions.

c. A second proposal was made in order to strengthen the impact of the WSF. This could be done by way of co-organized events and a well defined communication strategy. Several remarks were made concerning the importance to link up with the concrete struggles in different places, to try to provide answers to different social movements, to try to make the WSF more useful to movements and to make their struggles more visible. A coherent strategy should have consequences for methodology. The Strategy Commission should not be afraid to put the hard questions.

However, according to others, all the Strategy Commission can do is to organize a space where coalitions can be built. It can give a voice to the most marginalized.

## 3. Short meeting with Methodology

The discussion mainly concerned the ways of linking the website project to the 2011 WSF Dakar. A number of specific topics should be taken into account, like the endless war, poverty, climate change. This can also be linked to the discussion on the thematic axes.

#### 4. Short meeting with Communication

Communication is also an important strategic element, it should be a permanent concern of the Strategies. Should we aim to reach the mainstream media? Communication is positioning. It should go from movements to strategy and from strategy to movements. There should be more meetings between both commissions

#### 5. Conclusion:

Different small meetings were held in order to prepare the website and to prepare the debate on the thematic axes.

Some questions came up repeatedly during the different meetings, such as concerning the need to interconnect different events and social movements, the need to make the process more visible and more useful.

The meetings with other commissions were seen as very positive and they can help to make the WSF-process more coherent. We hope the new LG can take this into account for the future planning of the ICs.

The general objective is an accumulation process.

### **5.4 Report of Resources Commission**

#### **Funding strategy for the WSF process**

*Report and recommendations from the Resources Commission*

*The World Social Forum is not an event. Nor is it a mere succession of events, although it does try to dramatize the formal meetings it promotes*

Boaventura De Sousa Santos

The World Social Forum's organizing pace, and its specific organizing process create several issues regarding resources mobilizations. Until now, each WSF Organizing Committee had to raise its own funds for the event and the local processes, be it the World Social Forum, Polycentric events of the

WSF, thematic forums and, of course, Regional, National and Local forums. Resources mobilization for the international process has been the responsibility of the IC Resources Commission, in which IBASE played a crucial role.

Most, if not all the conclusions and recommendations presented in the report on WSF's financial strategy are still relevant<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, some of them might even have gained more acuity. This decentralized structure aims at preventing the IC (and its Resources Commission) from turning into a bureaucracy that would control the WSF process. However, as stated in the report, *this entails a number of risks. In the absence of a proper and coherent strategy, the biggest risk being face in this period is to run the few well-known sources dry, trigger donor fatigue and frustration, exacerbate internal contradictions and fail to detect and recognize emerging capacities or opportunities.*

In fact, WSF's organizing pace, and its specific organizing process create several problems for resources mobilization. Even if being a *process*, WSF is still mainly and *event-driven* dynamics. Thus, there have never been real long-term projects and plans, but a permanent rush after funds. The process has suffered from this situation, and has only managed to last thanks to the openness and flexibility of very few funders – and, of course, thanks to the commitment of IC members and their kind contributions. The absence of regular mid-term concept notes has only been balanced by privileged relations with a few NGOs and foundations.

Yet, the financial and economic crisis clearly narrows opportunities. Together with (potential) weariness of WSF's recurring funders, the events' constant growth and the lack of midterm planning, the crisis urges us to diversify sources: *enabling the WSF to succeed in making a qualitative leap towards a new financial life period*<sup>2</sup>, which is nothing but a very crucial and actual one.

Even though, the WSF process' accuracy is not at stake: the financial and economic crisis has shown WSF's capacity of anticipation and proved that their hypothesis were right; and social forums proliferate all around the world, and continue to innovate in their organizing and responses to local contexts and needs of social movement.

### ***WSF's funding structure***

(see table: WSF funding structure)

Until now, the WSF has depended on a small number of big funders. From 2001 to 2009, NGOs and foundations contributed to 45% of the events' incomes – not to mention the process, which is almost fully dependent on NGOs and foundations.

65% of the US\$ 9.573.339 NGOs and foundations have granted come from only four different organizations (Novib, Hivos, the Ford Foundation and SIDA) – see table. It comes up to more than 80% if we include EED and ICCO. Conversely, small donors (amounts lower than US\$ 20.000) only represent 3% of WSF's resources (and 7% of the total amount granted by foundations and NGOs).

Direct contributions from participants in each of the forum (i.e. the registration fees) amounted to 15% of the resources WSF raised over the last decade (i.e. the equivalent of Novib's contribution to the sole events). The rest of funds comes from public agencies, governmental institutions, local authorities, as well as from private or public companies (mostly Petrobras).

Thus, WSF is financially very weak, and ensuring its durability remains the same challenge it was after its first edition.

### ***Perspectives***

We see growth, excitement and dynamism of the WSF process in the proliferation of social forums. Over 40 national, regional and thematic forums are taking place in 2010 alone. These forums are

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1 Rolando Lopez, Theo van Koolwijk, Nandita Shah, "gWorld Social Forum financial strategy, report and recommendations" h, September 2006.

2 The challenge that was at the core of the survey Rolando, Theo and Nandita conducted.

creating innovations to the social forum process and responding to local contexts and needs of progressive social movements. The International Council was originally established to provide overall coordination of the annual WSF events. When the event shifted to being bi-annual, the IC's focus also changed to management of the overall process. Now the WSF has further evolved with the emergence of the numerous national, regional and thematic forums.

How do we rethink the IC process and structure to reflect the changing reality on the ground?

Practically, if we are to continue to find resources for the process, we need to convince donors and potential new funders that the WSF is still a relevant and dynamic process. Until now, the WSF process appears as a very fuzzy one. The only visible elements of the process are the administrative one: IC and commission meetings, WSF office, Liaison Group, etc. It can give observers (including funders) the feeling that the process is a bureaucratic one. Moreover, innovations happening in local, regional or thematic forums remain most of the time invisible to the organizers of the World Social Forum events.

### ***Recommendations***

Resources commission proposes that we'll conduct a survey to capture the lessons of these forums – how they are being resourced and organized, what variations and innovations they contribute to the methodology of the WSF process, and how we can support their efforts. This survey would be done in coordination with other commissions, especially the Strategy Commission, which as engaged in a similar process.

Together with the other commissions, the resources commission proposes to identify and develop commons that can be shared and used by different forums (e.g. translation and interpretation resources, website, database, communications, etc.).

## **6) New IC Liaison Group**

The process of renewal of the IC Liaison Group started in October 2009 during the Montreal IC Meeting. A Working Group was formed and they started drawing up a document. After a Meeting in Porto Alegre in January 2010, a proposal was drawn up and sent to the IC lists to be discussed during the Mexico City Meeting.

Also in the mean time, submission of applications to join the renewed Liaison Group was opened. The Working Group was responsible for receiving and evaluating them, according to some criteria, i.e. gender/region parity, how long the applicant has been participating in IC meetings, what type of organization the applicant represents. There were 15 applications, and 14 of them were considered - the only one not considered was because the applicant was very new in the IC process. The applications approved by the International Council were:

Raffaella Bolini	ARCI	Italy
Virginia Vargas	Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur	Peru
Olivier Bonfond	CADTM	Belgium
Francisco Whitaker	CBJP	Brazil
Salette Valesan	Ciranda Internacional	Brazil
Alexandre Bento	CUT	Brazil
Jos3 Miguel Mederos	Encuentros Hemisf3ricos	Cuba
Taoufik Ben Abdallah	ENDA	Senegal

Maria Liège Rocha	FDIM	Brazil
Hamouda Soubhi	FMAS	Morocco
Claire Courteille	ITUC	Belgium
Ryu Mikyung	KCTU	South Korea
Ana Maria Prestes	OCLAE	Brazil
Wilhelmina Trout	World March of Women	South Africa

The gender balance is in favor of women as there are 8 women and 6 men; there are 3 European, 3 African, 1 Asian, 2 Latin American (excluding Brazil) and 5 Brazilian delegates. Attempts are being made to expand the WSF process in the direction of other regions – especially towards Africa, the Middle East, and the rest of Asia - and this should be reflected in the next LG composition. The sectoral affiliation is very balanced, with 3 women organizations, 3 trade unions, 2 regional, 2 human rights, 1 youth, 1 communication and 1 debt organization.

10 of these organizations were already members of the LG before and 4 are new ones (CADTM, CIRANDA, FDIM and FMAS). The mandate states that no organization can be member of the LG for more than 2 turns, therefore in the next composition most of the members will be renewed.

The mandate and the terms of reference were discussed in a IC session and the final document can be found in the annex of this report.

## 7) Next IC Meeting

During the IC Meeting, the Resources Commission brought up the problem of financing the next Meeting in Dakar, for being extremely expensive, and the problems it would generate to the Dakar Organization. In its turn, the Dakar Organization raised up the importance of holding the next meeting there in terms of mobilization and preparation for the event.

Some proposals were made after discussing this. The main one is to keep the next Meeting in Dakar, but if until August the Organizing Committee shows it won't be able to host the meeting, then it could be held in Palestine. The Organization of the World Education Forum, to be held in Palestine, offered themselves to host the next IC Meeting immediately after their Forum. It also was proposed that no IC Meeting is to be held in the second semester, due to its high costs, and a smaller and more technical one would be held in Dakar prior to the event. If this last proposal is chosen, then the next IC Meeting should be held in Dakar immediately after the WSF in 2011.

## ANNEX 1 – Solidarity Fund

The Organizing Committee of the Mexican WSF was able to cover all the flight ticket reimbursement requests made to the Solidarity Fund by members of South organizations for the IC Meeting. Two organizations were covered by the fund dedicated to the Thematic Social Forum Mexico – OCLAE and Alianza Internacional de Habitantes. The requests of all organizations sum up to USD 39 824,22 and EUR 3654. The amount of donations made by North organizations sum up to EUR 3800 and USD 70, including what was left from the Solidarity Fund of the previous IC Meeting.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Requested USD</b>	<b>Requested EUR</b>
ABONG	1270	
CUT	1196	
Palestinian NGO network	1520	
PAALAE / Conseil Africain & Comité d'Organisation du FSM 2011	3005	
COSATU	4293,69	
IDEA/MST	983	
Conseil Africain et Comité d'Organisation du FSM 2011	1722	77
Panos Institute West Africa – PIWA / Institut Panos Afrique de l'Ouest – IPAO	2537	
SODNET	2456	
CBJP	1196	
FMAS (FORUM DES ALTERNATIVES MAROC)	1361	
Encuentros Hemisféricos Contra el ALCA	150	
REPEM – Red de Educación Popular entre mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe	501,86	
FDIM	1397	
Articulación Feminista Marcosur	557,67	
ALOP	1239	
IBASE	1200	
Alianza Internacional de Habitantes		
Alternatives International	1620	
OCLAE		
Ciranda	1141	
Instituto Paulo Freire	1424	
ATTAC Togo / ROAD		3577
Transnational Information Exchange (TIE)	1405	
ENDA / CONSEIL AFRICAINE & COMITE D'ORGANISATION DU FSM 2011	3224	
Coligação para a Justiça Economica	2177	
World March of Women	2248	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39824,22</b>	<b>3654</b>

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>Donated EUR</b>	<b>Donated USD</b>
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Caritas Internationalis	400	
CETRI	200	
CETRI	200	
ATTAC	400	
NIGD	200	
Red CONSEU	250	
Fondation Frantz Fanon	200	
CRID	400	
FUNDACIÓN GALIZA SIEMPRE- CONSEU	400	
Sobra do recurso de montreal		70
Sobra do recurso de montreal	1150	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3800</b>	<b>70</b>

## ANNEX 2 – List of Attendance

ABONG	Alianza Internacional de Habitantes
Alianza Social Continental	ALOP
Alternatives	Alternatives International
Articulación Feminista Marcosur	ATTAC
Caritas Internationalis	CBJP
CEALL	CETRI
CIRANDA	Coligação para a Justiça Economica
COMPA	Organization of the 2011 WSF
COSATU	CRID
CUT	Encuentros Hemisféricos Contra el ALCA
ENDA	Euromarches
FDIM	FMAS
Focus on the Global South	Fondation Frantz Fanon
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance	IBASE
ICCO	IDEA
Instituto Paulo Freire	IPS
ITUC	Jubilee South / Americas
KCTU	NIGD
OCLAE	OXFAM
Palestinian NGO network	Panos Institute West Africa – PIWA / Institut Panos Afrique de l’Ouest – IPAO
PPEHRC	Red CONSEU
REPEM	ROAD
Social Watch	SODNET

Transform!	TIE
Vasudaiva Kutumbakam	World March of Women

### ANNEX 3 – WSF Funding Structure

Annex of the Resources Commission Report (see item 6.5 of the Report).

	FSM 2001	FSM 2002	FSM 2003	FSM 2004	FSM 2005	FSM 2007	FSM 2009	Total	%	%
<b>incomes</b>	<b>443.978</b>	<b>1.201.747</b>	<b>3.298.542</b>	<b>2.982.036</b>	<b>6.709.358</b>	<b>3.422.564</b>	<b>3.115.476</b>	<b>21.173.701</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>agences de cooperation</b>										<b>100%</b>
Novib	321.114	717.738	1.418.971	2.302.868	2.365.774	2.446.874	987.964	9.573.339	45,2%	
Hivos	161.707	285.511	504.903	480.137	567.176	766.350	345.819	3.111.603	14,7%	32,5%
Ford	100.000	121.057	576.982	654.466	365.574	131.000		1.151.040	5,4%	12,0%
SIDA				493.548	241.240	273.306		1.008.094	4,8%	10,5%
ICCO	42.314	61.622	87.958	210.985	171.025	262.000	52.661	888.565	4,2%	9,3%
EED		70.697	77.482	169.224	124.128	131.000	168.932	741.463	3,5%	7,7%
Action Aid			53.999	55.438	57.566	100.000	161.701	428.704	2,0%	4,5%
CCFD		39.937	25.098	47.591	45.819	39.300	60.239	257.984	1,2%	2,7%
Christian Aid					133.770	121.366	50.656	255.136	1,2%	2,7%
Cordaid						196.500		196.500	0,9%	2,1%
MS Kenya						161.311		161.311	0,8%	1,7%
Tavola dela Pace						104.800		104.800	0,5%	1,1%
Oxfam UK						80.051		80.051	0,4%	0,8%
SDC (Switz.)				69.124				69.124	0,3%	0,7%
Dev. And Peace (Canada)				23.028			42.407	65.435	0,3%	0,7%
Rockefeller b.					50.000			50.000	0,2%	0,5%
PPM							50.000	50.000	0,2%	0,5%
Misereor			31.802				32.974	31.802	0,2%	0,3%
HB foundation						23.240		23.240	0,1%	0,2%
Aide et action						20.000		20.000	0,1%	0,2%
<i>diverse sources (amounts &lt;20000\$)</i>	17.093	138.914	60.747	99.327	309.476	36.650	22.575	684.782	3,2%	7,2%
<b>registration</b>	122.864	484.009	413.457	645.500	538.127	361.290	569.244	3.134.491	14,8%	
<b>local gvt</b>	450.000	1.000.000	1.070.895		1.093.501	157.200		2.321.596	11,0%	
<b>federal gvt</b>			17.431		1.129.954	457.200	46.578	1.651.163	7,8%	
<b>mixed stock corporation</b>			315.544		1.581.100		418.312	1.896.644	9,0%	
<b>stands, food, etc.</b>							105.414	105.414	0,5%	
<b>financial investment result</b>			62.244	4.064	902			67.210	0,3%	
<b>local trust</b>				29.604				29.604	0,1%	

## **ANNEX 4 – Liaison Group Mandate**

**Document with the objectives, the responsibilities, the composition, the functioning, the rotation and the terms of reference of the Liaison Group of the IC of the WSF**

### **Content:**

1. Definition
2. General objectives
3. Responsibilities
4. Composition
5. Functioning
6. Rotation
7. Terms of reference
8. Evaluation

### **1. Definition**

The Liaison Group of the IC-WSF has a technical/operational mandate as assigned by the IC. It has no political mandate or power whatsoever, its mandate is one of responsibility. It only takes decisions or undertakes actions as approved by the IC within the framework of the Charter of Principles. Its members are not representatives of the IC, they cannot speak on behalf of the IC or of the WSF.

### **2. Objectives**

- Facilitate the work of the IC, and the relations between the IC and the Commissions and working-groups, as well as the relations among commissions and working-groups.
- Facilitate and implement the decisions of the IC-WSF.

### **3. Responsibilities and tasks**

- Contribute to the organization and the dynamics of the activities of the Commissions, as well as to the stability of its coordination.
- Support the promotion of permanent and mutual relationships, debates and communication between members, Commissions and working groups of the IC.

- Ensure that the commissions take their responsibilities in the framework of their mandate in general and according to the decisions of the IC in particular.
- Based on the contributions of commissions, working groups and members of the IC prepare the meetings of the IC and of the Commissions (agenda, documents, etc.) with the help of the WSF Office.
- Send the agenda and the relevant documents for the meetings of the IC and possibly for the Commissions to all members two weeks before the IC meeting.
- Establish a Yearly Working Plan of the IC, stimulating the Commissions, working groups and members of the IC in order to make them contribute to the yearly working plan of the IC.
- Based on the same multi-centralized process, prepare an annual report of the WSF process and the implementation of the Annual Working Plan of the IC prior to its adoption by the IC.
- Coordinate and supervise the activities of the WSF Office. Contribute to the search for funding of the WSF Office, to the creation of the necessary working conditions and infrastructure, and the adequate use and protection of human and material human resources of the WSF Office.
- Elaborate an annual financial audit of the available resources for the activities of the LG and WSF Office.
- The LG, in coordination with the WSF Office, will have a register of the participation of its members in the LG meetings, as well as in meetings of Commission, working groups and IC-WSF.
- The LG, in coordination with the Communication Commission of the IC and the WSF Office, will responsibly contribute to the regular edition of the WSF Bulletin.
- prepare proposal for fund raising based on the annual workplan and also oversee disbursement of funds and managing allocation of funds to different commissions as per decisions in the IC.

#### **4. Composition**

Preliminary remark : A rigid respect of the criteria here below will not always be possible but the best balance will be looked for in order to adopt a new LG.

The Liaison Group is a group of individuals (delegated by their organization member of IC) with more than two years of experience as members of the IC-WSF and familiar with the dynamics of the IC, with time and willingness to take up the responsibilities for the tasks of the LG and with the support of their organizations.

Membership is based on voluntary contributions as an expression of the commitment towards the implementation of the tasks of the LG.

The following criteria will be taken into account for the composition of the LG:

- Diversity: the LG has to reflect and express the different traditions and political sensibilities of the IC members
- Regional, sectoral, thematic and gender balance: the LG has to reflect the different realities and processes, regional as well as sectoral and thematic and in terms of gender.

The LG has a minimum of twelve members and a maximum of fourteen members, respecting the above-mentioned criteria. A maximum of 50 % will be new members and a minimum of 50 % will be members coming from the old LG in order to ensure continuity. All members will be effective members of the LG.

The LG will decide at the beginning of each of its meetings who will coordinate it, for effective meetings as well as for chat sessions.

## **5. Functioning**

The following rules will apply for the functioning of the LG:

- Decisions are taken by consensus. If an issue is discussed for which the IC has to decide or if there is no consensus among the members of the LG, the issue will be referred for an open discussion in the IC-WSF.
- Meetings of the LG are open to members of the IC-WSF, although the non-members of the LG can participate in debates but do not take part in the decision making and do not count for the consensus to be reached.
- The LG will make a specific working-plan for the implementation of the mandate given by the IC-WSF, different from the one concerning its internal functioning. This working plan will mention the division of tasks and responsibilities for each member of the LG.
- Members of the LG will commit themselves in to commissions and working-groups in order to promote the articulation between them and with the IC-WSF, without interfering in the responsibilities and coordination of the different commissions and working-groups. There can be no 'dual responsibilities', that is, facilitators of commissions will have to give up their tasks once they become members of the LG.
- The LG will have regular meetings by chat, taking into account the time zone differences in order to allow all members to participate and to reach the necessary quorum. Decisions taken during chat sessions will be made visible during 48 hours in order to facilitate the opinion of all members of the LG prior to these decisions being made effective. Effective meetings of the LG will be organized in relation to WSF-process meetings, according to the needs and requirements of the IC. There will be at least two effective LG meetings per year. A report of every meeting of the LG will be made available on the LG-list and possibly on the lists of IC Commissions.
- For specific debates in LG meetings a contribution of Commissions and working-groups can be asked. If necessary and possible, joint meetings can be organized.
- For all meetings of the LG a quorum for decision-making is established at a participation of 50 % + 1 of its members. If the quorum is not present and a decision has to be made, the ab-

sent LG members can be asked to give their vote within 48 hours. Polemic and non urgent issues can be referred to an open discussion in the IC-WSF.

- For the meetings of the LG, members can possibly and in exceptional circumstances be substituted by someone of their own organization, provided he/she is updated and following the activities of the LG and the WSF process in general, and provided he/she has the same abilities and support of the organization. Preferably this will always be the same person. If a member of the LG does not want or cannot be substituted by someone of his/her own organization, he/she can ask another member organization of the IC, provided that the same criteria are applied.
- Members of the LG will have access to the Solidarity Fund in order to be able to participate in meetings.
- Working languages of the LG will be English and Spanish.
- The LG, possibly in collaboration with the Commissions and working groups of the IC, will help the WSF Office in the writing of reports of meetings of the LG, of Commissions, working groups and possibly of the IC itself.

## **6. Rotation**

The LG has a mandate of two years. Every two years, a new LG is 'elected' by the IC on the basis of a proposal from a WG, according to the following procedure:

1. One meeting before the end of the mandate of the LG, the IC opens a new period during which nominations for the new LG can be made. The ex-members can also nominate themselves for a new LG, though no one can remain longer than 2 mandates. During this IC meeting, a working group 'LG' consisting of two members of the LG and 2 to 4 members of the IC will be created in order to receive and examine the nominations, as well as the evaluation report. The working group will present all the candidates and remind the IC of the criterias and make a proposal in order to be the closest to the different criteria. Then the IC plenary will debate the proposals and make a decision.
2. During the IC that coincides with the end of the mandate, this proposal will be discussed and the new LG will be decided on.
3. At the end of the IC meeting where the mandate comes to its end, the old LG ceases to exist and the new LG can start its work. During that IC meeting the old and new LG's meet together in order to 'hand on the torch'.

## **7. Terms of reference**

The following main criteria will apply:

- + The commitment to take the responsibility for the implementation of the mandate given by the IC

to the members of the LG;

- + The responsibility to implement the tasks mentioned in the Working Plan;
- + The participation in at least 75 % of the LG meetings, according to the evaluation periods;
- + The LG work will be evaluated each time its membership is renewed, according to the terms of reference that have been decided.

## **8. Evaluation and renewal**

The elements to be taken into account will be:

- a) Participation in meetings and chat sessions
- b) Implementation of tasks and responsibilities according to the Work Plan
- c) Systematic involvement in the activities of Commissions and working groups
- d) Contributions to debates and activities for the LG, Commissions, Working Groups and IC.

For the evaluation process in general, the LG will propose the creation of an WG 'LG' to the IC in order to coordinate the process. The IC will decide on the composition of the WG.

As part of the individual evaluation process, each LG member will prepare its self-evaluation, taking into account the agreed evaluation criteria. The collective and individual evaluation process will take place at the end of every mandate of two years.

At the end of each period of two years, at the moment of the evaluation, all members of the LG resign and a new period for auto-nominations begins.

The Working Group LG, together with all members of the IC, will be responsible for the design and organization of the evaluation process, according to the criteria for the evaluation and respecting the calendar.

In collaboration with the WSF Office, the working Group LG will organize a process of self-nomination for the IC members.

Taking into account the agreed criteria for the composition and the terms of reference, the Working Group LG will present to the IC two lists, one with members of the existing LG, and one with new proposed members. The IC will elect 6 to 7 members from each list.

**This document about the Mandate – Functioning – Composition – Responsibilities and Rotation of the LG can be updated, revised and changed by decision of the IC. , at each moment of renewal of the LG, that is at the end of each phase.**

05/02/2010

## **ANNEX 5 – Strategies Debate Project**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE STRATEGY DEBATE**

The space of the strategies debate is driven by social movements and citizens who take part on the process of the World Social Forums. A process of accumulation will be built from the succession of forums.

It will be organized around three topics:

6. The strategies debates of social movements and citizens, who by their participation build the space of the WSF.  
These debates are organized around four questions: analysis by the movements of the situation and dimensions of the global crisis; the evaluation of the evolution of movements and the anti-globalization movement; the alternatives considered and proposed; and the expectations in regard of the forum process and particularly the 2011 WSF in Dakar.
7. The strategies issues and discussions held in the events that constitute the year of global actions of 2010 and in the events in which the movements actively involved in the WSF process will take part.  
In the 2011 Dakar WSF it will be held a moment of presentation of these events.
8. Strategic issues identified, proposed for discussion, coming from a thematic entry. The Strategy commission already proposed three themes (poverty, climate change, endless war). These entries will be linked to strategic axes identified for the 2011 Dakar WSF.

The space of debate is an open space. It will take into account all contributions. Partial syntheses will be regularly published.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE STRATEGIES DEBATE WEBSITE**

Texts received and retained will be presented on a "Strategies debate" window of the WSF website. The decision to publish them is made by the Working group of the Strategy commission of the International Council.

Each text is presented on the website by: its identification; the first four lines of the text; a link to it; keywords or tags. The identification includes title, author's name (collective or individual), reference to movements and associations, reference date, publishers in case of already published material.

The texts can be produced or reported by reviews associated with the process and with movements that will be associated with the strategies debate. The list of these reviews will be available on the site. The strategy debate will benefit from the organization of the reviews of their own debates.

The texts will be posted in the original language. There is no assured translation provided to the website. A translation of an abstract or a presentation, written by the authors, would be appreciated. The texts will be free of copyright and of translation. The synthesis will be translated into five languages (English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portuguese),

The reference listing will be done by keywords or tags. These include reference to the movements and events, themes, geographic areas. The list of tags (thesaurus), multilingual, will be established gradually.

The website will be organized around four topics. The same text may be included in several topics:

- The «strategies debates of movements» topic will be presented by movements around four selected questions (situation and crisis; development of movements; alternatives; expectations of the process and of Dakar).
- The «strategies debates of events» topic will be presented by events with reference to the presentation of events on the WSF website. It will consist of texts on strategic questions discussions presented by participants in these events.
- The « thematic policy debate » topic will be presented by thematic topics. The list of topics will be determined by the Working group of the Strategy commission. It will consider the strategic axes of the WSF 2011 in Dakar.
- Rubric partial synthesis will be organized by the Strategy commission.

The strategic debate could be further extended by the creation of a WSF Wikipedia, together with the Communication Commission.

## **ANNEX 6 – Shared Communication Document**

### **The shared communication in the WSF and the construction of Another Communication for Another Possible World**

The WSF started to recommend ten years ago that alternative communication to the mainstream media be done in a shared (collective and collaborative) way. It was a joint proposal between the WSF and participants in alternative media, without rejecting other initiatives to publicize the WSF through the conventional press.

However the possibilities for the visibility of the forum in the market media ended up being the same as that experienced by the movements and organizations that make up the forum. When these organizations and movements carry out actions of resistance and alternatives to the current model, they are criminalized and caricatured. The image of the WSF in the media starts with confronting that which this media does to the universe of struggles and alternatives expressed in the WSF.

The challenge of communicating for Another Possible World has surged within the WSF and until then it was difficult to imagine: journalistic coverage based on a collective and open media pact between the WSF, the alternative media, marginalized spokespeople and communicators. The first Ciranda, in 2001, was an invitation to this pact, renewed in the following years and editions.

The necessities have changed. The technologies have changed. The experiences have multiplied with other names, other protagonists, particularly in the continent in which the WSF was born, from the Casa Macunaima, in the Brazilian Social Forum, to the Minga de Movimientos Sociales, in the Social Forum of the Americas, to the Laboratory of Shared Communication, in the Panamazonic Social Forum, to the initiative Tequio, that developed within the Thematic WSF in Mexico, searching for young partners in the universities.

Every new initiative has strengthened the possibilities of sharing, adding or incorporating the previous initiatives, creating a fabric of connections that cannot be torn easily. Sometimes it is coverages and memories that need to be recuperated and preserved, such as the videos from Porto Alegre, Florence, Mali, Nairobi, Mumbai and Belem. At times, it is the collaborative but invisible practices, such as the different communities of free software that at this moment are putting into practice the same system for Ciranda, for the communication of the Conference of the Peoples about the Climate, in Bolivia, the platform of Enlazando Alternativas, in Madrid, and close to here, the site of In-

dymedia of Mexico.

The Communication of the WSF should be larger than the WSF and this is the point.

### **The response we are still waiting for today**

It is certain that many times the WSF was used as a laboratory of joint coverage and of the collaborative use of tools. This generated groups, initiatives and movements of communication, among youth who had the first contact with collective media experiences in the World Social Forum. And today they contribute to different organizations, media and movements. However, it is not possible to say that these groups continue considering communication within the WSF as their laboratory. We should think about this.

The motor of shared communication is the partnership between the WSF process and the media, in which the primary role is to stimulate encounters and exchanges and the second is to manage media coverage with autonomy and exchange of efforts. The objective is that this concept be carried to other universes, thematic and geographic spaces of the WSF, but this requires a policy, methodology and concrete interest on the part of the WSF in developing closer relationships with alternative collectives and media.

In 2004 and 2005, one hundred participants in the WSF working group on communication designed and carried out a group of initiatives to weave together the various expressions of the alternative media, which were integrated in four shared projects: Ciranda, Radio Foro, TV Foro and the Free Knowledge Laboratory. An extensive report sent to the IC in the Netherlands showed the success of the experience and its potential to mobilize. The report proposed that shared communication be the communication policy of the WSF. It was proposed that the IC call a Seminar about communication

Understandably, the International Council was not yet aware enough to the strategic importance of communication because it required a cultural change for all of us – in which the desire for space in the media gives rise to the struggle for the integral right to communication. And without a response by the IC, over the following two years, the alternative media related more directly to the events of the WSF to which they had more access and proximity. The energy of these shared projects was not perceived by the IC as an opportunity to work together.

On the other hand, communication in the WSF has advanced. In 2007, the Commission of Communication of the IC was able to expand and approve a project - also started in 2005 - aimed at organizing the internal and external communication of the WSF on the basis of minimal budgets and based on the principle that the organizations of the IC could and should take over the activities (remunerated and unremunerated) contained in this project.

It was a different proposal, but it was not exclusive of the proposal of shared projects, and some items were reformulated to include the articulation of alternative media (proposed and accepted by Ciranda and Instituto Paulo Freire) and the Forum de Radios (subsequently assumed by Amarc). But it was an attempt at accommodation of very different processes, which would need to be understood differently.

The efforts of this committee, during the following three years, were decisive for the IC to be able to incorporate communication in the most sensitive themes. This was a breakthrough that eventually led the CI to ask: where does the communication policies of the WSF come from? Are they in agreement with the statement that Another World is Possible?

Within the limits that these issues pose, it is possible to affirm that the work of the Communication Commission has been transparent and open, and expresses a willingness to incorporate and value the relationship with alternative media. This commission must be supported by the International Council to do this. But it is important to understand that this advance does not yet solve the demands of another process, one whose purpose is to mobilize for communication, and for this we are still waiting for a sign of welcome from the IC.

To actually implement a communication policy in the WSF it is necessary to convene all the movements, alternative media, social communicators and developers of tools and contents for a large discussion about this building. Which practices, which tools, fighting, and alternative communication strategies should we share so that the universe of WSF will advance in its collective right to communication? Only this call will bring those movements for communication and media-makers who are among us and among the movements in which we are also, which did not leave the WSF, that participate in its events, but they do not understand communication in the WSF as a huge collective and shared construction where their contribution will be essential. We strongly believe that this call must be made by the WSF International Council, ensuring the conditions necessary for this large and open debate to be realized as one of the urgencies of the World Social Forum.

Ciranda & Shared Projects

*São Paulo, 25 de Abril de 2010*

*Ciranda & Projetos Compartilhados*

*This proposal was approved by the Assembly of the Shared Communication International Association*

(with representatives of Pan-Amazonian Communication Lab, Focuspuller, de WSFTV and representatives of Memory Working Group)

## **ANNEX 7 - MEETING ON CLIMATE JUSTICE – FROM COCHAMBAMBA TO CANCÚN**

**During the IC Meeting several other side meetings were held. They were not part of the IC Meeting agenda, but were open and involved many IC members. Some of them produced texts on these meetings, which does not express the IC opinion. You can find them here:**

Several meetings were held in Mexico City 1-7 May to discuss mobilisation plans in Mexico, and towards Cancun for the COP16. These meetings were held during the Mexico Social Forum (2-4 May) and during the WSF International Council meeting (3-7 May). In all the discussions, organisations acknowledged the importance of the World Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Defence of Mother Earth, and saw the «Peoples Accord » as a key political reference on the road

from Cochabamba to Cancun.

The following is a short summary of the current situation, no doubt with many gaps.

In Mexico City itself, there is a broad gathering, of organisations, including international NGOs such as Greenpeace, networks such as the RMALC (formed to fight against trade liberalisation), and numerous local and national organisations, many of them active on environmental issues. This gathering, facilitated by the Mexico office of the Heinrich Boell Foundation, does not yet have a platform or a precise identity.

At this stage this is an open space, which obviously does not represent the totality of those who are preparing for the COP16. However, several initiatives are already underway, such as a « solidarity economy caravan » which will start in Aguascalientes, in the centre of Mexico in mid October, travelling via Mexico City and San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, and arriving in Cancun at the end of November. A group of activists is also building the « Klimaforum10 » — based on the model of the Klimaforum09 in Copenhagen. This group has a more defined platform however its relationship with other initiatives or organisations has yet to be defined.

Also present at the Mexico meetings were representatives Via Campesina North America and UNORCA (one of Via Campesina's Mexico members) which has a strong base, especially in the south of the country. As a first priority, Via Campesina is committed to mobilising their members before becoming involved in a larger coalition.

Activists from Cancun itself were also present. Originally, the Mexican government announced that the COP16 would be held in Mexico City, assuming that an agreement would be reached in Copenhagen and therefore that the COP16 would pass without problems. Following the failure in Copenhagen and fears about mobilisations around the conference, the Mexican government decided to organise the conference in Cancun, more than 2000 kms from Mexico City and in a tourist zone which is easily isolated from the rest of the city. The local activists have decided to accept the challenge and construct a large coalition, but in the spirit of the Cochabamba « Peoples Accord ».

On the question of next meetings, all the participants, including activists from the US, Asia, Europe and Africa, agreed it would be useful to meet again, with the possibility of an international meeting in Mexico in September or early October. However, in the next months there are several other international meetings, including Bonn in early June during the UNFCCC intersessional, in Detroit at the end of June during the US Social Forum, in Istanbul in early July during the European Social Forum and in Asuncion Paraguay during the Americas Social Forum in August.

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