

## World Social Forum International Council Proposed Principles and Guidelines for Resource Mobilization Draft 10-31-07

*(This is a skeleton draft of the Principles and Guidelines document that the Resource Commission is working on. It is presented to the IC to receive feedback and inputs before elaborating it. The Resource Commission commits itself to circulating the elaborated proposal within a maximum of one month following the Belém IC meeting)*

The World Social Forum (WSF) International Council (IC) affirms that the forum process and event belong to the social movements and forces challenging neoliberalism. The political will and commitment of the people in these movements assures the WSF's autonomy and political integrity. Therefore the WSF is built on principles of solidarity, collectivity and community. The task of mobilizing resources for the WSF should not fall upon any individual, organization or commission but should be a shared commitment of us all.

Collective responsibility to secure the financial and non-financial resources needed to ensure the sustainability of the WSF process and event, decision-making on how those resources are allocated and managed, and being transparent and accountable about their use, is a key principle that should be enshrined and put into practice by all participants and structures of the WSF. The IC delegates responsibility to the Resources Commission to develop strategies for resource mobilization and provide information to the IC to make informed decisions.

Therefore the WSF IC, LOCs<sup>1</sup> and participants will mobilize resources according to the following principles and guidelines:

### *Ownership*

Contributing financially to the WSF process and event, according to means, is a concrete expression of the ownership of the Forum by its participants and an affirmation of their responsibility to its autonomy and sustenance.

1. Registration Fees
  - a. The LOCs of WSFs will establish a sliding scale for registration to the forum. The low end of the fee scale should be affordable – allowing the broadest participation of the local population and social movements. Organizations and individuals who can pay more should be encouraged to do so.
  - b. At the same time all participants should be encouraged to contribute an amount that will help cover the costs of the forum and the organizing process, thereby ensuring the autonomy of the WSF.
  - c. The IC supports the principle that no one should be denied access to a WSF based on cost and that LOCs should also develop policies for free access based on local circumstances.
2. The financial implications of decision-making
  - a. The IC and other bodies of the WSF (commissions and working groups)

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<sup>1</sup> LOC: Local Organising Committee

will ensure that resource aspects are integral to their decision-making processes. Collective responsibility demands this, particularly as the WSF's resources are generally limited.

- b. Cost recovery – organizations should contribute to the extent that they are able to the use of the space at the WSF.

### *Resource Mobilization*

In raising funds for the Forum process and event, the WSF will ensure that funding sources are in harmony with the Charter of Principles and that the Forum's character, values and image would not be undermined or questioned.

#### 3. Financial Institutions and Corporations

- a. Based on the Charter of Principles, neoliberal financial institutions will not be allowed to contribute to the WSF, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the Asian, Africa and North American Development Banks, etc.
- b. Sponsorship fees from private corporations to advertise or sell products will also be excluded, which is a classic form of raising funds in the neoliberal paradigm.
- c. The IC and LOCs can raise money from private foundations, churches, or non-governmental organizations. However, the IC and LOCs should assess the records of these institutions, since many of them are also multinational, and their record on environment, land, workers rights, gender issues, indigenous and national sovereignty, etc. may also be a matter of concern.

#### 4. Public Resources

- a. The IC and LOCs may access public resources through governments and public sector enterprises. However, in accordance with the Charter of Principles, organizers should be cautious not to allow governments or political parties to co-opt the organizing process through their support of the WSF.
- b. The IC and LOCs should also assess the record of public sector enterprises as well before deciding on accepting their support.

### *Management Principles*

#### 5. Deficit

- a. The IC and LOCs should assure that a deficit will not be incurred by any WSF event.
- b. Budget priorities must be set in the case that adequate resources are not raised. These priorities must be clear, transparent and collectively owned by the LOCs and the IC.
- c. Similarly, deficits should be the shared responsibility of the IC and LOCs and we must develop a shared plan to alleviate deficits as quickly as possible.

#### 6. Surplus

- a. This is a good idea ☺.
- b. In the case of a surplus at the end of a WSF, a post WSF budget should

- be developed by the IC and LOC based on the surplus amount.
- c. The budget may include support for the ongoing organizing for the WSF, follow up (evaluation, documentation, etc.) of the local organizing process, alleviation of the existing WSF deficit, and solidarity support for other social forums.
7. Overall Coordination of Resource Mobilization
    - a. Commissions and Working Groups of the IC and LOC may also raise money for their own organizing efforts, provided that the basic overall requirements of the WSF as an integral whole have been secured. These resourcing plans and budgets should be shared with the Resource Commission, to develop a process for overall coordination and to avoid competition over funding sources.
  8. Solidarity Fund
    - a. The WSF will continue to maintain a Solidarity Fund built through voluntary contributions of participants.
    - b. The Solidarity Fund will be used to support the participation of delegates from the Global South.
    - c. The utilisation of the Solidarity Fund will be subject to the principles of transparency and accountability that apply to all resource-related matters.

#### *Transparency and Accountability*

The WSF is committed to full transparency and accountability in all resource-related matters, (including sources of funding, budgets, costs and audits).

9. All financial reports, detailing income sources and expenditures, are public information and shall be posted on the WSF website as well as other media to ensure their free availability to all.
10. All WSF bodies (Secretariat, IC and its commissions and working groups, and LOCs) shall undertake the appropriate measures to ensure adherence to the principles of accountability and transparency, including timely and detailed reporting, as well as independent auditing of resource use when applicable.
11. Insofar as (or to the extent that) it is mandated to manage the WSF process- or other funds, the Resource Commission will report regularly to the IC, providing full information on available resources and on the resource needs of the different commissions and working groups.
12. IC and LOC members should also take ownership of knowing the state of resource mobilization and management so that political decisions are informed and support the sustainability of the WSF.