

Social Movements' International Newsletter n°0 - Nov. 2009

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To work!

A meeting of the social movements was held in Mexico last August to discuss and develop joint proposals for the future. This meeting was in the context of the first World Social Forum in 2001, and was the result of a proposal by the CUT and the MST in Brazil, ATTAC-France and Focus on the Global South in Thailand.

The 2002 WSF, which was the first large international event (50,000 participants) which opposed neoliberal globalisation after the attacks of 11 September, highlighted the commitment to build international resistance and solidarity - a commitment which was expressed above all in the appeal of the social movements.

It was then that it was proposed to the MST and the CUT to establish a small secretariat to facilitate the coordination of the initiatives of the social movements during the coming period, and for the 2003 WSF. This marks the beginning of discussions on how we, the social movements, can work to build a more permanent coordination.

From that was born the idea of working towards the construction of a Global Network of Social Movements, on the basis of a proposal from the CUT and the MST in Brazil, the World March of Women, ATTACFrance and Focus on the Global South - Thailand. The Network's objectives were to enable the social movements to exchange analyses, opinions and information regarding the current situation, and also to enable the sharing of the work and the priorities of the movement before and after the Forums.

The project is ambitious (going beyond occasional meetings between movements of different countries, moving towards new horizontal structures to facilitate exchanges and to encourage joint action and widen the audience of social movements on every continent) and the network has had difficulty carrying it out.

However, the crisis of capitalism, its social, economic and environmental effects and the policies of employers and government, as well as the campaigns of workers and popular sectors, make it necessary to develop a useful tool for sharing information, coordinating initiatives and reflecting on alternatives to the crisis and on strategies for struggle. As a first step on this path, we are building this Email of the Social Movements. We look forward to your collaboration [1].

1) To send any material of interest in this electronic journal: nazioartea@esk-sindikatua.org

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[France / Continental : "Somewhere along the line, this has encouraged the idea of struggling and continuing the fight"](#) (Didier Bernard, CGT Continental, France)

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Action Agenda and forward planning

World Social Forum

WSF: the key events planned for 2010 in the run-up to the 2011 WSF in Senegal

The meeting of the International Council of the World Social Forum (IC-WSF) that took place on the 6th-8th October last reconfirmed that several events were planned for 2010 that would mobilise and support the development of the 2011 WSF in Senegal. A specific effort is being made to link up the various events so that there is a continuity in the WSF process throughout 2010. There are about 25 events scheduled to be held in January 2010, as well as a seminar to evaluate the WSF process. The complete updated list of events is available on the WSF web site: www.forumsocialmundial.org.br (in the Agenda section > Mobilisation dates).

Given our interpretation of the current situation and the update on where the social movements stand after a year of generalised crisis of the system on one hand, and the market statement that the crisis is already over, we have had the idea of holding many discussions on "Our response to the crisis" in any event scheduled to take place in 2010. The cumulative results will be presented at the WSF in Senegal in January 2011. The Methodology Commission of the IC-WSF still needs to determine the best way to make alternatives to the crises visible. If you wish to contribute to this discussion, please contact the WSF office and ask to join the commission: fsmci@forumsocialmundial.org.br

The preparation of the 2011 WSF is another subject that was discussed in both the plenary sessions and the commissions. An initial organisational seminar is scheduled to take place in Dakar, in Senegal from November 16th-18th. As well as sharing lessons learnt from past Fora, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss African and international mobilisation and the decentralised preparatory mechanisms for preparing for the event. The challenges, the visions and the strategies of the African social movements are a point listed on the agenda of the Dakar seminar, and will contribute to building the 2011 WSF.

The full report of the meeting of FSM-IC will be available on this Web site of the FSM:
http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/main.php?id_menu=3_2_2&cd_language=3

Social Movements Assembly

Many of the movements that were present at the IC meeting also took part in the Assembly

of Social Movements meeting on the evening of the 6th of October. The following events that were not listed on the 2009 calendar were included: mobilisation during the WTO meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva (Switzerland) in late November and the Klimaforum in Copenhagen, in Denmark, 6th-18th December.

The importance of bringing social and environmental themes together was emphasized, as well as the need to link them to the development model. This means that it is necessary to connect the issues of WTO negotiations, where themes such as the liberalisation of goods and services, to the UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen. Geneva will also mark the 10th anniversary of demonstrations against the WTO in Seattle.

Other subjects discussed at the meeting included supporting the resistance of people in Honduras against the coup d'état, and the way the Assembly of Social Movements works. It was suggested that a seminar should be dedicated to this subject.

It was also proposed to start drawing up the agenda for 2010 mobilisations.

The next ASM meeting is scheduled to take place in Copenhagen in Denmark during the Klimaforum. Additional information will be uploaded onto the ASM list.
