

The World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya, January 20-25 2007

Monday 6 November 2006, by [BOLINI Raphaëla](#) (Date first published: 4 November 2006).

Information given by Raffaella Bolini to the European Preparatory Assembly (EPA) in Frankfurt, 4 November 2006.

The 4th World Social Forum will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20th to 25th of January.

All the information can be found in the website www.wsf2007.org

Registration of individuals, organizations and self-organized activities are open, on the same web site.

Deadline for registering activities is 31st of November.

Having a WSF in Kenya is a big challenge, for the African and world social movements.

Only five years ago, at the time of the first WSF in Porto Alegre, a WSF in Africa was only a dream.

Now it's a reality.

Everybody can imagine the difficulties the African Organizing Committee is facing in organizing it, in a enormous continent, where social movements have no money, where many social organizations have to access to Internet, where connecting flights between African countries are few and expensive.

The African Organizing Committee know very well that it will be impossible to overcome all these problems, and that it will impossible to have in the WSF in Nairobi the whole of the African movements, campaign, organized civil society and communities.

Nevertheless, they consider the Nairobi Forum as a crucial step, in order to strengthen the links and the unity of the African movements, which can give them energy and possibility to start a new process of convergence and mutual cooperation, which is needed by them and by all of us.

The African Organizing Committee is organizing bus caravan from different African countries in order to let people from all the continent to reach Nairobi.

They need money: if you can ask money to Government, Local Authorities, institutions please do it!

The Forum will be held in a stadium, in a Nairobi suburbs 13 kilometres from the centre of the town.

There will be a Youth Camp close to the Forum venue.

The Parliamentarian Forum and the Local Authorities Forum will be held in the same period.

On the 20th afternoon, there will be the opening session.

On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd the self-organized activities will take place.

The 24th will be a special day, devoted only to activities aimed to create convergence for actions, campaigns and mobilization.

On the 25th there will be the closing session.

The axis for registering activities will be nine. You can find them on the web site.

Every day a slot will be devoted to big debates and events organized by the African Committee, in order to invite everybody to discuss global issues seen from African perspectives.

For the first time the International Council overcome the old discussion about the Forum: if it is only a space for debate or it is also an opportunity for organizing mobilization. The decision taken about the forth day devoted only to meetings aimed to launch actions and concrete initiative is very important and provide all the movements with new opportunity.

The International Council took another important decision: in 2008 there will not be a WSF. Instead of it, the WSF will promote a global day of mobilization.

It will be not a thematical one: it will be the occasion to show to the world, to the public opinion, to media and to politics that there is a global and broad alliance of social actors for a “different world” , even if we are working on different issues and with different priorities.

The discussion about the global day of mobilization will be done in Nairobi. A working group of the International Council has been form in order to spread information and collecting ideas.

Remember that 2008 will be also the year of the presidential election in USA. The global day of mobilization can be a great way to try to play an influence for helping the defeat of Bush.

In this context, it can be useful to remember also that from 27th of June up to 1st of July 2007 the **USA Social Forum** will be held in Atlanta. Everybody is invited to take part in a so crucial event.