



## **GENERAL REPORT**

**20 July 2017**

*Dear fellows,*

Here is a brief account of the stage of our construction process of the **2018 World Social Forum in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, which will be held from 13 to 17 March, 2018, at the Federal University of Bahia** and in several other public spaces in the city.

The idea of this report, which will be succinct due to the translation, is to update everyone about what we have already accumulated and to inform about the next steps.

### **Political Aspects**

The scenario in Brazil and Latin America is very complex and the facts have occurred in an accelerated way. It is difficult to predict the political framework in which the WSF2018 will occur in March 2018. Several scenarios are possible, some more serious or less. However, in any case, it is imagined that in the context of democratic and popular activism, the scenario will be one of resistance, struggle, criticism and self-criticism in the search for alternatives.

In this context, the WSF2018 can be a space for unification of struggles, denunciation of violations of rights, demonstration of unity and strategic repositioning in the regional and international scenario.

To fulfill this role, the event must be representative of the field and articulated with the other international processes. Therefore, present the proposal in Bonn at the COP23 in November 2017, in Buenos Aires at the WTO, as well as the commitment to carry out a Global Anti-Davos Action in January 2018 in several cities around the world, are fundamental to get to March 2018 with a greater possibility of gain strength.

### **About the Process**

The idea of the WSF 2018 in Bahia was conceived by the Bahia Collective and presented to the WSF International Council in January 2017, at the Resistances Social Forum in Porto Alegre. The WSF-IC endorsed the Bahia Collective to build the political and financial conditions for the event to be realized.

Between February and May 2017 were held meetings with social movements and segments, several plenary sessions in Salvador, a Plenary in São Paulo and a Seminar in Salvador. This process concluded to hold the WSF 2018 in the period from March 13 to 17, 2018, centrally at the Federal University of Bahia. This decision was informed to the WSF-IC.



As part of this Brazilian Collective, a **Facilitation WG** was created composed of 06 organizations from the Bahia Collective, 06 Brazilian organizations members of the WSF-IC and 08 national organizations. The processes of consultation and composition of these spaces are being carried out at this moment and should be completed by the end of July 2017.

The proposal is that this Brazilian Collective should address the main issues in dialogue with the WSF-IC and that in October 2017 two activities are carried out:

- a) A **Meeting of the International Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017**, in Salvador;
- b) An **International Seminar on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2017**, also in Salvador within the themes of the WSF2018 articulated with the Federal University and the Government of Bahia;

According to the availability of agendas, some of the members of the WSF-IC are invited to participate in the two moments.

### **Methodological Proposal**

There is no closed methodological proposal. It is under construction. It is evaluated that some experiments carried out in Canada in 2016 and in the Social Forum of Resistance in Porto Alegre point to new paths. The challenge is to include in this process, among other segments, youth, indigenous peoples, afro descendent populations, LGBTTI community, women's movements, the struggles of peripheries and of territories in resistance.

Overcome this challenge requires a lot of humbleness and openness. No one will feel included if he/she cannot bring his/her own truth and way of being. Therefore, we imagine that until the October International Seminar in Salvador, people should seek to think alternatives, without tying a definitive proposal.

### **Dissemination and Communication**

A Local Communication WG was created in Salvador, which is articulated with the Facilitating WG and keeps forwarding proposals about dissemination and communication. The following measures are being carried out:

- A) Website: It is ensured the domains .wsf2018 and .fsm2018 where it will be available the event website and the emails.
- B) Logo: a Logo Contest will be launched, the three best proposals will be selected and submitted to online vote.



C) Convocation: A WSF2018 Convocation Open Letter will be launched to disseminate and get support to the WSF.

## **Working Groups**

As a result of the National Seminar in Salvador, held at the end of May this year, the mobilization for the formation of the following Working Groups was made: Programming, Infrastructure, Culture, Communication, Mobilization, Fundraising, Solidarity Economy and Youth Camp. The idea is that the WGs will be formed through accession and with whatsapp and email groups, promoting dialogue and nurturing the process of building the WSF2018.

## **Fundraising**

The signing of the Term of Commitment between the Government of the State of Bahia, the Federal University of Bahia and the WSF2018 Brazilian Collective is in the process of being concluded. In the same way there are signs of possible support from the City Council of Salvador and the Legislative Assembly of the State of Bahia.

The terms and financial values of the Bahia Government's support for the event are under discussion. The formalization of this process should occur in mid-August 2017 in time to make possible the International Seminar and the International Council meeting in October 2017 in Salvador.

## **Schedule proposal**

### **July**

Launch of the WSF2018 Convocation Open Letter - July 10, 2017

Launch of the Website and the Logo Contest - July 10, 2017

Constitution of the Brazilian Collective and the Facilitation group - July 13, 2017  
- São Paulo

2nd Meeting of the Facilitation group - July 31, 2017 - São Paulo

### **Agust**

Release of the winning logo of the contest - August 01, 2017

Formalization of the support from Bahia State Government and University of Bahia

Meeting of the Facilitation group - August 18, 2017 - São Paulo

### **September**

National and international meetings and articulations

### **October**

**Meeting of the WSF International Council - 15 and 16 October, 2017 - Salvador**

International Seminar - 17 and 18 October, 2017 - Salvador

### **November**

Delegation to COP23 - 06 to 17 November, 2017 - Bonn/Germany



**December**

WTO People's Summit – 11 to 14 December, 2017 – Buenos Aires/Argentina

**January**

Anti-Davos Global Action – 20 January, 2018

**March**

World Social Forum 2018 - 13 to 17 March, 2018 – Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

**Facilitation Group of the Brazilian Collective for the WSF2018**