REPORT ON THE 3RD PLENARY MEETING OF UBUNTU FORUM

Thursday 23 September 2004
Parlament de Catalunya

UBUNTU

World Forum of Civil
Society Networks

REPORT ON THE 3RD PLENARY MEETING OF WORLD FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS – UBUNTU

Thursday 23 September 2004

PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

Event linked to **Forum BARCELONA 2004**

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Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament   MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES Y DE COOPERACIÓN   AGENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL   FRIDE FUNDACIÓN PARA LAS RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES Y EL DIÁLOGO EXTERIOR
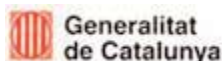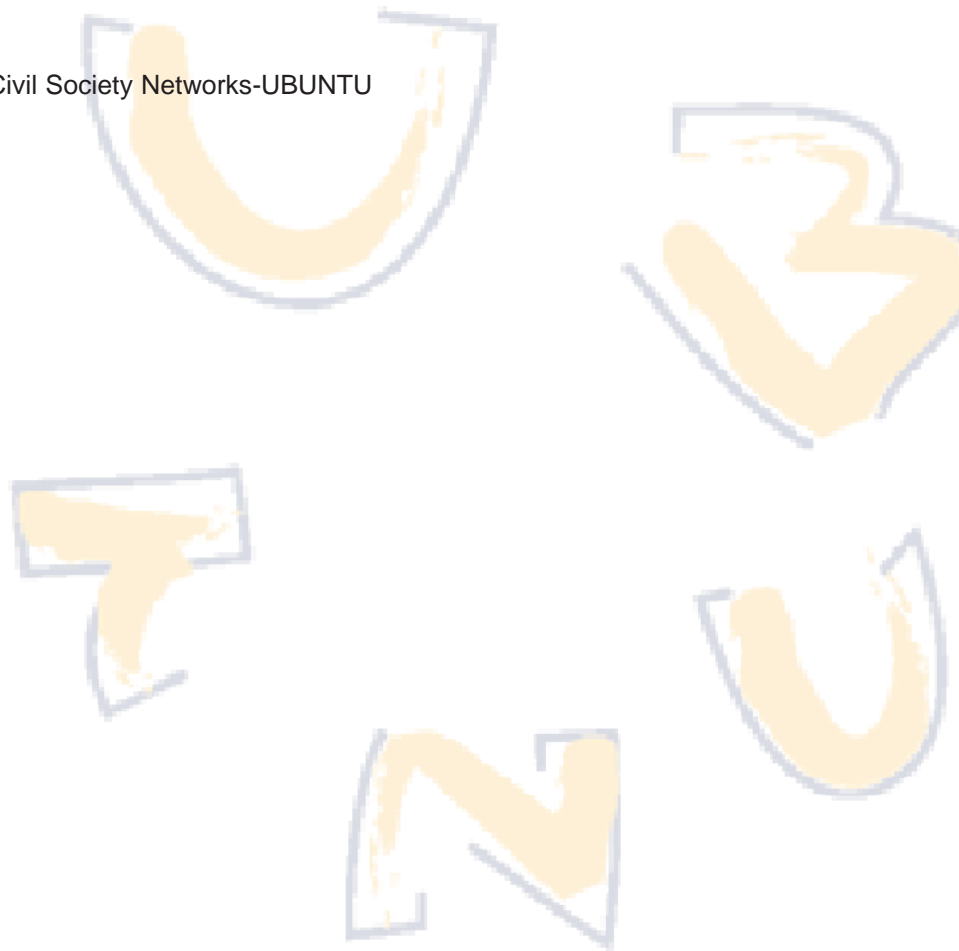
UBUNTU is an age-old African term for humaneness - for caring, sharing and beign in harmony with all of creation. As an ideal, it promotes co-operation between individuals, cultures and nations.

Report contents:

Group photo. UPC photo.

INTRODUCTION

The 3rd Plenary Meeting of the World Forum of Civil Society Networks - UBUNTU Forum took place on 23 September 2004 at the seat of the Catalan Parliament.

The meeting was attended by more than 80 individuals and organisations representing civil society, UBUNTU Forum members or observers. Part of the meeting was also attended by representatives from governmental organisations invited by the UBUNTU Forum to the "International Conference on Reform of the United Nations and Other International Institutions", which took place at Forum Barcelona 2004 on the afternoon of the same September 23 and throughout September 24.

The meeting was officially opened at a ceremony attended by the President of the Parliament of Catalonia, Ernest Benach; Autonomous Government of Catalonia Prime Minister Josep Bargalló; the Vice-Chancellor of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Josep Ferrer; Federico Mayor, who called the meeting; and, representing the UBUNTU Forum participants, Sara Longwe.

The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of the Secretariat's report by Josep Xercavins, coordinator of the UBUNTU Forum Ad Hoc Secretariat. After a coffee break, the working group sessions began.

Group A: UBUNTU Forum: Building an effective forum of civil society networks.

Group B: WORLD CAMPAIGN: state, extension and prospects.

Group C: Review of funding, communication and organisational issues related to our initiatives.

Once the working group meetings had ended, the plenary session was opened once more, when the rapporteurs presented the reports on the work of each group[1].

The meeting was closed by a brief ceremony attended by Carles Duarte, from the Board of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004; Jaume Pagès, CEO of Forum Barcelona 2004; and Federico Mayor.

A group photograph was taken at the end of the meeting, after which the participants were taken to the site of the Universal Forum of Cultures to attend the "International Conference on Reform of the United Nations and Other International Institutions".

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[1] These reports, duly reviewed, form the central core of this document.

Working Group A

UBUNTU Forum:
Building a forum of civil society networks
with capacity to form a catalyst for change

Chair: Manuel Manonelles, Secretariat, UBUNTU Forum

Rapporteur: Miquel de Paladella, Executive Coordinator, Global Movement for Children

Participants: Mohammed Fayek, AOHR; Cyril Ritchie, WOCSOC; Gilberto Dupas, U. Sao Paulo; Herman Spanjaard, IPPNW; Flavio Lotti, Peace Round Table; Lois Barber, EarthAction; Jennis Bruttus, 50 years is enough; Minar Pimple, PDHERE/YUVA; Jonah Witkamper, GYAN; Antonio Papisca, U. Padua; Mario Busdachin, UNPO; Ricardo Díez Hochleitner, Club of Rome; Gemma Adabba, IFCTU; Sara Longwe, FEMNET, Sari Varpama, Citizen's Global Platform; Edoardo Greppi, WPF; Birgitta Dahl; Mohammed El Fatah Al Naciri, League of Arab States; Gustavo Marin, Alianza/FPH; Arthur Muliro, SID; Jordi Armadans, IPB/Fundació per la Pau; Èlia Susanna, Justice & Peace Europe.

General comments about the UBUNTU Forum and recommendations

a) The general opinion was that Ubuntu is an absolutely necessary forum of networks in the present context. It is important, timely, and has a huge list of members and supporters.

b) The principal challenge facing Ubuntu is to ensure that its work generates synergies. This means that interactions amongst members, supported by the Secretariat and directed by Federico Mayor, should produce greater political impact. To this end, members should become more involved in the Forum, integrating it into their organisations and networks. Using Ubuntu as part of our networks' efforts to achieve social justice, equality and solidarity is crucial to the success of the initiative.

c) There is a need to secure the cooperation of like-minded parliamentarians (in line with the Secretariat's efforts in the UK) and their networks, media (as participants, not only covering events) and governments.

d) It is necessary to define the UBUNTU Forum. The following proposals were put forward:

Ubuntu may have long-term objectives, but it also needs to define and focus on the first practical step possible. The present programme is too broad and wide-reaching, making social mobilisation more difficult to achieve. The forum should, therefore, form an alliance around a feasible short-term goal enabling it to provide the catalyst for change before moving on to a second stage. There could be more than one such achievable goal as long as we can form alliances around them.

The need to reform structures rather than policies was debated. Nonetheless, the group did not reach agreement, as some considered them as part of the same thing, and that Ubuntu should centre on both.

The 2005 programme is crucial with regard to reform of the UN. In 2005, Ubuntu should take advantage of certain key events and opportunities such as the G8 meeting in the UK (formally centred on development issues), the MDG Summit in New York in September 2005 and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong. There is a need to take up a position at these events and to coordinate different programmes to maximise our efforts.

The need to become something more than a global pressure group. The need to formulate national strategies demanding that governments act globally.

Ubuntu declarations

a) The general opinion is that the declarations form a useful tool for putting across Ubuntu's message. Nonetheless, on certain occasions they can be too closely-linked to events and may be seen as opportunistic. The group suggests that declarations should be drafted according to trends or processes around key moments in the year (see previous point) to enable people to understand the relation between events and the need to reform the international institutions.

b) Declarations could also be supported by data gathered as part of studies carried out by Ubuntu members. Why not use Ubuntu to promote certain key messages that those involved in the initiative can circulate? This is the type of synergy we propose; synergies with great potential scope.

Secretariat

There was general recognition that the Secretariat is performing valuable work with very limited resources. It is suggested that the term "Ad-Hoc Secretariat" should definitely be replaced by "Secretariat".

Conclusion

The success of Ubuntu to this date has been based principally on the excellent work performed by the Secretariat and Federico Mayor's direction. From now on, however, it is in the hands of Ubuntu network members. Ubuntu's capacity to wield influence will depend on its members. For this reason, we should integrate Ubuntu into our networks and into our work.

Working Group B

WORLD CAMPAIGN:
State, extension and prospects
of the campaign

Chair: Núria Molina Gallart, Secretariat, UBUNTU Forum

Rapporteur: Eduardo Estévez, World Confederation of Labour

Participants: Renata Bloem, CONGO; Rob Wheeler; Tomas Verba, Forum 2000; Sean O'Siochru, CRIS Campaign; Lorna Gold, CIDSE; Markus Brun, CIDSE; Nadia Johnson, WEDO; Patricio Rodé, Pax Romana; Cândido Grzybowski, IBASE; Sergi Rovira, UNESCO Centre of Catalonia; Luz Velásquez, Latin-American Network for Urban Environmental Studies; Jon Arrieta, UNESCO Etxea; Richard Falk, Princeton University; Samir Amin, Forum du Tiers Monde; Olivier Kampala; Aureliargemí, CONSEU/CIEMEN; Mònica Sabata, CONSEU/CIEMEN; Chico Witaker; Michael Strauss; José Olivio Oliveira, CIOSL.

Debate report

A large part of the discussions of the Working Group on the "State, extension and prospects of the world campaign for in-depth reform of the system of international institutions" focused on the strategies required to raise public opinion awareness about the issues behind the campaign.

A key question in the discussion was precisely **how we should transmit our message to people** in order to fully involve public opinion and grassroots organisations in the campaign.

1. Here, discussion highlighted the need to *involve networks that support the campaign* (networks of civil society organisations, international union organisations, the academic community, etc.) in transmitting its message. These networks, it was suggested, should include the campaign issues in their agendas and, above all, in their day-to-day work. This was considered the most effective strategy to spread the message and reform proposals amongst target groups closest to the different networks promoting the world campaign.

2. Several participants insisted on the need for the campaign, if it is to be really effective in achieving its goals, to come down from circles of experts in the issues involved to grassroots organisations and the general public.

3. To this end, it is proposed that community dialogues on reform issues should be established. These would enable citizens to take part in defining the specific reform proposals at both global and regional and local level. Needless to say, one of the means suggested for conducting the dialogues was Internet (e-forums).

4. It was also suggested that teaching materials should be produced and distributed to enable organisations to reach out to target groups closest to them.

5. Campaign committees should also be set up at sub-continental level, it was further proposed, to gather feelings and reform proposals aimed at enhancing global governance in the different regions of the world.

6. It was particularly stressed that the questions selected should make sense and should be supported by citizens. They should also attract media interest.

Discussion also centred on the need to **establish strategic alliances with different actors, both local and global.**

1. As mentioned previously, civil society networks involved in the campaign were frequently mentioned as key actors with which alliances should be established with the aim of spreading the campaign.

2. The idea was also proposed of establishing contact with networks of small and medium enterprises and professionals with a vision of the social responsibility of business, and which do not share the strategies pursued by the large transnational corporations.

3. The importance was also stressed of establishing contacts and, if possible, alliances, with parliamentarians particularly with parliamentary commissions engaged with issues important for the campaign, such as foreign affairs and international trade.

4. Links should also be established with sub-state political authorities, which are not formally represented in most international institutions.

5. Special mention was also given to regional and sub-regional organisations such as the African Union, the Arab League, MERCOSUR and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Discussion also centred on **which messages should be transmitted.**

1. Several members of the Working Group insisted that the *proposals the campaign transmits should be concrete and specific* in order to achieve greater involvement amongst citizens in such an issue as reform which, by its very nature, tends not to form part of the more habitual themes of political debate in which public opinion engages.

2. More specifically, some of the particular issues mentioned included United Nations funding, the decision-taking processes of the international institutions and the link between the UN, the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund) and the World Trade Organisation. The need for changes in international law and in the concept of national sovereignty, as well as for greater democratisation was also expressed.

3. The idea of bringing world economic and trade policies into line with human rights and employment, social and environmental law was considered a powerful one for helping to put across the message behind the world campaign more clearly.

4. It was also emphasised that the political problems the campaign refers to should be approached from a shared ethical approach capable of promoting reform. To this end, the importance was stressed of prioritising the globalisation of individual and collective human rights.

5. These questions were not mentioned at random, but form a strategic option, as achieving some of the reforms proposed in these fields could have important repercussions for other aspects of global governance.

Importance was also attached to the **need to place the campaign in context within the present historic moments**, defined by some participants as one of "global political emergency". Several participants stressed deep concern about the present historic moment, insisting that the campaign should take this into account. Reform is not a subject to be dealt with in a vacuum, but should, precisely, respond to the need to contribute solutions to the serious problems the world faces.

Leveraging the Influence of Networks

Seán Ó Siochrú comments; Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS)

I think it will be important for UBUNTU to leverage more input from the various networks that are associated with it. However, many (though not all) of those networks are concerned with governance not at the macro-global level of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the reform of Bretton Woods, etc. but rather at the level just beneath, such as the specific governance aspects of the specialised agencies and individual multi-lateral agencies. I think it would be good for UBUNTU to engage with these, on an issue or thematic basis.

Let me explain by looking at how the CRIS campaign (in theory) operates.

CRIS campaign members at national campaign level are initially motivated by what they see happening in media and communication in their own localities and countries. However, they soon realise that such problems cannot be resolved solely by working at the local and national level. They must also consider the dynamics within such organisations as WTO (audio-visual, copyright, telecoms), ITU (telecoms), WIPO (copyright), UNESCO (cultural diversity), ICANN (internet governance) etc. So we get active at that level.

But after a while, we realise that the governance of these organisations is a problem, in the micro-sense that civil society has little say, but also in the big picture in that they are driven primarily by northern governments and corporate interests. Thus CRIS activists are concerned with governance at the level of these organisations.

Although I can see connections between the entire facade of the Bretton Woods organisations, and the failings of individual agencies to generate a governance structure for media and communications that supports people and social development, it is nevertheless fairly distant.

Thus, even for the CRIS Campaign it is difficult to relate the macro-global governance issues to our central areas of concern. And I believe UBUNTU must be able to make that connection so that you can motivate networks to actually go out and lobby their governments. Put practically, if we in CRIS International are to request our national CRIS organisations to lobby regarding global governance structure, we have to be able to link them to our central CRIS concerns. And the same is true for other networks.

The proposal I put forward, therefore, was that UBUNTU could work with a coalition of other networks (such as CRIS) on a thematic-based governance issue, issuing Statements, with meetings, developing publications and resources etc. An example of such a theme might be around IPRs. Copyright and patents are an area in which current governance structure are failing people across a variety of fronts - from medicines, to indigenous knowledge, to media/copyright.

So my suggestion is that UBUNTU could take a central role in bringing networks concerned with thematic issues, and focus on the governance aspects of these. The outcome might be a Statement, a meeting, some research on the specific links between the problems in theses areas, and the failing governance structures.

Anyhow, that's it. Thanks again.

Sean

Working Group C

Review of funding, communication
and organisational issues related to
our initiatives

Chair: Lluís Miret, Secretariat, UBUNTU Forum

Rapporteur: Fatma Alloo; DAWN

Participants: Álvaro Devai, Epsilon; Carles Duarte, Fundació Jaume I; Fèlix Marti, Institut Linguapax; Marti Oliviella, Alianza/Nova.

Debate report

The first point to emerge in this debate was that there was little participation in this Working Group, and that most of the participants were Catalans. Since the different points were also closely linked, no order for debating them one by one was established, though particular emphasis was placed on funding issues.

Firstly, an exhaustive review was made of the fundraising work carried out by the Ad Hoc Secretariat. On this question, the difficulty of obtaining funding was noted, as well as the fact that most funding was provided by public bodies, and that there was a clear need to diversify funding sources. The possibility was discussed of establishing fees to be paid by UBUNTU Forum members in accordance with the possibilities of each different organisation.

It was also suggested to establish an Economic Commission, made up of UBUNTU Forum members and personalities from civil society well known for their work in the field of economic management or policy. This commission would establish the lines of fundraising action, giving them credibility and an enhanced profile. The commission could arrange meetings with potential sponsors or foundation directors to develop suitable lines of funding, and with experts in media campaigns to design our own.

As regards communication, emphasis was placed on the need to launch actions of particular importance in this field: we need to encourage personalities associated with the fight for a fairer world, popular personalities from each different region, world social forum leaders, actors, film directors, singers, etc, to join the campaign to help us achieve our goals. This is a vast task, one that requires considerable effort, but we must ensure that our message goes out loud and clear.

The Working Group also approved the work the Ad Hoc Secretariat is doing in the use of the new technologies as a communication tool, and expressed its confidence that positive results would be obtained from a forthcoming campaign to gather endorsements by mobile phone text messages (SMS).

ANNEXE I

Photos

Opening ceremony. UPC Photo

Detail of the opening ceremony. UPC Photo

Working group A

Working group B

Working group C

Detail of the opening ceremony. UPC Photo

Other photos

ANNEXE II

List of invited participants

Adaba, Gemma	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions - ICFTU
Adeleye-Fayemi, Bisi	AWID Association for Women's Rights in Development
Alhdaleff, Giampero	SOLIDAR
Alloo, Fatma	Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era DAWN
Amin, Samir	Forum du Tiers Monde
Armadans, Jordi	International Peace Bureau
Arrieta, Jon	UNESCO Etxea
Barber. Lois	EarthAction
Belil, Mireia	Fòrum 2004
Bloem, Renata	CONGO Conf. of NGOs in consultative with UN
Brun, Markus	Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund/CIDSE
Brutus, Dennis	50 years is Enough
Bullard, Nicola	Focus on the Global South
Busdachin, Marino	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation
Canals, Purificació	IUCN The World Conservation Union
Carreras, Ignasi	Intermon Oxfam (Oxfam International)
Casado, Fernando	MDGs Campaign
Chiriboga, Manuel	Rimisp - Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo Rural
Colomines, Agustí	Centre UNESCO Catalunya
Dahl, Birgitta	Panel of Eminent Persons on Civil Society and UN Relationships
Dawkins, Kristin	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Desai, Nitin	Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy
Diez-Hochleitner, Ricardo	Club de Roma
Dodds, Felix	UNED-UK
Duarte, Carles	Escriptor
Dupas, Gilberto	Instituto d'Estudios Avançados
Elfverson, J. Christer	Club de Madrid
Elias, Victoria	Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development
Estévez, Eduardo	World Confederation of Labour
Évrard, Jean Pol	Caritas Internationalis
Falk, Richard	Princeton University
Fayek, Mohammed	The Arab Organization for Human Rights
Federer, Juan Francisco	Center of War/Peace Studies
Ferrer Llop, Josep	Rector Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Foster, John	The North-South Institute
Garcia-Delgado, Vicente	CIVICUS
Garrison, Jim	State of the World Forum
Gateau, Elisabeth	United Cities and Local Governments
Gold, Lorna	Trocaire /CIDSE
Greppi, Eduardo	World Political Forum
Grono, Nick	ICG The International Crisis Group

Grzybowsky, Cándido	IBASE Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas
Guerreiro, Antonio	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil
Hanfstaengel, Eva-Maria	Consultant to the UN FfD Office
Hautala, Heidi	MP
Iglesias, Jaume	President de la Coordinadora Catalana de Fundacions
Jhamtani, Hira	Third World Network
Johnson, Nadia	WEDO Women's Environment and Development Organization
Kambala, Olivier	CIPAC Centre International pour la Paix en Afrique Centrale
Lavoie, Mario	FIM Forum Internation of Montréal
Likhotal, Alexander	Green Cross Internacional
Longwe, Sara	FEMNET The African Women's Development and Communications
Lotti, Flavio	Tavola della Pace
Marco, Guido di	Former President of Malta and of the UN General Assembly
Marin, Gustavo	Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme
Martí, Fèlix	Linguapax Institute
Martin, Nigel	FIM Forum International de Montréal
Mataró, Àngels	Asociación Naciones Unidas España - Latinoamérica
Mayor, Federico	
Mbogori, Ezra	Reflection and Dev. Centre for NGOs in East. and South. Africa
Migiro, Asharose	Tanzanian Minister for Communitty Development
Mjenga, Omary	Tanzanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Molas, Alba	Coordinadora Catalana de Fundacions
Mpungwe, Ami	Ambassador of Tanzania
Muliro, Arthur	SID Society for International Development
Murto, Charles	Ambassador of Finland
Mustonen, Juha	Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy
Muthoni Wanyeki, Lynn	Africa Women's Development and Communication Network
Naciri, Mohamed El Fatah	League of Arab States
Naidoo, Kumi	CIVICUS
Nieto, Jorge	Centro Internacional para una Cultura Democrática
Oder, Judith	Interights
O'Donohue, Jonathan	Amnesty International
Oliveira, José Olivio	ICFTU Inter. Confederation of Free Trade Unions
Olivella, Martí	Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World
Oliveres, Arcadi	Justice & Peace Europe
O'Siochrú, Sean	CRIS Communication Rights in the Information Society
Pace, Bill	World Federalist Movement
Pagès, Jaume	Forum 2004
Paladella, Miquel de	Global Movement for Children
Pamlin, Dennis	World Wildlife Fund
Papisca, Antonio	Università di Padua
Parés, Maria Josep	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
Pettifor, Ann	New Economics Foundation
Pimple, Minar	PDHRE The People's Movement for Human Rights Education
Platz, Daniel	Financing for Development Office, UN
Polet, Yonnec	Global Progressive Forum
Powell, Jeff	Bretton Woods Project
Prera, Anaisabel	Fundación Cultura de Paz
Ramentol, Santiago	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Rantakari, Ilari   Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy
Rasimelli, Giampiero   EURALAT
Rasmussen, Paul N.   Global Progressive Forum
Requejo, Ferran   Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Ritchie, Cyril   WOCSOC World Civil Society Conference
Rodé, Patricio   Pax Romana ICMICA
Rojas, Oscar De   Financing for Development Office, UN
Sanchís, Norma   International Gender and Trade Network
Santana, Pedro   EURALAT
Sauquet, Michel   Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme
Savio, Roberto   Inter Press Service
Schroeder, Frank   Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Sehm Patomäki, Katarina   NIGD Network Institute for Global Democratization
Shetty, Salil   MDGs Campaign
Soares, Mario   Fundaçao Mario Soares & former President of Portugal
Spanjaard, Herman   International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Strappazzon, Ángel   MOCASE - Vía Campesina
Strauss, Michael   Earth Media
Swenarchuk, Michelle   Canadian Environmental Law Association
Tandon, Rajesh   PRIA Participatory Research in Asia
Traoré, Aminata   Writer
Vázquez, Monika   UNESCO Etxea
Velásquez, Luz Estela   Coord. Red Latinoamericana de Estudios Ambientales Urbanos
Vidal-Beneyto, José   Colegio de Altos Estudios Europeos Miguel Servet
Vrba, Tomáš   Forum 2000
Whitaker, Chico   Justiça e Paz
Wittkamper, Jonah   Global Youth Action Network
Woods, Ngaire   Oxford University

ANNEXE III

Order of the day for the meeting

08.30 h   Arrival at the Parliament of Catalonia

09.00 h   Official opening, attended by the President or Speaker of the Parliament of Catalonia, Ernest Benach; Prime Minister Josep Bargalló; the Vice-Chancellor of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Josep Ferrer; Federico Mayor; and, representing the partici-pants, Sara Longwe

10.00 h   Coffee break

10.10 h   Presentation of the Report on UBUNTU Forum activities since its creation: future direction and proposals for action, by Josep Xercavins, coordinator of the Ad Hoc Secretariat

10.30 h   Working groups on the main aspects covered by the report and on the direction and action proposed for the future

A) UBUNTU Forum: Building an effective forum of civil society networks
- Chair: Manel Manonelles
- Rapporteur: Miquel de Paladella, Global Movement for Children

B) WORLD CAMPAIGN: state, extension and prospects
- Chair: Núria Molina
- Rapporteur: Eduardo Estévez, World Confederation of Labour

C) Review of FUNDING, COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES related to our initiatives
- Chair: Lluís Miret
- Rapporteur: Fatma Alloo, DAWN

12.00 h   Summary, by rapporteurs, of working group debates. Initial conclusions and future proposals.

12.45 h   Closure, with Jaume Pagès, CEO, Forum Barcelona 2004; Carles Duarte, member of the Forum Barcelona 2004 Board; and Federico Mayor

13.00 h   Group photo

ANNEXE IV

Context and objectives of the meeting

The World Forum of Civil Society Networks - UBUNTU was established in response to a call made by Federico Mayor Zaragoza to various actors in world civil society in late-2000. Two meetings took place in Barcelona, in April 2001 and in March 2002, at which representatives from civil society all over the world constituted the UBUNTU Forum. Since then, personalities, intellectuals, international organisations, individuals from the world of the university and the media have worked to unite their efforts and build bridges for dialogue to promote peace, democracy, sustainable development and human rights.

Its objective is to coordinate and combine diverse voices, giving them sufficient force to be heard and increase the presence of "human feeling" in world political, social, cultural and economic action. Aware of the particular gravity of the problems currently facing our world, the UBUNTU Forum seeks to promote the construction of a more human, fair, peaceful, diverse and sustainable world, and to contribute to the transition from a culture based on force to a culture of peace, dialogue and solidarity. To advance towards these objectives, it was decided at the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the UBUNTU Forum - in March 2002 - to launch the **"WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR IN-DEPTH REFORM OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITU-TIONS".** Since then, promoting the campaign has become one of the forum's main activities.

As part of the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004, the UBUNTU Forum is organising a **Conference on Reform of the United Nations and Other International Institutions,** for which reason many UBUNTU activists will be in Barcelona on September 23 and 24. This provides the opportunity to hold the UBUNTU Forum's 3rd Plenary Meeting at the Catalan Parliament on the morning of September 23 with the aim of assessing the work carried out and the **objectives reached and to discuss future directions and proposals for action.**

ANNEXE V

Report by the Ad Hoc Secretariat of the World Forum
of Civil Society Networks - UBUNTU

3RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE WORLD FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS – UBUNTU

Thursday 23 September 2004
9 h - 13 h

PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

"The last thing I want is that any of our descendents should look back in some years and despise us for not daring to act when we had so much capacity to act. We must dare to seek **how**, **why** and **on what** we agree. We shall thus be able to join together to look for alternative solutions and new ways of managing the world's challenges. Being diverse is our richness, acting together will be our strength". (Federico Mayor; 02-04-01; UBUNTU Constituent Meeting).

Contents of the report:

0. CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 3RD PLENARY MEETING

0.1 As part of dialogue on "Contributing to the Global Agenda" at the Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004, the UBUNTU Forum is organising an itinerary, or conference, on **Reform of the United Nations and other International Institutions**, for which reason many UBUNTU participants, observers and friends will be in Barcelona on 23 and 24 September. This provides the opportunity to hold the UBUNTU Forum's 3rd Plenary Meeting at the Parliament of Catalonia on the morning of September 23 with the aim of assessing the work carried out and the **objectives reached and to discuss future directions and proposals for action.**

0.2 The basic instrument used for this will be a report drafted by the Ad Hoc Secretariat and sent out in advance to all participants. The main points in this report will be highlighted before the plenary session, which will be followed by **discussion in working groups, organised around points 2, 4 and 6 in the report**, with a final pooling of conclusions based on reports by the group rapporteurs. As is habitual at UBUNTU Forum meetings, this will provide the basis for a document based on the results and which, drawn up by the Secretariat, will subsequently be discussed and approved online.

0.3 Finally, we should like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals, groups and institutions whose efforts continue to make the existence of the UBUNTU Forum, the World Campaign and this very third plenary meeting possible.
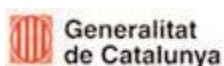
1. UBUNTU FORUM: DOCUMENTS AND SITUATION

1.1 UBUNTU Founding Document (summary)

"In late-2000, Federico Mayor made an appeal to different players in world civil society...

"The 21st century will be marked by a process of 'globalisation' that, through agreements, mergers and joint ventures launched by international networks of large financial, industrial and service enterprises, will have enormous effect on the world as a whole. This situation calls for another key player on the international scene, 'civil society', as it is known, to organise on a global scale in order to engage with the great issues on the world agenda that affect everyday life.
"The main objective is to join forces, building bridges for dialogue and communication between personalities and intellectuals, organisations and international institutions, people from the world of the university and the media, etc.

The aim is to establish a network of networks, a movement of movements, in which all, together though different, can work to create structures and forums for opinion and meeting to defend the values and principles that form the bases of democratic life, pursuing true human development on the global scale and ensuring harmony with nature and cultural diversity."

...which was answered by the announcement of two constituent meetings (in April 2001 and March 2002). The decision was taken at the first to establish the WORLD FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS - UBUNTU. *UBUNTU is an old African word for humaneness, for caring, sharing and being in harmony with all creation. As an ideal, it creates cooperation between individuals, cultures and nations.*

FINAL GOALS: VISION AND MISSION

1 The final objective of the UBUNTU initiative is, in response to the particular gravity of current problems, **to promote the construction of a more human, fair, peaceful, diverse and sustainable world, contributing to the transition from a culture of force and imposition to one of peace, dialogue, justice, equality and solidarity.** To achieve this, we need <u>**new procedures and institutions of global democratic governance at all levels**</u> (reform of existing bodies and/or establishment of new ones) **that invite the constant, active participation of, amongst other players, what is known as "civil society".**

INSTRUMENTAL GOALS; PRIORITIES

2 To seek collective forums and work methods enabling different networks, individuals and organisations in world civil society to join their voices together, formulating proposals and organising specific joint actions.

3 To act as an amplifier for the voice of civil society and to strengthen the role played by existing organisations. To this end, UBUNTU seeks:
   a) A holistic, global approach rather than to act from a specific, thematic or local perspective.
   b) To generate joint actions public statements, campaigns, etc. amongst organisations taking part in the initiative to provide a permanent source of information for citizens with regard to the key issues on the world agenda.
   c) To enhance and bring to bear civil society's capacity for dialogue, influence and impact before governments, international organisations, centres of economic power and the media.

1.2 Facts and figures reflecting the activities carried out

Since it was first established, more than 75 world civil society networks (networks of NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, etc.) and around 30 personalities, intellectuals and representatives from the world of academia and the media have become UBUNTU Forum* participants or observers, and UBUNTU has issued 16 public statements over the last 4 years addressed to world public opinion, organising and/or playing an active role at more than 50 events relating to world civil society and/or the international institutions. The Forum's key initiative revolves around the launch of the "World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions".

* According to the UBUNTU Forum founding document, *"**Forum participants** are all organisations and/or persons that wish, after the constituent process, to take part in it and endorse the essence of this document. The UBUNTU Forum's sovereignty rests in its participants".*

1.3 UBUNTU Forum public statements addressed to world public opinion

. **Stop the bloodshed in Iraq and Palestine!**
 21 May 2004

. **No to war, yes to peace: no to the Bush Administration policy**
 11 February 2004

. **Restructuring the WTO within the UN**
 2 October 2003

. **Open letter to President Bush: no war in Iraq**
 4 February 2003

. **The Prestige tragedy confirms the need for the reform of the system of international institutions**
 27 November 2002

. **In view of the alarming developments in international politics**
 7 October 2002

. **The pressing need to ensure food for the entire human family**
 3 July 2002

. **In the face of unilateralism in international politics**
 31 May 2002

. **Measures to sanction cloning of human beings**
 12 April 2002

. **In view of the increasing militarisation of the Middle East conflict**
 19 May 2002

. **Monterrey: measures to combat injustice and poverty in the world**
 18 March 2002

. **Peace, justice and security: values and proposals**
 14 December 2001

. **In view of the terrorist attack in the United States**
 17 September 2001

. **In view of the situation in Genoa**
 20 July 2001

. **Public statement on World Environment Day**
 5 June 2001

1.3.1 About UBUNTU Forum public statements

. According to the objectives and the mission described in the founding document, one of the UBUNTU Forum's instrumental objectives is *"to engage in common activities - public statements, campaigns, etc. - among the organisations participating in the initiative, as an action that will offer permanent information to citizens concerning the major issues on the world agenda"*.

. The public statements issued over the last four years have contributed to answering Federico Mayor's initial appeal, made in late-2000: *"It is for this reason that all voices must join together in order to achieve that magnitude that will make them heard, making possible an interaction to ensure that world political, social, cultural and economic action is imbued with 'human feeling'"*.

. The public statements have also served, fundamentally, to gradually identify the "shared language and vision" able to "unite the voices of UBUNTU Forum participants in their diversity".

Going to war, any war, is always a step back. A failure for democracy, development and understanding: a defeat for the whole of humanity. …

1.3.2 UBUNTU Forum public statements and the decision-making process

. According, once more, to the UBUNTU Forum founding document:

"Decisions are taken by consensus whenever possible, and otherwise by simple majority of the participants. The decisions taken are never binding for a minority opinion. Any decision and/or public manifestation of the initiative must be accompanied by a list consisting exclusively of the participants who have voted in favour or expressed their support for it."

Through this decision-making process and with the Ad Hoc Secretariat acting as a system of "communicating vessels" between participants, observers and friends of the UBUNTU Forum, over **100 personalities and/or international organisations have signed one or more of the 16 public statements issued by the UBUNTU Forum to date and which normally contain an average of around 30 signatures.**

1.4 Summary of other key activities / situations regarding networking - over the 4 years since

the Forum was established

. In cooperation with UBUNTU Forum participants and friends, the Ad Hoc Secretariat has secured a considerable presence in many world civil society activities, particularly the World Social Forum, attending all the global forums (Porto Alegre 2001, Porto Alegre 2002, Porto Alegre 2003 -with an event featuring Federico Mayor, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Sara Longwe, Roberto Savio, Renata Bloem, Eduardo Estevez, Flavio Lotti… - and Mumbai 2004), as well as some of the regional meetings.

> **We were appointed some months ago, thanks to our activities within the organisation, as members of the World Social Forum International Council, and are playing an active role in preparing the Porto Alegre 2005 World Social Forum.**

. As regards the international institutions, we have attended events and played an active role in networking, as well as publishing public statements, etc., with regard to their principal activities and, all too often, their failures to act.

> **Since the Monterrey Summit we have cooperated with the International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development, of which several UBUNTU Forum participants are members.**
>
> At the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the Ad Hoc Secretariat coordinated, along with other UBUNTU Forum participants, a caucus on global governance.
>
> **As a result of all this activity, we were also appointed some months ago as members of the UN DPI and have begun a special process of accreditation before ECOSOC.**
>
> . We have cooperated with the work of what is popularly known as the Cardoso Panel and officially as the "Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations", which was directly appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to review relations between the United Nations and civil society, and with drafting its report, published on June 21: "We the Peoples: Civil Society, the United Nations and Global Governance". The UN Secretary-General thanked the Forum for our cooperation.

. Needless to say, we also closely monitor issues relating to the Bretton Woods Institutions and world trade, whether the WTO meeting in Cancun or the UNCTAD summit in Sao Paolo.

1.5 The UBUNTU Forum website: http://www.ubuntu.upc.edu

. Although currently the subject of in-depth review, the UBUNTU Forum website completes information about the directions in which we are working.

. Apart from all the activities and interventions described on the main page entered after selecting language , the public statements addressed to world public opinion and the World Campaign, about which we will talk later, the Ad Hoc Secretariat also maintains and offers as an online service a database on civil society; as stated on the site itself:

"A pre-requisite of moving towards the creation of a network of networks is that the different actors in world civil society should wish to take this path. This initiative is aimed, even though it may be impossible, at linking all actors in world civil society in some way and even at making them all members in the end.

For the moment, this Internet site seeks to provide a gateway for certain actors in world civil society, informing about their campaigns and giving access to their key documents."
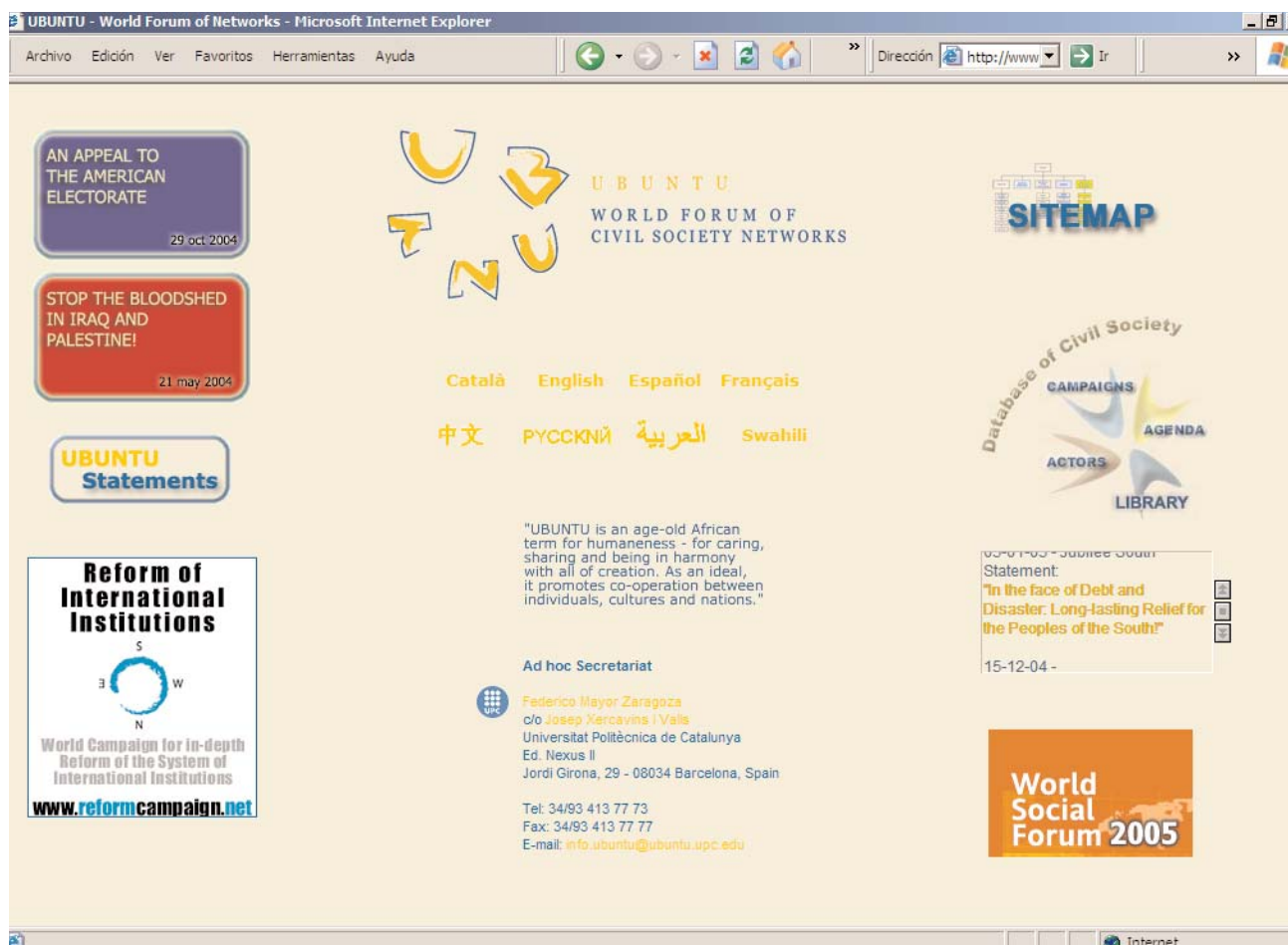
2. UBUNTU FORUM: BUILDING A FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS WITH EFFECTIVE CAPACITY

2.1 Reflections, questions and proposals for working GROUP A) at the 3rd plenary meeting

2.1.1 What general evaluation can we make of the UBUNTU Forum from its first steps to the present?

2.1.2 As regards the construction of a forum of networks:

2.1.2.1 Are we on the right path towards achieving this? Are we moving in the direction established by the objectives described in the founding document?

2.1.2.2 What should we emphasise and what should we change to enhance the UBUNTU Forum's role as a "communicating vessel" for participating networks and individuals, and contribute to "seeking collective forums and work methods enabling different networks, individuals and organisations in world civil society to join their voices together, formulating proposals and organising specific joint actions"?

2.1.2.3 How can we increase the effectiveness of initiatives and activities generated by the UBUNTU Forum and contribute to "enhancing and bringing to bear civil society's capacity for dialogue, influence and impact before governments, international organisations, centres of economic power and the media"?

2.1.2.4 Is the option to build a permanent work forum rather than establishing an organisation, attempting to create a "network of networks" and to generate activities, public statements, etc., voluntarily endorsed by participants in each case, as they wish, the correct option? Is this the option we should continue to choose?

2.1.2.5 What other large networks of NGOs, from the academic world or the media, etc. should we try to persuade to take part in the UBUNTU Forum?

2.1.3 As regards UBUNTU Forum public statements:

2.1.3.1 What general evaluation can we make of these?

2.1.3.2 Do we agree to follow the general line established to date as regards public statements, generally issuing them in response to important world events and, apart from expressing our opinion of them, always also proposing the strengthening and democratisation of the international institutions, particularly the UN, as the best path towards effectively resolving the problem or conflict?

2.1.3.3 In the compromise between making a quick response to the situation that leads us to produce the public statement in the first place and the attempt to ensure the greatest possible impact and participation (more time for amendments, for example), what should take priority in formulating public statements?

2.1.3.4 What should we emphasise and what should we change in order to increase the visibility, impact and influence of UBUNTU public statements?

2.1.4 About the Ad Hoc Secretariat's role:

2.1.4.1 What evaluation can we make, taking project concept into account (2.1.2.5., 2.1.3.3., ...)?

2.1.4.2 What should we emphasise and what should we change to enable the Ad Hoc Secretariat to play its role within the project better?

2.1.5 Other ideas, suggestions and proposals on all these questions

3. WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR REFORM OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: DOCUMENTS AND SITUATION

3.1 The campaign launch and the first documents

. "…If it was possible to mobilise millions of people for a tiny nation like East Timor, I feel that, with imagination and creativity, it must be possible to mobilise civil society worldwide around a crucial question for coming decades: that of forging a coalition, a network, of world civil society to reform the global institutions, to reform the United Nations. And this should be one of UBUNTU's priority tasks…"

This reflection by Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos Horta provides a good description of the atmosphere in which the launch of the **"World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International institutions"**, was approved after the presentation at the 2nd plenary meeting of the UBUNTU Forum -March 2002-, by Jorge Nieto (International Centre for a Democratic Culture) of the **report: "Global democratic governance and reform of international institutions"**.

3.2 From Johannesburg (September 2002) to Porto Alegre (January 2003):

campaign presentation and objectives

. The first stage of the campaign was devoted, solely and exclusively, to presentation of the campaign launch. This presentation was first made at the Johannesburg Summit (with different events attended by, amongst others: Federico Mayor, Yolanda Kakabadse, Willy Thys, Aminata Traoré,…) followed by the abovementioned presentation at Porto Alegre 2003.

A document was drawn up at this stage, entitled the **"Campaign Presentation Document"**, establishing the campaign objectives and initial agenda. To quote from this document:

> **"2. CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES: To launch a process for in-depth reform of the system of international institutions. To involve all world players in this process: international institutions, different government levels and civil society in its broadest sense. To draw up agreements with civil society over the conceptual and methodological bases for such reform. To this end, key lines of action include:**

2.1 *Raising the awareness of world public opinion* about the need for and importance of in-depth reform of the system of international institutions to move towards world democratic governance
2.2 *Carrying out initiatives aimed at obtaining the support of world public opinion*, employing the usual mechanisms as well as setting up a first experiment in *world citizen legislative action* by Internet, collecting as many signatures as possible in support of the campaign from the most diverse and representative sources as possible.
2.3 *Channelling the pressure of world public opinion towards the international powers* (international organisations, different governmental levels, world economic actors, etc.) to impress on them the importance of and need for in-depth world institutional reform.

6. WORLD CAMPAIGN CALENDAR (2003-2006):

6.0 Meetings of campaign bodies to draw up proposals for in-depth reform of the system of international institutions and campaign strategy.
6.1 Worldwide campaign presentations and promotion. Regional consultations and debates.

6.2 World campaign launch through the Internet reform portal and the world citizen legislation initiative, also by Internet. Initially, the campaign launch is aimed at NGOs all over the world and the academic world in general. Possible organisation of volunteer action linked to this part of the campaign.

6.3 Drafting of a reference document on the conceptual and methodological bases of the reform from the standpoint of civil society, including campaign proposals and the results of participatory and consultation processes forming part of the campaign.

6.4 Action aimed at defining and establishing a World Panel on Global Democratic Governance. Contacts begin to be established with the aim of engaging in dialogue with the United Nations system, other international bodies, different governmental levels and other important groups on the world scene.

6.5 Build bridges with the media to ensure the widest possible campaign coverage.

6.6 Presentation of the campaign conclusions to the United Nations General Assembly and call for the organisation of a world conference on international institutional reform."

3.3 Campaign Manifesto and launch of the process of gathering signatures (2003-2004)

. Convinced that it was even more necessary after the tragic parenthesis of the Iraq war, the process of defining the campaign continued and progress is made, above all, in drafting the **Campaign Manifesto**. The campaign endorsement process revolves around gathering signatures to the manifesto, whose central premise is as follows:

"WE PROPOSE in-depth reform of the international institutional system to guarantee:

- Democratic governance of globalisation to help resolve the grave problems and challenges facing the world.
- The eradication of poverty and the promotion of a more equitable development model based on solidarity and full respect for cultural, natural and gender diversity.
- World peace and security, embracing human and environmental security, based on justice and freedom.
- Mechanisms enabling the worlds' citizens and civil society organisations to be directly represented and to take part in global decision-making processes.

The pursuit of these goals requires a stronger, more democratic UN, placed at the centre of a consistent, democratic, responsible, effective system of international institutions. More specifically, we need to democratise the composition and decision-making procedures of UN bodies to ensure that they operate effectively and democratically, and to reform and integrate all other global multilateral organisations (IMF, WB, WTO, etc.) into these bodies."

. Initially, the process of gathering signatures for the manifesto and endorsements for the campaign revolved around the campaign website: http://www.reformcampaign.net. The image below reproduces the homepage:

Reform of International Institutions

World Campaign for in-depth Reform of the System of International Institutions

What is it? Who are we? Events Documents Manifesto

English
Français
Español
Català

Other languages

TO MAKE ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE...
...SIGN THE MANIFESTO!

CLICK HERE

REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

SPREAD THE CAMPAIGN!

SIGN
THE MANIFESTO
"World citizen legislative initiative"

SPREAD
THE CAMPAIGN

What is the campaign?

This is a campaign promoted by a number of actors in world civil society in response to the serious problems the world faces today. As part of it, we claim our democratic right to take part in the global decisions that affect our lives.

The campaign's objective is to spark off a process leading to the reform of the system of international institutions with the participation of all world actors and moving towards a system of global democratic governance that can help us to build a better world.

This campaign Manifesto, along with the endorsements received for it, will be submitted to the UN General Assembly with a call for the organisation of a World Conference on Reform of the System of

International Institutions. In order to obtain as many signatures as possible for the manifesto, it is essential that we all, within our possibilities, help to promote and spread the campaign.

Highlights

- World Campaign presence at the WSF05 in POA; 19-01-04
- Antonio Guterres supports the campaign; 21-11-04
- Barcelona Conference, 23-24 September: Reform of the United Nations and other international institutions; 21-08-04
- Indian committee of the World Campaign; 06-09-04
- African committee of the World Campaign; 03-06-04
- Nawal El Saadawi and Catalan Libraries for the Reform; 23-04-04
- Boutros Boutros Ghali supports the Campaign; 01-04-04
- London declaration; 01-04-04
- Federico Mayor and Mario Soares sign the manifesto!; 08-10-03
- New e-mail of signature (ask for it and resend it!)
- You can now see the manifesto signature book and the list of new campaign promoting organisation

Optimized 800x600 | webmaster | credits

31 January 2005

http://www.reformwatch.net
http://www.ubuntu.upc.es

3.4 Study and formulation of <u>reform proposals</u> (2003-2004) and the Conference on 23 and 24 September at the 2004 Forum

. In accordance with one of the campaign objectives, a basic task carried out so far was that of studying existing proposals and formulating new proposals for reform of the system of international institutions, initially from the viewpoint of civil society.

The documents generated as part of this process include particularly the Declaration of London and, above all, the collective document: <u>"PROPOSALS FOR THE REFORM OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITU-</u><u>TIONS. FUTURE SCENARIOS" which first began to be drafted at a seminar held at Pompeu Fabra University</u> <u>in Barcelona in cooperation with the "World Governance"</u>, programme, coordinated by the Miguel Servet College of Higher European Studies (Sorbonne, Paris).

This document forms one of the bases for discussion at the Conference, now at a broader level and for the first time involving government sectors (in accordance with another of the campaign objectives):


DIALOGUE:
CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL AGENDA

ITINERARY 5:

CONFERENCE 23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER:
"REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS"

With the cooperation of:
Forum 2000, Montreal International Forum, Club de Madrid, International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development, Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy, World Political Forum, Global Progressive Forum and the "World Governance" Programme (Miguel Servet College of Higher European Studies, Paris).

. Attention should be drawn here particularly to the Internet portal on reform of the international institutions and which, amongst other things, comprises a database on existing reform proposals: www.reformwatch.net. The UBUNTU Ad Hoc Secretariat runs this portal in cooperation with the World Federalist Movement and CHOIKE.
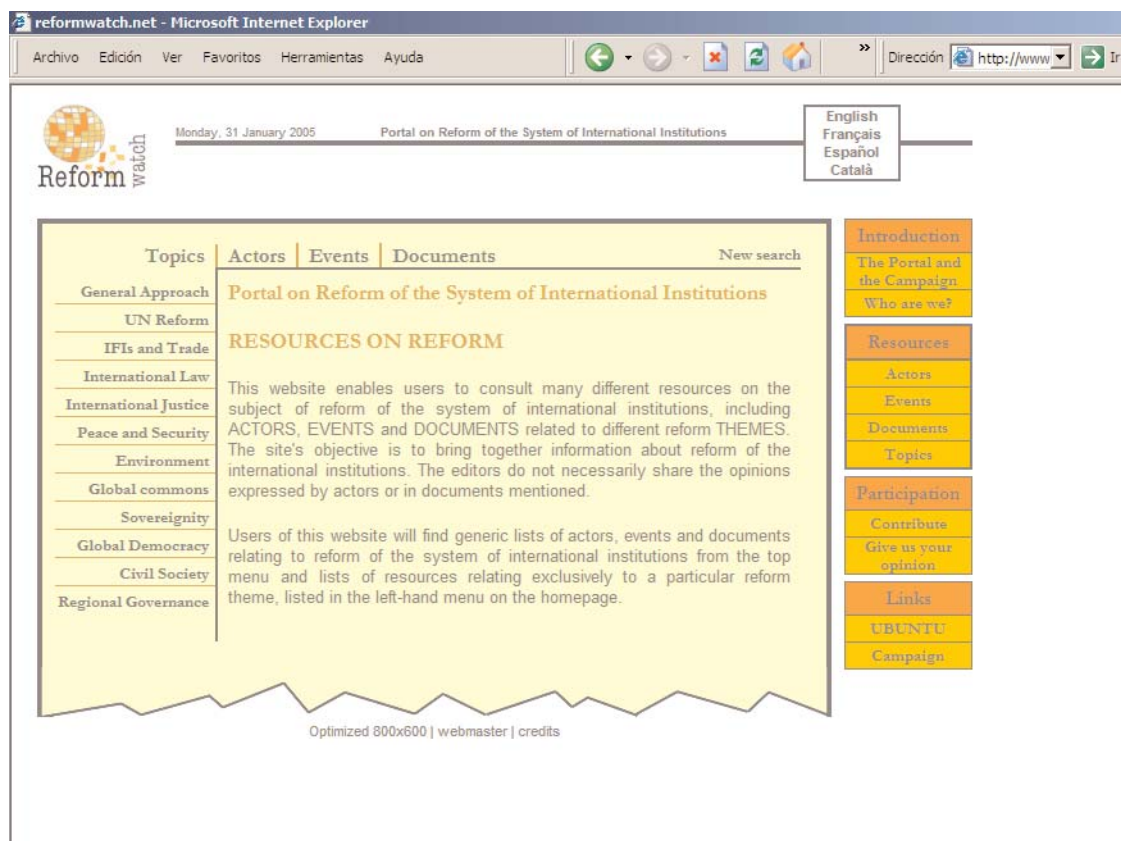
3.5 Signatures collected; penetration, presence and visibility in the world

. As regards signatures collected, the number has reached nearly 4,000 now, in September 2004! As we prepare to extend the campaign by Internet towards the end of the year, we can note that, to date, the most signatures have been collected, through physical presence, at the World Social Forum in Mumbai and the Barcelona 2004 Forum.

This explains the fact that, for example, of the 84 countries from which signatures have been obtained, India is in second place, though at a considerable distance behind Spain (which accounts for half the signatures).

. The African Campaign Committee was established recently, and the Indian Committee followed it even more recently. The campaign committees are focal points for spreading the campaign in their respective regions. New committees are almost certain to be established soon for Catalonia and Colombia.

. To date, the campaign has achieved the greatest penetration, presence and visibility, as regards the agenda, activities, etc., both qualitatively and quantitatively, in the areas of world civil society (WSF at both global and regional level, with presence at many plenary meetings by campaign promoting organisations-GPF (Global Progressive Forum), CONGO, the UN of the peoples, CIVICUS, ICSW (International Council on Social Welfare), WCSF (World Civil Society Forums), etc.), and at governmental and intergovernmental level (UN summits such as that on the Information Society in Geneva, relations with panels set up by the UN Secretary General, consultations at the English Parliament, participation in and relations with the FLA (Forum of Local Authorities) and with the new organisation, United Cities and Local Governments, etc.).

4. THE WORLD CAMPAIGN: STATE, EXTENSION AND PROSPECTS; MOBILISING CITIZENS AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AROUND THE CAMPAIGN

4.1 Reflections, questions and proposals for working GROUP B at the 3rd plenary meeting

4.1.1 In the light of the report on the previous section, what general evaluation can we make of the "World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions" from its launching to the present?

4.1.2 As regards the objectives of "raising the awareness of world public opinion" and "gathering its support" through the process of collecting signatures to the Campaign Manifesto:

4.1.2.1 Are we going the right way about achieving this? Are we working in the right directions with regard to such popularising, complex subjects as reform of the international institutions?
4.1.2.1.1 What should we emphasise and what should we change in the work of the different campaign motors: a) the Ad Hoc Secretariat; b) the networks, international organisations and individuals that promote it?
4.1.2.1.2 How can we extend the campaign from the international networks promoting it to their more local members and from these to the general population? Will the networks do this? Should the Ad Hoc Secretariat provide more direct cooperation?
4.1.2.1.3 What should we emphasise and what should we change about communication elements (slogans, image, etc) and/or techniques (the use of computers, publications, etc.) to make the work of extending the campaign to the general public more effective?
4.1.2.1.4 What other new actors (networks, media, individuals, etc.) could join the process of extending the campaign?
4.1.2.1.5 In short, how can we achieve the objective of gathering as many different, representative signatures in support of the campaign as possible?

4.1.3 As regards the objective of reaching agreements with civil society about the conceptual and methodological bases of the reform:
4.1.3.1 Are we going the right way to achieve this? Is the work done so far (Manifesto, Declaration of London, Document on Future Scenarios) and how it has been done (networking as in the process of drafting the afore-mentioned documents, the organisation of the conference that begins today with other co-organisers, etc) a good start? What should we emphasise and what should we change in this respect?

4.1.4 As regards the objective of involving all actors on the world scene in this process (before, during and after reform   we must be optimistic!): international institutions, different levels of government and civil society in the broadest sense:
4.1.4.1 Are we going the right way to achieve this? What should we emphasise and what should we change in order to enhance the World Campaign's role as a "communicating vessel" between the different players that can make in-depth reform of the system of international institutions possible?
4.1.4.2 Is it time to begin establishing more intense contacts with certain States (which should we give priority?), international institutions, large private corporations (which?), etc, to build a political alliance capable of sparking off the reform process?
4.1.5 As regards adapting the objectives and agenda for the campaign over the 2005-2006 period to the present situation:

4.1.5.1 Do we need to move shoulder to shoulder with the Millennium Development Goals campaign and press home the message that global institutional reform is indispensable if we are to achieve them?

4.1.5.2 Should we open the campaign (to all those who wish to make it their own) at the main meetings on the issue: WSF Porto Alegre 2005; GO5; Helsinki Conference; Millennium +5 General Assembly; etc.?

4.1.5.3 Should we begin to present our proposals to governmental and inter-governmental bodies and seek specific allies so as to introduce the general proposal to create a World Panel on Global Democratic Governance and which, appointed by the UN General Assembly in 2006, would launch the reform process with the participation of all actors on the world scene?

4.1.5.3.1 Should we leave the final date open depending on the support of world public opinion, alliances with governmental sectors and the general political situation?

4.1.6 Other ideas, suggestions and proposals on all these questions

5. FUNDING, COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATION: DOCUMENTS AND SITUATION

5.1 Funding

. Since their origins, both the UBUNTU Forum and the World Campaign have been financed by the institutions promoting them (Foundation for a Culture of Peace and Polytechnic University of Catalonia) and, fundamentally, thanks to financial support from Catalan institutions (Generalitat of Catalonia, Barcelona Provincial Council and Barcelona City Council). From now on, the Spanish Foreign Affairs and Cooperation ministries will also give the project financial aid.

. In recent years, the average annual budget (including direct and indirect accounting costs at the university where the Ad Hoc Secretariat has its physical and legal address) has been 375,000 euros (more or less the same in US dollars).

Of this budget, approximately 60% is accounted for by international structure and operating costs, the other 40% to the costs of activities!

. The Ad Hoc Secretariat has for some time been seeking other sources of funding, to date without success. Different types of applications for funding have been submitted to the Ford, Mott, Rockefeller Brothers, Heinrich Böll and Commonwealth foundations and to the European Commission. Some of these applications are still being processed.

. As regards financial issues, one of the weakest points in the entire project, we should note that, for the first time, two organisations, UBUNTU Forum participants and World Campaign promoters, have made symbolic but significant economic contributions to the project in 2004. These are the WCL (World Confederation of Labour), the IPS (International Press Service) and the Coordinadora Catalana de Fundacions.

However, appeals for voluntary contributions by individuals or organisations made on the UBUNTU and Campaign websites have so far failed to produce any positive results.

. However this may be, the Ad Hoc Secretariat analysis of the issue draws two conclusions:

a. The "results" obtained in terms of available funding are highly satisfactory (the institutions that finance the project should make their own evaluation!). In any case, available funding greatly conditions both com-

munication policies and the operational possibilities of projects.

b. We therefore need, in any case, to seek more funding so as to be able to achieve the objectives we have set ourselves. This is the case, for example, of our goal of bringing the World Campaign to the attention of the general public, as the campaign urgently requires a professional plan and communication policy.

5.2 Internal and external communication

. Whether as UBUNTU Forum participants and/or World Campaign promoters, our "network of networks" brings over 150 international organisations and nearly 50 personalities, intellectuals and academics into contact with each other.

With the Ad Hoc Secretariat acting as the "engine" and/or "communicating vessel" behind these initiatives and participants and/or promoters, we have two great communication problems:

5.2.1 Internal communication (or communication amongst UBUNTU participants, World Campaign promoters, etc.)

. The internal communication system is, essentially, by email firstly and by telephone (and in some cases fax) secondly. Email, then, with all its great advantages as well as its disadvantages, is the main communications tool for distributing, discussing and finally approving basic texts, UBUNTU Forum public statements, etc.

. The aim of the "UBUNTU Newsletter" (7 to date; the first in May 2002 and the latest in June 2004) is to provide an informative summary, more or less quarterly, of the principal activities undertaken by the UBUNTU Forum and as part of the World Campaign.

. Apart from the other key roles the UBUNTU and World Campaign websites play, and which are described in other sections here, the sites also aim to provide communication about both actions under these initiatives and those launched by UBUNTU Forum participants and/or World Campaign promoters and which come to the notice of the Ad Hoc Secretariat.

5.2.2 External communication (aimed at public opinion)

. We can identify three communication tools aimed at public opinion, at the general public: a) Internet through our websites; b) the media of all kinds, through which we attempt to ensure that our public statements, Manifestoes, etc., reach public opinion; and c) work by UBUNTU participants and/or World Campaign promoters in this field.

. Our Internet presence is reasonably good, though open to improvement basically, if UBUNTU Forum participants and/or World Campaign promoters sites were visibly linked to them. Our indirect visibility on the Internet and communication with civil society is, once more, our strongest point. On the other hand, we very rarely achieve visibility in the traditional mass media.

In any case, as we have mentioned, if financial conditions allow, this is an area that urgently requires a professional approach and economic investment.

5.3 Organisation

5.3.1 UBUNTU Forum organisation

. To quote the UBUNTU Forum founding document:

"**1.** *Forum participants* are all organisations and/or persons that wish, subsequently to this constituent process, to take part in it and endorse the essence of this document. The UBUNTU Forum's sovereignty rests in its participants.

2. The UBUNTU Forum will operate according to the following procedures:

2.1 *The Meeting of the forum*: this will be held every one or two years. The agenda and main documents are to be debated in a prior participatory process. The virtual Meeting of the forum is that which permits the permanent forum and will take place in the forum's virtual space, which guarantees full access to all participants, and mostly at a distance by means of communication technologies.
2.2 The *Coordinating Committee* (and where necessary, the Working Groups): this is the body of work and general motor which guarantees appropriate functioning, procedures and activities of the forum.
2.3 The *Ad Hoc Secretariat*: this constitutes the professional management of the forum, has its headquarters at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Barcelona, and is coordinated by Professor Josep Xercavins i Valls.
2.4 Decisions are taken by consensus whenever possible, and otherwise by simple majority of the participants. The decisions taken are never binding for a minority opinion. Any decision and/or public manifestation of the initiative must be accompanied by a list consisting exclusively of the participants who have voted in favour or expressed their support for it."

. **According to the World Campaign presentation document:**

"4. CAMPAIGN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE: The campaign bodies are:

4.0 All organisations and individuals that endorse and take part in the campaign.
4.1 INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN COUNCIL: The Council, made up of representative, internationally known figures, helps to define the campaign's general objectives and give it visibility.
4.2 **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**: Besides working with the Council to define the campaign objectives, the organisations and individuals represented on this Committee will be responsible for the campaign's conceptual and strategic development. The members of the UBUNTU Forum Coordinating Committee and Ad Hoc Secretariat are also members of the Organising Committee.
4.3 The Campaign Council and Organising Committee may set up specific working parties may also be set up to deal with particular issues, employing appropriate procedures. An example is the Study Commission. It is necessary to work from the world civil society perspective to draw up proposals for international institutional reform, taking into account the proposals already put forward, such as, amongst others, those formulated by the Commission on Global Governance."

. Since the constituent meetings, the UBUNTU Forum Coordinating Committee has been formed by:

Fatma Alloo (Development of Alternatives Women's Network-Africa), **Erkin Alptekin** (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation), **Lois Barber** (EarthAction), **Colin Archer** (Intl. Peace Bureau), **Kin Chi Lau** (Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives), **Sara Longwe** (FEMNET), **Felix Marti** (Institut Linguapax); **Jorge Nieto** (International Centre for a Democratic Culture), **Miquel de Paladella** (Society for International Development; Global Movement for Children), **Anaisabel Prera** and **Federico Mayor** (Foundation for a Culture of Peace); and the members of the Ad Hoc Secretariat: **Manuel Manonelles**, **Lluís Miret**, **Núria Molina** and **Josep Xercavins**.

. For its part, the World Campaign Organising Committee is made up of the above Coordinating Committee and Ad Hoc Secretariat members and by:

John Foster (Nort-South Institute), **Anselmo Lee** (Pax Romana), **Alexander Likotal** (Green Cros International), **María Josep Olivé** (Intermon Oxfam), **William Pace** (World Federalist Movement), **Cyril Ritchie** (CONGO/WOCSOC), **Roberto Savio** (IPS) y **Willy Thys** (World Confederation Labour).

. Despite the enormous economic restrictions, which greatly limit its activities, the Coordinating Committee met in October 2001 in Barcelona, between the two constituent meetings of the UBUNTU Forum, whilst the Campaign Organising Committee met twice, in December 2002 in Barcelona and in October 2003 in Perugia, Italy, as well as meeting at the seminar organised at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona in March 2004.

6. REVIEW OF FUNDING, COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES BEHIND OUR INITIATIVES

6.2 Reflections, questions and proposals for Working GROUP C) at the 3rd plenary meeting

6.2.1 In the light of the report on the previous section, what general evaluation can we make of funding, communication and organisational issues?

6.2.2 As regards funding:
 6.2.2.1 Are we going the right way to improve funding? That is to say, will we finally manage to diversify and increase our funding sources as our initiatives become better known and more firmly established?
 6.2.2.2 Do we have any proposals and/or ideas on possible new sources of funding for our projects? What other funding doors can we attempt to open? Which should be given priority?
 6.2.2.3 Should we spread the idea that UBUNTU Forum participating organisations and/or World Campaign promoters should decide voluntarily whether to contribute to these initiatives, and how much they should contribute?

6.2.3 As regards communication:
 6.2.3.1.1 What should we emphasise and what should we change about internal communication issues: a) habitual communication by email and/or phone; b) the "Newsletter"; and, c) the websites as a further tool for internal communication?
 6.2.3.1.2 What should we emphasise and what should we change about external communication issues, through: a) the public statements; b) the media; and c) participants in and/or promoters of our initiatives?
 6.2.3.1.3 If we obtain new funding, should we provide ourselves with a professional, specific communication plan for our initiatives? Should we invest resources in this?

6.2.4 As regards organisational issues:
 6.2.4.1 What should we emphasise and what should we change about general organisational issues regarding our initiatives?
 6.2.4.2 Do we agree, if funding does not significantly increase, to keep only the Campaign Organising Committee, delegating it with the UBUNTU Forum Coordinating Committee?

6.2.4.3 As regards the composition of the Organising Committee and the Coordinating Committee, do we agree to maintain, essential, the present number of members? Do we agree that appointments should be made according to proposals by the organisations and that replacements, when a place becomes vacant, should be made according to Ad Hoc Secretariat proposals?

6.2.5 Other ideas, suggestions and proposals on all these questions

7. EPILOGUE

. "The new historic subject of change is civil society"; Manuel Vázquez Montalbán in his testimony at the World Social Forum 2002; UBUNTU participant, deceased in 2003

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Civil Society Networks - UBUNTU
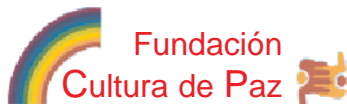www.ubuntu.upc.edu
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