



The JOBURG memo

Report of activities of the UBUNTU Forum and its Ad Hoc Secretariat at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Johannesburg 26 Aug - 4 Sept. 2002

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Presentation

The World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

An unprecedented figure of around 50.000 media, non-governmental and national delegates attended the summit.

The UBUNTU Forum and the Ad Hoc Secretariat was present both in the internal process (following the negotiations) and presenting the World Campaign for Reform of International Institutions.

This is a report of our activities there.



Launching of the World Campaign for the in depth Reform of International Institutions in Johannesburg

The World Campaign for an in-depth reform of the system of international institutions was launched for the first time within the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, on 30, 31 August and 1 September 2002.

What is the Campaign About

The process of globalisation is leading to a dispersion of political authority: while markets are becoming global, the influence of political institutions required for their effective functioning decreases every day. In this state of the affairs, people of the world are starting to claim their democratic entitlement to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Global civil society has a key role in fostering democratization of the international system.

This campaign intends to encourage a series of reforms towards a more effective, representative, accountable, and democratic system of international institutions, through representative procedures involving actors all over the world, thus contributing to the construction of a fair, diverse, sustainable and peaceful world. The campaign aims at a system-wide reform to democratize international institutions and to make other attempts of reform in specific organizations more effective and coherent, by ways of framing them in a general vision of a fairer and more accountable global architecture.

Who supports the campaign

Organisations and personalities who support the launching of the WORLD CAMPAIGN for an in-depth reform of the system of international institutions
As for 15 september 2002!

Personalities Intellectuals

Samir Amin	Forum du Tiers Monde	Edgar Morin	Assoc. pour la Pensée Complexe
Leonardo Boff	Theologist	William Pace	World Federalist Movement
Anil Bordia	Found. for Educ. and Dev.	Adolfo Pérez Esquivel	Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Jorge Brovetto	Grupo Montevideo	Anaisabel Prera	Fund. Cultura de Paz
Ignasi Carreras	Intermón Oxfam	José Ramos-Horta	Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Noam Chomsky	Writer	Jeremy Rifkin	Writer
R. Díez-Hochleitner	Pres. Em. Club of Rome	Joseph Rotblat	Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Nawal Elsaadawi	Writer	Sebastião Salgado	Photographer
Leonel Fernández	Fund. Global Demo. y Des.	José Saramago	Nobel Prize in Literature Laureate
Jim Garrison	State of the World Forum	Roberto Savio	Inter Press Service
Butros Butros Ghali		Vandana Shiva	R. Found. for STE
Asma Jahangir	Human Rights Activist	Mario Soares	Fundação Mario Soares
Hans Küng	Center for Global Ethics	Alain Touraine	EHESS
Alexander Likhotal	Green Cross International	Aminata Traoré	Writer
Federico Mayor		M. Vázquez Montalbán	Writer
Rigoberta Menchú	Nobel Peace Prize Laureate	Cora Weiss	Hague Appeal for Peace
Danielle Mitterrand	France Libertés	Muhammad Yunus	Grameen Bank
Gertrude Mongella	Advocacy for Women in Africa		

International Organisations

Advocacy for Women in Africa	Institut International Jacques Maritain
Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives	Intermón Oxfam – Oxfam International
Centro Internacional para una Cultura Democrática	International Peace Bureau
Community Organisations Development Institute	Int. Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
CONGO Conference of NGOs Consultative to the UN	Inter Press Service
EarthAction	IUCN The World Conservation Union
Federation of African Women's Peace Network	Jubilee
FEMNET African Women's Dev. and Com. Network	Justice and Peace Europe
FLACAM Foro Latinoam. de CC Ambientales	Latin American Inst. of Education for Dev.
Foreign Policy in Focus	Peace Round Table
Forum du Tiers Monde	State of the World Forum
France Libertés	Society for International Development
Fund. Global Democracia y Desarrollo	The Arab Organisation for Human Rights
Fundación para una Cultura de Paz	The Global Youth ACTION Network
Fundación Rigoberta Menchú	The Hague Appeal for Peace
Fundação Mario Soares	United Nations Association Spain/Latin America
Global March Against Child Labour	UNESCO Centre of Catalonia
Global Policy Forum	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Org.
Grameen Bank	World Civil Society Conference
Green Cross International	World Confederation of Labour

Academia

Abdullahi An-Na'im	Emory University
Donald Gerth	University of California Sacramento
Sami Nair	Université Paris-x-Nanterre
Adil Najam	Boston University
Santiago Ramentol	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Gordon Smith	Centre for Global Studies
Josep Xercavins	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya



Launching the Campaign at the Global People's Forum



▲ Panel at the Global People's Forum. From left to right: Alfonso Alem - Fundación Rigoberta Menchú; Renata Bloem - CONGO; Federico Mayor; Josep Xercavins; Paul Baskar - Global March Against Child Labour and Catherine Mabobori - Federation of African Women's Peace Network (FERFAP) - Photo UBUNTU Forum

On 30 August the first event was organised at the civil society Global People's Forum in Nasrec, at the south of Johannesburg.

The panel was chaired by Federico Mayor, presented by Josep Xercavins and counted on the participation of Renata Bloem from Conference of NGOs on Consultative Relation to the UN (CONGO), Alfonso Alem from the Fundación Rigoberta Menchú, Paul Baskar from the Global March against Child Labour, and Catherine Mabobori from the Federation of African Women's Peace Network (FERFAP).

The panel was followed by a debate with the public which attended the presentation.



Launching at the UBUNTU Village

The UBUNTU Village was the service and recreational hub of the Johannesburg Summit and was located at the Wanderers Precinct, only four kilometres from the Sandton Convention Centre, where the official summit was taking place. The similarity of names between the UBUNTU Village and the UBUNTU Forum was just a coincidence but it was cause of more than one amusing misunderstanding.

On 31 August in the afternoon the second presentation event of the World Campaign was held at the Ubuntu Village. This was the central event in the launching of the World Campaign at the WSSD.

In this case, the panel chaired by Federico Mayor and presented by Josep Xercavins, counted on the participation of Yolanda Kakabadse, President of the IUCN - The World Conservation Union IUCN; Danielle Mitterrand from France Libertés; Vandana Shiva from the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology; Willy Thys from the World Confederation of Labour; Aminata Traoré from the African Social Forum; Adil Najam from the Boston University; Cyril Ritchie from the World Civil Society Conference and Natasha Despotovich from the Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo

The World Campaign was presented and the panel discussed the need for the Reform of International Institutions. This was followed by an interesting discussion with the numerous public.

Ubuntu Exhibition

2002



▲ Family photo at the UBUNTU Village - Photo UBUNTU Forum



▲ Aminata Traoré and Vandana Shiva at the launching of the World Campaign at the Ubuntu Village - Photo UBUNTU Forum



▲ Assistants at the UBUNTU Village event, including (from right to left) Ramón Espadaler, Manuel Royes, Imma Mayol, Jordi Sala and Ramon Folch - Photo UBUNTU Forum

Launching at the IUCN Environment Centre



Press conference at the IUCN Environment Centre with Yolanda Kakabadse, Federico Mayor and Josep Xercavins – Photo UBUNTU Forum



Press Conference

On the 1 September a Press Conference was held at the World Conservation Union IUCN Environment Centre in Johannesburg. It was hosted and chaired by IUCN's President, Yolanda Kakabadse, and Federico Mayor and

Josep Xercavins provided the press with information on the launching of the world campaign to reform international institutions.

The following Press Release was distributed:

"Claims in Johannesburg for a reform of international institutions":

The UBUNTU Forum is launching an ambitious world campaign for an in-depth reform of the system of international institutions within the framework of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and with the outstanding participation of Federico Mayor, former UNESCO Director General, Yolanda Kakabadse, IUCN's president, Vandana Shiva, scientist and activist at the Research Foundation on Science, Technology and Ecology in India, Willy Thys, Secretary General of the World Confederation of Labour and Aminata Traoré from the African Social Forum.

Several reasons have been put forward to advocate the urgent need for such an in-depth reform:

"The process of globalisation is leading to a dispersion of political authority: while markets are becoming global, the influence of political institutions required for their democratic control and effective functioning decreases every day"

according to the UBUNTU Forum's document As Vandana Shiva said at the campaign's launching: "the World Summit on Sustainable Development more than Rio+10, a UN summit, seems to be Doha+10 months, a summit of world trade and economic organisations which do not have any sort of democratic control by the world's peoples"

Federico Mayor concluded by saying that "while Romano Prodi, Joseph Stiglitz, the UN Development Program...state that solutions to grave world problems can only be faced by reforming international institutions, the network of networks UBUNTU mobilises world public opinion to claim for this reform and make it happen"

The press conference was followed by a more informal presentation of the campaign at the same building.

The Reform of International Institutions

By Federico Mayor



▲ Federico Mayor at the launching of the World Campaign at the Global People's Forum –Photo UBUNTU Forum

One of the great contradictions we are faced by nowadays is the co-existence of national democracies with an oligarchy at world scale. The "march towards democracy" is a historic reality in most countries. Laws and mechanisms ensuring they are complied with are based

on their very essence: the voice of the people, represented in parliaments and in unrestricted media freedom. However, when we look at the supranational sphere, we find neither codes of conduct nor punitive capacity. It is an ungovernable panorama -trafficking in capital, in arms, in people, in drugs- where powerful conglomerates, mostly private, reign supreme. The United Nations Organisation, which offers our only possibility of deploying an ethical and legal framework at world scale, has been relegated more and more by the richest countries on the planet (the G-7), eroding its powers and human and economic resources.

The gap between the more advanced countries and the poorest nations has widened due to constant failure to comply with agreements on integral, endogenous development, causing worsening social, natural, cultural and ethical imbalances, with wealth and knowledge accumulating at one ever smaller pole and misery and exclusion at the other, ever larger pole. Sharing knowledge is crucial to combat poverty and exclusion. It was in the United States, in Seattle, that voices first began to raise loudly in dissent against these asymmetries that constitute such a grave danger for all of us. Then thousands of citizens from all over the world came together at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre to proclaim that "another world is possible" and calling for a change of course in a clamour that may reach the highest tiers of power.

Similarly, and in parallel world civil society is weaving "networks of networks", in whose creation and functioning Internet plays an essential role. The aim of these networks is to give civil society's voice the power to contribute to democratising global governance and enabling society to really influence decision-taking. These are bridges, like those at Porto Alegre, that are extended firmly, peacefully, with the aim of decreasing tension and ensuring that the "peoples", all peoples without exception, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, are once more taken into account.

Towards the end of the year 2000, I called on several leaders of world civil society, urging them to join their voices in

order to achieve sufficient magnitude to make themselves heard, to enable interaction to take place to foster the presence of a "more human view" in world political, economic, social and cultural action, achieving favourable dialogue with other players on the international stage to work towards true human development on a planetary scale in harmony with nature and cultural diversity.

In answer to my call, some 50 people, representing networks and organisations, met in Barcelona on 31 March and 1 April 2001 to discuss the reasons and principles that should guide this articulation of world civil society. It was decided to establish a permanent joint forum for meeting and work to promote cooperation between people, cultures and nations, to be known as Ubuntu. Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning "humanity, sharing, taking into account and living in harmony with all creation." The forum's headquarters is at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, and Ubuntu has the support of the highest Catalan institutions.

After nearly two years (and what years! Emergence of the so-called "anti-globalisation" movement, the events at Genoa and terrorist attacks on the United States, worsening endemic problems in the world, failure of the FAO Summit and the recent Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development), the World Forum of Civil Society Networks - Ubuntu has concluded its constitutive process and now, having presented its world campaign for the reform of international institutions at Johannesburg, looks to the future with the intention of providing a tool for transformation. Besides its non-violent doctrine, an outstanding advantage of the network of networks is that it enables members to subscribe to each of its messages, declarations and communiqués on a voluntary basis.

World awareness of the need to reduce present gaps, unfair and dangerous as they are, for rich and poor alike, was strengthened by the Johannesburg summit. The more powerful were reminded, moreover, that we live in a global village and we not only should not but we cannot marginalise most of the world's inhabitants. This is the Johannesburg summit's greatest success. I am sure that the most prescient leaders will have realised that listening to the wealth of experience possessed by so many institutions and people is an absolutely urgent necessity. It has also become clear that it is not enough to pay a few coins towards the organisation of such a summit, nor is it possible to back certain agreements and initiatives "à la carte". This would mean leaving compliance with international cooperation agreements in the hands of the market, denying the need for world regulation based on human rights. Just as all national governments have not only ministries of economy and trade,

so ministries of justice, education, health, etc., are needed in the world. Rio is mentioned very little in the final declaration. Doha and the World Trade Organisation, dozens of times. And environmental education? And health? And nutrition?

We need, therefore, to join all our forces in a synergic movement, in a great clamour, joining -and not, as at Johannesburg, separating- all institutions and organisations, whether public or private, to begin to comply with the new contracts -social, environmental, natural, cultural and moral- which might help to clear the thick fog that envelopes us as we enter the new century, the new millennium, agreements so necessary for the transition from a culture of force and imposition to one of dialogue and peace. Is it possible? Is there no solution? Yes, there is a solution. We must find it. Or invent it. I have often repeated the words that the Nobel prize-winner for Biochemistry, Professor Hans Krebs, once said to me: "Researching is seeing what other people can also see and thinking what no one has thought." Thinking in time, to prevent violence from adding further devastation to its ever-increasing list of victims.

We are in "... times of doubts and renouncements in which noise drowns words", as the Catalan poet Miquel Martí i Pol so beautifully describes it. Determined -as between Castelleo and Calvino- to defend the principle of the word against the sword. The World Forum of Networks can contribute to providing channels for understanding and reconciliation. Silencing the "world's voice" goes against the general interest by fomenting frustration, exclusion, radicalisation. We cannot remain silent in the current situation. Crime of silence. Some, gagged into silence by interests of all kinds,

by ignorance, by fear... "by the broad paths of fear", as Catalonia's most universal poet, Salvador Espriu, expressed it. But there is a worse silence: that of the silent. The silence of those who, though they should speak, are silent. The silence of those who, though they could speak, do not, remaining unscathed, stunned by the maelstrom they live in, grasping hold of any pretext to quieten their conscience. The silence of those who, wishing to speak, do not know how to make their voices heard. Now, if they really want to, they can.

The world campaign for in-depth reform of international institutions in order to respond to the great social, economic and cultural challenges of our times, replacing impunity on the global scale by suitable regulating mechanisms, has quickly won the support of individuals of world renown and of the most prestigious organisations. They can help to establish an "ethical meaning" in the global village, promoting a great plan for world endogenous development and conferring on a reformed United Nations the role of supreme authority which is so greatly missed and needed on the confused current scene.

The last thing I should want is that our descendants should look back and, like Albert Camus, despise us because "capable of so much, we dared so little." We must dare to seek alternative solutions and new ways of managing and responding to the challenges that face the world. Being different is our wealth, acting together our strength. In place of impositions and arbitrary behaviour, source of so much conflict, conversation and understanding. In place of a culture of domination, a culture of peace.

This article was published in the Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia on the 29th of September.

Inside the Summit



JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002



▲ Sandton Convention Centre. Venue of the WSSD - Photo Sandton Convention Centre

The negotiating process at the WSSD showed strong disagreement, which at some point may have even endangered the very existence of a Summit's final agreement. The Plan of Implementation resulted to be a much diluted agreement where rich countries refrain from taking quantifiable commitments on dates and funds for eradicating social poverty and environmental degradation.

Moreover, institutional responsibilities for sustainable human social, environmental and economic development were transferred to market forces. The Political Declaration drafted by the South African delegation circulating during the Summit was finally substituted at the very last moment by a much watered down Political Declaration.

You can read below an article by Josep Xercavins, coordinator of the Ad Hoc Secretariat, reflecting on the negotiation process which led up to the agreement on the Plan of Implementation and the Political Declaration. Although civil society delegates witnessed a loss of influence on the final outcome at this stage of the negotiations, disappointments and demands were brought to the plenary in front of all national delegations. Particularly, civil society present in Johannesburg pointed out its claims on the Global People's Forum Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Caucus on Global Governance

As stated before, the World Summit on Sustainable Development gathered an unprecedented figure of around 50.000 delegates; governmental and non-governmental. Therefore it was difficult to follow such an enormous process.

The Ubuntu Forum Ad Hoc Secretariat mainly followed the Plan of Implementation negotiating process on chapters V and X, regarding globalisation and institutional framework.

Together with the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), the International NGO Task Group on Legal and Institutional Matters (INTGLIM) and Third World Network, the Ad Hoc Secretariat organised an Issue



▲ Meeting of the Global Governance Caucus at the Major Groups Room in the Sandton Convention Centre – Photo UBUNTU Forum

Caucus on Global Governance which released the following joint statement on the need for a democratic institutional framework which contributes to the construction of a fairer and more sustainable world.

ISSUE CAUCUS WSSD AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

STATEMENT
30 August 2002

The strong disagreement voiced in Bali on the Draft Plan of Implementation is continuing in Johannesburg. Particularly, on the most controversial Global Governance issues related to Globalisation and Sustainable Development, Trade and Finance, Means of Implementation and Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development.

The Draft Plan of Implementation is intended to implement Rio Agenda 21, as well as Millennium development goals and the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development. However, there is no agreement on providing the necessary funds for their implementation. To the contrary, there is a strong tendency to advance the WTO Doha Agenda which advocates the magic of the market as the solution to world problems without equity, accountability or democracy. Moreover, at this critical juncture, "Type II partnerships" as a ways to mobilise funds are promoted instead of greater commitment from government towards sustainable development.

In this era of globalisation, this neoliberal framework allows ecologically and socially irresponsible behaviour by many profit-and-expansion driven corporations, leading to an ever more rapid degradation of the environment, social welfare and cultural diversity in our planet.

In view of this situation, the Global Governance Caucus proposes and urges the Ministers and Heads of State to:

1. Provide a clear direction on a plan for financing sustainable development and a contribution to a higher global equity by financing developing countries as provided at the very least by the Monterrey Consensus. These funds must be managed under the UN auspices and provided by developed countries and throughout creative and innovative means for financing sustainable development including global taxes and levies.

2. There is a need for coordinating diverse IGOs environmental bodies and programs through the setting of a Commission on Global Environmental Governance within the UN system. Such a Commission must not be reduced to a clearinghouse of, i.e., "Type II partnerships" and instead play the role of assessing progress of human sustainable development projects, policies, programs and initiatives.

3. The International system must ensure corporate accountability and regulate, restrain and re-direct profit makers in the direction of sustainability and development on our shrinking planet. Without an enforceable international legal system, it is unrealistic to expect the private sector to voluntarily take measures to protect the environment and respect social welfare. The WSSD should establish a high-level working group to draft a convention on corporate accountability.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for an open, democratic and fair intergovernmental framework which is driven by ethical principles and contributes to the construction of a fairer and more sustainable world.

The Global Governance Caucus is organised by:





The Relentless Pursuit of the Unattainable By Josep Xercavins

Josep Xercavins with Yolanda Kakabadse at the UICN Environment Centre

Monday. I have just heard Tony Blair address the plenary session of the Summit on Sustainable Development. In the corridors, talk is of agreement, almost total, over the controversial Action Plan the summit is to approve on Wednesday. This will be after various of the so-called Major Groups in the Agenda 21 (NGOs, unions, etc) have once more expressed our disagreement before the plenary session. The powerful nations have once more made the poor countries bow before them. Ministerial negotiations have once more applied the "golden rule": "those that have the gold make the rules."

The G77 (over 120 developing countries) have given away more and more in an agonising attempt to pass the political and financial means to reverse the dynamic of increasing poverty and environmental devastation suffered by so much of the world's population.

I hear Chirac. The French president suggests a world tax (who would manage it?) to finance a solidarity fund. But these are just well meaning words. The plan will contain no new, firm commitments by the rich countries to fund the UN. No quantification, no timetable, no credibility. Before I decided to write these lines, Denmark, which currently occupies the EU presidency, was insisting on the same old arguments: if trade increases, poverty will decrease! The activist Vandana Shiva commented that more than at Río+10 years we seem to be at Doha+10 months. Ten months ago, in that Arab city, the WTO agreed what was not agreed in Seattle but which was blessed in Johannesburg: the opening of a new round of increased trade liber-

alisation, in which the developing countries are in no condition to compete. But the great multinational corporations "need" it to open up new markets and increase profits. We continue along Reagan and Thatcher's neo-liberal path. Moreover, Johannesburg opens up a new path in the same direction: "partnership" (as defined by Federico Mayor Zaragoza in Johannesburg, "The privatisation of international cooperation"). In short, the rich countries' way of justifying their refusal to truly commit to sharing just a small part of their wealth to eradicate poverty is to let the market do it.

The nation-states, as players in the international system, have not lived up to expectations before the great challenges. It is for this reason that I agree so strongly with the World Forum of Civil Society-Ubuntu's proclamation that "Johannesburg calls for the reform of international organisations", after the network launched its world campaign for the in-depth reform of the system of international organisations.

A reformed system is necessary, one based on an ethical code that places human beings at the core of political activity, returning trade and the economy to their place as means to that end, and not as an end in themselves, and establishing new relations of democratic sovereignty and social participation between levels of government to respond to the challenges of interdependence in a world in crisis. All this, before we have to lament more social problems and natural disasters.

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