REFLECTIONS OF THE GF OF THE WSF IN MEXICO ON THE HISTORY OF THE WSF.

Meeting of May 29, 2021

We start from two questions:

1) What lessons have we learned from the WSF.

2) What questions does it raise for us?

3) What challenges does it pose for the GF WSF in Mexico?

1.- What lessons have we learned from the history of the WSF?

Pedro: "It is very important that we effectively cross information with them since they are the creators of the forum for 20 years and that their experiences are rich because it supplies us, of that accumulation of knowledge and of the listening that they also want to have from us because that set of ideas and work that we have developed if we truly meet in a line of action is going to be productive not only for Mexico but for the whole world and mainly for Latin America, we have taken up that work again, We have taken up this work again, and we are going to have rich experiences that will be given to us precisely so that the forum can be more interesting, more profound and not only of complaints, but of proposals that we have to make to the WSF, to the World Bank, to the governments themselves to change or if possible to change a little with 20% or 30%, of cultural, economic and social change that they can implement, it would be of great help for all the citizens since this pandemic came to end precisely with the line of action that we were walking, very badly but that we can exceed it, however this deep crisis affected us".

Carmen: "Part of the information that we were downloading from what we saw in the last session with the International Council, we have to highlight the importance of creating commissions, that they be specific commissions on specific topics, as they said, to set up different topics where each one coordinates a commission and these working groups can be created, but not only on what is wrong, but also to create actions and proposals. Based on this, we are directing some activities that have to do with the micro, small and medium businessmen for 2022, because in Mexico more than 500 thousand MSMEs have died, so our proposal is just the economic reactivation in the micro, small and medium sector. So, as we create these working groups, these commissions where not only Mexican associations are integrated, but others at an international level, that we can enrich these proposals, at the end they will be activities that will be developed not only during the event but also after that it would be important that the other colleagues at the moment of creating a commission could also program activities to be executed after the event.

Ricardo: "I think that what you tell us about each of the WSFs in each country is rich, but especially important for us are the contributions of how the protagonists created their own spaces and their own ways of intervening in the WSF. Another key case that seems very important to me is the self-critical and at the same time very rich way of the contradictions that were experienced in India, this information was very rich because things are not simple, governments, parties, NGOs, different cultures, etc., are confronted in a WSF, things are not smooth and yet how to achieve something very important. In addition to the women's issue, of these experiences there is for example the effort being made by the comrades of migration and the comrades of social security, the latter are not asking for a separate area but in each of the last forums they have come to speak of health and social security. From my point of view and that of the comrades who fight for health and social security, and there are many of them in the home of the peoples, perhaps they told us much more about the emphasis of public policies, but today, however, the peoples, the organizations, the health workers, the struggles for pensions, so mistreated all over the world, the precariousness, make this central point more visible, this contribution that the comrades are making. Finally, I would say the same in the case of the contributions in terms of collaborative learning in the field of communication is also making very rich, we should also stop to learn more especially those who know little about it, and another contribution in a following intervention is the self-critical sense not only of the IC but of all the participants, but we should also talk about the difficulties, the obstacles".

Sócrates: "I thought that the participations were very good because they give me an idea of how this event has evolved, how it was built, its origin and the experiences they have had, I think that there are many things to rescue and there are many things that we have to learn from the same failures that were exposed in order not to make the same mistakes, So I believe that this has been a good decision, the way I understand it is that this forum was a bit different from the forum that was said to be for the rich, for the rich countries and, at the end of the day, for the transnationals, since the rich countries are a euphemism, it is a way of saying things, but then they have their agenda, the companies, the governments of those countries have their agenda and the idea as far as I have understood is that the WSF was going to raise the agenda of the peoples, the agenda of the workers, the agenda of women, that is to say the issues that those organizations are not going to be focusing on as a priority and then this is what we have to bear in mind and perhaps the issues that have not yet been dealt with in this forum, we will have to incorporate them. We could say that we are not only supporting Mexico but that in general in the planet society has been becoming precarious, precariousness is becoming universal and it covers more and more sectors, workers that were considered as a position are suddenly no longer so, in the case of esmec they were not rich but they had their benefits, all of a sudden and that is why they sent 40 thousand families to unemployment to absolute precariousness, to give an example, when before they had their collective contract benefits, if they were not extraordinary, they had a solvent position to satisfy their needs, this happens everywhere, the academic sector, the sector of university workers was not a choice, I have seen that before the figure of the professor in other times was an elitist figure, but today the immense majority in all public and private universities is precarious. Comrade Pedro Salcedo was saying, and I have questioned this concept of micro-entrepreneurs of small entrepreneurs, I think it is a concept that does not correspond to them, they have accepted it but I think we have to start questioning this point, because they are also in the line of precariousness, because right now with the pandemic I know hundreds of small, micro and even medium-sized companies that went bankrupt, businesses that no longer exist, that said that we had to close, so they were very damaged, they have also been thrown into precariousness, the pandemic and the economic crisis have affected many of you, I believe that many of you, micro and small in reality are domestic units and in some cases with entrepreneurs and business owners who practice cooperative values, they are cooperatives without having formally, I know several micro enterprises that are almost a family one and others, so we should reflect on that, there are many issues that should be included and rethink".

Daniela: "I found the last session very interesting, I think that the history of the WSF enriches a lot all this accumulated systematization of the struggles of the peoples of the world, then it is very important that many of the youth who are participating in this process, we know the youth and people in general, not just the youth, I think that here then all the people that in recent times or especially in the case of Mexico that we have participated in the thematic forums of Mexico then we have been interested and then at least to me it seemed very important to listen to these different voices, different experiences because it is important that these experiences show us the resistance of many peoples in struggle and I believe that at this moment it is also an opportunity and a very strong possibility that the World Social Forum has to be able to truly consolidate an important force at the level of protagonism in the struggles that at this moment is very important because in reality we see how our world is and I believe that it is one of the international spaces from my point of view that has a greater presence in different territories of the world and it is not easy, because the international work that the forum has been building has not been easy, because there have been setbacks, problems, but nevertheless the most important thing is that this effort has been maintained and on the contrary, more spaces have been opened, more work, and that is what is important. And something that is also fundamental is that since there have also been debates within the forum and the most important thing is that little by little the forum has also taken up again the protagonism of the peoples in a direct way, it is something very important that also has to continue to happen and has to continue to deepen. On the other hand, one of the fundamental aspects is the part of communication, I believe that in the part of communication that the WSF has done in these years has been possible because it is truly a very hard work and it is very important because most of the social movements in the world, we have left this part very much aside and I believe that from the communicational field it is a fundamental tool of struggle to strengthen our processes of resistance, I believe that in this sense the WSF has done very important work that must continue to be strengthened, and I consider that it must continue to advance and also how we could integrate in this process some commissions or some work in a more specific way, which already corresponds to the organizations that are already there but that we could also be concretizing in the next meetings or assemblies because the basis for the future of the forum in Mexico will also depend on this.

María Luisa: "I can point out that it gives us the impulse of what can generate the confirmation of a world network with its own legitimate interest after the policies implemented not only by the neoliberal governments but also manipulated by the big capitalists, learning is not only to articulate a discourse of action but also strategies of accompaniment, learning and struggles, from the civil society shows us that change comes from the local to have an impact on the local".

Miroslava: "I consider important to include the right to culture since a people who do not know and do not preserve their history can hardly have a critical thinking, alternative that can impact on social transformation towards a better world, experiences can help to innovate the course in the future, the real articulation of all organizations of a front that counteract this system, current and neoliberalist world."

Organizer: "I deal with what it implies, the complexity of preparing a WSF not in terms of logistics and infrastructure, but in the political negotiation that is done with the different actors and with the different regions and that implies organization, willingness, openness to dialogue with the different actors, and I think that those things are what we have to have learning for the process that we must do, I was very impressed by what the people from Brazil and India said about the number of people involved in organizing the forum, in India they talked about 500 people or organizations and in Brazil 300 and in Mexico we still need to push this process and above all how they involve the different actors from all the territories. The forum was born to create a space for the movements of the world so that they can meet and tell each other what they are doing and what is happening in their territories, 20 years ago we did not have the technology we have today, now we can easily connect with another part of the world at the click of a button. On the issue of the women's struggle, it was impressive what was said about 52% of women participating but only 11% of us were at the tables, then, as it has been a dispute between the territories and then, the organizational structure of how it is always necessary the role played by the facilitator group as an instance that encourages and facilitates, not coordinates the forum, but facilitates and at the same time the need to create different commissions (communication, projects, finances, mobilization, will, means, links with the state, infrastructure methodology, youth, thematic committees and women's follow-up), each one has its particularity and how we articulate at world level is a fundamental thing to talk about things".

Organizer: "We must leave the space to the younger ones, on the one hand we were talking about young people and on the other hand about us who have already walked a long way, we can remain as advisors who can accompany and contribute with our experience but not to decide, we must also leave that strength to them".

Daniel: "I think it is very important the progress that the forum has been making, this work that we are proposing. I believe that this effort continues to be very important as well as what is being done in the forum, it is defined, discussed, analyzed by comrades who know much more about the development of capitalism which continues to advance and is increasingly predatory because it is destroying nature, the planet and it is therefore necessary that we unite to be able to advance, so this forum is one more effort that the peoples are making. Capital has everything under control in terms of communications, if they want to isolate us, they do it, as they have done by destroying the building of a press agency in Palestine, and they are doing what they intend to do to isolate some areas, since they have all the capacity to advance in that sense. Because today this very difficult situation is happening in Colombia, not only in Colombia but also in Mexico, and the situations that happen sometimes are not known or if they are known we do not have the capacity to disseminate them and support them for different reasons. I consider that it is very important to continue advancing in that element which is the communication of a given moment to act to disseminate, to denounce, to cover. Another fundamental aspect is culture, since it is found in all aspects of life and we are all interested in a specific activity, so I think it is important to deepen the forum in these aspects.

Sara: "Some of us participate in broad feminist networks, the issue is that we have not been able to call their attention, maybe the forum will decide to make a broader call to add Mexican organizations to this process. We must not let the articulations that emerged from the FSI fall".

Organizer: "What has been commented with feminists because there is no feminist thematic space, rather feminism is more of an axis rather for all the different thematic spaces or WSF to assume it, which has not been easy."

Alejandra: "In the case of culture and that culture has to do with the struggles that are registered from own events in each territory and that is very important the issue of what happens in our peoples taking into account that original, ancestral culture that day by day has been lost because it always exists in the thinking of the people, it exists that does not take into account the deep Mexico that really exists and we take that egocentrism with which we are educated generations after generations, in that sense, it is important to retake, that culture of our original peoples, I believe that the WSF is a very important space for meeting, for reunion as a great assembly where everyone comes to say what is happening in our territories, we share it, we pluralize and build a culture of struggle based on the events that happen in our territories is something very important, because right now in the whole world there are many voices, saying what is happening, it is a global issue what we are living. Talking about the media of our people is very important because that is the experience that we of the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca bring with us".

María Luisa: "When we talk about this event only in an annual plan of something of strategies only sectioned in different years for an action, the strategy is badly planned, we would have to consider and make these accompaniments from the forum of these calls for help, of the calls for attention that happen in our brother countries, as well as of what happens in our current context. So it could be an opportunity for us not to leave the actions of the forum to a single event, but to establish these alliances, these collectivities for an effective use of the organizations that accompany and discuss the events that are taking place so that our sister countries can be accompanied, precisely to contextualize and capitalize everything that can be capitalized in the sense of making a real use of what we are going to have as a predominance of our culture in the sense of being able to articulate and gain spaces where the forum has a more tacit, more real, more accessible impulse than any community where the participation of the context that they already had and that now the synergies that are being added are more effective so that they are not lost. Undoubtedly we can say that feminism has solid articulations because it does not seek to magnify a person or a particular objective but to magnify the same feminisms that we have to eliminate the patriarchal system that prevails where we all take each other as sisters and we are in solidarity with the social struggles and we make the calls in that sense that we are mobilizing from these aspects as brothers and sisters with our struggles and our daily events where we are strengthening ourselves, These phrases in which we say that the world is watching, that the world is knowing what is happening and that it is not going to happen anymore must be accompanied not only by a speech but also by facts, so what can favor these conditions is that with this forum we can start to brother more solid actions for the immediate future".

Sol: "We consider that in the current situation we are living it is important to see what is the role that the WSF is assuming in the face of the events we are visualizing, mainly what is happening in Colombia, Palestine, There are many repressions where the class enemy is unified and is repressing all the brothers and sisters of the peoples of other peoples of the world and I believe that the forum has to pronounce itself and not necessarily wait until a year to hold an event and draw up agreements but I consider that the WSF has to walk on the path of facts to consolidate an international movement that can become a true reference of a political approach to counteract all the grievances of neoliberalism, It is important to work on an integral project, I consider that in the cultural aspect it is very important in the sense that murals can be made by a cultural commission. It is important that the commission takes up this initiative and that the WSF truly recovers the objectives that were created from the beginning, because the WSF has lacked a real organization, inclusion, plurality, horizontality in decision making and it is important to change this sense of the role that the WSF should assume to build a true space of transformation, of true struggle and in this aspect I consider that the original peoples that we see ourselves as a territory of resistance that we have a whole culture, of decision making, I think that in this aspect I consider that the native peoples should see that as a territory of resistance that we have a culture of decision making, of dialogue that we are included in this voice that we have had and that in this aspect we can truly walk with an international struggle, because the WSF has to make a statement of international solidarity, because statements are being made in isolation, so today the WSF has to make an international statement and demand that the international human rights organizations make a call to the UN organizations to make a statement that demands the government to make this review of human rights and stop the massacre, the assassinations, the genocide. We need to build a work of the different countries to recover a global action to stop this repression, which would be a very humanistic initiative that the forum should take up again. The WSF should outline a proposal for international solidarity so that there is an initiative of struggle and that we can join forces.

Lidia: "The forum needs to pronounce itself in the face of the acts of violence against humanity".

Miguel Vargas: "The WSF must have a permanent presence in constant actions of transformation".

Sara: "The forum should have closer pronouncements like the movements in Colombia".

Lilian: "We must solidarize the mechanisms of communication in order to make a unified statement with a press commission".

Miguel: "In all aspects we must structure movements, constant and effective movement which goes from artistic to cultural when it is not left there on the wall but when it is shown, interpreted in the sense of ideological expression".

2) What questions does it raise?

Sara: "It also has to do with the massiveness, in the case of the first forums it is like feeling lost among so many face-to-face activities and I was struck by the thematic forums of the last ones, such as the health issue, so we would have to see how to structure the thematic issues, but at the same time the movements".

Organizer: "The tension between the thematic, the movement and the WSF as a meeting place, but in the end it gives us a general overview of the process".

Lidia: "It was a very extensive information of everything they were sharing, it was not very easy to assimilate all the work they have done, which is a lot and which makes me think: What is now the responsibility of those of us who are involved and what should we do with all this work that already has all this background, but now where to orient ourselves, in the case of feminisms there is not much articulation. But I do not know how the forum can reorganize territories or disseminate these activities that are going to be included in the forum. One of the pending issues is to disseminate and make known what the forum has done since many people do not know it exists and how to articulate ourselves?

Daniel: "We could make efforts as much as we can in terms of how can we advance in the communications issue, what methods and ways can we work on so that we can maintain this communication?

Ricardo: "Why did it take so many years to be recognized in the WSF as a thematic forum for the protagonism of the ancestral native peoples? Even massively in some places, however, it was treated in general topics and it was not seen as reaffirming the identity, the history, the struggles, the drive, the great contribution to life, the defense of life, biodiversity, then why until now they were only attended in their specificity in the WSF in January? What has happened? What happened in our heads? Does Eurocentrism predominate in any case? Do we know that many artists and cultural workers have not been considered as another axis of articulation, of creativity, of actions? It is not enough their solidarity role, which has been great, they have encouraged but sometimes they have only been considered to entertain, to set the mood for events and marches, they need to have their own space, the question is: What self-criticism does the current committee do with respect to give value to art and culture of the peoples in struggle in a thematic axis, in the great work and effort made by the IC is the problem of how to pass the baton to new generations, how to make it inherit, to transmit, to generate a new more youthful environment? Because in practice the young people have been ahead.

Organizer: "How can we generate the conditions to be able to make young people, children, native peoples, migrants, and many other actors participate or be more inclusive?

Alejandra: "We have to see how to build our own means of communication for the people".

María Luisa: "The questions that arise from the historical antecedents that we have of what was the WSF are: What are going to be the strategies so that we can promote the brotherhood that undoubtedly we have from the social struggle, how can we articulate the actions that we have from the civil society, from the social movements, from the social struggles, a real impulse, ask them what tasks they have had in relation to the diagnoses that they and you promoted as international committee to act now?".

Sol: "In the WSF you have to make a work plan. How through music or painting or through videos can initiatives be made to counteract all this aggravation of violation of human rights that the peoples of the world are living?".

Ricardo: "How to face the challenge of inheriting experience and learning to new generations that coordinate and facilitate the WSF and the international committee itself?"

Organizer: "How do we build digital sovereignty and how do we build other spaces?

Ricardo: "How to face the challenge of inheriting experience and learning to new generations that will coordinate and facilitate the WSF and the international committee itself?"

Organizer: "How can we build digital sovereignty and other spaces?

Ricardo: "A reflection on the fact that we have to act articulately from now on, but there have also been interventions that speak correctly that the WSF is a process, secondly that it should be permanent, but when they refer to the permanent sometimes it seems that they refer to continuous meetings and not to the organization of campaigns of struggle that do not remain in the complaint and in the chain of laments but that are propositive that do damage to the enemies of the peoples, with a predatory and militaristic capitalism we need that the WSF its permanence is organized with a strategy of concrete campaigns".

3.- What are the challenges for the GF WSF in Mexico?

Alejandra: "The challenge of these spaces like the WSF is how we articulate all these protests, grievances of which we are the target and second to think and reflect if the WSF and all the efforts that exist from this, who nourishes and who potentiates these spaces are precisely the struggles of our own peoples and that is very important, even now when the comrades of Colombia are desperately crying out for international solidarity, How are we not able to articulate in a single event all the requests for help that our brother peoples are giving us and it is not done because there is no culture, because there is no learning from our ancestors, so in that sense it is important that if we can be building a space that apart from making transparent all these problems that exist we can be able to be raising the existence of the voices of our peoples who are those who will give an even stronger potentialization to these spaces. It is important to build a culture of struggle in these spaces.

María Luisa: "To make a diagnosis of the background we have of the forum to see how we can support so that these situations improve within the actions we are going to have in the coming year, to be able to make diagnoses and not only of what we were able to promote but also of what we intended to do and could not do in order to be able to propose new strategies, new tasks, new actions that will allow us to solidify the actions of the forum. To unite us in the cause and in the social struggle precisely against capitalism, against neoliberal policies and to be able to implement actions or actions that not only make us a focus of action but also a focus of articulation of strategies and alliances of social movements and in the public sphere".

Organizer: "It is necessary to create a process, an articulated work that generates training, reflection, movement, which would be a very interesting challenge that we can imprint on our assemblies".

Sócrates: "We have to highlight two elements, one is that we have failed to incorporate the issue of youth and students to the tables, to the discussions, but also to see how to invite student and youth organizations of all kinds so that they are the ones who are directly in charge of these tables. Another point is that we will have to consider alternatives, because I have made a criticism of the social movements, of the organizations that sometimes we fall and we only remain in the denunciation, although the denunciation, the communication are necessary, if we do not build an alternative. So the WSF from the beginning has been and should continue to be a space for the construction of alternatives of all kinds, in the field of culture, economy, of all the problems of the popular sectors".