



CRID contribution to the IC meeting in Tunis

The current challenges facing the WSF IC and the Social Forum dynamic are not insignificant. They are related both to the global situation and to a process of internal crisis due to disagreements between its members on the character and future of the WSF.

The global upheaval of recent years, beyond the pandemic, is indeed the result of already existing crises: economic, political, climate, social and of hospitality. More than ever, the fragility and dead ends of the neo-liberal development model, the inequalities, discriminations, violence and wars that it generates, have become evident everywhere in the world.

This multidimensional crisis reveals the extent to which political, economic and financial actors are seeking to strengthen the existing system, even if it means deepening social, economic and environmental inequalities, often in defiance of the most fundamental rights. This reinforcement leads to an acceleration in many countries of a regression of democratic spaces, freedoms and rights, which is accompanied by a tendency to withdraw into one's identity and to reject the other.

Our movements and our societies have entered a period of fundamental rupture, a period of transition marked by strong contradictions: we are going through profound uncertainties, and find ourselves facing a bifurcation between several possible futures.

This context has led our organisations to question the strategy of the alterglobalist movement, crystallized in the process of building the Social Forum dynamic. This debate was then built around two distinct visions of the World Social Forum (WSF), which today translate into two dynamics:

- Those who wish to create a permanent assembly of social movements, for political positions within the WSF;
- Those who defend the WSF as a space for convergence and the construction of collective positions and initiatives "within" and not "by" the WSF.

The CRID, a French international solidarity organisation created in 1976 and a stakeholder in the foundation and permanent construction process of the WSF, wishes however **BE IN A DIFFERENT DYNAMIC THAN THE ONE IMPOSING ONE OF THE TWO VISIONS.**

In view of the current contradictions within the IC, we believe that the main task of our movements is to focus on the transmission of a political history and the connection of the actors of historical alterglobalism with the new radicalities and struggles of the first concerned.

Indeed, despite the grim scenario, powerful movements in societies today demonstrate a desire for radical change: the women's movement is challenging millennia-old relationships of gender domination; the climate emergency movement has shaken up certainties about the concept of development based on unbridled growth; the anti-racist, decolonial and against all forms of discrimination movement, is highlighting a never-ending process of decolonisation. This has not gone unnoticed by the reactionary, identitarian and far-right movements that are growing in strength in response to these new forms of struggles.

The global situation has the merit of putting the notions of fundamental rights and the political action of populations back at the centre of the debate. It highlights the key role of movements, collectives and

organisations capable of mobilising concrete solidarity in the face of the structural failings of States, of fighting against oppression and authoritarian tendencies, and of proposing real alternatives to a dominant model that is fundamentally inegalitarian. It also involves placing our analysis at a global level.

It is in this context that the organisations participating in the WSF process must continue their political action so that the actors of change can fully play their role. Indeed, in order to have a capacity for intervention that is equal to the current global challenges, the IC must make the integration of new forms of radicalism, the articulation with new movements and the reconnection with grassroots movements that no longer find themselves in the WSF dynamic a central objective. To do this, it is essential to rethink our spaces of exchange and our logics of debate construction, in order to build a sustainable relationship of political trust between the different movements sharing the challenges of building another world, whether they were born in the alterglobalization movement or more recently.

It is in this spirit that our contribution to the debate was envisioned. We share with the participants of the IC meeting the following concrete proposals, with the will to contribute to the construction of a roadmap for a renewal of internationalism, and for the construction of sustainable alliances between our movements.

Build sustainable political trust

All movements must feel free and legitimate to participate in international meetings, because it is the gathering of our diversities that will make us strong. We need to build open spaces where everyone feels comfortable, confident, free to express themselves and share, and from which everyone emerges refreshed, with more answers and perspectives than questions.

To do this, the primary objective of meetings such as the WSF would be to facilitate inter-knowledge, the construction and strengthening of alliances beyond the already existing bonds between certain organisations. Our organisational modes must allow for this, and be enriched by more informal, convivial, festive, and above all common moments, where we really get to know each other and share.

These spaces must be designed through the use of different methodologies that allow each person to grasp a political history that is often unknown or not objectified. In this process, interpreting must be at the heart of the organisation in order to allow each person, whatever language(s) they speak, to take part in all the exchanges without suffering linguistic discrimination.

It is also the financial accessibility that needs to be rethought in order to encourage everyone to come. This implies a concerted effort by the more established organisations to support the participation of newer, less institutionalised collectives, movements and organisations with fewer financial resources.

Rethink the inclusion and representativeness of movements within the WSF dynamic

The international meetings must reflect the current diversity of our movements and their struggles. For at least four years, our network has seen the emergence of a unanimous will to make spaces for dialogue, consultation, mobilisation and decision-making more inclusive and representative of struggles: decolonial, feminist, LGBTQIA+, climate, social, anti-racial, anti-imperialist and many others.

In this regard, before moving forward on a debate on the form that the WSF should take ("space" or "political actor"), it is imperative to allow the expression of the first concerned within the spaces of construction of the WSF process: the challenge we face is to lay down a decisively intersectional and intergenerational framework, to facilitate a real sharing of the torch of mobilisation and to acknowledge the new forces on the move

Create partnership areas for better alliance building

The culminating point of our meetings is the bonds we create, the ideas we share and enrich collectively. It is therefore proposed to systematically set up during our meetings, in parallel to the official programme, permanent physical spaces, free and open to all, in order to debate and continue to discuss what we want to do together.

Structuring and facilitating these informal spaces of exchange at the centre of our meetings (and no longer on the margins) will then make it possible for the different actors of change to meet, thus enabling convergences and alliances to be made from the bottom up and in close connection with the movements in struggle, and not in a top-down approach.

Ensure the participation of local movements and their integration in the WSF process

A WSF is hundreds or even thousands of activists coming together, and we can organise ourselves to support local struggles, to strengthen them and to leave a concrete trace of the WSF in a city, a country and a region.

Our International Forums must then establish and claim a local anchorage. The host city, country and region must know that a major meeting of movements is taking place, and the movements, collectives and organisations must be convinced of the relevance of seizing these spaces to advance their respective struggles in connection with the dynamics of struggles elsewhere.

To avoid the one shot effect, it is essential to ensure the integration of these collectives and local struggles in the co-organisation of the WSFs while encouraging their participation in the construction of subsequent editions and their integration in the debates held within the WSF dynamic. Therefore, we must systematically initiate, as early as possible, the work of articulation with local movements through meetings in the field of struggles in the region hosting the forum, with the various networks operating there.

Launch a debate on new radicalities and create a common agenda

Lastly, this text is an opportunity to call for the identification of the major and global challenges we face in our respective local, national and regional realities in order to better grasp the new radicalities capable of changing the political balance of power on a large scale: feminist, anti-racist, environmentalist and decolonial struggles, as well as the struggles of digital actors, indigenous peoples, migrants, etc.

This collective debate rooted in concrete struggles will allow us to design together a common agenda that can enable the creation of alliances between our struggles and movements in all their diversity. It is from the debate on such an international roadmap resulting from mobilisation actions to be carried out collectively

and simultaneously in all corners of the world, that the different voices of our movements will be able to make the oppressors tremble and build another world.

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For the CRID and its members, these proposals will enable the WSF IC to consolidate a political identity in line with the challenges all our movements and organisations are facing: **to articulate the historical actors of alterglobalism with the new movements and modes of organisation, while reconnecting with the grassroots networks and movements that no longer find themselves in the dynamic, and to give them a voice in all the spaces that allow it, including within the WSF process.** In this sense, it is essential to initiate the process of building future WSFs, as a renewed World Social Forum is necessary and possible.