

**Reference Term from CULTURE WG Seminar  
August 28 to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

- 1) Culture is a motor to History, irrigates the forests, carries the memory and the destiny, creates and overflows our political practices . Culture is the subjectivity of our organization, our way to meet, plan, take decisions, act, reflect, rediscover, resist and transform. It mediates production and reproduction of daily life, the way we born, feed ourselves, play, the way we make love, talk, work, laugh, dance, dream, get marry, suffer, the way we organize ourselves, resist, educate our children and bury the ones who passed away. Culture is the way we understand ourselves in the world and how we live this understanding. If we don't understand culture and make our own culture, we can be dominated and betrayed without knowing, acting against our interests. It's urgent that the World Social Forum assumes Culture as a *form* to civil society and social movements strategies and actions, so the desired contents and values can be imagined, represented and expressed independently and with creativity, in our multiple languages of diverse and inclusive manifestations;
- 2) We hope to go deep in the consensus that organizes our political struggles for another possible world for the comprehension and integration of Culture as a priority dimension in economic, social and environmental transformation policies and processes, according to the WSF Charter of Principles. Culture must be seen as an historic space to empower and reinvent life meanings, based in ethical and aesthetic values that reflect the meaning of the transformations we fight for.
- 3) The World Social Forum must be a space to interlink, gather and connect individuals, groups, social and cultural movements that are engaged on building creative ways, on going deep and broader the communication among various sectors of civil society and peoples committed with the transformation of dominant values and politics;
- 4) It's very important to create spaces inside the World Social Forum for Culture as an expression of human relations values and principles, as well as a political world, promoting fruitful dialogues between peoples traditions and knowledge and the artistic and political practices, establishing new ways of communication;
- 5) WSF should break down the market logic related to dominant Culture and value peoples Cultures and it's artistic expressions, as long as it's inside peoples cultures that human rights can be seen, new signs are produced and incorporated, acting as effective agents to reaffirm identities, to raise self-esteem and, in consequence, to raise transformations that can allow peoples emancipation, the protection of biodiversity and Earth sustainability;

- 6) WSF should be a space to promote meetings between various languages and a space to communicate practices and messages, looking for another possible world; and the possibility of making real innovative pedagogic ways to allow the building or broadening methods, processes and educative tools that uses these languages.
- 7) Culture transversality isn't assured only by instrumental communication, but mostly among the ones who are committed with social transformation, as long as the regular press and the mainstream media has its focus on the market, straightening the right to communicate in a destructive way;
- 8) Culture should be transversal in all initiatives, as a constant search for new informative and dialogue tools, educative and sensitizing communication tools, essential to the strategic expansion of the messages we defend. Tools should be tough in the interface between Culture - Communication - Politics.
- 9) Cultural and political manifestations inside WSF should value mostly the voices of subdued groups, the voices of those who're always invisible and inaudible due to the current dominant values, defined by dominant classes and by the so-called "market";
- 10) Cultural and artistic initiatives should highlight themes related to the Amazon region, environmental issues and the ones related to climate change.
- 11) Amazonian culture in the WSF should show the real signs that makes the region a nest of the biggest biodiversity on Earth. Not anymore in the exotic field, but as its real value, concerning its inherent details, being able to dialogue, communicate, host and promote a creative synthesis among East and West, North and South, for another possible world.
- 12) Culture Working Group suggest a challenge for the WSF 2009: to build a dialogic methodology that can stimulate the linkage between peoples traditions, artistic activities and the seminars, speeches and testimonies. We expect that the objectives, themes and discussions are moments of real experiences, reflections and creative sharing that goes much beyond the meeting moments, that can be able to provoke personal and daily transformations, so we can reach the expected world human collectivity.

Contributions to this synthesis: Iara Pietricovsky de Oliveira, Déa S Melo, Dan Baron...