

Funder Delegation to the World Social Forum Dakar, Senegal – February 6-11, 2011



Photo courtesy of WSF2011: <http://fsm2011.org/>

Report on Activities and Funder Engagements

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Summary of WSF Activities

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Documents and Links

Prepared by FNTG
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Report on the FNTG Delegation to the World Social Forum

- Two dozen funders participated in the WSF 2011 funder delegation organized by FNTG with support from Grantmakers without Borders and TrustAfrica. Delegation activities included a pre-trip orientation call and the development of a [WSF 2011 Delegation Briefing Book](#), a day-long series of [orientation discussions](#) in Dakar hosted by TrustAfrica, informal morning briefings for those staying at the main delegation hotel, and a debrief session towards the end of the forum.
- We also organized a joint reception/party with [Grassroots Global Justice Alliance](#), a highlight of which was the masterful [ice cream scooping skills](#) displayed by delegation members Jerry and Ben.
- This 2011 World Social Forum brought together some 50,000 people from around the world, with a large majority coming from West Africa and surrounding regions. The venue was open and accessible to all (unlike in Nairobi in 2007). Mobilization efforts were impressive, from large numbers of activists organized by the Magreb-Mashreq Social Forum, to a dozen caravans which made their way to Dakar from North Africa and [across the West Africa region](#), bringing hundreds more to the forum and engaging communities all along the way.
- As [Immanuel Wallerstein notes](#), while early years of the WSF focused mainly on the negative consequences of neoliberalism, in Dakar the linkages between a broad range of issues were discussed. “This it seems to me has been the great achievement of the WSF – to embrace more and more concerns and get everyone to see their intimate interconnections.”
- The forum took place during the inspiring wave of protests throughout the Maghreb and Mashreq regions, and serendipitously the departure of Hosni Mubarak from Egypt was announced during closing ceremonies. As a number of observers and members of the International Council remarked later, this forum was “unashamedly militant and political.”
- Partly due to what was described as “sabotage” on the part of a nervous and reluctant government, and partly because of the errors and poor organizing, this year’s forum was logistically and organizationally dreadful. University of Dakar venues “scheduled” for use by forum participants were also being used for student classes, workshop schedules were late, unavailable or erroneous, and many if not most of the interpreters brought into the forum were either not used at all or forced to do whisper translation with small groups on the edge of the sessions.
- While many marveled at the self-organizing capacities of forum participants (because almost all seemed to agree that a great many important and useful discussions took place), the chaotic nature of the forum greatly privileged those who were forum veterans, those who were part of established international networks, and those with dominant languages, cell phones and computers at their disposal.

- The next WSF International Council’s Methodology Commission has set up a working group that will present an evaluation of the Dakar Forum at the next IC meeting in May in Paris. That IC meeting will also decide on the time and venue for the next WSF in 2013.
- Thematic and regional forums will be organized over the course of the next year; plans announced so far include a South Asia Social Forum in Dhaka, Bangladesh (in November 2011), a World Food Sovereignty Forum in Haiti, a Palestinian Solidarity Forum in Brazil and activities in conjunction with Rio + 20 to alternative development models.
- Judging from their oral and written comments, FNTG delegation members found the trip, in spite of all of the disorganization, to be highly inspiring and informative, with most saying it will shift or significantly shift the focus of their funding. Wrote one funder: “My experience at the WSF changed my model of social and political change. I came away from workshops and deep conversations with new perspectives on the relationships between democratic deficits at the local, national and global level.” See Appendix below for full results of the funder delegation online assessment.

Next Steps

A number of collaborative funder activities emerged in Dakar.

- **Follow-up/Report back calls**

Grantmakers without Borders is taking the lead on organizing a [funder call on March 17](#) with FNTG to discuss funder experiences at the WSF. Funders are invited as well to participate on a WSF [report back call on March 11](#) organized by the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ).

- **Climate Justice**

A number of funders are working to support organizing efforts by environmental activists in South Africa, around the continent and around the world as preparations get underway for the UNFCCC climate talks in Durban in December.

- **Supporting North African/Middle East Social Movements**

The Maghreb-Mashreq Social Forum has developed into an important element of the WSF process and the momentum it has gained over the past decade is acknowledged to have contributed to successful struggles for democracy and human rights. Funders will work to support a continuation of social forum exchanges and encounters over the coming months.

- **Funder Meeting on Social Movements in June**

Plans are underway for a meeting to discuss strategies for increasing support to grassroots organizing and movement-building in Africa and around the world, to be held on June 13 in concert with the [Grantmakers without Borders Conference](#) in New York City.

Participants in WSF 2011 Funder Delegation

Allison Barlow	HKH Foundation
Ben Cohen	Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Bhekinkosi Moyo	TrustAfrica
Cynthia Ryan	Schooner Foundation
Helen Brunner (w/Don Russel)	Media Democracy Fund
Imad Sabi	Oxfam Novib
Jeff Furman (w/Sara Hess)	Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Jerry Greenfield (w/Elizabeth Skarie)	Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Laura Livoti	FACT
Leah Hunt-Hendrix	The Sisters Fund
Mamadou Mane	American Jewish World Service
Marcia Thomas	United Support of Artists For Africa
Mariamé Ouattara	New Field Foundation
Mark Randazzo (w/Samudra Randazzo)	FNTG
Melissa Cariño (w/Trip Coggin)	FNTG RESIST
Moyo Bhekinkosi	TrustAfrica
Nancy Alexander	Heinrich Boell Foundation
Nikhil Aziz	Grassroots International
Pete Stanga	Grantmakers without Borders
Rosalie Nezien	American Jewish World Service
Sandra Zerbo	TrustAfrica
Sarah Christiansen	Solidago Foundation
Sarah Hobson	New Field Foundation
Yeshica Weerasekera	International Development Exchange

Other Grantmakers involved in WSF 2011

Christine K	Heinrich Boll/Nigeria
Tanya Dawkins	Grantmakers without Borders
Catherine Gaudard	CCFD (Catholic Cttee against Hunger and for Development)
Jurgen Reichel	EED (Protestant Development Service, Germany)
Juliette Decoster	Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l' Homme
Ralph Sprenkels	ICCO (not able to be in Dakar)

Speakers and Resource People for Funder Delegation to WSF 2011

Magreb-Mashreq Social Forum	Hamouda Soubhi	hsoubhi@alternatives.ca
Kontent Films	Mark Decena	mark@kontentfilms.com
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance	Michael Guerrero	michael@ggjalliance.org
WSF Resources Commission	Nicolas Haeringer	nicolas.haeringer@gmail.com
Priority Africa Network	Nunu Kidane	nunukidane@att.net
FDEA	Soukeyna N'Diaye Ba	fdea@orange.sn
Pambazuka News French edition	Tidiane Kassé	tidiane@fahamu.org
Third World Network Africa	Yao Graham	ygraham@twnafrica.org

Summary of WSF Funder Delegation Debrief Session

February 11, 2011

Hotel des Almadies, Dakar, Senegal

Participants: Marcia, Rosalie, Bouna, Nancy, Mark, Allison, Helen/Don, Nikhil, Sarah Hobson, Leah, Imad, Nikhil, Ben, Jerry, Jeff, Elizabeth, Yeshica, Pete, Laura, Sara Hess, Titiane, Koumba, and Melissa (notes)

WSF Reflections

Participants shared their reflections and experiences from the World Social Forum 2011. Some participants are first-time attendees to a social forum or a World Social Forum; others have been to many different social forums. Below are some key points that came up in our discussion:

- Every forum is different. It is important to realize that the forum provides an incredible opportunity, and we need to continue the experimentation! So many amazing connections, ideas, and strategizing;
- The WSF was a great way to connect with grantee partners and many others as well as engage in and learn from great workshops/performances. One first-time attendee had a wonderful time and thought WSF provided amazing space. The one-on-one connections are essential;
- Some experienced complex race/class tensions. One example is how one delegate noticed that she stayed with her own cohort and was difficult to break through those barriers;
- Privilege was very apparent, specifically in ability to access information (i.e. digital divide, language barriers, literacy). It also felt very patriarchal, starting from the opening ceremony (no women on stage). Some felt the “gulf of privilege” at the WSF as well as within the funder delegation;
- Despite the wall of difficulty, chaos and disorganization, it was inspiring to see folks self-organize, especially grantee partners. Many examples of groups doing the best with what they have and focusing on the opportunities. The space was very exciting;
- It was very challenging to sort things out and navigate through the forum, especially for those with little resources. It was very sad to see many people travel so far on little resources and then find out they had no room or tent assignment, as planned and paid for. Adding to this frustration was there was no specific way to give feedback or complain. This speaks to the lack of accountability, checks & balances, governance, and communications, which may turn off some from participating again as they may feel betrayed or disrespected;
- The WSF needs more open discussion to share, learn, and improve the forum process;
- The WSF experience was a bit disappointing in Dakar. Senegal is able to do better. Holding the WSF is a great opportunity to have Africa at the table, but the international governance board needs to hold local organizers accountable and checking in/supporting throughout the process (i.e. Benchmarks). When things get so disorganized, it gives Africa a bad name and blaming Africans. Because of this, participants felt there were lots of missed opportunities (i.e. utilizing strong local resources like Koumba) & a loss of resources. Some felt that these actions were “criminal” in the way resources were used/not used and organizers need to take responsibility;

- On the upside, people learned about Casamance (southern Senegal) through the women who spoke at the WSF, and through that, there were positive exchanges with Brazilian WSF attendees;
- It was wonderful to visit the Indy Media Center, with organizers from all over Africa;
- First day of forum should connect with political, economic, social, and cultural history. Lack of understanding of the space could be avoided. This was the original plan, but because of the challenges in venue, it did not occur as planned. Others also felt Thursday was the last day of the forum, when, in fact, there was another day left.
- The forum seems to highlight superstars too heavily – why not support those who are doing amazing work and highlight them, make them superstars?
- Interesting to dissect the democratic process at the grassroots level versus the democratic process at the global level. Is it possible that there are too many separate conversations? Do these conversations consider race/class tensions? It's important for the grassroots to be listened to yet the forum seems to cater to those with means. This gives an impression that the grassroots is completely separate from the global level. The WSF process needs more opportunities for the grassroots and local organizations should be more involved;
- Koumba shared that we have a lot to learn from this process. As a Senegalese and African, she feels hurt. There's such a huge rift between what the forum could be and what the forum should be. Good management is important – without it, then the forum will always be a super challenging space; and
- Participants were very grateful to be part of this delegation that is doing this type of reflection and self-criticism.

WSF Venue: *Université Cheikh Anta Diop*

Some participants felt a lot of tension in the air from the students and think it was a phenomenal mistake to hold the WSF at the university. Some background information was provided:

There was a contract signed with the University but then its President was replaced (by the Senegalese leaders) most likely because of political fears, intervention, sabotage, and what was currently happening in North Africa. This created a domino effect. The Senegal president said Forum was a disaster and he doesn't believe in alternatives to neoliberalism. Riot police at the opening march has never been seen in Dakar before.

This forum was supposed to be an innovative one - 1st day focused on setting African context, caravans traveling to Dakar, 2 days only of self-organized activities (taking lead from USSF process). The organizing committee aims to be logistical committee and facilitator. There were good intentions initially. Big failure of execution. NO map of the university was provided!!! Great disappointment – many people worked very hard!

It was irresponsible to think the WSF organizers could remove the students and then become very stubborn about keeping this venue. 50% of students come from rural areas and here till graduating so it's impossible to kick those students out during forum. Forum organizers didn't contingency plan or refused Plan B. Reimbursements will be provided.

Insight from a WSF International Council Member: *Imad Sabi from Oxfam NOVIB*

Every forum has surprises but change is slow. Sometimes we don't see the impact until a couple of years later. Brazil has a sense of ownership around the WSF since it was born there. WSF's held outside Brazil is seen as Brazil "allowing" other areas to host the forum.

There are guiding principles in planning for the WSF, but they weren't followed in Dakar. Other countries (i.e. Mumbai, India) offered their help but were not accepted. There needs to be transparency with finances/resources like on who was helped to get to the forum (grassroots or hotshots?). We need to have a way for participants to give feedback.

This specific WSF lived up to being a self-organizing space. The WSF organizers just facilitate the space, but they failed. There has been no attempt to take responsibility yet. As a representative of Oxfam NOVIB, the largest funder to the forum, Imad also feels responsible and critical.

There will be post-WSF meetings with the organizers and International Council this coming Sunday. It is expected that African organizers will be very defensive and will share the blame. It is a small, exclusive local organizing committee as the concept of volunteering is somewhat foreign in the local region. There were countless appeals for unpaid support.

It will be important to see where the forum goes next...

Initial Writings and Analysis of the 2011 WSF

Preliminary Notes on the World Social Forum 2011, Dakar

By Giuseppe Caruso

After a year of networked events taking place in the four corners of the planet during 2010, activists convened once more in a unique venue to reconnect, meet and organise, discuss, share experiences and imaginations of another possible world. The recent events in Tunisia and Egypt and to different extents in Algeria, Morocco, Jordan and Yemen gave an added relevance to this forum.

Initial Thoughts on the Future of the Forum Discussions at WSF 2011

February 28, 2011

By Michael Leon Guerrero, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

The 2011 WSF represented an advance for the social movements, but a setback for the WSF process. The poor logistical planning, lack of transparency in decision-making by the organizers and lack of coordination and response by the IC created a logistical mess that too often plagues the social forum process. For many it was frustrating and for newcomers probably disheartening to have invested so much to come to an event and not have a chance to present their workshops or learn more from other movements. Those who did do well in the forum, however, were networks with existing relationships and clear intent on the conversations that needed to happen.

The World Social Forum, Egypt, and Transformation

Feb. 15, 2011

By Immanuel Wallerstein

The World Social Forum (WSF) is alive and well. It just met in Dakar, Senegal from Feb. 6-11. By unforeseen coincidence, this was the week of the Egyptian people's successful dethroning of Hosni Mubarak, which finally succeeded just as the WSF was in its closing session. The WSF spent the week cheering the Egyptians on – and discussing the meaning of the Tunisian/Egyptian revolutions for their program of transformation, for achieving another world that is possible – possible, not certain.

The World Social Forum returns to Africa

February 15, 2011

By Marc Becker

Fifty thousand activists from around the world descended on Senegal's capital city of Dakar at the westernmost point in Africa the first week in February for the World Social Forum. Meeting on an almost annual basis since its first gathering in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, the WSF provides a space to discuss and debate proposals and collaborative actions to build a new and better world.

TV WSF - Latest video clips

Marching On With Renewed Hope

February 11 2011

By IPS Correspondents

(continued) DAKAR, Feb 11 (TerraViva) – It started with a march through the streets of Dakar, grew with calls for a new global era and is ending with a challenge to activists to take the call for global change beyond the World Social Forum into the world.

The World Social Forum: Great Success, Shaky Future, Passé?

By Immanuel Wallerstein

I have attended most meetings of the World Social Forum since the second one in Porto Alegre in 2002. I have done so because I have believed that it has been the “only show in town” for the world Left in the twenty-first century, the one most likely to achieve that other world that is possible.

Final Declaration of the Social Movements Assembly WSF 2011 (Senegal)

Adopted by the World Assembly of Social Movements with 2000 participants the 10th February in Dakar during the World Social Forum.

United and divided: Western Sahara at WSF

By Cheikh Lehbib Mohamed, Mohammed Cherif

Two marches were held (17 February) by different delegations to the World Social Forum, with opposing views on Western Sahara. Zahra Moloo speaks to representatives from both sides.

The World Social Forum and the battle for COP17

By Vishwas Satgar

In a world plunged ever deeper into an uncivilised global capitalist condition, the World Social Forum is a crucial beacon of hope. But while news of Egypt and Tunisia’s revolutions electrified activists at this year’s gathering in Dakar, Vishwas Satgar asks whether progressive civil society is powerful enough to organise for a genuine climate change solution at COP17.

Egyptian revolution thrills civil society

But there's danger of getting drunk on our own rhetoric

By Patrick Bond

Last week’s World Social Forum (WSF) in Dakar ended up riotously happy thanks to the eviction of a universally hated Egyptian pharaoh, after near-debilitating logistical disasters at the event’s outset, writes Patrick Bond.

An assessment of the WSF 2011

By Cândido Grzybowski, Sociologist, director of IBASE

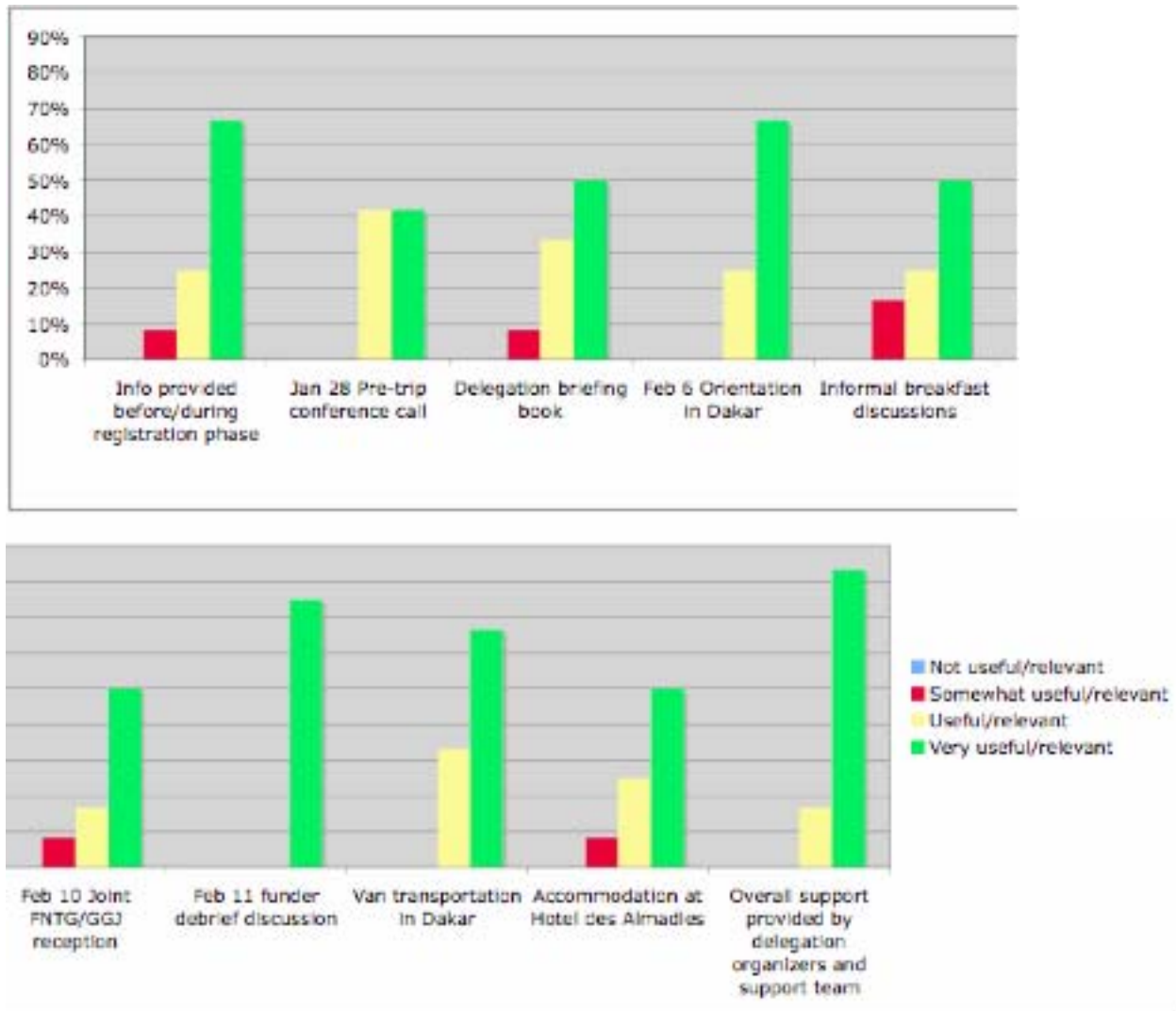
The centralized edition of the WSF took place in Dakar on February 6 -11. Attended by more than 50 thousand participants from 130 countries, the forum has left its mark on the process started in 2001 in Porto Alegre.

Dakar Appeal against the land grab

Various social movements, faith-based groups, environmental, development and human rights organizations organized 23 events revolving around land grabbing issue. The appeal calls for an immediate stop to land grabbing and the restitution of the lands that have been taken away from local communities.

APPENDIX - DELEGATION ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

1. Background Info, Support and Logistics



Comments:

I had a great experience overall. Melissa and Mark provided excellent support with logistics. The hotel was very comfortable and the van convenient in the morning especially. Best parts of the trip for me were getting a feel for life in Dakar, getting to know many of the people in our group, and meeting Soukeyna and learning about her program.

Under the circumstances, Mark and Melissa did an awesome job. My main regret was not having more opportunities to get acquainted with other delegation members.

Great group to travel with

Great job! Thanks a lot.

M & M you guys did a great job, considering the situation. I would join the FNTG Delegation group again.

As always, FNTG provided an excellent array of supports, perspectives, resource materials and points of entry for delegation participants. Thank you!

2. What were the high points of this experience for you?

- *The people from all over the world, especially all corners of africa that came to build movement, strategize alternatives, envision hope and challenge the dominant economic and social and political paradigms.*
- *Spending time with Zimbabwe delegates and meeting Egyptian activists*
- *Connecting with long-time colleagues and new ones. Outstanding programs. Efforts to surmount the difficulties we all faced. Graciousness and professionalism of Mark and Melissa.*
- *Hanging out with our group Mark's connection and perspective going to the home of the person from Pambazuka*
- *Opportunity to interact with such a wide range of people and movements.*
- *Pres-WSF Sunday briefing Opening March Debrief - wish it was longer Partner workshops FNTG/WSF reception*
- *Meeting the other people on the delegation - the community that was created in the midst of something that was otherwise so massive. The inspiration provided by so many of the individuals on the trip who are doing great work.*
- *It was extraordinary to be at the WSF during the mobilizations happening in Northern Africa, and an amazing gift to be there the day Mubarek resigned. The orientation briefing was also stellar, and I will always remember the meeting with the women from the radio network in southern Senegal. Meeting and working with Bouso was a treat - and what a difference adequate translation can make! It was also inspiring and important to get away for the Forum and experience some of the country directly and not part as part of a larger group.*
- *Seeing the grassroots participants making the best out of the situation.*
- *Weathering the process of moving from chaos to self-organization; incredible inspiration from what came out of those spaces that may be even stronger from it (e.g. climate justice tent); being on the continent in spirit and solidarity with the wave of change happening across Magreb/northern africa middle east; learning more deeply about the forum as a space, the gaps/connections between 'intellectuals' and local struggles; finally great to be*

- *The opening briefing. I thought Yao Graham was excellent. Nunu Kidana and Michael Guerrero gave great perspectives on linking the US work with the African/global work.*

3. What were the key low points, or disappointments?

- *Spending the first day being lost at the Forum, not knowing where to find things or where I was. I never did find the Trust Africa tent although I looked every day. Nothing posted on those boards was useful information to me.*
- *The organizational challenges were daunting even with our organizer hats on, when i was unable to get to a number of workshops that I'd counted on being able to go to.*
- *Disorganization in regards to venues*
- *It was sad to see the programs and experiences of so many people aborted due to the negligence of the WSF organizers. Many people, such as myself, had a fabulous experience despite this, but many others did not. Also, I wish I'd gotten acquainted with other delegation members, but it seems that once introduced, we were whisked off into another activity. Efforts to figure out logistics probably took up time that might have been used for more substantive discussions. I realize that I don't know too much about the purpose of FNTG member organizations, including those on the trip. I had also hoped to get a better idea of the development status and challenges of Senegal, but wasn't sure how to do that.*
- *Ben's wallet getting stolen more disorganization than even I anticipated*
- *The much-discussed disorganization issues.*
- *Lack of info about room schedules in time; Not feeling connected to the WSF process overall in any depth; Lack of information about all other workshops and meetings; and Having a sense of the accomplishments/outcomes of the Forum*
- *The ways in which less resourced groups and people were shut out was heartbreaking. The lack of program information or ways to communicate once it became clear that there would have to be dramatic changes in meeting locations was also disappointing. The overarching feeling of missed opportunities for many. Personally, there were sessions I heard about after the fact that I was sorry to have missed - like the Lula debate.*
- *Lack of real space for the forum and lack of information.*
- *Initial lack of organization of the WSF itself - missing things because we didn't know they were happening. Wondering if there is accountability of host country organizers to theft, loss of space that people invested time & money into (?)*

4. How do you assess the importance or significance of the WSF on its own terms? What are its greatest strengths, and potential weaknesses?

- *The debriefing was a sobering exchange of frustrations. I realized that I came with low expectations of the event based on being at the WSF in Venezuela, but that many people from Africa came after investing much more and expecting much more.*
- *I think the greatest strength is in the spirit of solidarity and the ability to meet, strategize, build movements,*
- *The spirit of the event is important but any real organizing seems difficult under those circumstances*
- *It is critically important to have the kind of big space provided by the WSF to build CSO capacity and alliances. The power of alternatives must grow and expand in the face of economic systems that are despoiling the planet and disempowering communities and nations. Investor rights must not continue to trump human rights. However, in the future, the WSF should be organized by professionals, not volunteers. Moreover, the international steering committee must have checks and balances that obviously do not exist at this point in time.*
- *It was difficult to tell how significant the forum was to the movements that were present, as I didn't see much in the way of outcomes/action items.*
- *Important meeting space for strategic discussions to move strategy and campaigns forward*
- *I think it is incredibly important. Simply the fact that it exists is a challenge to a world that has become dominated by one hegemonic discourse. The left so easily gets fragmented by different issues, and this loose unity is very powerful. It is important abstractly, in that it provides hope, but also concretely in the connections that are established.*
- *The greatest strength, for me, remains the Forum's ability to provide a space for such a large diversity of the world's social movements to gather. The short and long term benefit of the relationships and networking is incalculable. The weaknesses in the organizing for this Forum, and the ways in which the less networked groups were shut out, points to the need for accountability and greater sensitivity to those who are local, new to the Forum, less well resourced, etc. The dominance of men is also pretty astounding.*
- *WSF is still an important space to bring together Civil Society and them to create voice for themselves in a safe space. Weakness is translating efforts into action, so that WSF are not just seen as a "festival"*

- *Profoundly important space that is hard to measure yet fundamental to global systemic change. Its greatest strength is the 'many struggles, one movement' focus that names the global system and finds connection across global struggles. It continues to be a space that is fundamentally important for building movement. Weaknesses are in the dysfunctionality of the various organizing entities/personalities (see Pleyers Alter-Globalization book that speaks to this too)*
- *The greatest strengths are its potential to serve as a rallying point for movements to build common cause and common strategies together. I believe that the open space model, for all of its challenges is vital to the WSF's mission. One glaring weakness is that host countries are expected to navigate far too much on their own. Notwithstanding our shared values for autonomy, I believe that it is time to discuss a centralize suites of supports and troubleshooting that should be made available to future WSF host countries. With 60,000 of our nearest and dearest gathered, we ought to adopt the position that it is WE who are too big to fail. There is much more that can be done to ensure that logistical challenges don't overshadow the important work the attendees gather to do.*

5. What impact will your participation in the WSF delegation have on your work as a funder?



Comments:

- *My experience at the WSF changed my model of social and political change. I came away from workshops and deep conversations with new perspectives on the relationships between democratic deficits at the local, national and global level.*
- *Helped to assess our organization's approach to supporting these kinds of meetings and related activities of partners*
- *I definitely want to be involved in funding grassroots groups and movement building.*
- *We hope to expand the scope of our work to include funding internationally. Currently we only fund within the US and on Tribal lands.*
- *Deepened recognition and commitment to the WSF as an important space. Gave a much better understanding of gaps and potential areas for strengthening the 'academic' intellectuals who study the WSF & social movements and those from the movements actively engaged in local struggles.*

6. What specific issues are you interested in collaborating on with us going forward?



Other:

- *Building support for African social movements*
- *Interested in the climate justice and North African/Middle East social movements... organizing a call for FCCP on Monday [March] 7th that will highlight (in part) the role of communication rights/Internet freedom in the present moment.*
- *Building support for sub-Saharan efforts and movement building, particularly those that are targeting the extractive sectors.*

7. Please add any additional comments, questions or suggestions you may have.

- *Many thanks! You made the trip a lot more enjoyable and manageable.*
- *Fantastic work by Melissa and Mark great group of people in our delegation final discussion was really excellent. Very happy overall*
- *Thank you so much for hard work and organizing that went into making this experience possible. I appreciate the grace and humor even in the most frustrating moments, and thank you for making me feel so welcome even though I am not an active member of FNTG.*
- *I want to be more consciously connected to GGJ in these spaces - it happened spontaneously. But in thinking about Durban, I want to be even more intentional*
- *Thank you Mark and Melissa for all you do to support movement building at home and around the world.*