

Lusaka, Zambia

December 10 - 14th 2004

10 – 14 décembre 2004

African
Social

Africa Youth Camp

Forum Social Africain



The 2004 ASF Africa Youth Camp edition at Lusaka

The Africa social forum (ASF) stands as an advanced entity; it boasts a wider following and the Africa social forum council, an advisory body to the Africa Social forum secretariat. The forum is a formidable block in the mobilization of mass movements as it aims to secure the participation of all civil movements in Africa and the African Diaspora. To enhance participation of the youth movement the ASF council established the ASF youth commission.

The ASF council and the African Youth Movement

The Africa Social Forum council was formed finally at the Cairo meeting in Egypt of the 27th to the 30th of July 2004, more than three years after the beginning of the Africa social forum in Addis Ababa where the first calls for such a body were heard. The meeting attended by 35 organizations from across the continent reiterated and reconfirmed the need to follow up on the deliberations of the ASF meeting in Addis Ababa to form the council. The council's main objective is to assist the ASF secretariat in guiding the ASF process and facilitating a successful provision of the forum space and mobilization of movements.

In the resolution and report put forward to the ASF Cairo preparatory meeting in 2004 where the council was formed, recommendations were made as to how the youth movement would participate more effectively in the social forum process. It was heard that the Africa youth movement needed to organize itself and form a standard framework as it participates in the forum, as is the case at World social Forum level where there is a successful youth camp. Participants reconfirmed their commitment to seeing a vibrant African youth movement and they initiated the Africa youth camp in response to the requests from the youth movement.

The Africa youth camp is to be a forum for African youth based on the principals of the WSF international youth camp, it can also act as the advisory body of the ASF council commission on Youth. This is to achieve constructive youth inclusion in the progressive reflection of issues affecting their lives in the process of finding alternatives to the neoliberal world order that has gripped the twenty-first century.

There were a number of resolutions put forward to the ASF council in Cairo, these all aimed to strengthen the stance of the youth movement in the forum process, but not all the resolutions were adopted, the major resolutions that failed to hold place were the request for a quarter of all representatives in the ASF council to be youths, this recommendation was picked from the Lusaka held Southern Africa social forum of November 2003. The idea was to see wider youth participation in the decision-making processes of all sectors of African society starting with the civil society and Governments. The other resolution was that the ASF council should establish the Africa youth council.

In response to the resolutions, the ASF council meeting reasoned that the formation of the youth council could only be initiated by the youth movement itself and that having a quarter of all representatives of the Council to be youth was a bit frivolous and untimely, as, if this was done there would be the inclusion of youth for the sake of just including youth and not competence.

What the council maintained was that it would support the youth camp as much as it could if the youth movement brought forward progressive ways of maintaining it and sustaining it.

The ASF council recognised that the youth movement was that section of the process that meant the continuation of ideas and ideals of the forum that were being developed by the ASF.

At the last council meeting in Cairo, it was understood that there would be a youth camp for the first time in the ASF process in the Lusaka edition of the ASF 2004; this is even more evident in the ASF council drafted concept paper for the third ASF to be held in Lusaka 10th to 17th December 2004.

It only follows naturally that the process of youth empowerment is to continue at the first youth camp in Lusaka 10th to 17th December 2004, the camp participants must develop an Africa youth council, an African Youth communication line, a follow-up to the resolutions to the ASF council and establish the Africa youth camp and its management guidelines.

There will be need to ease the burden of responsibility from the secretariat and enhance ownership by the youth movement itself. There will have to be the establishment of a definition for the purpose of the youth movement in the ASF and its role in the strengthening of the civil society.

In pursuit of the orientation of the youth with the ASF, there will be interaction between the members of the ASF council, activists of the ASF and the youth at the camp, the process of development of a formidable youth movement in Africa to meet the challenges of the twenty first century will have to be cemented in Lusaka at the Africa youth camp and at the Africa Social Forum.

The venue

The Camp will be situated in Chelstone Township at the Chelstone Baptist Church; about 30 minutes drive away from the main Africa social forum meeting grounds at Mulungushi conference center along the great East Road. The location of the camp is conveniently near a transport route to Mulungushi conference center the venue for the ASF and the venue for the ASF is right opposite Manda hill and arcades shopping centers.

On average, supper is included in the accommodation package while lunch will be up to the participant. Transport to and from the forum grounds will cost about 1US Dollar by bus roundtrip if the participants wish to use the public transport. Residents at the youth camp organized guesthouse however will have the benefit of a shuttle to and from both the youth camp and the ASF at no cost. There is a wide selection of local foods at affordable prices. And Lusaka is very safe compared to other cities in the world. When any participant is in need of information or in doubt, it is okay to ask local people, Zambians are friendly people and they are always ready to help. English is the official language and almost everyone in Lusaka can figure out simple conversation in the language.

Accommodation at the youth camp organised guesthouses will cost 15US Dollars per person per day. For the duration of the forum, residents will have paid 105US Dollars for their stay each. This will include free shuttling to the forum, breakfast and supper.

Participation/ logistics

The participation fee to the camp will be 5US dollars for individual foreign participants and 10US dollars for international organisations; local organisations will be charged 5US dollars organisations. This will cater for volunteers and logistics. Local participants will not be required to pay participation fees.

Annex

(see attached)

Report of the African Social Forum process Youth

By **KISS BRIAN ABRAHAMS**

Introduction

The Youth of the Southern African region who participated in the Southern Africa Social Forum (SASF) workshop on youth have requested for this report. This report aims to reflect on the current status of African youth participation in the social forum process at national and regional levels since the first African regional Social forum; SASF

The process of organizing for the World Social Forum begins at national level by way of national forums, regional level by way of regional forums and continental level by way of continental forums, this process is punctuated by a variation of organizing and planning meetings at all levels. Since the SASF of 9-11th November, 2003 there has been a World Social Forum; held in Mumbai India, January 2004,

The first ever-African regional forum was the Southern Africa Social Forum (SASF), at the time of this report, the status remains that it is the only regional forum. However, efforts in East Africa and other regions of the continent continue to advance as activists move together towards national and regional forum efforts.

The first Southern African Social Forum (SASF) was held in Lusaka, 9-11 November 2003. The Forum was attended by about 300 participants (30% female). African delegates came from 10 countries (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). Delegates from outside Africa came from United Kingdom of Britain, France and Switzerland.

The Southern Africa Social Forum is a preparatory forum held prior to the Africa social forum and the World Social Forum. The ideals of the SASF transcend from the charter of principles of the WSF.

The World Social Forum (WSF) is not an organisation, not a united front platform, but "...an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and inter-linking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a society centered on the human person". (**From the WSF Charter of Principles**).

A feature of the forum is that it does not have a centralized format, any organisation can present its views and since no final statement is issued, there is no hierarchy among the various diverse issues discussed at the WSF.

It only follows naturally that all social forums connected and prior to the WSF must correspond with that format. The Southern Africa Social Forum is such a forum.

At the SASF, many issues were tackled, these issues were grouped according to themes; the various themes were Labour, Debt, Trade, Gender, Education & Culture, HIV/AIDS, Health, Agriculture & Food Security, Information & Communication Technologies, Governance & Constitutionalism, Land & Environment and youth. The themes were addressed individually in workshops.

The organisation of the forum at Southern African region level is such that there is a regional steering committee appointed at regional level to organise the regional Social Forum, and national committees that organise at national level, the national committees also convert into host committees when hosting international events such as the SASF, ASF etc.

SASF youth workshop

The youth workshop found itself in a race against time, as the themes were too diverse and there was not enough time, secondly, since the youth were participating in the forum for the first time, they had no concrete definition of how they would proceed in tackling these wide issues. For the first day, the participants resolved to prioritise the thematic issues and create a form of structure in order that the discussions would be more effective. The following were the themes that were prioritised; Education, HIV/AIDS and the youth, Gender, Youth participation in policymaking, Governance, and NEPAD. The desired structure was as follows; there would be a chairperson for each theme, the chairperson was to preside over the discussion until the next theme and a new chairperson presided over a next issue, those who chaired were; Evans Nyirenda for Youth participation in policy making, Lombe Mwambwa for gender, Mukamba Mwenda for HIV/AIDS and NEPAD was chaired by Masimba Kuchera. Kiss Brian Abrahams of the host committee gave coordination support.

The outcome of the workshop was a youth declaration, and an email contact list.

Participants of the youth workshop presented the declaration to the entire assembly of forum delegates and they were invited to take the front seats with the speakers, Briggs Bomba and Mzamo Sikhondze made speeches and led the assembly in song.

It still remains an issue that youths of the region should define their role in the process. It would best to know what youth is for starters, this question was asked more than once, the dynamics of whether it is to be seen at individual or thematic levels in the forum.

Africa Social Forum

There was no Africa Social Forum after the SASF, however there was a meeting in Maputo for Africans who were to be delegates to the WSF to consult and reach a consensus on their position at the WSF.

Mumbai

The world Social forum took place in Mumbai India on 16th to 21st January 2004.

Africa sent about 300 delegates, including a few that had attended the first Southern African Social Forum (SASF) that was held in Lusaka, 9-11 November 2003. The constraint was mostly lack of funding. Among the youth who attended the WSF were Mzamo Sikhondze, Macdonald Lewanika, Kiss Brian Abrahams, Joy Mabenge and Dakarayi Matanga.

Africa Social Forum

The African delegates in Mumbai debated with a mixture of anger and passion the fact that there was no African Social Forum held prior to the 4th World Social Forum. The discussion centered around the lack of adequate preparation of the African delegations to the previous regional and global events and the possibility of Africa hosting the 2006/7 World Social Forum.

They formed caucuses and discussed issues affecting the continent.

The WSF's equivalent of what the SASF terms the Youth workshop is the Intercontinental Youth Camp (IYC).

The Intercontinental Youth Camp

The intercontinental youth camp was a section of the world social forum that dealt specifically with youth issues pertaining to youths, and also this was also a place where youths were camped. Held in a separate township called Matunga far away from the main WSF grounds in Goregaon at the NESCO grounds where all forum proceedings were held. It was a platform for youths around the world to share ideas and experiences from their various nations of origin and backgrounds. The aim of the camp was to generate dialogue and creative solutions to the problems facing the world's youth and the world. The youth camp was hinged on the themes; imperialist globalisation patriarchy, militarism and peace, communalism, casteism and racism.

Macdonald lewanika and kiss Brian Abrahams were resident at the youth camp for a number of days; only five youth Africans were present at the youth camp as a group; Macdonald Lewanika, Kiss Brian Abrahams, Alemayhu Fekadu, Kassahun Belete and Mzamo Sikhondze, the smallest group coming from a single continent. They shared their experiences with the other youth successfully, and Kiss further contributed to the youth bulletin that was termed the IYC bulletin, while Macdonald had strategy meetings with members of the governing teams of the camp.

In relation to the SASF the IYC, did not developed a declaration to the effect that the livelihood of the youth of the World had to improve and therefore marginalisation of the youth was to end. Perhaps this was due to the fact that the forum releases no final statements, however, one would argue that since thematic groups could release their statements, the IYC should have. Another angle to consider would be that since the IYC is a parallel forum to the WSF and not a thematic group itself, it has individual thematic workshops and thus as a forum, it cannot release statements. In debates with the organising team of the IYC, Kiss alluded to these issues, and the reply was that perhaps at the next IYC a declaration such as the SASF youth declaration would be released. The SASF youth declaration states the necessity of the inclusion of youths in the development of governance policy, as this would indicate proper positive progress. The youth of the SASF had their workshop within the grounds of the actual SASF and this indicated a willingness by the forum to promote inclusion, this was in contrast to the world social forum in Mumbai as it excluded the youth from the main forum grounds. The issues considered priority at the WSF IYC were; imperialist globalisation, patriarchy, militarism and peace, communalism, casteism and race. However the prioritised issues at the SASF were; education, HIV/AIDS, gender, youth participation in policymaking, governance and NEPAD because these were the major issues considered affecting the lives of youths in the region. It is Ironic that the SASF as a preparatory forum to the WSF found youth participation in policy making a major priority when the WSF itself did not find it as such. One wonders if this would have been the case had African Youth assisted in creating the Agenda.

The demonstration of a willingness to create greater inclusion is a property that is yet to be harnessed by the world, youth were a minority at the SASF and this was true for African youths sponsored at the WSF from the southern African region, from the east African region only two youths visited the IYC, it is yet to be established which youths were sponsored by the Africa Social Forum. Macdonald Lewanika performed a great role in representing his continent and yet he was self sponsored. It is recommended that the status quo should change. And since the forum process is dynamic, perhaps reforms should define further the youth presence.

The African presence at the World Social Forum (WSF) in India remarkably improved the continent's chances of becoming a leading and formidable bloc in the global justice movement. It is the first time that such a large turnout for Africa had been recorded; we hope it grows even larger.

The Nairobi Post Mumbai meeting.

At the World Social Forum, held in India, African participants expressed the desire to organise a post-Mumbai meeting in order to evaluate the African Social Forum process since its inception in 2000. The purpose of the said meeting, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10-13 May 2004, was to:

- Evaluate the African Social Forum process from its commencement in 2000 to date.
- Prepare the third African Social Forum process 2004-2005
- Launch the discussions on the organisation of the World Social Forum in Africa in 2007.

The meeting was attended by 32 organisations and movements from the following countries: Kenya, Senegal, Guinea, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Somalia, Egypt, Uganda, Niger, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Tanzania.

Participants reaffirmed their attachment to the African Social Forum as a space open to all the components of the African Social Movement, based on commitment, voluntary action and diversity. They welcomed the International Council's decision to organise the World Social Forum in Africa in 2007. They considered the decision as a challenge to be taken up as well as a contribution to the strengthening of the continent's social movement and its involvement in various actions undertaken at international level against liberalism and war.

Participants undertook to consider the holding of the World Social Forum in Africa as a priority action. In this regard, they pledged to contribute in the development of a common vision, and implement appropriate mobilisation strategies.

After the presentation of the various sub-regionals, national and thematic initiatives already taken or planned within the framework of the African Social Forum process (1), the meeting took note of the expansion and strengthening of the Forum.

About 30 participants were invited by ASF Secretariat: **West Africa** [Senegal-4, Guinea-1, Niger -1, Cote d' Ivoire-1]; **North Africa** [Algeria-1, Egypt-1, Morocco-1]; **Central Africa** [Central Republic of Congo-1]; **East Africa** [Ethiopia-1, Kenya -6, Tanzania-3, Uganda-1]; **Southern Africa** [Mozambique-1, South Africa-1, Zambia-3, Zimbabwe-3].

Agenda and main decisions:

1. Evaluation of the ASF process (from Bamako to Mumbai)

- Keep secretariat at ENDA, which should be strengthened (i.e. increase personnel and on fulltime basis);
- Implement Addis Ababa's decision to establish strong linkages with social movements through forming an African Council (to be finalized in a follow-up meeting to be held in July, in Cairo to align it with the Africa Social Forum's Charter);
- Agreed on principles for the Council to guide its Composition (eligibility criteria), Membership (code of conduct), Function (main duties).
- Youth representation in ASF governance (to be finalized in Cairo)
- The current Steering Committee to continue until the Council is formed;

2. Preparation for the 2004-2005 edition of ASF (Action Plan)

- Zambia to host the 2004 ASF
- Zambia to decide on actual dates: between 10-20 December 2004
- Theme: "*Popular and Democratic Alternatives to Neo-Liberalism*"
- Sub-themes not finalized (listed some)
- Secretariat and Steering Committee to work closely with *Zambian Host Committee*
- ASF preparations to be discussed at Cairo meeting

3. The WSF in Africa: an opportunity for the African social movement)

- Africa to host 2007 WSF
- Venue to be discussed later
- Use upcoming ASF events (national, sub-regional and regional) to be used to prepare for WSF in mobilizing and building strong African social movements

4. Kenyan Social Forum

- Attended by few members of the ASF meeting.
- Portrayed good examples of issues and format on how issues could be addressed at ASF 2004 (landlessness, people's constitutionalism, lessons from Ma Mau activism, women's empowerment, etc.).

A communiqué was sent to youth who were on the mailing list of the SASF workshop by Kiss in request for recommendations to be put forward to the Nairobi meeting, of the youth of the entire list, Briggs Bomba and Nachilala Nkombo who were both in Nairobi gave their recommendations, and two others who sent Email, the rest did not reciprocate.

The following were the recommendations, -

That a quarter of participants to attend future meetings after the Nairobi meeting should be youths,

That there should be a youth camp under the ASF,

That there should be a deliberate fund to finance youth participation at forums.

It was generally agreed at the meeting that though there was adequate space for youths, there was no means for youths to utilise the space.

The following is a summary of decisions made at the meeting;

- 1- **Establish the Regional Council of the African Social Forum**, as was decided in Addis Ababa in 2003. The Council shall serve as the Forum's discussion and decision-making space. It shall include organisations that have taken national, sub-regional and thematic initiatives, members of the African Social Forum's organising committee as well as social movements organised at continental level and representatives of the key African stakes. Participation to the Regional Council will be based on compliance with the World Social Forum and African Social Forum charters. The Council will be formally set up during a meeting scheduled in Cairo in July 2004. The movements attending the Council session will be responsible for their participation costs.
- 2- Organise the next **African Social Forum (2004-2005) in Lusaka, Zambia**, between 10 and 20 December 2004. Representative movements and grassroots groups will be invited to the Forum. Most of the activities will be organised by the movements themselves as well as by the organising committee of the Southern African sub-region and the African Social Forum Secretariat.
- 3- Continue to **broaden the African Social Forum** at global, national, sub-regional and thematic levels, by facilitating the integration of grassroots groups and social movements, and supporting initiatives taken across the continent.
- 4- **Maintain the current Secretariat** and strengthen it to ensure that it fully plays its Forum facilitation role. An additional person should be recruited within the secretariat. Participants defined the relations that should exist between the secretariat and the Regional Council. The secretariat is answerable to the Council to which it will periodically report about the implementation of tasks assigned to it.
- 5- **Strengthen communication within the Forum** by setting up a website, perpetuating the paper dubbed « African Flame » launched in Mumbai, and ensuring the wide dissemination of information.
- 6- Strive for the **establishment of a solidarity fund** to sponsor participation to the African Council and the African Social Forum.
- 7- **Consolidate relations with the Brazilian and Indian committees** of the World Social Forum in order to strengthen south/south relations and learn from their experiences in the organisation of the World Social Forum.
- 8- Consolidate working and solidarity relations with **the various components of the African Diaspora**.

Besides, the Nairobi meeting informed participants about the last decisions taken by the international council to encourage the participation of minority groups. It hailed the initiative to set up a solidarity mechanism. Participants undertook to fully play their role in this World Social Forum body.

At the end of the meeting, participants took part in the Kenyan Social Forum Day, organised on 13 May, under the aegis of the national organising committee.

Because the meeting did not address the issue of governance of the ASF in great detail, it was rendered incomplete and a further meeting is to be held in Cairo, Egypt for that purpose, among the other issues to be tackled would be the details of the ASF in Lusaka.

SASF

Because of the decision to have Zambia as a host of the ASF, a caucus meeting between Southern African delegates was held and the SASF was discussed. The proposal was put forward that Zimbabwe then host the SASF in place of Zambia, the Zimbabwe participants did not object.

Hosting SASF

Back in Southern Africa, debates on hosting the SASF in Zimbabwe were held by means of a tele-conference because many of the people outside Zimbabwe could not make it to the meeting physically.

The outcome was that Zimbabwe was not to host the SASF and instead Zambia was to host the SASF, this was because the other Southern African nations could not for various reasons host it in their countries.

National forums

In Southern Africa the only nation that has managed to host a vibrant national forum is Zimbabwe, there is not much information on the forums of other nations, this has to be addressed, a reason can be the limited email list.

Zambia made efforts toward a national forum; this was spearheaded by the youth and youth organisations that attended the SASF, meetings were held through February and they climaxed into a march in March on the Youth day. Mwiika Malindima, who led students of the Zambia Institute of Mass Communications (ZAMCOM), spearheaded the march. Further there were radio programmes and Andrew Manda a youth who unfortunately did not attend the SASF did the Zambian youth proud by shading light on the social forum and it's processes on national radio. The other youth who organised similar events were; Lombe Mwambwa and Chipso Siamuzyulu of the Women for change support group.

It would be of great encouragement if individual nations posted their efforts to other nations.

Reflections

The status of youth will not change unless there is a definition of the youth in the forum process. **See SASF Youth Declaration**

When youth cry for representation on all decision making processes they must remember that their participation should be beyond just being mere youths, effectiveness of any structure can only be achieved when it's constitution is in harmony with ideals, but if youth will be included just for sentimental reasons there will be mediocrity. Participation must be according to thematic competences and the WSF set criteria of inclusion.

There is a space for youths on the social forum, but provision has to be established to assist the youth to participate on the forum; perhaps a solidarity fund.

The governance of the youth aspect is an important issue; issues to consider are the structures, whether the youth would do with the current structure formats and/or modify them to meet the youth scenario.

The SASF youth workshop declaration to have to have a quarter of all members of decision making bodies to be youth should be taken seriously and implemented, if not by governments then at least by civil society, especially those that subscribe to the social forum process.

There must be an Africa Youth bulletin as is the case at the WSF Youth camp were there is an IYC bulletin, this bulletin can be a supplement to the Africa Flame. Such a bulletin will increase reportage on Youth issues.

There must be deliberate policy to increase competence among the youth that they may take up positions of authority and training programmes should be instituted.

It is interesting that during the African Independence struggle, youth empowerment was a major duty on the agendas of liberated nations, few years down the line, and the vision for a bright future has been lost. Youths are now only used at political campaigns and ignored afterwards, let civil society remind the world of it's lost priorities.

As a start, the ASF council must institute an Africa Youth Council, secondly the ASF council should in pursuance of the quarter representation declaration, begin by including at least two youths on the council as permanent members representing youth ideologies and secondly the council should harness the presence of at least four youths from the formed Youth council at each of it's sittings who will not be permanent members but attend in rotation to increase participation of all stake holders.

The leaders of civil society organisations should begin to consider sending youths to represent them, as only then will the process of sustainable development begin.

All regions of the African continent should declare the SASF Youth Declaration as the beginning of the youth consensus.

There must be a continental mail list.

At the moment Kiss is a **volunteer** coordinator for youth, there is no deliberate policy in the Africa social forum processes to create structures for youths, as is the case at WSF level, it would be wise to emulate the WSF at all levels of the process.

Conclusion

Another world is possible, another Africa is possible, another youth is possible, the worlds Youth face almost the same problems, issues of illiteracy, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and abuse are eradicable, and one only hopes that with the help of debate, this eradication will happen in the lifetimes of today's youth.

'Indeed, youth today, not tomorrow'

Draft resolution to the Africa Social Forum organising committee of the Africa Social Forum

Youth thematic grouping of the Africa Social Forum

Recommendations of the Youth Constituency of the Africa Social Forum

The question of African youth participation in the Africa Social Forum Process

Recognising that there has never been a forum space for youth at the Africa Social Forum since it's inception in the year 2000

Aware of the fact that there is no clear definition of African Youth participation on the Africa Social Forum platform

Deeply concerned that in spite of strides toward organising the creation of operation Structures for the Africa Social Forum, no concrete efforts are being made toward creating organisational structures for African Youth while Youth continue to be marginalized in the processes of decision-making both by governments and civil society.

Grieved by the fact that African Youth continue to be marginalized in decision-making processes both by civil society and Government

Concerned that there is no Africa Social Forum Youth Camp when at the World Social Forum Level there is n International Youth Camp.

Keeping in mind the fact that there is no deliberate initiative to follow the Southern African Social Forum Youth declaration initiative to employ a quarter System method of Youth inclusion in decision-making processes by the steering /coordinating committees of the ASF.

Appalled by the fact that the opportunity for participation on the Social Forums Is limited only to privileged activists and CSO's who have access to Funds

Considering the fact that Youth issues are very wide and thus impossible to cover adequately in the African Social Forum Newsletter the Africa Flame

Disappointed that there is no form of orientation training to the Social Forum for Youths and inadequate preparation in leadership for youths that they may move the process of changing the world to a better world in line with the WSF dream.

Concerned by the lack of adequate input by the African Youths in the organisation Process of the World Social Forum and the World Social Forum International Youth Camp

1. Urges the organisation structure of the African Social Forum to initiate a deliberate institution of a forum space for Youth on the African Social Forum

2. Calls upon the Africa Social Forum organisation framework to develop a concrete definition of Youth participation on the African Social Forum platform
3. Appeals to the Africa Social Forum organising framework to facilitate a process of African Social Forum Youth organisational structure creation
4. Suggests that African Youth be included in all decision making processes of the African Social Forum
5. Recommends that an African Social Forum Youth Camp be instituted in continuation from the World Social Forum International Youth Camp
6. Insists that the Youth Declaration of the Southern African Social Forum Youth workshop be adopted as the starting point of an African Youth consensus
7. Encourages the creation of an initiative toward building a fund to fund Youth participation in the social forum process
8. Insists on the development of an Africa Social Forum Youth Bulletin as is the case for the IYC bulletin of the World Social Forum International Youth Camp to encourage reportage on Youth issues
9. Recommends that training for Youths be instituted to orient them on the ideals of the World Social Forum and leadership
10. Urges the ASF organising committee to encourage and implement African Youth participation in the organisation process of the World Social Forum and the International Youth Camp

Welcomes any further suggestions or comments

Synopsis of the African Social Forum Nairobi Meeting on Post-Mumbai, 10-13 May 2004

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Nairobi

Dates: 10-13th May 2004

Participants: About 30 participants were invited by ASF Secretariat: **West Africa** [Senegal-4, Guinea-1, Niger -1, Cote d'Ivoire-1]; **North Africa** [Algeria-1, Egypt-1, Morocco-1]; **Central Africa** [Central Republic of Congo-1]; **East Africa** [Ethiopia-1, Kenya -6, Tanzania-3, Uganda-1]; **Southern Africa** [Mozambique-1, South Africa-1, Zambia-3, Zimbabwe-3].

Agenda and main decisions:

5. Evaluation of the ASF process (from Bamako to Mumbai)

- Keep secretariat at ENDA, which should be strengthened (i.e. increase personnel and on fulltime basis);
- Implement Addis Ababa's decision to establish strong linkages with social movements through forming an African Council (to be finalized in a follow-up meeting to be held in July, in Cairo to align it with the Africa Social Forum's Charter);
- Agreed on principles for the Council to guide its Composition (eligibility criteria), Membership (code of conduct), Function (main duties).
- Youth representation in ASF governance (to be finalized in Cairo)
- The current Steering Committee to continue until the Council is formed;

6. Preparation for the 2004-2005 edition of ASF (Action Plan)

- Zambia to host the 2004 ASF
- Zambia to decide on actual dates: between 10-20 December 2004

- Theme: “*Popular and Democratic Alternatives to Neo-Liberalism*”
- Sub-themes not finalized (listed some)
- Secretariat and Steering Committee to work closely with *Zambian Host Committee*
- ASF preparations to be discussed at *Cairo meeting*

7. The WSF in Africa: an opportunity for the African social movement)

- Africa to host 2007 WSF
- Venue to be discussed later
- Use upcoming ASF events (national, sub-regional and regional) to be used to prepare for WSF in mobilizing and building strong African social movements

8. Kenyan Social Forum

- Attended by few members of the ASF meeting.
- Portrayed good examples of issues and format on how issues could be addressed at ASF 2004 (landlessness, people’s constitutionalism, lessons from Ma Mau activism, women’s empowerment, etc.).

Sara Longwe - SASF (voluntary) Coordinator

17 May 2004

SYNOPSIS OF THE CAIRO AFRICAN SOCIAL FORUM COUNCIL MEETING, 27-30 JULY 2004

The debrief outlined below is based on my understanding and interpretation of the deliberations of the meeting of the African Social Forum (ASF) Council Meeting. Therefore this synopsis is subject to the ASF Secretariat's report to be circulated in due course to all stakeholders including the Host NGO.

Venue: Flamenco Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

Dates: 27-30 July 2004

Participants: There were 41 participants (43% women) drawn from: **West Africa** [Senegal-7, Guinea-1, Cote d' Ivoire-1, Ghana-1, Mali-2]; **North Africa** [Egypt-9, Morocco-1, Tunisia-3]; **Central Africa** [Cameroon-1]; **East Africa** [Ethiopia-2, Kenya -3, Tanzania-2, Uganda-1]; and **Southern Africa** [Mozambique-1, South Africa-1, Zambia-3, Zimbabwe-2]. Zambians that attended the meeting were Mr. Kiss Brian Abrahams, Mr. Muleya Haachinda and Ms Sara Longwe (author).

Agenda and Summary of Main Decisions:

9. Establish an ASF-Council and define its operating rules

- Agreed on broad guiding principles for the Council to be finalized by the Secretariat - the main being that the Council is an open space for all social movements, civil society organisations and citizens that subscribe to the principles of the ASF Charter established at the Addis Ababa Forum (ASF 2003);
- Organizational culture of the Council should be horizontal; non-oppressive; inclusive; playing a facilitating role in terms of guiding the ASF processes in accordance with the African Charter;
- The Council shall operate through Commissions in emulation of the WSF International Council;
- Temporary TORs for Commissions: That each commission is set up on *ad hoc* and short-term basis; devises own coordination mechanism; mobilizes actors and the required resources, the membership is open-ended; and treats youth as crosscutting. These TORs are to be concretized after WSF-2005;
- Acknowledged African Youths' petition to the meeting, through Kiss Abrahams, demanding inclusion of youths in the entire ASF governance structure;
- The ASF Steering Committee is replaced by the Council;
- ASF Secretariat is the administrative arm of the Council, currently hosted by ENDA in Dakar (Senegal).

10. Preparation of the Lusaka African Social Forum (10-14 December 2004)

2.1 ASF Host Committee Progress Report

- Welcomed ASF-Host Committee's debrief and was used as one of background documents (see Appendix);
- Advised to resolve within the sub-region any misunderstandings regarding local coordination of ASF and SASF, after some SASF members questioned ASF/SASF host coordination mandate and dates for hosting 2nd SASF in Lusaka two days before 3rd ASF;

2.2 Commissions

- Formed six Commissions to develop operational guidelines for Lusaka Forum: *Youth, Culture, Mobilization, Resources, Media and Programme*, for implementation by ASF Secretariat and Host Organization;
- Each commission should set up an e-mail list serve for easy coordination.

2.3 Themes

- Main themes:** *Progressive and Democratic Alternatives to Neo-liberalism and Another Africa is Possible;*
- Sub-themes (14),** which are still to be refined on which a conceptual paper will be based: *1-Restoration of People's Sovereignty; 2-Agriculture and agrarian reform; 3-Pan-Africanism; 4-Education, Arts & Media; 5-Reconstruction of Solidarity of Asia, Africa and Latin America; 6-Trade Both intra-Africa and External; 7-Debt and Women's Marginalisation; 8-Externalization of Capital & resources; 9-Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development; 10-Conflicts; 11-Fundamental Human Rights (i.e. labour rights, youth rights, women's rights, peasant rights, indigenous rights, minority rights); 12-Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Tuberculosis; 13-New Technologies and African Industrialization;* and Discussion of ILO's study for sharing at WSF titled *Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization*.

2.4 Forum Format

i) ASF Council Activities:

- Opening & closing with colourful African cultural portrayals;
- Council Supported events: March, Youth Camp, open space for tribunals, production of Flame; press conference, mosaic made out of artwork from all African sub-regions, ASF-Council meeting;
- Discussions on four themes: *Restoration of People's Sovereignty, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Pan-Africanism, and Education, Arts and Media*;
- Task Force responsible for media strategy

ii) Open Workshops/seminars/other events

- Events organized by delegates on any of the above listed themes or other;
- Each organizer should make prior requests to ASF Secretariat with details on name of organizer, type/size of event, time, equipment, etc. Deadline for submission of events is 15th October 2004;
- Cultural presence (African films, art mosaic, performances, etc.);
- Exhibitions.

iii) Forum Languages

- To use 4 African official languages: English, French, Arabic, Portuguese
- Plus two vernacular languages: Nyanja for Zambians and Swahili for East Africans (since many Tanzanians and Kenyans are planning to come by train and road);
- Professional interpretation and translation for major events only.

2.5 Resources

Participation is envisaged to be on self-financing basis except for few that will be sponsored by ASF Secretariat.

i) ASF Commitments in liaison with Host Organization:

- Venues for Forum, Youth Camp, exhibitions, Concert, film (*submitted MICC quotations* to ASF);
- Keynote Speakers for ASF supported activities;
- Establish *Solidarity Funds* for diverse participation from all walks of African life;
- ASF Secretariat personnel
- Translation and interpretation for majors events;
- Transportation and accommodation for a small group from Council;
- Publications and documentation of the event (e.g. Flame, banners, posters photos, video-taping);
- Operational costs.

ii) Host Organization Responsibilities:

- Liaise with ASF Secretariat on above listed items;
- Preparatory processes (logistics);
- Zambian participation and local initiatives;

iii) Other: There will be nominal charges for registration of open events but admission will be free.

3. WSF 2005 in Porto Alegre

i) ASF sponsored events (2 spaces only): a) Solidarity with African, Latin American and Indian peoples; b) Discussion on *HIV/AIDS, Sudan: Other Ways for Justice; Pan-Africanism* and *ILO Commission Report*.

ii) African presence in other platforms at the WSF e.g. youth camp, press conference, panels, etc.

iii) Cultural presence e.g. African films, display of mosaic, performances etc.

4. WSF 2007 in Africa

- Formed a Commission to identify criteria for the selection of a Host country for the African WSF in 2007..

5. Other Issues

- Next ASF Council meeting will be held in Lusaka (8-9 December 2004).
- Delegates at the Council prepared a Declaration on the *Sudan Darfur Crisis* in their own right, but not on behalf of the ASF-Council because it would contradict the principles of the ASF Charter.

Sara Longwe

(SASF Voluntary Coordinator - Out-going)

11 August 2004.