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FIMARC - INAG - MIJARC - Entraid
WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2011
Dakar (Senegal)

VMR

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highlights the rural world's life and activities of the member
Movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers of VMR

The year 2010 marked with the tremendous engagements of FIMARC to the fight for Food Sovereignty, right food and for socio solidarity economies with a specific focus on Decease. The world Assembly in Atyra, Paraguay gave new synergies, strategies and spirit in this regard. During the last year we have strengthened our work with various political actions, representation, trainings as well as networking and lobbying and had a significant impact at various policy making institutions.

A new year has begun as well as a new bench mark in the publication of VMR. We are now with our 101st edition; I am very happy to inform you that from this edition onwards we have a new team with Daisy Herman (Ex Secretary General) and Jean Paul Perrin (Present Exco member of FIMARC, France) to assist the redaction of the VMR. At the same time I am sad to let you know that we are forced again to reduce the number of pages into half due to the reduction of support from our partner in this venture.

Taking into consider the financial implication, the FIMARC Exco in April 2011 decided to continue publishing VMR in 4 times as usual but with the reduction of pages into half. Worth to note that we are forced to look for volunteer support even for the translation of the articles.

This is a special edition on the World Social Forum 2011 which was held in Dakar, Senegal in last February. At the World Social Forum in Senegal we were able to be present with a delegation of 10 people including the leaders of our Senegal movement MARCS and Spanish movement MRC. FIMARC find it appropriate to participate in the World social forum as it is an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking, networking for effective action, by groups and movements of Civil society; We believe that there is a space for the respect of human rights, equality and democracy. We want to create solidarity among the people to fight for their rights and to resist all the systems that marginalize the rural communities and other vulnerable groups.

The main article of this edition is a tribute to the World Social Forum 2011 as an effort to make an analysis on how the land issues were brought in public debate during this world event. It is clear that land is becoming a critical issue in almost all parts of the world in the context of land grabbing. Joint workshop with Entraide & Fraternité on land was a remarkable activity of FIMARC during the WSF. I am sure that you will get a lot of motivation from this article to carry on the struggles on land in your countries. Social movements and rural communities around the world have to be united than ever before to make another world possible.

Looking forward to receive your feedback, suggestions and news

Yours Sincerely

*George Dixon FERNANDEZ
Secretary general*



WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Dakar (Senegal)

06-11/02/2011

A little bit of history....

The World Social Forum (WSF) is an international forum with a main objective to allow citizen's organizations of the entire world who are dealing with the main subjects and issues of the globalization to meet each other. The social forums are open spaces of debates, meetings and elaboration of alternative projects. They are not producing final declarations but even then from time to time it happens that by the end of a forum, one text or manifest is produced. The social forums at all scales, international forums, regional, national or thematic ones are governed by the "*Principles chart of world social Forum*". The main principles are:

- The opposition to the neoliberalism that characterize the current globalization
- The openness to all ideological currents of the alternatives projects
- The absence of political parties as such.

The well-known slogan of the WSF is "Another world is possible". The first edition of the WSF took place in 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. It gathered in between 5.000 and 20.000 participants, as well as some hundreds of journalists..



WSF 2001 Porto Alegre (Brazil)

This first forum, born from a meeting between many anti globalization organizations with the idea to create a parallel forum to the World Economic Forum and was organized by 8 Brazilian organizations: Attac, the Movement of Landless, ABONG (association of nongovernmental Brazilian organizations), CIVES (Brazilian organization of businessmen for citizenship), BCJI (Brazilian Commission of Justice and Peace), IBASE (Brazilian institute of socioeconomic analysis), CUT (Central Union of workers), as well as CJG (Centre of global justice, *justiça global*).

In 2004, for its 4th edition, the WSF changed its venue and went to another continent. The WSF was celebrated in January 2004 in Mumbai, India, with some 80.000 participants coming from 132 different countries and 2.660 associations or movements. This shows the importance received by the WSF in a few years, not only in terms of participation but also as meeting space supported by some well-known people as for example Ms. Shirine Ebadi, the Nobel Prize winner from Iran, or M. Joseph Stiglitz (the Nobel Economy Prize winner). The WSF also open its doors, facilitating a more important participation of the popular milieu and giving space to diverse political participations through artistic performances.

In 2006, the organization of the WSF proposes to organize it as «polycentric forum», this is to organize it in different continents at different moments (January in Caracas and Mali; March in Pakistan). It is really from this moment that the agricultural issues and more broadly the issues of resources have become crucial issues inside this space.

In 2007 ,it was Africa that organized the 7th WSF in Nairobi, Kenya. Seven years after the first WSF of Porto Alegre, we can see that the anti globalization movement is present in all big regions and thus the success of the WSF is still there.



WSF 2007, Nairobi (Kenya)

After one return back to Latin America, it is again Africa who welcomed the WSF which took place in Dakar, Senegal last February. In a context of food, energy, financial crisis during the last months and the more and more crucial issues of land grabbing, several workshops on Food Sovereignty and Common goods were organized, especially on the particular topic of access and control over land. You'll find the "Appeal of Dakar" against Land grabbing at page 8.

Questions for the groups or movements :

- *Did you have the opportunity to participate in a WSF? Or do you know someone who did participate?*
- *From your experience, from the testimonies or while reading the article above, do you think this space is an interesting meeting space? If yes, why?*
- *Do you think that the WSF should become stronger in terms of proposals or regularly published appeals as the appeal of Dakar, or raise stronger demands at the political level?*

“APPEAL OF DAKAR” AGAINST LAND GRABBING

We, farmers organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious organizations, unions and other social movements, gathered in Dakar for the World Social Forum 2011:

Considering that small and family farming, which represent most of the world's farmers, are best placed to:

- meet their dietary needs and those of populations, ensuring food security and sovereignty of countries,*
- provide employment to rural populations and maintain economic life in rural areas, key to a balanced territorial development,*
- produce with respect to the environment and to the conservation of natural resources for future generations;*

Considering that recent massive land grabs targeting tens of millions of acres for the benefit of private interests or third states - whether for reasons of food, energy, mining, environment, tourism, speculation or geopolitics - violate human rights by depriving local, indigenous, peasants, pastoralists and fisher communities of their livelihoods, by restricting their access to natural resources or by removing their freedom to produce as they wish, and exacerbate the inequalities of women in access and control of land;

Considering that investors and complicit governments threaten the right to food of rural populations, that they condemned them to suffer rampant unemployment and rural exodus, that they exacerbate poverty and conflicts and contribute to the loss of agricultural knowledge and skills and cultural identities ;

Considering also that the land and the respect of human rights are firstly under the jurisdiction of national parliaments and governments, and they bear the greatest share of responsibility for these land grabs;

We call on parliaments and national governments to immediately cease all massive land grabs current or future and return the plundered land. We order the government to stop oppressing and criminalizing the movements of struggle for land and to release activists detained. We demand that national governments implement an effective framework for the recognition and regulation of land rights for users through consultation with all stakeholders. This requires putting an end to corruption and cronyism, which invalidates any attempt of shared land management.

We demand that governments, the Regional Unions of States, FAO and other national and international institutions immediately implement the commitments that were made at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) of 2006, namely securing land rights of users, the revival of agrarian reform process based on a fair access to natural resources and rural development for the welfare of all. We ask that the elaboration process of the FAO Guidelines on Governance of Land and Natural Resources be strengthened, and that they are based on Human Rights as defined in the various charters and covenants - these rights being effective only if binding legal instruments are implemented at the national and international level to impose on the states compliance with their obligations. Moreover, each state has to be held responsible for the impact of its policies or activities of its companies in the countries targeted by the investments. Similarly, we must reaffirm the supremacy of Human Rights over international trade and finance regimes, which are sources of speculation on natural resources and agricultural goods.

Meanwhile, we urge the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to definitively reject the World Bank principles for responsible agricultural investment (RAI), which are illegitimate and inadequate to address the phenomenon, and to include the commitments of the ICARRD as well as the conclusions of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) in its Global Framework for Action.

We demand that states, regional organizations and international institutions guarantee people's right to land and support family farming and agro-ecology. Appropriate agricultural policies should consider all different types of producers (indigenous peoples, pastoralists, artisanal fishermen, peasants, agrarian reform beneficiaries) and answer specifically to the needs of women and youth.

Finally, we invite people and civil society organizations everywhere to support - by all human, media, legal, financial or popular means possible - all those who fight against land grabs and to put pressure on national governments and international institutions to fulfil their obligations towards the rights of people.

We all have a duty to resist and to support the people who are fighting for their dignity!

World Social Forum Dakar, February 11th, 2011.



FIMARC AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2011 OF DAKAR

WSF, whose motto is "Another World Is Possible", was started in Brazil 11 years ago. It brings together anti-globalization, anti-capitalist and social justice movements with its stated aim to develop "a permanent world process seeking and building alternatives to neoliberal policies. For FIMARC, WSF is an opportunity for broadly expressing and enriching its ideas, analyses and lines of action, as well as a space to build up networks and alliances to construct another world based on solidarity and justice.

Being promoting the above ideologies and actions FIMARC find it appropriate to participate in the World Social Forums since from its origin. The meet, which was attended by over 50,000 people from 123 countries, was inaugurated by Bolivian president Evo Morales. Among the several issues deliberated upon at the six-day summit, land grabbing was a key one. Land rights activists attending the meet, which included a large number of farmers, drew attention to the horrors of the global land-grab currently under way.

FIMARC participated in the World social forum which held in Dakar from 5-11 of February 2011 with 10 delegates from Asia, Europe and Africa. FIMARC member movements MRC Spain and MARCS Senegal had actively involved in the organization of our Workshops during the World Social forum. We were able to organize a great number of activities and actions of our own and with others, especially with Entraide & Fraternité and MIJARC.

A joint workshop with Entraide & Fraternité on Land access and land rights of the Small scale family farmers for Food Sovereignty.

On 8th of February FIMARC and Entraide & Fraternité organized a joint workshop on land access and land rights of the small scale family farmers for Food Sovereignty.



Joseph Kama (MARCS ,Senegal), TIBASHOBOKA Doreen Hona (CARYM,Uganda), Gittel Jagape (SUMPAY, Philippines), Nieves Martinez Bravo (MRC, Spain), François Delvaux (Entraide & Fraternité, Belgium), Adilson (Socio Pastoral for land, Brazil) were the speakers of the workshop. George Dixon

Fernandez (Secretary General, FIMARC) moderated the workshop.

The panel-lists from 4 continents presented the land situation in the context of growing land grab. It is evident that there has been a lot of land grab initiatives are taking place at almost all parts of the world even with the support of the states and marginalized farmers and rural communities are the victims of these projects.

Work shop underlined the fact that there is no proper protective measures to ensure the land rights for the communities who are living with land for their daily subsistence. 75 people from various organizations participated actively in the discussions. Workshop concluded with a decision to support the Dakar declaration on land grabbing. .

FIMARC workshop on land rights and land evictions (Exploitation by Korean MNC Posco) with MIJARC.

FIMARC organized a second workshop on land rights and land evictions in the context of the struggle of our Indian Movement INAG against the land and livelihood exploitation by the Korean multinational Posco in Orissa, India. The main objective of this workshop was to bring the land eviction scenario by the multinational corporations in different parts of the world in order to build unified and strengthened local actions and international interventions.

George Dixon Fernandez, the secretary General of FIMARC presented the land eviction case related to Posco in Orissa, India. Joseph Kama (MARCS, Senegal) brought the issue of land evictions in Senegal for the bio fuel production; TIBASHOBOKA Doreen Hona (CARYM Uganda) presented the land evictions cases related to the extraction of natural resources. People from various organizations and media representatives were involved in the discussion of this topic.





Other than our own workshops, FIMARC also participated in the CCFD workshops on land grabbing as well as the MISEREOR international seminar on land.

As like in the earlier forum in Kenya, this time also FIMARC, MIJARC along with Entraide & Fraternité organized a big demonstration in the streets of DAKAR with a big coffin symbolically announcing the death of the land grabbers, Bretton Wood institutions and actors who create an unjust world.

Our joined participation in the WSF with Entraide and MIJARC was quite interesting and fruitful. Actions that we developed during the Forum allowed us for the reinforcement of the contacts with other movements and networks. 'It gave motivation to see a worldwide network of social organizations meeting in Africa in order to address the world's problems' said the FIMARC delegation of Senegal.

We are very much thankful for the practical support from MARCS, Senegal and especially to Joseph Kama for the organization, arrangements and logistics for all our programs in Dakar in connection with WSF and the workshops.

Questions for the groups or movements :

- *Do you know in your country such land grabbing problems?*
- *What are the actions that you have settled to inform the population, reacting to these land grabs?*



THE TESTIMONY OF A PARTICIPANT

The World Social Forum was celebrated in Dakar from 6th to 11th February. It was an authentic meeting of social movements that gathered more than 50.000 participants coming from more than 1.200 organizations from all over the world, under the title of «Resistance and Struggle of the African People».

This is the second time, after Nairobi, Kenya, that the African continent hosts the WSF, in a context of crisis that strongly affects the poorest region of the planet. During 6 days, proposals have been raised to show that another world is possible.

In the current context of crisis, the WSF gathers in a key moment for the reflection and for proposal of alternative initiatives to this unfair economic model. The global civil society proposes global responses in front of the growing systemic crisis, translated in the food, environmental, financial, ethic and economic crisis with an augmentation of migrations and internal displacements.

All this in a context in which the African continent lives social claims like in Tunis, Egypt and in general in the Arabic countries where the population is waking up seeing the so depreciated social and economic situation which requests the human rights respect and democracy.

The forum has started with the march that gathered thousands of persons in the centre of Dakar on Sunday 6 February. In the second part of the WSF, hundreds of workshops organized around diverse thematic axes .

The third and last step that usually constituted was a kind of concluding meeting with the sectorial assemblies (rural organizations, women organizations, collectives for the defense of the public sector, collectives for the housing right...) and Unitarian assemblies. All those concerns are reflected in the joined press release and in the sectorial press release

In general

The WSF is a manifold and plural space, mixing the relations in between those who are fighting for human rights, for the right to land to establish common agendas and to form alliances against the neo liberal capitalism, the patriarchy, the racism and all forms of discriminations. A place of meeting and alliances between movements involved in the same struggle, speaking with the same voice against the land grabbing, against the violence towards women, for the right to education for all, for a dignified live...

The issue of migration in a country like Senegal was also a big centre of concern. Previous day to the official opening of the WSF a letter signed by the migrants of Goree island was presented. It was from where the slaves were send to America,

The organization of the WSF in Senegal met several difficulties because of the boycott of the Government. But thanks to the determination of the organizers, it was finally possible and this gives a real recognition to the grass root movements of Africa.

Concrete proposals had been worked out during the previous editions and continue to develop taking into account the international agenda, as for example the issue of the external debt or the one of the Tobin Tax. All this contribute to reinforce the option for an economic management more just and democratic.

The denunciation of the role of the agents of the system (banks, transnational, media conglomerates, international institutions) continues in its research of a maximum of benefit, of its interventionist policies by wars, of military occupations, of humanitarian missions, theft of natural resources, exploitation of the people...

The conflict against climate change and for food sovereignty continues. Global warming is the result of the actual system of production, distribution and consumption. To meet these wrong needs, the transnational and the financial institutions and governments in their service want to under no circumstances to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

We denounce the " green capitalism " and we refuse wrong resolutions to the climatic crisis as agro fuels, GMO's and mechanisms of carbon trade which are introduced as being progress in the impoverished populations, but that are only phantasms, while assisting to the privatization and selling of the forests and territories of populations. All those proposals and many others are concretized in the Declaration of the Social Movements .

The conclusion is clear: another world is possible and we are a big number of people to favor this change!

Nieves Martínez Bravo



Some news from the International Secretariat

FIMARC Exco and Bureau meeting

FIMARC Exco and Bureau meeting took place from 1-8 April 2011 in Assesse ,Belgium. A session on land access and land rights was organized. Dialogue with Via Campesina, FIAN, FIMARC Human Rights Working group had been quite interesting. Exco prepared a resolution on the land issue.

FIMARC Human Rights group

The members of the Human Rights group of the FIMARC presented to the EXCO members, the first draft of the document about land grabbing. This document that will integrate the remarks and contributions of the EXCO members

will be soon finalized and distributed to our members.

Visite of the Bureau members in Roma

FIMARC Bureau members visited Rome and had a meeting with Mgr. Josef Clemens (Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Laity), Cardinal Turkson (President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace), Arch Bishop Veglió (President of the pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerants) as well as Mrs. Fermina Alvarez (Vatican state Secretariate). Another meeting with the Civil Society section of FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) was a remarkable event.



Bureau Meeting with Archbishop Veglió - February 2011, Roma



*FIMARC delegation at the WSF 2011
Slaves statue, Goree Island (Senegal)*



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