

## **FROM SOLIDARITY TO ACTION: Collaborations between the seven global process**

### **Preamble:**

Seven global processes have come together around visions of societal transformation in support of a good life for all beings. Through different approaches, the seven processes are operating across local and global spaces. Whilst there are some fundamental common agreements, we also recognize that each process has its own interpretation of the problem and approach to affecting change. A quick analysis of the different processes (see synthesis report) reflects the diversity of thought and action amongst the global processes. The intention is not to try to create a super-structure bringing all the processes together but rather to find ways to collaborate and promote the work each is doing in support of our common goals.

In January 2021 the seven global processes successfully came together around the World Social Forum where several collaborative events were organized. We would like to build on this momentum and find more opportunities to collaborate going forward. It is important that this meeting of the seven global processes is not in name only but has value for each of the processes in building individual and collective missions.

In this document we outline a process which we propose to run at the meeting on 02 May 2021 (section 1). This will be a collective process of gathering ideas and deciding on some targeted actions for the rest of the year. The process is built on highlights from previous discussions as summarised in section 2 and 3 as well as an understanding of the different global processes (section 4).

### **1. Process for moving from solidarity to action**

We have a structure planned, which hopefully will give us time and space for shared creative thinking. This is in response to both the synthesis Vasna made of our organisational thinking and priorities and the outline Pierre has brought together of the ideas for collaboration that have come up so far (see below) so that we can build on them - or come up with new ideas.

The process will take us through several questions (see below). It will be useful if you can have a think about these in advance. To help us keep to time, please think in terms of one example per person - or 4 per organisation, depending on how many team members are attending. So that we can share the limited time we have well, please also come ready to listen deeply to others and to take care to be direct and succinct when it's our time to speak.

1. What is my organisation's particular strength / been particularly successful at?
2. What support could my initiative really use from others here in order to reach our goals - short or long-term? (DON'T feel you need to be reasonable or realistic - we are sharing our 'ideal world scenarios' at this stage).
3. What might be possible for us to (all or severally) achieve together - large or small? Again, with our critical filters off for the moment

We'll then go through a process of discerning which of all of these ideas seem most viable and effective for the time being and decide on our next steps.

## **2. Dialogue of Global Processes: who are we and what is what?**

Since the end of last year, our no-name network of networks (tentatively called 'Dialogue of Global Processes') has met, discussed and try to sort out what was our 'raison d'être', what were our common assumptions and moreover, what we could do together. All of this led to express many ideas and many ways to present these ideas, more like a gigantic brainstorming exercises, for sure fascinating, a bit "babelian". In our previous discussions, the same questions have emerged: who are we? What is our starting point? Where do we go?

For now, we have to decide how to move ahead, get to another phase. There are different options:

- Keep our process as is, make sure that everyone can speak and listen, insist on sharing ideas in the most open, amicable and inclusive ways. The advantage of a deep introspection would be to go beyond short-term and specific consensus in the hope of creating new paradigms. Past international platforms have been built on fragile assumptions and were not sustainable.
- Leave the introspection behind, focus on what we can do now, considering the extreme pressure that our movements are facing in this "crisis of crises". Past experiences (the World Social Forum for example) did not achieve as much as could have been, because it refused to go towards strategic convergences.
- Combine in-depth analysis (including introspections) and action-oriented consensus, focussing on specific campaigns; over time, figure out what is the best balance between the two, and indeed how to combine them, e.g. always based actions on a deep understanding, and further build that understanding from the actions we take.

In brief,

- Our discussions indicate a deep yearning for convergences from local to global that renew critical thinking that the WSF was a good forum for, for quite some time, but not more recently. It is a tough battle, we will have to try again and again, learning from our mistakes.
- There is no way around the importance of plurality and diversity, while doing, acting, relating, dreaming. Diversity is a source of strength and not the cause of further divisions and competition.
- Combining the experience of the young at heart with the rebelliousness and energy of the youth is the best option through our collective actions around joint campaign, collective declarations, media work and communication.
- Our huge ambitions include liberating ourselves from the dominant platforms and building our own intellectual, cultural and material resources.
- We will continue to build the network of networks by developing our transformative perspectives, by providing conceptual and practical tools to build convergence and trust.

- We will build a more global platform by doing joint actions based on existing understanding, learning from them, feeding our learnings into even deeper understanding of the crises we face and the radical, systemic alternatives to them.

**3. Highlights of past discussions**

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| <p>Looking for a common ground</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People’s movements today act in a fragmented way. There are several key issues where a “new consensus” can emerge: democracy, renewed relations with nature, ecofeminism, the necessity of strong, vibrant and autonomous popular movements (not dependent of progressive parties and governments, though perhaps advocating greater accountability from them).</li> <li>• With the current pandemic, the idea that we need “systemic changes” is gaining ground. Not only changing regimes or governments but changing the basic fabric of our society. We must reinvent our movements, cultivate a new internationalism, where solidarity and collaboration defy separation and competition, including the separations imposed by nation-state boundaries.</li> <li>• The “Green New deal” can be a participatory and collective process to identify and platform core interventions, ideas and demands, but it needs to resolve some fundamental weaknesses, e.g. not addressing global North-South inequities and consumerism; the Global GND appears to be oriented towards addressing these.</li> <li>• The process of growing together is long term, permanent, not restricted to an “event”. It needs rigorous organizational support focusing on creating the alternative visions and geared towards popular education, which means translating long-term visions into short term action-oriented strategies.</li> <li>• We need to be “prefigurative”, exploring through our local and relatively small-scale projects and actions what it could become if scaled-out (expanded horizontally rather than hierarchically); as also ‘transfigurative’ in continuously learning and adopting as we move on the prefigurative actions. We need to accept diversity, diminishing competition, over-charged egos, vanity, not listening.</li> <li>• We can start by building intersectional agendas on strategic issues, like access to vaccine for example. In our global network, we need to pay stronger attention to Indigenous communities and peoples, enabling their central voice in all our processes.</li> </ul> |
| <p>New Methodologies</p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As Martin Luther King once said, we are confronted with the “fierce urgency of now”. Scale-out expose, oppose, propose transitional projects with a long term (Gramscian) perspective.</li> <li>• Speak from the heart, speak the truth. Feeling love and connection. Building together. Being present, go with the flow.</li> <li>• Building movements takes long time. Need to avoid reproducing hierarchy, policy of leadership. Go slow based on trust and listening</li> </ul>  |

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|                  | <p>one to another. Begin with land, grassroots, plant the seeds in our school. Develop cognitive skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Struggles to reform without reinforcing system, promote revolutionary ideas without disempowering people with violence</li> <li>• Think critically about tools, transcend linguistic separation, democratise the internet. Think together articulated training processes, from the local and the global.</li> </ul>  |
| Working together | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Come to Scotland at COP-26 in 2021. Come and talk with people from across the world, about specific local struggles, how to invent empowering decision processes.</li> <li>• Interconnect global processes. Produce documentation on community resilience in time of crisis.</li> <li>• Work towards using the upcoming WSF 2022 process and space for convening and expanding the global dialogue and collective action.</li> <li>• Create an agenda of events for the next 2 years, Think collective action, street action, not just online. Build solidarity much further.</li> <li>• Continue to be imaginative, to create space. Building our relations is more important than writing a final statement.</li> </ul> |

#### 4. Synthesis

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| Diagnosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are in a deep civilizational crises. We recognize the problems of the currently dominant, oppressive system that have created or sustain these crises. Some identify the roots more specifically, e.g., in structures/relations of patriarchy, capitalism, state-domination, racism, casteism, anthropocentrism, colonization.</li> <li>• The displacement of multiple ways of knowing/being/living, and the cultural hegemony of authoritarian regimes, making entire societies ‘disposable’, are elements of the historical process of domination.</li> <li>• The lack of a coherent, combined response to the above by people’s movements (including the established Left), which are scattered and fragmented, is seen to be a major challenge. Another is the lack of comprehensive understanding and articulation of radical alternatives and inadequate linkages between the forces of resistance and those of constructive alternatives (though at times they are combined in</li> </ul> |
| Prognosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformative processes include moving towards a world that is pluralistic, democratic, decolonised, just, equitable/egalitarian, liberated, feminist, ecologically wise, peaceful, post-capitalist/post-developmental, prosperous, solidarity and radical love-based. However, each process may have its own interpretations and understandings of such values and terms.</li> <li>• To engender change, we need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share and understand critical strategies for change.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Affect political decision-making (understanding that politics is about power in all its dimensions).</li> <li>○ Build people’s power on the ground.</li> <li>○ Link movements of resistance and constructive alternatives</li> <li>○ Promote direct action on the ground, locally to globally, including across/transcending borders.</li> <li>○ Promote mass egalitarian green investments</li> <li>○ Build progressive internationalism.</li> <li>○ Build a common (but pluralistic, culturally diverse) dictionary of terms that we share, especially values and ethics of transformation</li> </ul>  |
| How to go forward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transformative processes include moving towards a world as described above in Prognosis. However, each process may have its own interpretations and understandings of such values and terms (hence also the need for an evolving dictionary of sorts).</li> <li>● Do we have a shared understanding of the roots of the currently dominant oppressive regime? Does each of our processes give higher priority to one or more of these root structures/relations?</li> <li>● There is varying focus on enabling direct democracy by empowering people in the ground, and making representative democracy including the state, accountable (including support to progressive political parties); are these in opposition or can they be complementary?</li> <li>● Do we have any (other) crucial differences that we need to be aware of, even if to agree to disagree?</li> </ul> |