

world social forum

WSF 2007 NEWSLETTER

"WSF Nairobi 2007 is poised to be a unique milestone in the militant history of the Forum".

"The World Social Forum is, a global Jukwaa, an international PLATFORM"

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I 6 T H O C T O B E R 2006 NAIROBI, KENYA

The African Milestone

For the first time, the World Social Forum will be taking place on the African continent, promising to bring together popular forces from a wide variety of constituencies from around the globe.

It is time to spell out the broad principles that inform the WSF steady build up into a consistent continuum and powerful platform of social movements from around the globe - building constrictive alternatives as a challenge to neo-liberal globalization.

By remaining a space of reflection, encounter, debate, sharing ideas, proposals and experiences, Nairobi must bring the unique concerns of the African agenda; history of resistance against imperi-



alist domination to bear on the development of global strategies for articulating appropriate modes of struggle on different planes and fronts; particularly, in respect of those concerns that are shared with other peoples of the world.

Since the year 2001, the World Social Forum has

come to represent the most formidable bulwark of popular resistance against neoliberal globalization. It has given and continues to give hope to the peoples of the South that the neo-liberal world order, must give way to a better world.

The WSF is a space as well as a process where actors in civil society worldwide express solidarity, benefit from collective action and develop initiative.

Nairobi 2007 is poised to be the first WSF event to benefit from a steady and systematic build-up of national, subregional and polycentric social forum processes, being constituted as a unique milestone in the militant history of the Forum.

Karibu to WSF Nairobi 2007!

Another World is Possible: "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives"

The 6th edition of the World Social Forum will bring together activists, social movements, networks, coalitions and other progressive forces from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Europe and all corners of the African continent.

They will converge in Nairobi, Kenya, for five days of cultural resistance and celebration; panels, workshops, symposia, processions, film nights and much, much more; beginning on the 20th of January and wrapping up on the 25th of January 2007.

Rallying around the clarion call of Another World Is Possible: "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives", the forces and the contingents of the World Social Forum will collectively expand the democratic spaces of those seeking concrete, sustainable and progressive alternatives to imperialist globalization.

The World Social Forum is, to use a Kiswahili word, a global *Jukwaa*, in other words, an international PLATFORM, to quote from the Porto Alegre Charter:

"...an open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society opposed to neo-

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liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism, but engaged in building a planetary society centered on the human person, come together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action." Words alone can not capture the vibrancy, the potency, the promise and the excitement of a World Social Forum event.

There is no alternative to being there, amidst it all, participating, congregating, conversing, marching, singing, laughing, dancing, dreaming, networking and strategizing with sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors, comrades and colleagues from five continents, across oceans, mountains, deserts and rivers and over one hundred and forty countries.

So please come on over and be with us here in Nairobi, Africa, from January 20th to the 25th, 2007 as we recreate the magic of the World Social Forum.

Building Uganda "Our Struggles, Our Solutions"

The 2nd edition of Uganda Social Forum (USF 2006) was successfully held from 18th -21st September 2006 at Namboole Stadium.

Under the theme Building Uganda – Our Struggles, Our Solutions, the highlight of this year's Social Forum was the "Caravan" which moved hundreds of people from all corners of the country to participate in the event from Northern, Eastern, Western and South Western Uganda.

The caravan were organised to mobilise people and social movements and the labour unions organised thematic ones for teachers, nurses and labourers.

The caravans carried clear and distinct messages that denounced social exclusion, injustices and inequality; and announced people's alternatives, solutions and actions. The call for Peace and particularly an end to the war in Northern Uganda was echoed by all the Caravans.

The International Peace Day (Sept. 21^{st}) was celebrated with a Peace March that attracted over 600 people through the streets of Kampala calling for a peaceful resolution.

Kenya Mobilisation Processes

A number of regional social forums across the country have been taking place in Kenya for the last months.

The first was held in Nairobi on the 25^{th} of May under the theme engendering the WSF Process. This was followed by the Western Kenya Social forum which was held in Kisumu on the 27^{th} and 28^{th} of July.

This forum was organized by different grass root groups working in the region. It brought together an estimated 3000 people from across the western Kenya region including some from Uganda.

Different activities organized on this three day event included, public lectures, cultural performances, and workshops and radio Interviews. The focus of this event was land Use, Squatters and mineral extraction; towards economic empowerment for the Wananchi.

CARITAS/Ecumenical Platform which was set up in April 2006 by CARITAS, a global Catholic network, has been conducting mobilization campaigns targeting the faith based constituents, bringing together a very powerful and entrenched community of communities of many organizations with a proven track record in fighting for social justice and with a slew of sustainable community-based projects on their collective resumes.

Plans are underway to hold the Central Kenya Social Forum which is scheduled to be held on the 18^{th} and the 19^{th} of October.

For more information: mobilisation@wsf2007.org

UGANDA. 18th-21st Sept. Namboole Stadium.

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Registration Process for the WSF 2007

Nine thematic terrains have been defined to register activities Online.

The Secretariat in Nairobi started the individual registration process on the event site (www.wsf2007.org) on Oct. 4th, 2006.

The individual registration form is available in English, Spanish, and Kiswahili. The registration of activities will be available shortly.

Based on the analysis of the answers to the Online consultation on actions, campaigns and struggles the following nine thematic terrains for the registration of activities have been defined:

I. Building a world of peace, justice, ethics and respect for diverse spiritualities;

2. Liberating the world from the domination of multinational and financial capital;

3. Ensuring universal and sus-

tainable access to the common goods of humanity and nature;

4. Democratization of knowledge and information;

5. Ensuring dignity, defending diversity, guaranteeing gender equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination:

6. Guaranteeing the right to food, healthcare, education and decent work;

7. Building a world order based on sovereignty, selfdetermination and rights of peoples;

8. Constructing a peoplecentred and sustainable economy;

9. Building real democratic political structures and institutions with full people's participation on decisions and control of public affairs and resources.

All activities that will be registered for the WSF 2007 event should be identified within these nine thematic terrains.

An online tool (workspace) will be available for organizations to register, propose activities and to interact among themselves in their preparations for the Nairobi event.

As it has been designed, the workspace will simplified the registration process for all the organizations that have access to internet.

On the other hand, the Secretariat in Nairobi is making efforts to establish a team of "internet mediators" will link the organizations without internet and those in the workspace.

"The individual registration form is available on the event site www.wsf2007.org in English, Spanish, and Kiswahili."

WSF 2007 at the Nairobi International Agricultural and Trade Fair

This year's Nairobi ASK International Agriculture and Trade Fair kicked off officially on Tuesday October 3, 2006, with a happy and progressive twist in this year's event.

For starters, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights got a stand where it invited many social justice oriented organizations and networks to put up tables. Among those invited was the WSF 2007 Secretariat, Shelter Forum, People Against Torture, Kenya Land Alliance, FIDA, Legal Resource Foundation, CRADLE, Hema la Katiba, CLARION, Citizen's Assembly, SODNET and others.

"To spice things even further, the legendary and famous Vitimbi comedy troupe led by the beloved "Ojwang" (Benson Wanjau), Mama Kayai, Ondiek and others have been on hand to dramatize issues like the plight of widows who are disinherited and corruption", said Onyango Oloo, National Coordinator of the Kenya Social Forum.

Members of the public, numbering in their hundreds every day, visited the WSF 2007 table for information on the

up to be volunteers, inquiring when and where they can register and showing keen interest in the books, pamphlets and materials displayed.



Upcoming WSF EventsDatesEventLocationOct, 19th - 20thCentral Kenya Social ForumWhispers Park,
Nyeri, KenyaNov, 1st - 3rdWSF Pan-African Youth
ConsultationMethodist Guest House
Nairobi, Kenya

Venue of World Social Forum 2007

The main venue will be the Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani - about 10 km. northeast of the Central Business District of Nairobi, Kenya.



Opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Uhuru Park in downtown Nairobi.



Individual registration for WSF 2007 is now open!!

Individual participant Africa Rest of the South Northern Nationals	Kes 504 2,016 7,920	Euro 5 20 80	USD 7 28 110
Delegations (max.5)	Kes	Euro	USD
Africa	1,512	15	21
Rest of the South	9,072	90	126
Northern Nationals	39,312	390	546

All registration fees for WSF 2007 event in Nairobi, including fees for registering activities and stalls, can be downloaded in our web page.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Nairobi, Kenya!

Want to be part of the WSF 2007 process?

For donations please contact the Resources Commission: resources@wsf2007.org

Call for Volunteers!

The World Social Forum organizing depends on the good will of activists and individuals committed to bringing into existence, the other world that we aspire to build.

We therefore call upon all individuals wishing to offer their skills and competencies in support of the WSF2007 to fill in the questionnaire <u>http://wsf2007.org/volunteer</u> and await our feedback.

For instance, you could volunteer in various capacities (translation, technical, electrical, architecture, mobilization, hospitality, medical, ushering, construction etc), whether on-site (in Nairobi) or remotely.

Specific areas of need are very varied:- during, before, and even after Nairobi event. You could be situated in Nairobi or from a remote location or on-line within the WSF workspace that will be available soon.

Please know that the organizing committee has very limited resources and as such cannot of remuneration for voluntary services. We offer you our hospitality and our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for accepting to walk with us in this historic moment.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2007 SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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"Another World is Possible" "Dunia Mbadala Yawezekana"