



TERRAVIVA

The independent newspaper of the VII World Social Forum, Jan 20-25, Nairobi, Kenya



► Gavin Yates

The organising committee has a tough task ahead in deciding where the World Social goes from here – both in terms of process and venue.

The international organising committee of the Forum meets in Nairobi this weekend to deliberate on a range of upcoming issues, including the venue of the next Forum.

Venues mentioned informally so far include Barcelona in Spain, Bahia in Brazil, a yet-to-be-decided Italian venue and a city in Francophone Africa.

Professor Edward Oyugi of Kenya said he believed that the WSF was destined for South America in 2009: "I'm predicting that there is a likelihood that it will come back to its birthplace in Brazil and go outside

Latin America the following year.

He said that he believed that this year's event had been successful and that many lessons had been learned but urged caution on returning to Africa too soon.

"Africa needs one or two years to reflect and to evaluate it (the WSF) before we can ask it to come back. That is being very honest and I'm not saying that we do not wish other African countries to have it. When another African country wants to host it we can benefit from the experiences we have had in Nairobi," he said.

Tunisian Taoufik Ben Abdallah said the next event in 2009 was not as important as what needed to happen in the run-up to it.

"The important thing is not 2009; the important thing is that - between the two forums - a new process will be set up. We

must build on the spirit of the innovations of this forum. This year we had a fourth day and we brought together different coalitions and new collective actions. I hope this will increase over the next few years."

He urged more actions over the next two years to respond quickly to world events.

"The idea behind that is to transform the forum from an event to a permanent process and make people more active in between. Events are happening every day all over the world and if we are not proactive with the reality of the world, we are missing something. It's an evolution. In the past we have extended the movement through different world social forums – now it's time to get closer to the reality," he said.

Flavio Lotti, an Italian organising committee member, disagreed with his two col-

leagues, saying he believed that it was important that the next Forum was held in Africa.

"I think that we should come back to Africa – we should remain in Africa. I agree that the process is important but it needs a sense of direction. The event has to be part of the process.

"Africa is the most neglected continent. Here the WSF brought us not only near the poor people but it allowed us to work together with the poor. The original spirit of the forum started with a peace march in one slum and will finish with a marathon in another slum. This has been organised by the slum dwellers, not the organising committee.

"It is up to Africa to decide where in Africa the next forum could be held. Going to a French-speaking part would be good or maybe Portuguese-speaking. But Africa must decide."

Voices Anuradha Mittal



Stepping up to Real Challenges

Can Nairobi 2007 rise to the challenge of Africa or is it just a social jamboree?

First organised in the Brazilian town of Porto Alegre in 2001, the WSF's call of 'Another World is Possible' and its message against war, injustice, and social inequities, is no longer regional. It travelled to Mumbai, India, in 2004 and to Bamako, Mali; Caracas, Venezuela; and Karachi, Pakistan in 2006.

As the Forum has grown, however, so too have the criticisms. One of the main critiques has been that while the WSF portrays itself as a challenge to capitalism, standing in direct opposition to neo-liberal policies espoused by the World Economic Forum (WEF), it has come into being - with support from large NGOs and foundations - within the very system it opposes! Some question its ability to integrate all quarters of civil society, and different approaches to questions of power, resistance, and organising in the WSF process. Others have portrayed the Forum as an annual tourist event.

The African edition of the WSF - with its motto 'People's Struggles, People's Alternatives' - is under scrutiny to see if the WSF proves to be more than civil society's jamboree.

Will the WSF take up the myriad social, economic, and political issues that haunt the continent and are most often fuelled by international geo-politics? Will it step up to Africa's poor who - despite years of humanitarian aid, concerts and goodwill from Hollywood and rock stars - continue to reel from endemic hunger and poverty?

According to the 2005 UNDP ranking, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 12 of the 18 poorest countries. The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that there are 206 million hungry in the region which is also more heavily affected by HIV and AIDS than any other region of the world.

These distressing figures stem in part from the fact that, despite promises such as the Millennium Development Goals and the debt-reduction package unveiled at the G-8 meeting in Gleneagles in July 2005 (including debt write-offs and increased aid), mere lip service has been paid to finding solutions to the continent's daunting problems. Despite promises of doubling aid to Africa, aid for agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa dropped by 43 percent between 1992 and 2002.

Cognisant of criticisms, the fourth day of the WSF is devoted to solidify joint actions and campaigns. According to Onyango Oloo, the National Coordinator of the Kenya Social Forum, this was done "partly to stave off lingering criticisms and perceptions that over the years the WSF has become little more than a talk shop".

From Porto Alegre to Nairobi, the WSF has come to represent mass mobilisation of international civil society and one that has continued to grow. The outcome of the six days of workshops, symposia, debates, processions, celebrations and solidarity, however, will be very crucial in determining its future.

Anuradha Mittal is the Executive Director of the Oakland Institute (www.oaklandinstitute.org)

Voices Klaus Schwab



The Shifting Power Equation

We are in the midst of a revolution in which power is moving from the centre to the periphery.

We are in the midst of a revolution. Some will call this revolution globalisation; others will call it the knowledge revolution. Whatever we call it, we are witnessing a changing power equation. Power is moving from the centre to the periphery. Vertical command and control structures are eroding and are being replaced by horizontal networks of social communities and collaborative platforms.

Unprecedented integration and interconnectedness have created a truly global neighbourhood. But there is an underlying paradox here. Power is becoming more and more widespread, but it is also becoming harder and harder to harness. We have a *de facto* global world, but our institutions and systems of global governance are disintegrating. In principle, we should now move to a higher global level of consciousness, identity and, of course, organisational structure - but the underlying organisational principle in our world has dramatically changed.

The world is becoming flat but that is only the first part of the equation. What is more interesting is how we will reinvent ourselves, our social relations and our power structures within this flat world.

Narrow Interests

Our global institutions and governance structures have not moved with the times; they were built on the concept of nation states, mainly designed to protect national interests. Global trusteeship and global stewardship are needed more than ever. The world has become a complex and dangerous place requiring urgent, effective mechanisms to address its challenges. As we again aim to be a part of this search for new mechanisms and new joint approaches to global problems, we hope to marshal a broad group of stakeholders at our annual meeting in Davos to tackle these multifaceted problems in a multifaceted way.

First among these complex challenges is the way we treat our biosphere. Second are the economic challenges.

On a political level, recent events have highlighted the realities of global impotence. But all reforms that are based just on prolonging the paradigms of the past will fail in our new flat world.

On a societal level, the question is: can we cope with the speed of change? The gap between those able to ride the wave of globalisation and

those left behind is becoming wider at global, national, corporate, and individual levels.

Finally, on a cultural level, we are witnessing a world in search of its soul, its roots and a re-emergence of cultural and religious identities.

Flattened World

When the world moved from local to global, the liberal ideology evolved based on the need to protect the individual against the collective. Now, the new imperative is to protect the collective against the individual. Where is the equilibrium in this fight of the collective versus the individual? If we can find this new balance, then we can hope to make a flattened world work for the good of all.

This 'flattening' world presents ever more opportunities to which individuals and institutions must adapt. What we need to do is connect, and reconnect, leaders from business, politics and civil society to form new coalitions to improve the state of our world and shape a new collective will. © IPS

Klaus Schwab is the founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.



Omar Galindo

Forum Access

Protestors were a 'tiny minority' say organisers

Ongoing protests have highlighted the need to support local NGOs.

► **Zarina Geloo and Gavin Yates**

The organisers of the seventh World Social Forum say they are puzzled by the actions of some protestors at the Forum.

Referring to the demonstrations for free entrance and cheaper food and water this week, Toufik Ben Abdallah said he was very upset with some of the actions of what he called 'a tiny minority of protestors'.

Ben Abdallah told TerraViva that some of the protestors were "too aggressive; who do they represent? Do they represent the whole city? They sent us three represen-

tatives: 'we are representatives of the social movement' they said – is it even democratic to say that?

"As organisers you have to respect our sovereignty. We subsidised more than 4,000 people from the slums," Ben Abdallah said.

'Entrance was free'

He said the organisers had decided on the very first day of the Forum to charge a token 50 shillings as entrance fee, and that after the first day, even this was scrapped and entrance was made free.

"People who are providing water are poor sellers; they cannot afford to give water for free and as organisers we simply cannot afford to provide three bottles of water a day to everybody. The government should have provided water and their (the protestors') struggle should be against them (the government)."

Ben Abdallah accused some "European actors" of having a hidden agenda and inciting people to protest. He said the issue of the protests would be raised at the international committee.

'Protests Unfair'

Professor Edward Oyugi of the Social Development Network who also sits on the committee of the WSF said the organisers had tried to get as many poor Kenyans as possible into the WSF and dubbed the protestors' criticism "unfair."

"Some of the loudest protestors asking for free entry are wearing badges that have been paid for by the organising committee. Many of these people are just using the media to express grievances that have nothing to do with the World Social Forum. It's political."

Oyugi said the ideal situation would have been to have a special fund to ensure that the poor had access to cheap water and food. However, he argued that water was cheaper at the Moi Stadium than in most places in Nairobi.

Jose Chacon, a member of the organising committee, denied that it was the protestors who had forced him to open the Forum's gates on Tuesday. "We had already opened it," he said, adding that the protestors numbered no more than 100 and that half of them were from outside the slums.

A Requiem for Poverty

► **Zarina Geloo**

In a sea of blinding white t-shirts, the choir sang - sometimes to the accompaniment of drums, maracas and an electric keyboard, other times a cappella.

For an hour the choir of about 50 children - aged between six and 20 - sang and danced in the hot Nairobi sun in synchronised harmony with the occasional outbursts of ululation.

But the enthusiasm, happy faces and dancing belied the sad and grave message in their songs. They sang of the sadness in people's lives as they struggled to eke out a living in harsh environments, of having to live in poverty, the pain of working so hard for such little return and the unfairness of trade.

The children also sang songs of hope of a better life when governments listen to peoples' cries, and created conditions that would improve their lives, they sang songs of fair trade.

Led by their enthusiastic conductor Peter Maisson, who jumped around the poverty requiem space between gates 22 and 23, the choir broke out into rumba song and dance at intervals.

The poverty requiem is an initiative of OXFAM Novib and GCAP to connect the world through music. For more information, go to www.povertyrequiem.org.

Free Food for Children (and some adults)

► **Zarina Geloo**

More protests marked the penultimate day of the World Social Forum in Nairobi Wednesday, as poor Kenyans staged a noisy sit-in at the Windsor café, an extension of a hotel owned by country's Internal Security Minister John Michuku.

The protestors, the same group that had protested for free entrance, water and food on Tuesday, demanded free food for slum children at the Windsor café.

"This establishment belongs to a capitalist who is exploiting us in our own space by charging exorbitant prices for his food," said Wangui Mbatia, one of the protestors.

Of the over 50 food stalls in the Forum, the protestors only targeted Windsor because it is owned by the minister, who is controversial for his heavy-handedness in dealing with dissent, at one time raiding the offices of Kenya's major newspapers, 'The Standard', ostensibly in the interests of national security.

When the protestors appeared adamant that the children should be given free food, Windsor kitchen staff eventually began to give the children food. But in the melee, adults also began to help themselves to any edibles they could lay their hands on until the kitchen was wiped clean and the café closed shop.

The management at Windsor café declined to comment on the protest.

Also on Wednesday, members of Youth Alive protested against TerraViva by tearing up copies of the newspaper, because the paper reported that its t-shirts, which



were selling at \$5, were not a "best seller" at the Forum.

One of the activists, Paul Murethi – flanked by European supporters – said he had a right to feel hurt by what the paper had written about the t-shirts, but later apologised for tearing the papers, agreeing that

the only people who did so were those who tried to stifle freedom of expression. He explained that Youth Alive was made of youths from the slums who had worked hard to produce the t-shirts and were unhappy that the media had trivialised their achievement.

Trade Talks

► Gavin Yates

Activists at the WSF Wednesday signalled their opposition to the controversial Economic Partnership Agreements being negotiated between Europe and six poor developing regions across the world.

“I think there will be huge problems if EPAs happen in Africa. Our analysis shows EPAs are partnership agreements between unequal partners. If they are signed, then poor peasants in Africa will have to compete with subsidised farmers in the European Union,” Aftab Alam Khan from ActionAid, who is the International Coordinator of the Trade Justice Campaign, told TerraViva.

“It is essential that campaigning against EPAs continues,” he said in comments made on the day a negotiator for West Africa demanded a two-year delay in the implementation from the European Union.

EPAs are free trade agreements between Europe and developing countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific. Made outside of the World Trade Organisation negotiations, they are due to come into force in January 2008.

However, Brussels’ negotiating plans appear to have run into opposition from both civil society and African governments.

“We reckon that we are not yet ready and we are asking for a delay of two years to organise ourselves better,” Jean de Dieu

West Africa Wades into EPAs Debate

Europeans should put more pressure on their politicians and business leaders to halt EPAs, activists in Nairobi say.

Somda, minister-delegate for regional co-operation of Burkina Faso said. The demand is likely to be resisted by the EU.

Supporters of EPAs say they will free up world trade and reduce poverty, but opponents believe they will have the opposite effect.

Many activists at the WSF believe these agreements will disadvantage developing nations as they force poorer countries to open up their borders to duty- and tariff-free goods and services from rich countries. Critics also say that by lifting trade barriers, developing nations will be exposed to unfair competition from powerful multinational companies.

Tomato paste

Khan of ActionAid gave the example of tomato farmers in Ghana: “Tomato is a key crop in West Africa but European tomato

growers get Euros 300 million in subsidies. How would they be able to compete? Poor women in Ghana cannot sell their tomatoes because of cheap tomato paste being imported from the EU.

“These EPAs are anti-development agreements that will leave Africa wide open to multinationals. In Uganda a multinational coffee company – Neumann Kaffee Gruppe – has displaced a huge number of families but compensated only 700 of them. If EPAs are signed, multinationals will move in and small scale farmers, merchants and shop keepers will be wiped out.”

Campaigners believe that it is still possible for the EPAs to be stopped and Khan urged people in the EU to campaign vigorously.

“People in the EU should put pressure on their politicians and the business community and try and get the European media to focus on this issue to stop EPAs for good. There is still time.”

Movement at Davos on trade talks

Also Wednesday World Trade Organisation chief Pascal Lamy signalled that stalled global free trade talks could restart soon, some six months after their suspension over a dispute over farm subsidies between the EU and the America.

Lamy indicated that trade ministers meeting in the Swiss resort of Davos this week would signal that they are ready for a full relaunch of the negotiations.

Spirited youth set up camp at WSF

► Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina

All has been quiet on the WSF youth camp front. Southwest of the Moi Stadium venue, scores of empty tents give the camp a slightly abandoned look. It fits in with the criticism that year after year, the WSF has somewhat neglected its future generation.

A team of 18 young men and women from Geneva occupy two tents in a deserted neighbourhood.

Laura Crivelli, a university student, is closely following all events on the Europe-Africa relationship: “Europe has created a lot of injustice in Africa and should not impose anymore. Africa may need assistance but knows very well what it wants for its development.”

Protesting injustices

At the last global-level WSF in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the youth camp had over 30,000 delegates. This time there are only 250. But the spirit of the youth remains the same: earnest, protesting against injustices and committed to building a new world.

Philip Thigo, the coordinator of the youth camp, told Terra Viva that this was the first time the camp had been integrated with the main WSF rather than being a parallel activity. A number of youth programmes are now on the main schedule.

And, despite a nearly-empty camp, the quality of participation is very good, says Thigo.

Crivelli says she enjoyed the sessions and workshops as much as the singing, dancing and interactions with other delegates.

Cecile Muret, an intern with a Swiss NGO, is keen to make friends and share with people from different countries, especially Africa.

Lack of focus

Muret is disappointed at the lack of focus: “I don’t feel a global movement here. Lots of energy is going every which way, sometimes clashing with each other. We need to find common points and construct something out of it.”

“We are here to share ideas, not to sell food or products and make



Laura Crivelli

Paulino Menezes

money,” says Muret.

Sostenes C. Amlma, a young artist from Tanzania, pitched his own tent a few yards away. Kilango also works with the street children, teaching them art and craft. “This forum is very important for me,” said Amlma. “I can learn so much

from the delegates of other countries. Tanzania is so poor – here I find others like us.”

Emiliano Endrest, a law student from Argentina, has accompanied a radical youth organisation from Venezuela. He felt the forum was too commercial: “That’s

not the spirit of the WSF.”

The Swiss team represented a non-government youth education project. Coordinator Mirko Arrigoni says they will leave the bad behind and “take only the good things to our countries and share it with others”.

Gender Platform

WSF participants are being urged to move from NGOism to activism

► **Zarina Geloo**

The women's movement had a stronger voice at Nairobi 2007 than in all other forums and has made genuine attempts to link their issues into other processes, Fatma Aloo, a member of the WSF organisation committee, said Wednesday.

Aloo, who is also an executive board member of FEMNET, told a media briefing that the African women's voice was especially strong and clear at the forum.

"Unlike the other forums where our voice was drowned by the bigger and stronger solidarity movements, here in Nairobi we were strong. We had representation across the board, were able to link our issues into the other processes like land, water and health and, more importantly, did not talk to the converted – we engaged with other groups that did not traditionally have a gender component in their work."

Enough Talk

Aloo, who is from Tanzania, said there had been enough talk and that it was now time for action: "We must now move from NGOism to activism, we now know what we want to do and how to do it. We must now move to action – to doing it – and then come back and report progress."

She said all movements and groups would leave Nairobi with an action plan that should be implemented nationally and regionally.

Wahu Kaara from the social mobilisation unit of WSF 2007 said Kenyan grassroots organisations had been invigorated.

"This is probably the only forum they will ever attend because it is on their turf and they made maximum use of it. They put their case across very clearly, they engaged with other solidarity movements and formed strong networks which will spur them on long after the conference," said Kaara.

Women's Voice was Strong and Clear



Paulino Menezes

Women in Conflict

She said the discussions on women in conflict areas – especially Somalia and Darfur – were poignant as many women affected by the conflict were not physically present to tell their stories. However, their issues were being raised by solidarity movements who were working in those areas.

There was a strong call for more protection from the international community for women and children living in conflict

areas in order to shield them from rape and other brutalities associated with war.

On the issue of access to land, there was a demand for legislation which would protect women's access to land, especially in cultures where women were not allowed to own land or property.

The grassroots movements also lobbied for greater networking on the issue of water saying many communities were accessing less water because governments were privatising water resources and making it expensive.

Spreading the Fair Trade Message

► **Martin Adhola**

The Fair Trade movement has sent a strong call to the business community to adopt trade practices that benefit workers and small scale farmers.

Carola Reintjes, President of the Spanish Fair Trade movement IDEAS and IFAT, the International Fair Trade Network said that members of the business community that had not yet engaged in fair trade should adopt the practices: "Let business become fair and create benefits to the people – to the workers and small farmers."

Fair Trade organisations fight against poverty and work for fairer world trading rules. Since inception there has been a growing awareness of the fair trade initiative with the programme growing at a rate of 20 percent annually. The fair trade initiative brings in business communities that uphold fair labour practices and human rights.

Window Dressing

Reintjes said the business community should now go beyond piecemeal Corporate Social Responsibility" programmes and un-



Carola Reintjes

Paulino Menezes

dertake strategies that were of help to the poor.

"They should move from the window dressing activities that they are doing and ensure that they have strategies in place to ensure that trade is fair," she said.

Reintjes said governments needed to put in place institutional frameworks that ensured fair trade was being practiced in all sectors – whether local or international.

"It is now easier than in the past to pros-

Clean Water for All!

► **Judy Waguma**

Despite the devastating record of water privatisation in Africa, international aid donors and governments continue to promote it as the solution to Africa's water crisis, says African Water Network organiser Al Hassan Adam.

He was speaking at the launch of the network attended by over 250 activists – representing civil society groups from over 40 African countries – at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, on Wednesday.

"This network will counteract this misguided push for water privatisation in African countries and instead fight for the common good of the poor people to have access to clean water," said Al Hassan Adam who is Ghanaian activist.

"The launch of this network should put the water privateers, governments and international financial institutions on notice that Africans will resist privatisation," he added. "Water is a human right and demand governments to provide water through efficient public delivery."

In a strong statement, the network outlined five non-negotiable principles which this network will promote. They included the fight against water privatization in all its form, participatory of public control and management of water resources, Oppose all forms of prepaid water meters, ensure that water is enshrined in our national constitutions as a human right, ensure that the provision of water is a national project solely in the public domain.

"Today we celebrate the birth of this network to resist the theft of our water, tomorrow we will celebrate access to clean water for all," said Virginia Setshedi of the South African Coalition against Water Privatization.

ecute a dictator than a multinational that's involved in malpractices," said Reintjes.

Compete Favourably

Simon Mwangi, a curio seller from Nairobi, Kenya, said the fair trade initiative had made an impact on his business as he was now able to sell on the international market.

"Since the international market adopted the fair trade business in this area, we are now able to sell and at least compete favourably on the world stage despite the other constraints in the business," he said.

The demand for fair trade continues.

A participant speaking at a session on Fair Trade at the WSF on Wednesday said the fair trade initiative areas of operation needed to be broadened: "The initiative has managed to rope in a number of areas now we need to expand it to cover other areas where they are injustices and unfair business."



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Usawa

Sauti za wanawake zilikuwa na uzito

► Zarina Geloo

Vuguvugu la wanawake lilikuwa na sauti nzito wakati wa mkutano wa 2007 wa Nairobi kuliko ilivyokuwa kwenye kongamano nyingine ambazo zimekuwa zikifanya juhudi kuhusisha maswala yake na mambo mengine. Amesema jana Fatma Aloo ambaye pia ni mwanachama wa kamati ya Kongamano linaloangazia maswala ya kijamii.

Aloo ambaye pia ni Afisa mwanachama wa ngazi ya juu wa FEMNET, aliambia mkutano wa Wanahabari siku ya Jumatano kwamba, sauti za wanawake barani Afrika zilikuwa na uzito mkubwa na wazi wakati wa kongamano hili.

“Tofauti na ilivyokuwa kwenye mikutano mingine ambapo sauti zetu zilidhalilishwa na mivumo ya makundi mengine yenye uzito, hapa Nairobi, tulikuwa na uzito mkubwa. Tulikuwa na waakilishi kutoka kila pembe, tuliweza kuhusisha maswala yetu na mambo mengine kama vile ardhi, maji na Afya, na muhimu sana, hatukujadili kuhusu kubadilishwa. Tulishauriana na makundi mengine ambayo hayakuwa na utaratibu wa agenda katika kazi zake.”

Aloo, kutoka taifa la Tanzania alisema kumekuwa na mazungumzo mengi na wakati umefika kuonyeshwa kwa vitendo “Ni lazima tujiondoe kutoka mashirika yasiyo ya kiserikali na kuwa watendaji. Kwa sasa, tumefahamu tunachofaa kutenda na jinsi ya kukitenda. Sasa, ni lazima tuchukue hatua za kutenda kisha turudi nyuma na kuripoti maendeleo tuliyopata”

Alisema vuguvugu na makundi yote yataondoka jijini Nairobi yakiwa na mpango wa utekelezaji ambao utateke-



PAULINO MENEZES

Muuzaji Vinyago atayarisha bidhaa zake

lezwa kitaifa na kimaeneo.

Wahu Kaara kutoka kitengo kinachohamasisha jamii cha WSF 2007 alisema mashirika yanayohudu nyanjani nchini Kenya yalikuwa yameimarishwa.

“Labda hili ni kongamano la kipekee watakalohudhuria kwani liko katika eneo lao na wametumia nafasi yote ipasavyo. Walifafanua vyema visa vyao, wakatangamana na makundi mengine na kubuni mtandao thabiti ambao utawapeleka mbali

hata baada ya mkutano,” akasema Kaara.

Alisema mazungumzo kuhusu wanawake katika maeneo yanayokabiliwa na vita hasa Somalia na Darfur yalikuwa ya kuvunja moyo kwani akina mama wengi waliothiriwa na mapigano hawakuweza kuhudhuria na kusimulia visa vyao. Hata hivyo, maswala yao yalijadiliwa na makundi yenye mshikamano yaliyokuwa yakifanya kazi maeneo hayo.

Mwito kwa usawa kibiashara

► Martin Adhola

Kundi linalotetea usawa wa kibiashara limetoa ujumbe mkali kwa jamii ya wafanyabishara kushirikisha njia ambazo zitawanufaisha wafanyakazi na wakulima wadogo.

Carola Reinjtes Rais wa shirika linalotetea usawa wa kibiashara la Uhispania (IDEAS na IFAT) alisema jamii ya wafanyabishara ambayo haikuwa ikitumia njia za usawa ilihitaji kuzishirikisha katika utekelezaji wake.

“Tunataka usawa kibiashara na kuleta manufaa kwa watu, wafanyakazi na wakulima wadogo,” akasema.

Carola alisema jamii ya wafanyabishara inahitaji kuangaza mbele mipango yake na wajibu katika jamii ambazo imekuwa ikitekeleza maeneo mbali mbali ulimwenguni na wakati huo kubuni mikakati itakayofaidi maskini.

Alisema “wanahitaji kujiepusha na shughuli wanazofanya sasa na kubuni mikakati itakayohakikisha usawa kibiashara”

Kuhusu serikali, Carola aliongeza kwamba zilihitiwa kuwa na mifumo ya taasisi itakayohakikisha usawa kibiashara umetokeleza katika sekta zote iwe nyanjani au kimataifa.

“Ujumbe wetu kwa serikali ni wahakikishe kuwa kuna mifumo ya taasisi itakayohakikisha usawa kibiashara katika sekta zote kwenye mataifa yao,” akasema.

Aliongeza “ni rahisi sasa kuliko ilivyokuwa hapo awali kuhukumu Dikteta kuliko mataifa yanayojihusisha na visa vya uhalifu.”

Simon Mwangi muuzaji wa vinyago kutoka Nairobi alisema utaratibu wa kuwa na usawa kibiashara umeleta mwamko katika biashara yake kwani sasa anaweza kuuza bidhaa zake katika masoko ya kimataifa.

“Tangu soko la kimataifa kubuni usawa wa kibiashara eneo hili, sasa, tunaweza kuuza bidhaa zetu na kwa kiwango kuleta ushindani katika viwango vya kimataifa licha ya kuwepo kwa vikwazo vingine,” akasema.

Tangu mfumo huu ubuniwe, kumekuwa na ufahamu kuhusu usawa wa kibiashara huku mpango huu ukizidi kukua kwa asilimia 20 kila mwaka.

Mfumo wa usawa wa kibiashara unajumuisha pamoja jamii za wafanyabishara zinazodumisha taratibu bora za uajiri na haki za kibnadamu.

Mshiriki mmoja kwenye semina alisema maeneo ya mfumo wa usawa wa biashara yalihatijika kupanuliwa hadi maeneo ambayo hayakuwa yamefikwa hapo awali.

“Mpango huu umetuwezesha kufikia maeneo mbali mbali na kwa sasa tunahitaji kuapanua ili kufikia maeneo yanayotekeleza visa vya uvunjaji haki na ukosefu wa usawa kibiashara,” akasema.

Maji safi kwa wote!

► Judy Waguma

Licha ya kuwepo kwa visa vya ubinafsishaji wa huduma za maji Barani Afrika, wafadhili wa kimataifa na serikali wanaendelea kushinikiza ushiriki kama suluhisho la hatari ya maji Barani. Amesema Bw. Al Hassan Adam mratibu wa mtandao wa Maji Barani.

Bw. Adam alikuwa akizungumza siku ya Jumatano kwenye mkutano unaoangazia maswala ya kijamii wakati wa kuzinduliwa kwa mtandao huo kwenye sherehe iliyohudhuriwa na wanaharakati 250 waliowakilisha makundi yanayotetea haki za kijamii kutoka mataifa 40 ya Bara la Afrika.

“Mtandao huu utashinda shinikizo la kubinafsisha huduma za Maji katika mataifa ya Bara la Afrika na badala yake kupigania maslahi ya watu maskini kupata ili maji safi,” akasema Al Hassan Adam ambaye ni mwanaharakati kutoka Ghana.

“Kuzinduliwa kwa mtandao huu kutawaweka wamiliki wa kibnafsi wa maji, serikali na taasisi zinazotoa misaada kimataifa kwenye notisi kwamba, Waafrika watapinga kubinafsishwa kwa Maji,” akaongeza. “Maji ni haki kwa binadamu na tunataka serikali kutoa huduma hii kwa umma kupitia njia iliyo sawa”.

Kupitia taarifa kali, Mtandao huu

uliangazia taratibu tano ambazo zitatumika. Njia hizo ni pamoja na kupigana na vita dhidi ya ubinafsishaji maji kwa kila hali, kushiriki kwa umma kusimamia rasimili za maji, kupinga njia zote za kulipia mita za maji awali, kuhakikisha kwamba maji yamejumuishwa kwenye katiba za nchi kama haki za binadamu, na kuhakikisha kwamba maji ni mradi wa kitaifa unaomilikiwa na wananchi.

“Hivi leo, tunasherehekea kuzaliwa kwa mtandao huu ili kuzuia wizi wa maji yetu. Kesho, tutasherehekea kupatikana kwa maji safi kwa wote,” akasema Virginia Setshedi wa Muungano kutoka Afrika Kusini unaopinga ubinafsishaji.

Kasarani Musings



Photos: Paulino Menezes

Learning from the

African Experience

► Hilmi Toros

As the curtain falls today on the World Social Forum (WSF) in The Green City under the Sun, some will call it a success, others will doubt it. To some, WFS is indispensable; others question its value, if not its very nature and future.

But, after heading to Nairobi from across Africa and from as far afield as Asia, Europe and the Americas, what did ordinary participants get out of the five-day event attended by 50,000 activists weighted down by a 174-page programme of events as they debated, networked, chanted, danced and staged protests against current social ills?

If consensus is needed, it could easily be - apart from the all-embracing and catch-all Another World is Possible - "The African Experience". It is, in short, seeing global issues gripping the WSF through an African perspective. That is the view of six participants chosen at random from Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia.

Twenty-year-old Sandra Solero and 27-year-old Jenny Andersson are both university students from Sweden who worked and saved the equivalent of \$4000 each for "the African experience" during which they stayed at a guest house.

"It's been fantastic," says Sandra. "I now see African problems in a real

Participants from around the globe are preparing to take home new views from an African perspective

place, not from Europe. I am more committed."

"I feel inspired," notes Jenny. "I have a lot to tell to people at home in Norrkoping."

Sister Jacinta Katusebe, 28, and four other sisters from the Roman Catholic Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross, took a 15-hour bus trip from Kampala to be on hand for the Forum.

A teacher, she feels her mission was accomplished through attending workshops on education for all and the status of street children.

"I met so many people from Asia and South America and we talked for hours about education," she said. "I have a new perspective. I couldn't have achieved this anywhere else."

Lourdes Cervantes from Cuba, Chief of the Political Department of the Organisation for Solidarity of African, Asia and Latin American People, has attended all WSFs and considers the Nairobi one the most significant because it displayed Africa's perspective to activists from other continents.

"Each Forum went further and reached higher," she says. "But, after talking seven years, it is time to make concrete proposals."

Another Forum veteran is G. Farid Awan, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Trade Union Federation. This is his fourth forum and he urged that Forums be held at national and grassroots levels.

Along with the African experience, he cites and welcomes extensive participation from European countries, adding: "I was inspired by the strong presence of young people from all over."

Diverse, but with common experiences, Solero, Andersson, Cervantes, Sister Katusebe and Awan may yet meet.

If not here, then when and where? Not next year. There is no Forum in 2008 and the venue of 2009 has yet to be decided. Musings have it that names in the hat include Bahia, Brazil, the country of WSF's birth in 2001; Barcelona or a location in Italy in what would be a first in Europe.

Until then...

Interview Q. & A.

A Platform for 'We the People'

Sylvia Borren, Executive Director of Oxfam Netherlands, is an outspoken exponent of human rights, economic justice and gender equality. At the Nairobi World Social Forum, she was interviewed by TerraViva.

► Hilmi Toros

TV: What are the new critical issues that should be of concern?

SB: Without forgetting still-lingering issues such as economic and gender justice, arms control comes to mind. We all talk about security, but arms are the only commodity not controlled. They are funded and dumped, finding their way to gangs. Arms play a role in domestic violence. Oxfam, Amnesty International and peace movements are on the way to a first UN agreement on transparency in control. Production is in the West, profits are in the West. The West talks about increasing security, but proliferates arms.

More international control is needed and individual countries must also do more.

TV: We understand you are also a lyricist in the cause against poverty.

SB: Oh, I wrote the lyrics to 'The Poverty Requiem.' It is meant to be an experience for performers and audience alike - an artistic manifestation against poverty. It aims to add emotional urgency among performers, audiences, public and politicians. The music is written by Peter Maissan for choirs and requires between 100 and 400 singers, two solo performers, percussionists and hopefully some dancers. We hope people will visit the website www.povertyrequiem.org - where they can get the music - and we hope it will be performed all over the world. Through this, we want to touch the heart. I get emotional about poverty.

TV: The Forum ends today amid some concern over its very future. Are you concerned?

SB: It will go on. It is vital as a platform to increase mobilisation, to meet and exchange ideas. The workshops are interesting. It's a pity it doesn't get enough media coverage. Do we need to bring in celebrities to gain media attention?

We need a platform for 'We the People'. The UN is a platform for 'We the Governments'. Davos (the site of the World Economic Forum) is for 'We the Business' and elite. 'We the People', needs a platform. This is the one.

