

Your mouth, fundamental against fundamentalisms

MARCOSUR FEMINIST ARTICULATION

in World Social Forum 2004

Mumbai, January 16 - 21, 2004

Electronic Information booklet no. 5 – December 2003

- ? ? **Preparing the feminist intervention in World Social Forum 2004**
- ? ? **Activities during WSF in Mumbai**
- ? ? **International Feminist Meeting**
Preparatory Meetings in New York, Mumbai and Manila
- ? ? **Seminary on Secular State in Brazilian Social Forum**
- ? ? **Panel about Fundamentalisms in Alternative Social Meeting –
Bolivia**
- ? ? **1st. Feminist Meeting of Paraguay**

Preparing the feminist intervention in World Social Forum 2004

The globalization event, besides (re)uniting us, it has also fragmented our political struggles. Therefore, World Social Forum 2004 is being approached by the feminist movement as an opportunity to tackle some fundamental issues that came up along the last decades, inscribing them in a transnational context.

That process of internationalizing feminist issues demands to think and act jointly about our policies, our ethics, our visions and our most urging demands, so as to elaborate joint strategies. This involves confrontation of our differences, respect of our diversities and find out ways to work together without compromising our individual and collective political ideals.

Within World Social Forum 2004, the objective is to find the means to influence in the process of making decisions and to visualize the feminist agendas in the event, specially in matters such as sexual and reproductive rights, gender violence and the struggle against fundamentalisms.

In the process of planning the feminist performance in the World Social Forum 2004, several networks and organizations are holding meetings to discuss and plan a feminist performance in Mumbai. Besides the panels within the Forum's formal debate spaces, the second International Feminist Meeting will be promoted (*Building Solidarity - Feminist Dialogues*), a meeting that will prepare the feminist intervention in Mumbai and that, just like it happened in Porto Alegre in 2003, it will achieve further meanings after the 2004 Forum.

Activities during the WSF in Mumbai (India)

Panel on fundamentalisms

The panel "Political bodies and the new emancipating/liberating struggles that breed a radical democracy" will be promoted by the networks involved in the Campaign Against Fundamentalisms, under the Marcosur Feminist Articulation organization. The WSF Organizing Committee in India has already guaranteed that this panel will be held in one of the 31 areas for 4.000 people in Mumbai.

Based on the concept note drafted by Maria Betânia Ávila (SOS Corpo – Gender and Citizenry), that defines the target of the panel, some issues are being defined so as to conduct the discussion:

- ? ? Conceive a radical democracy from the experience of the World Social Forum, plurality of people and meanings of liberating and emancipating struggles.
- ? ? The relationship between collective action based on plurality and the process of recognition between the individuals, identification, disparities and conflict.
- ? ? Relationship between the struggle against fundamentalisms and the fields of struggle of the different individuals.
- ? ? Body and sexuality as references of political identities and the conception of the individual.
- ? ? Relationship between cultural dimension and material dimension of transformational struggles.
- ? ? The relationship between radical democracy, public area and private area. (State and private life).

Representatives of the WSF International Committee and of the feminist, gay/lesbian, workers and racial/ethnic movements shall be invited to make up this panel.

Report of Guacira Oliveira (Brazilian Women Articulation).

Panel “A Dialogue amongst Movements”

This is a self-organized, central panel proposed by the NNAWG (National Network of Autonomous Women’s Groups/Índia), DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era), Marcosur Feminist Articulation and WICEJ (Women’s International Coalition for Economic Justice).

The event has been conceived as a talk show conducted by a moderator, and in which representatives of four movements (of women, workers, homosexual rights and dalit/racial) will take part before a participative audience. The moderator will open debate with a brief introduction about the objectives, process and relevance of the connections between the movements. The movements’ representatives will speak about issues such as violence, work, religious fundamentalism and access to power, and what are the kind of problems they are facing.

Audience will be constituted by members of the four movements, who will be allowed to participate after each presentation. Articulation between strategies and alliances for the defense of all people’s human rights will be encouraged at the end of the program.

2nd International Feminist Meeting *Building Solidarity – Feminist Dialogues Mumbai (India), January 14 and 15*

Preparations for the meeting of networks and feminist organizations in the World Social Forum continue. It is a continuation of the articulation between networks that started in the WSF 2003 in Porto Alegre, that gathered Latin American and international networks – many of which support the Campaign Against Fundamentalisms – summoned by the Marcosur Feminist Articulation and by several networks, like WICEJ (Women’s International Coalition for Economic Justice), REPEM (Network of Popular Education Between Women), IGLHRC (International Gay and Lesbians Human Rights Coalition), CDD (Catholics for a

Free Choice) etc. In this occasion, an assessment was made in the last day of the WSF 2003, and it was decided that the initiative would continue in WSF 2004.

What is the IFM

The *2nd International Feminist Meeting: Building Solidarity – Feminist Dialogues* intends to be a democratic space for civil society feminist organizations and also for members of mixed organizations who express their support to feminist principles, processes and actions and who are non-governmental and supporting no party. It is a place to find reflexive thought, debate of ideas, free interchange of experiences, articulation of effective actions and strengthening of strategies, focusing on activists and feminist dynamism support in the area of global popular movements. It is an autonomous event, that is not formally linked to the WSF, however it is in accordance with its charter of principles, trying to integrate the feminist analysis to that broader space of discussion.

Objectives

- ? To promote an ethical dialogue among feminist organizations and networks, as well as women of progressive groups and movements, about challenges and matters that are placed before women's global movement and its articulation with other social movements and groups in defense of human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, social equality, development, and environmental and economic justice.
- ? To develop analysis and strategies that will strengthen the bonds between different matters and movements with the transnational feminist organizations.
- ? To deepen feminist understanding about the relationship between neo-liberalism, militarism, neo-conservatism, religious fundamentalism and gender/racial/ethnic inequalities.
- ? To develop and consolidate articulations among global feminist networks within the frame of WSF organization, and to make them stronger in the relationship with other social movements.

Planning Committee

This initiative is supported by several feminist groups that set up a planning central team. These groups are: AFM (Marcosur Feminist Articulation), DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), FEMNET (Feminist Online Network), INFORM, ISIS International, WICEJ (Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice) and the organizing groups of India, gathered under the acronym NNAWG (National Network of Autonomous Women's Groups).

Several preparatory meetings are being held in different countries so as to make this big gathering viable. Following, you will find more information about this process that will conclude with that big feminist convention in Mumbai, on January 14 and 15, during the World Social Forum 2004.

Preparatory Meetings

New York (USA), November 16

This meeting was organized as a space for the discussion of collective working methods within a transnational feminism, identifying the differences and the tensions points in order to overcome these obstacles and foster collective work. The motto of this meeting was: "how to use tensions constructively so as to work together strategically".

Objectives: To discuss the fields of feminist intervention in the WSF 2004, including proposing sessions, media strategies, etc.; to spread the idea of an International Feminist Meeting (IFM) and gain supporters; to draft a list of participants to the IFM; to discuss the means to achieve continuity of feminist issues internationalization, specially with regards to sexual and reproductive rights, Cairo+10 and Beijing+10; to discuss ways of interaction with the World Social Forum and with other social movements.

Participants: Representatives of the Marcosur Feminist Articulation, INFORM, Artemisa, WICEJ, CWGL, NY Working Party for the IFM, Gender Justice Caucus of the ICC, CREA, Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning, Hunter College Women's Studies, WEDO/WICEJ and Amnesty International.

Some outcomes, consensus and decisions

Criteria for participation in IFM: Discussion on the criteria applied for participation in the International Feminist Meeting arose in the New York meeting. In accordance to what has been defined so far, participants must:

- o Self-identify as feminists
- o Be connected to an organization (preferably)
- o Focus on organizing
- o In case they belong to feminist or mixed organizations, have as priority the strengthening of transnational feminist movements. If they belong to mixed organizations, they must give priority to strengthening feminist agenda within those spaces (like unions, development groups, Dalit, etc.).
- o Participation of women devoted to analysis of class, race and gender, with an anti-racist perspective and a commitment towards addressing the intersection of multiple forms of oppression is encouraged.
- o Be able to finance their own participation – at present it is still possible to apply for financial aid to participate.

In order to gain balance between feminists working with several issues, participation of young people and women representing non-dominant groups (racial/ethnic/religious/cultural) in their countries shall be promoted.

About the Campaign Against Fundamentalisms: During the NY meeting, there was an instance of specific discussion about the Campaign, in which some concerns as of the language used and some aspects of the platform that are not easily transferred to other regions were discussed. There is a kind of uncertainty about how fundamentalisms are being defined, and this must be clarified.

It was defined, in that meeting, that the Campaign will open a space in its site for the inclusion of articles. The importance of structuring the Campaign in a way that would be accessible to Southern Asia was also underlined.

Mumbai (India), November 22

Besides proceeding with the discussions that started in New York, this meeting also focused on promoting the International Feminist Meeting (IFM), in order to involve other women organizations of India.

Objectives: To progress in the definition of format and content of the IFM; to discuss planning of collective sessions that will be taking place in the WSF; to discuss the meaning of "go beyond the WSF", intention of the IFM; to complete a list of participants; to carry out a basic division of duties; to discuss and decide strategies of media and publicity; to finish a concept note that will

become the basis for the feminist panel in the WSF; to share the concept of the IFM with other women's groups in India.

Participants: Several members of NNAWG and representatives of FEMNET, WICEJ, DAWN, AFM, ISIS and INFORM.

Manila (Philippines), December

That meeting is being organized as an independent event that will include discussions about the WSF and IFM, however it intends to keep focus on way beyond the WSF.

Objectives: To share the process and decisions of New York and Mumbai preparatory meetings with the other Asian networks and groups; To progress in the decisions about issues that demand better handling; to discuss the philosophy behind the IFM and that goes beyond the WSF; to discuss matters related to Cairo+10 and Beijing+10; to study the ways to achieve progress of the process with the Asian groups; to present some kind of task division and to concentrate on the process post-WSF; to count how many participants have confirmed their presence at IFM; to progress in discussion and working on joint publicity.

Reports of Bina Srinivasan (INFORM) and Lucy Garrido (Marcosur Feminist Articulation).

Seminary on Secular State in the Brazilian Social Forum

Belo Horizonte (Brazil), November 9

The 1st Brazilian Social Forum gathered around 15 thousand people, on November 6 – 9 at the capital of Minas Gerais State.

Inserted in the subject matter "The Brazil we have and the Brazil we want", the Seminar "Secular State and Democratic Liberties – For a Convention on Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights, for Abortion Decriminalization and Against Fundamentalisms" was held.

Constituted by two debate tables, the seminar was promoted by the Brazilian Women Articulation (AMB), Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), Catholics for a Free Choice, Latin American Centre on Sexuality and Human Rights (CLAM) and the Brazilian Feminist Network for Health, Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights.

According to AMB deputy secretary, Carla Batista, the seminar had the purpose of discussing the importance of preserving State secularism as a fundamental principle for democratic construction.

The organizers consider that the networking of people and actions in favor of the Secular State within 2004 Brazilian elections, are among the expected outcomes, as well as the reinforcement of the Campaign for a Convention on Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights" and the Campaign Against Fundamentalisms.

Table 1 – "Secular State in view of sexual rights and reproductive rights"

Coordinated by Carla Batista (AMB), the first table had the participation of Maria Lucia Silveira, of the Women's World March, and Silvia Pimentel, coordinator of CLADEM–Brazil, who discussed with Fabiola Rohden, coordinator of CLAM's formative area.

In her speech, Maria Lucia underscored the March's strategy that privileges women from popular environment and defended the development of a principle in favor of abortion depenalization. Silvia Pimentel presented the

Campaign for the Convention on Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights, bringing new arguments for the defense of legal abortion.

Table 2 – “Religions against women? Fundamentalism and democracy”

The second table was coordinated by Valeria Pandjjarjian, of CLADEM's Violence Area. The doctor and current executive secretary of the Health Feminist Network, Fatima Oliveira, debated with the lecturers Maria Jose Rosado Nunes, coordinator of Catholics for a Free Choice, Aneli Schwarz, minister of the Brazilian Lutheran Confession Evangelist Church, and with the sociologist Flavio Pierucci, professor of the Sao Paulo University and editor of CEBRAP's magazine “Novos Estudos” (*New Studies*).

It was restated in the debate that all religious fundamentalism is anti-feminist, and the need to broaden debate about development of secular State in Brazil was pointed out. Among the challenges proposed in the face of the statements of lecturers, participants and audience, we find the sistematization of culture elements around the statement: “we have a secular ethics that govern us, we don't need a religious ethics to oppress us”.

Report of Carla Batista (AMB-Brazilian Women Articulation) and AMB's Articulating Electronically no. 65.

Panel on Fundamentalisms in the Alternative Social Meeting

Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), November 13

In the framework of the Alternative Social Meeting organized by Bolivian social forces simultaneously with the 13th Latin American Leadership, the Santa Cruz feminists of the “Colectivo Rebeldia” (*Rebelliousness Group*), the Campaign September 28th for Abortion Decriminalization and the Platform Against Violence towards Women organized a panel for the launching of the Campaign Against Fundamentalisms.

The panel was held in the University campus where the Alternative Social Meeting in Santa Cruz was held. Uruguayan Lilian Celiberti (*Cotidiano Mujer*) and Bolivians Ximena Machicao (CDEM) and Madela Sainz (*Colectivo Rebeldia*) participated as panelists.

Paraguay Feminist Meeting I

San Bernardino (Paraguay), November 15 and 16

By the organizers' decision, the Feminist Meeting had no central theme of discussion. The purpose of this meeting, that gathered near 500 people, was to promote the fluxes of the groups' ideas and proposals, having its consensus on the feminist proposal and as a motto “Viewing Paraguay with different eyes”.

The different groups and people present discussed and spread the ideas from their own agendas, focusing the women's problems and feminist perspective of social change.

35 activities were carried out: panels, discussions, workshops, conferences, launchings, presentations, cultural and artistic activities, in addition to the exhibition and sale of craft and material products from over 40 participant organizations.

Organization: Paraguay's Coordination of Women (CMP), Paraguay's Coordination of Human Rights (CODEHUPY), LET'S DECIDE (DECIDAMOS) - Campaign for Citizenry Expression, Latin American Committee for Women's Rights Defense (CLADEM), Coordination of Women from the “Cordillera” (Mountain Range) (COMUCOR) and National Committee of Cooperative Women (CNMC).

Support: UNIFEM, UNICEF, FNUAP, PNUD, German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and Fund for Small Projects (FPP).

Central panels were: "Feminisms today" and "Sexual and reproductive rights: challenges during the 10 years of Cairo", subjects considered crucial by the organizers. Feminist Line Bareiro, secretary of woman of the Country Organizations Coordinating Table (MCNOC) Esther Leiva and Maria Elena Araujo, from Politic Women Network participated. During second panel, presence of foreign feminists- Alejandra Sarda, coordinator of Program for Latin America and Caribbean of the Human Rights International Commission for Gays and Lesbians (IGLHRC) and Susana Chiarotti, regional coordinator of CLADEM - enriched the debate in front of a audience of approximately 300 people.

Web Site: www.pla.net.py/encuentro_feminista

Report of Carolina Thiede (Women's Area of the Documentation and Studies Center - CDE).

Report of Marcosur Feminist Articulation in World Social Forum 2004

Production: Carla Batista, Guacira Oliveira and Marisa Sanematsu.

Support: OXFAM.

Further information: mujeresdelsur@mujersur.org.uy or amb@soscorpo.org.br
<http://www.mujeresdelsur.org.uy> or <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br>

Please promote this report in your web sites and lists of e-mails.

If you do not want to receive this report, answer this e-mail indicating: Cancel in the subject line.