

2016

FORUM  
SOCIAL  
MONDIAL

**Constitutive Charter of the  
World Social Forum 2016 in Montreal**

*Another world is necessary, together it becomes possible!*

# Constitutive Charter of the World Social Forum 2016 in Montreal

*Adopted by the Open Assembly of the World Social Forum in 2016 on March 14, 2015 in Montreal.*

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# CHAPTER 1. Definition, Objectives, Principles, and Headquarters

## 1.1. Definition

1.1.1 The **World Social Forum 2016 (WSF 2016)** is a critical public process which seeks the civic participation of individuals and organizations from the civil societies of Quebec, Canada, and the world.

It is a meeting and convergence place for social movements, free expression of alternatives and citizens' exchanges, artistic manifestations of the diversity of demands and wishes, concrete commitments, and the development of network strategies in order to bring our concerns about social justice, sustainable development, international solidarity and participatory democracy to the forefront.

The WSF 2016 is an inclusive process that must involve all activist citizens and organizations who believe that another world is not only possible, but above all, necessary.

1.1.2 The process of the WSF 2016, conceived of as a human collective process, is based on 5 important values: inclusion and openness, transparency, horizontality, self-management, and independence. For each of these founding values, principles have been identified to guide actions during the organizational process, as well as during the WSF event itself.

All of these values and principles are outlined in the table below.

Values	Principles
Inclusion and openness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People or organizations can become involved in the process however and whenever they decide</li><li>• All are invited to take part in the process</li><li>• The opinions of those involved are respectful of all and are respected by all</li><li>• The process takes into account other similar processes that can contribute to the organization of a WSF</li><li>• The mobilization is widespread and inclusive</li><li>• All people or organizations can influence the organizational process; it is flexible and open</li><li>• The process must guarantee to be representative of civil society and</li></ul>

	include, for example, indigenous people, immigrants, handicapped people...
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings are open and announced; minutes are public</li> <li>• The budget, financial contributions and expenditures are public</li> <li>• The objectives are known and the organizational process is clear</li> <li>• The current situation is regularly divulged</li> <li>• The people and organizations involved in the process are invited to share their own objectives when necessary</li> </ul>
Horizontality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people involved have the possibility of influencing the process</li> <li>• The organizational structure is as horizontal as possible</li> <li>• Hierarchical links between individuals or organizations are non-existent</li> <li>• Decisions are taken collectively by consensus</li> <li>• The process favors facilitation in case of differences</li> <li>• Members of working groups collectively choose the facilitator(s) of their group</li> </ul>
Self-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contents of the WSF are self-managed. Anyone has the ability to address the subject that suits them</li> <li>• The WSF will be reflective of the people or organizations involved in the process</li> <li>• The process encourages initiatives that are respectful of the global process</li> </ul>
Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process is politically non-partisan and does not convey messages related to political parties</li> <li>• The process is neutral when it comes to religion</li> <li>• The process does not prioritize particular causes or specific issues</li> <li>• The height of sums involved do not give influence to donors</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organization is specific to the WSF and is independent of all other groups</li> </ul>
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**1.1.3** The WSF 2016 groups outlined below (the Open Assembly, the WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective, the Working Groups, the Self-Managed Committees, the Montreal WSF NPO Collective, and Permanence) aim to facilitate the WSF 2016 organizational process.

They are open to everyone, private citizens or representatives of organizations, who want to contribute to the fulfillment of the WSF 2016. They seek the united convergence of goodwill, initiatives, resources and skills.

**1.1.4** For administrative and functional purposes, a legal entity called the Montreal WSF 2016 Collective has been built. Remember, however, that none of the different participants to this organizational structure, whether private citizens or representatives of organizations, have the ability to politically represent the WSF 2016 or speak in its name.

## 1.2. Objectives

**1.2.1** The general objectives of the WSF 2016 are:

- To promote an inclusive societal conversation that will inspire solutions for the world of tomorrow
- To inspire the participation of citizens and organizations
- To share initiatives and alternative projects
- To stimulate the convergence of social struggles
- To promote a sustainable, united, just, egalitarian, and harmonious social development in Quebec, Canada, and the rest of the world

**1.2.2** Quantitative and qualitative objectives:

The project consists of the organization of the first World Social Forum to take place in a Northern country, in August 2016 in Montreal (Canada).

From the quantitative point of view, the objective is to gather 80,000 people in Montreal for a 5-7 day event bringing together 5,000 organizations from local and worldwide civil society for more than 1,500 self-managed activities, with opening and closing marches, a youth encampment, a large cultural program, and convergence assemblies.

From the qualitative point of view, we are aiming to achieve operational objectives (short-term), event objectives (medium-term) and process objectives (long-term).

Operational Objectives(short-term)	Event Objectives (medium-term)	Process Objectives (long-term)
1. Welcome 80,000 participants and 5,000 organizations for 1,500 self-managed activities	1. Promote the active participation of the largest possible number of individuals and organizations	1. Facilitate the convergence of all the components of civil society
2. Facilitate logistics for the participants	2. Allow participants to fulfill themselves, share their skills, deepen their reflections, network, and become engaged in collective actions	2. Promote the articulation and interlinking of local struggles
3. Support accessibility for the largest possible number of participants	3. Inspire exchange, dialogue, and the construction of common actions between the diverse participating organizations	3. Establish a dialogue between emerging social movements and the alter-globalization movement
4. Give a bigger media visibility to social issues	4. Learn from the examples of the South's struggles and benefit from their transformative energy	4. Encourage the emergence of conscious and engaged citizens
5. Propose unifying thematic links supported by an innovative methodology	5. Show the evidence of social and environmental inequalities and promote the expression of diversity	5. Construct alternatives to the neoliberal model
6. Organize an eco-friendly event	6. Fight against apathy and promote collective action by practical involvement in a united project	6. Strengthen the process of Social Forums in time

### 1.3. Outline of Principles

**1.3.1** The WSF 2016 registers itself in the global movement of Social Forums that has been available on different scales since the first World Social Forum (WSF) in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in January 2001. Moreover, the WSF intends to be in the tradition of local initiatives and thus profit from the reflections and proposals already formulated by Quebec and Canadian civil society.

In this perspective, the WSF 2016 is inspired by the principles and proposals outlined in the following documents:

- The World Social Forum Charter of Principles (WSF, 2001)
- Charter of Principles for a United Development (AQOCI, 1987)
- Charter of Principles on Human Rights and Development (AQOCI, 1992)
- Working-Class Quebec Charter (Quebec Working-Class Solidarity, 1994)
- The Quebec Social Forum Constitutive Charter (2006)
- The Peoples' Social Forum Constitutive Charter (2014)

**1.3.2** The principles and proposals gathered together in these reference documents must not, however, be interpreted as the elements of some political program put forward by the WSF 2016. The Montreal WSF 2016 is not a political actor, it is not a representative body, and nobody is entitled to speak in its name.

The WSF is before all a critical public space from which must emanate a plurality of alternative proposals and dissident voices. The fact remains that certain principles and proposals such as those contained in the previously cited documents can serve as a general framework to the proceedings.

### 1.4. Headquarters

The WSF 2016 headquarters are in Montreal. It opens a link with its multiple partners located in all the regions of Quebec, Canada, and the world. The email address of WSF is [info@fsm2016.org](mailto:info@fsm2016.org) and the website is <http://www.fsm2016.org> and [www.wsf2016.org](http://www.wsf2016.org).

## Chapter 2. Code of Ethics for the Exchanges and Proceedings Within the WSF 2016.

**2.1** The WSF 2016 is an open meeting space for reflective thinking, the democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and

articulation of efficient actions emerging from a civil society that searches for alternatives to neo-liberalism and the domination of the world by capital, works to build a society based on the human being, proposes initiatives to resolve the problems of exclusion, social inequality, and the environment, and aims to recognize human dignity.

- 2.2 The WSF 2016 is a plural, diversified, non-denominational, non-governmental, and non-partisan space that allows decentralized connections between networking organizations, movements, and individuals engaged in concrete actions at local, regional, national, and international levels.
- 2.3 The WSF 2016, conceived as a space to exchange experiences, increases knowledge and mutual recognition of organizations, movements, and individuals who want to participate by enhancing their exchanges; in particular, it enhances those exchanges which are based on that which society is in the process of building to guide economic activity and political action toward the awareness of human needs and the respect of nature in the perspective of sustainable development and in solidarity with future generations.
- 2.4 The WSF 2016, as a space that connects mobilizations, seeks to fortify and create new local, regional, and national networks between the diverse components of civil society; the goal is to increase the capacity of non-violent resistance during the process of the dehumanization that the world is undergoing.
- 2.5 The WSF 2016 is an international process that encourages organizations, movements, and individuals to take an active part in issues of citizenship, participate in the public discourse, and share the transformative practices they discover.

## **Chapter 3. WSF 2016 Groups and Organizational Process**

- 3.1 In order to bring the organizational process of an open, inclusive, and participative WSF 2016 to fruition, the following organizational modalities have been put in place. These seek to respond to the principles of participation and inclusion and were developed from a reflection on basic organizational needs:
  - Open Assembly
  - Facilitation Collective
  - Working Groups
    - Welcome
    - Arts and Culture

- Communications
- Financing
- Logistics
- Programming
- Mobilization
- Services to Participants
- Self-Managed Committees
  - Committees on a Geographic Base
  - Space Committees
  - Others
- Montreal WSF 2016 Collective
  - Board of Directors
- Permanence

**3.2** These different groups aim only to assure the full fulfillment of the WSF 2016. The Open Assembly, the Facilitation Collective, the Working Groups, the Self-Managed Committees, and the Montreal WSF 2016 NPO Collective have no authorization to politically represent the WSF. They act only as an organizational structure whose sole purpose is to facilitate and implement the holding of the WSF 2016 in Montreal.

**3.3** All skills and goodwill are welcome within the organizational structure of the WSF 2016 process. A particular invitation is made to the diverse organizations of Quebec and Canadian civil society (NGOs, syndicates, community groups, numerous collectives, etc.) due to their mobilizing capacity, experience with the subjects which will be approached, and involvement in communities. These organizations are invited to send representatives within different External Committees and Working Groups in order to create a synergy with the volunteer citizens who wish to participate.

**3.4** Transparency in the operation of these different structures is fundamental in order to maintain the legitimacy of the WSF process and to comply with the principles that it puts forth. In addition, the composition and all minutes of Open Assemblies, Facilitation Collective meetings, Self-Managed Committees and Working Groups, as well as all strategic decisions and financial situations, must be made public on the WSF 2016's website, the address of which is stated above.

## **Chapter 4. Open Assembly**

### **4.1 Power and Composition of the Assembly**

**The Open Assembly** gathers together people (individuals or delegates from organizations) who are involved in the WSF 2016 organizational process, be it through the Facilitation Collective, the Working Groups, or the Self-Managed Committees, by the organization of centers or activities. All people interested in discovering the WSF 2016 process are equally welcome. All members and participants of the Open Assembly have an equal right to speak and listen. The Open Assembly facilitates the action of those present and encourages involvement in the different groups of the organizational process.

The Open Assembly is a moment of deliberation and dialogue allowing those present to discuss issues, make reports, and find collective solutions to certain problems linked to the organizational process. It constitutes a key element of the process' transparency and allows reports on the progress of work and the financial aspect as well as the presentation of scheduling to those present.

## **4.2 Meeting**

The Open Assemblies are held at a place set by the Facilitation Collective after consultations with members of different Working Groups and Self-Managed Committees. The assembly will meet at least once every three months, according to the organizational needs of the Facilitation Collective, Self-Managed Committees, and Working Groups.

## **4.3 Meeting Announcement**

**4.3.1** Every Open Assembly is announced through the website, WSF 2016 Facebook page, email, newsletter, or any other means of distribution available. The announcement of an Assembly meeting will mention the date, hour, and location of the assembly and the agenda proposal.

**4.3.2** In order to facilitate the participation of all those who are interested in the Assembly, particularly those who cannot travel to physically attend, all meetings will take place within a minimum of 15 days after the meeting announcement is sent to all potential participants, accompanied by a detailed agenda by the WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective.

## **4.4 Quorum**

The quorum for an Open Assembly is set at 20 members.

## **4.5. Decision-Making**

- 4.5.1** As was previously stated, the Open Assembly is a moment of dialogue and deliberation. It is a moment to create reports, find collective solutions, and facilitate engagement. The Open Assembly is a place to influence the vision of the WSF 2016 process. Considering this, the decision-making process seeks to find consensus and to unite proposals. If it becomes absolutely necessary to make a decision, a vote can take place among those present.
- 4.5.2** The Open Assembly cannot give specific mandates to the Working Groups or Self-Managed Committees. It can, however, give them suggestions based on reports made during the Open Assembly. Those participating are encouraged to join working groups and self-managed committees.
- 4.5.3** The Open Assembly can inform the Facilitation Collective of certain issues that necessitate an in-depth study. These issues will be dealt with during a Collective Facilitation meeting.

## **Chapter 5. The Facilitation Collective**

### **5.1 General Considerations**

- 5.1.1** The Facilitation Collective deals with the general conceptualization and overall coordination of the process. The Facilitation Collective develops an innovative methodology that lends its originality to the Montreal WSF 2016. It ensures an effective coordination of tasks.
- 5.1.2** The Facilitation Collective functions on an open model and reproduces the Open Assembly's spirit of dialogue. Anyone wishing to participate and contribute to the reflections and decisions taken by the Facilitation Collective are welcome.
- 5.1.3** The facilitators of the Working Groups must attend Facilitation Collective meetings in order to exchange relevant information about the progress of the

process. They must then report the results of these discussions within their Working Group.

- 5.1.4 The people appointed by the Self-Managed Committees are encouraged to participate in the Facilitation Collective to exchange information on the progress of the process and to be able to report within their Committee.
- 5.1.5 It is advised that those wishing to participate but new to the process inquire about the process beforehand and meet the Welcome Working Group. It is encouraged that those participating are involved with Working Groups and Self-Managed Committees.

## **5.2 Responsibilities**

- 5.2.1 The Facilitation Collective ensures the respect of the present Charter throughout the process as well as the principles and values associated with it.
- 5.2.2 The Facilitation Collective writes the meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes of Open Assemblies.
- 5.2.3 It facilitates communication between the various groups of the WSF 2016 organizational process, makes sure that they fulfill their mandates, and takes a coordinating role for the success of the WSF.

## **5.3 Meetings**

- 5.3.1 The Facilitation Collective meets as often as necessary throughout the WSF 2016 organizational process. The meetings are announced on the Facilitation Collective's distribution list and on the WSF 2016 Facebook page. Ideally, the meetings will take place at a fixed rate.
- 5.3.2 The Facilitation Collective is at leisure to call thematic meetings in order to discuss a specific issue. This allows it to thoroughly explore a subject during a meeting dedicated to this effect. These meetings are announced and open.
- 5.3.3 The WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective should preferably be available at the WSF 2016 headquarters and work closely with the Permanence team.

## **5.4 Decision-Making**

- 5.4.1** The Facilitation Collective is a place of coordination for the WSF 2016 process. It approves the directions taken by the Working Groups. It also discusses the process' general deployment strategies and the ethical issues that emerge along the way. Finally, it addresses issues that the Open Assembly wishes to be studied.
- 5.4.2** The decision-making process seeks to find consensus and to unite proposals. If it becomes absolutely necessary to make a decision, a vote can take place among those present.
- 5.4.3** The Facilitation Collective can create projects and connect them with an existing Working Group. If needed, it can also create new Working Groups.

## **Chapter 6. Working Groups**

### **6.1. General Considerations**

- 6.1.1** The Working Groups aim to operationalize the WSF 2016 organizational process. They keep a general organization mandate for the event.
- 6.1.2** The Working Groups consist of people (citizens or representatives of organizations) interested in getting involved in the WSF 2016 organizational process. Each Working Group functions autonomously in the execution of the projects and tasks that they have been assigned. However, each Working Group must work in collaboration with the other Working Groups and with the Self-Managed Committees in the WSF 2016 general organizational process and must acknowledge the Facilitation Collective's role of coordinating general work.
- 6.1.3** With the goal of consolidating the organizational process of the WSF all while actively involving the organizations of Quebec civil society, we strongly invite the organizations to delegate representatives (regular members, interns, volunteers) within the various Working Groups. This availability of contacts is fundamental in order to consolidate the organizational process of the WSF by

combining our expertise and skills. Furthermore, we invite organizations to materially support the WSF, whether by contributing directly to its financing or by making certain material resources available to it.

**6.1.4** Each Working Group names two facilitators who are responsible for assuring the follow-up of work, representing the Working Group within the Facilitation Collective, and producing a report of each its meetings. Other roles can be developed within each working group in order to promote an internal dynamic and to connect it to the process. The methods of designating these people are fixed by each Working Group.

**6.1.5** Participating in various Working Groups as a facilitator is exclusive, signifying that an individual cannot take on this job in more than one Working Group.

**6.1.6** The Working Groups have a mandate to fulfill a certain number of tasks. In order to fulfill these tasks, it is advised that these tasks are entrusted to those who are interested in them. Several people can contribute to a task and work as a team outside of the structure of the Working Group.

**6.1.7** In order to operationalize the WSF 2016 process, the tasks have been organized into eight distinct Working Groups:

- Welcome
- Arts and Culture
- Communications
- Financing
- Logistics
- Mobilization
- Programming
- Services to Participants

The names of these Working Groups are a guide, and the groups may see their mandate evolve during the process. New Working Groups can be formed if needed, under the validation of the Facilitation Collective.

## **Chapter 7. Self-Managed Committees**

### **7.1 General Considerations**

**7.1.1** The Self-Managed Committees are development groups within the WSF 2016 process. The Self-Managed Committees can actively contribute to the WSF process, particularly by enriching and relaying WSF 2016 information, organizing informational meetings, producing broadcast media, facilitating participation, providing volunteers for the WSF 2016, contributing to programming by proposing activities (whether by encouraging self-programming or by proposing panelists for co-managed activities), and finally, by finding financing for these activities.

**7.1.2** Each Self-Managed Committee decides independently how to assign roles and responsibilities within its group. Each Committee also decides the frequency of its meetings and its internal functioning. It is suggested that one or more people be designated to represent the Committee in other groups.

**7.1.3** The formation of a Self-Managed Committee must be brought to the attention of the Facilitation Collective in order to integrate it into the WSF 2016 process. The Self-Managed Committees consist of organizations and individuals interested in promoting a specific aspect of the WSF 2016.

**7.1.4** The Committees can draw inspiration from tools and tasks developed by the WSF 2016 process.

### **7.2 Regional Committees**

**7.2.1** The WSF 2016 process encourages the formation of Self-Managed Committees on a geographic basis. It is possible to contribute on several scales, in accordance with other Self-Managed Committees formed on a geographic basis. For example, a Chili Committee, a British-Columbia Committee, a Saguenay Committee, a Trois-Rivières Committee, or a Villeray Committee could come into being. The name of the Self-Managed Committee is left to the discretion of those who for it.

**7.2.2** The role of these Committees is essential to the inclusion of the regional, national, and international dynamic within the WSF 2016.

**7.2.3** The Committees formed on a geographic base will maintain a close link with the Mobilization Working Group. This is to facilitate the connection between the operation and actions taken by Committees.

### **7.3 Space Committees**

**7.3.1** The Space Committees gather citizens and organizations interested in uniting in order to work on the development of spaces defined as part of the WSF 2016 programming (see Appendix 2 for a more in-depth explanation of the term “Space” and its methodology). These committees will be created as soon as the WSF 2016 process progresses in order to encourage the self-managed and “bottom-up” aspects of the WSF 2016 programming.

The Collective encourages the formation of Committees on the basis of spaces that emerge from the proposal of centers and activities. It encourages the creation of networks and contacts between existing networks (whether sectoral or by field: education, public services, pricing, citizenship...). The name of the Space Committee is left to the discretion of those who form it.

**7.3.2** As the principle function of the Space Committees is to contribute to the WSF 2016 programming by coordinating and supporting management activities and centers included in their Space, all while respecting the guiding principles of the WSF 2016, the Space Committees will be responsible for coordinating the content of their Spaces but will work closely with the WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective and the Programming Working Group.

## **Chapter 8. The WSF 2016 Collective: Legal Representation, Financial Arrangements, and Contracts**

### **8.1 General Consideration**

In order to facilitate WSF fundraising and administrative management (liability in case of debt, signing contracts with service providers on the event site, negotiation with local, regional, and national authorities, Wage Subsidy applications for Permanence members, facilitating the creation of a true headquarters...), it is important to establish, outside of the different organizational methods previously stated, a legal entity (of the NPO type). The creation of this parallel entity only aims to facilitate the organization of the WSF 2016. This will be the Montreal WSF 2016 Collective.

## **8.2 Legal Representation: The Montreal WSF 2016 Collective Board of Directors**

- 8.2.1** In order to provide this WSF 2016 organizational structure a legal status, it is necessary to appoint a Board of Directors consisting of 12 people.
- 8.2.2** The composition of the BD relies on the diversity of profiles and required skills, particularly at the administrative, accounting, and legal level. Each of these legal representatives must be from diverse backgrounds and be members of the WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective. In accordance with the law, the administrators serve as individuals and subscribe to the values of the WSF 2016 process, the task of the Montreal WSF 2016 Collective, and a code of ethics.
- 8.2.3** In order to sit on the BD, the Facilitation Collective must accept applications from interested people during one of its meetings. Applications are accepted until all posts are filled. If there are more applications than posts to fill, a presentation from candidates will be planned during a meeting of the Collective announced a week in advance. During this meeting, those present (a minimum of 10) will choose between the candidates. The members already on the BD approve the candidate.
- 8.2.4** The members of the BD also have the possibility of representing the WSF 2016 process with potential donors as signatories of agreements.
- 8.2.5** Internal functioning, namely the designation of precise responsibilities within the BD, is left to the discretion of its members.
- 8.2.6** The BD reports to the Facilitation Collective and has limited decision-making power. It must report on its work to the Facilitation Collective.
- 8.2.7** The BD's mandate has an administrative basis. It deals with banking instruments, issuing checks, and signing contracts. It also ensures the fulfillment of obligations and best practices regarding the Quebec government.
- 8.2.8** The BD is, in legal terms, responsible for the link of Permanence employability. In particular, it ensures the implementation of the organization's human resources policies.

## **Chapter 9. Permanence**

## **9.1 General Considerations**

- 9.1.1** Permanence is comprised of paid people who are tasked with assuring the continuity of the work accomplished by the various WSF 2016 groups. Permanence has a mandate to circulate information and maintain contact with the Committees and Working Groups on a regular basis. Its role is to ensure the integrity and transparency of the WSF 2016 process. Permanence is an essential support to the organization of the process.
- 9.1.2** Permanence answers to the Montreal WSF 2016 Collective for the link of employability, represented by the BD. But the permanent people are in the service of the WSF 2016 process, represented by the Facilitation Collective.
- 9.1.3** Permanence is paid out of the funds received for the organization of the WSF 2016.

## **Chapter 10. Amendments to the Charter**

- 10.1** The WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective has the power to repeal or amend all the clauses of the present Charter. Any changes to the charter must be adopted by consensus. A notice of motion must be sent to the members of the Facilitation Collective 15 days prior to the meeting and must contain the proposed changes.

## **Chapter 11. Diagram**

### **DIAGRAM OF THE WSF 2016 GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS**

## **Appendices**

Annexed to this present Charter are the following documents: the World Social Forum Charter of Principles, as well as the methodology proposed by the WSF 2016 Facilitation Collective.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## World Social Forum Charter of Principles

*The Committee of Brazilian Groups that conceived and organized the first World Social Forum, which was held in Porto Alegre between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2001, after having evaluated the results of the Forum and the expectations that it raised, judged it necessary and reasonable to establish a Charter of Principles aiming to guide the continuation of this initiative. The Principles contained in this Charter, which must be respected by all those who wish to participate in the process and organize new editions of the World Social Forum, consolidate the decisions which presided over the holding of the Porto Alegre Forum and ensured its success, and develop its impact by setting guidelines which stem from the logic of these decisions.*

1. The World Social Forum is an open meeting space for reflection, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences, and interlinking for effective action by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to the domination of the world by capital and all forms of imperialism, and who are committed to building a planetary society based on the human being.
2. The Porto Alegre World Social Forum was an event localized in time and space. From now on, with the certainty proclaimed in Porto Alegre that “another world is possible,” it becomes a permanent process of seeking and developing of alternatives, which cannot be reduced to the events supporting it.
3. The World Social Forum is a world process. All the meetings held as part of this process have an international dimension.
4. The alternatives proposed at the World Social Forum stand in opposition to a capitalist globalization process commanded by the large multinational corporations and the governments and international institutions at the service of their interests. These alternatives are designed to ensure that globalization in solidarity will prevail as a new stage in world history. This will respect universal human rights, and those of all citizens of all nations and the environment. This step will be supported by the international democratic systems and institutions that are at the service of social justice, equality, and the sovereignty of peoples.
5. The World Social Forum brings together and interlinks only the organizations and movements of civil society from all the countries in the world. It does not pretend to be a body representing world civil society.

**6.** The meetings of the World Social Forum do not deliberate on behalf of the World Social Forum as a body. Nobody will be authorized to speak in the name of the Forum or express positions claiming to be held by all its participants. The participants must not be called on to take decisions as a body, by vote or acclamation, on declarations or proposals for action that would commit all, or the majority, of them and that propose to be taken as establishing positions of the Forum as a body.

**7.** The organizations— or groups of organizations—that take part in Forum meetings must therefore be assured the ability to deliberate freely during these meetings on declarations and actions that they may decide on, alone or in coordination with other participants. The World Social Forum undertakes to circulate these decisions widely by the means available to them, without directing, imposing hierarchy, censoring or restricting them, but as the deliberations of organizations—or groups of organizations— that made the decisions.

**8.** The World Social Forum is a plural, diversified, non-denominational, non-governmental and non-partisan space which connects, through decentralized networks, the groups and movements engaged in concrete actions at the local or international level who aim to build another world.

**9.** The World Social Forum will always be a space that is open to pluralism and diversity of the activities and actions of the groups and movements that decide to take part in it, such as plurality of sexes, ethnicities, cultures, generations, and physical capacities, as long as they abide by the Charter of Principles. As such, party representatives and military organizations cannot participate in the Forum. Governors and parliamentarians may be invited to participate in a personal capacity, assuming they accept the present Charter.

**10.** The World Social Forum is completely opposed to totalitarian visions and reductionist views of economy, development, and history, and to the use of violence as a means of social control by the State. It upholds respect for human rights, the practices of real democracy, and participatory democracy, by egalitarian, united, and peaceful relations among people, races, and sexes, condemning all forms of domination as the subjugation of one human being by another.

**11.** As a space for debate, the World Social Forum is a movement of ideas that inspires reflection and the transparent circulation of the results of that reflection, on the mechanisms and instruments of domination by capital, on means and action to resist and overcome this domination, and on the alternatives proposed to resolve the problems of exclusion and social inequality that the process of capitalist globalization, with its racist, sexist, and environmentally destructive components, is creating internationally and within countries.

12. As a space to exchange experiences, the World Social Forum encourages knowledge and mutual recognition of the organizations and movements that participate in it, by valuing their exchanges, particularly on all that society is building to center economic activity and political action on meeting the needs of human beings and respecting nature, in the present and for future generations.

13. As a space of connection, the World Social Forum seeks to strengthen and create new national and international links between the organizations and movements of civil society that increase, in the public and private spheres, the capacity for non-violent, social resistance to the process of dehumanization that the world is undergoing and to the violence used by the State, and reinforce the humanizing measures taken by the action of these movements and organizations.

14. The World Social Forum is a process that encourages the groups and movements that participate in it to situate their actions, from the local or national level, as issues of planetary citizenship, by seeking to take an active part in international organizations and introducing into the global agenda the transformative practices that they are experimenting with in the construction of a new world.

*Approved and signed in Sao Paulo, April 9, 2001, by the organizations who constitute the World Social Forum Organization Committee, approved with amendments by the World Social Forum International Council June 10, 2001.*

Methodology for the programming of the WSF 2016.