

In this issue:

- **ICAE / IALLA VII**
 - Seventh edition of the ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy – IALLA
- **POST-2015**
 - ICAE INVITES: The Human Right to Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
 - Message from the Swedish Folk High School organizations to UNESCO General Director Irina Bokova
 - Special Adviser Reflects on UNSG Report
 - Regional campaign to ensure education as a human right
 - Advancing Regional Recommendations on Post-2015: A Dialogue between Civil Society, Governments and UN Representatives on 22 September 2013
 - Women's Major Group / NEW PUBLICATION
- **ICAE ACTIVITIES**
 - "Progressive responses to the Global Crisis"
 - UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2013 awarded to Dhaka Ahsania Mission for its "Ganokendra" (People's Centre) Programme
 - DECLARATION OF THE G20 COUNTER-SUMMIT

Seventh edition of the ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy - IALLA



With great pleasure we inform you that now is successfully taking place the seventh edition of the ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy – IALLA. This time it was organized in the city of Madaba, Jordan, from September 1 to 14, 2013.

72 candidates responded to the call, and 26 persons from 6 regions (Africa, Arab Region, Latin America, Europe, North America and Asia) were selected, representing the following countries: India, Iran, Japan, Uruguay, Mexico, Lebanon, Somalia, Namibia, Philippines, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Palestine, Egypt, Congo, Peru, Jordan, Tunisia, Tanzania, Zambia and Sierra Leone.

This course is organized by: International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) in partnership with dvv International.
Supported by: Swiss Development Cooperation and Joyce Carr Doughty Fund

Below we share some comments from participants of the IALLA VII:

Dear friends from ICAE:

Greetings from Madaba, one of the oldest cities in the world [1], now open new paths for us! We are very happy, the hospitality from the organizers, all the participants and all the Jordanians we have met in these days are all wonderful, as well as the new learning's from the VII IALLA!

After the long trips from our different countries, we arrived to this part of the Arabic world, completely new for the most of the participants, with a lot of expectations -and also jet lag. With a rich history, Jordan has played a vital role in Roman, Biblical, early Islamic, Crusader periods and until these days. Jordan's independence from U.K. was in the 50s decade. Although it is in the desert, and ranks as the world's fourth poorest county in terms of water resources, Jordan has a population of 6 million people (almost 50% of them are from Palestine). The country has received many immigrants and refugees from Irak, Syria, and many workers from Egypt, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China and Ethiopia. In these uncertain days for Syria, we wish peace and the fulfillment of human rights for everyone.

In our first three intensive days of IALLA working together, we have had many discussions and analysis on education, civil society – state - market. They were enriched by our various perspectives and the given examples to study and apply concepts and strategies. It is amazing to have so many stories from so many countries. This nurtures our learning us and help us being more critical about the media, and more engaged as advocates for lifelong learning as a right.

We had feed our spirits, -and also our bodies with a different variety and delicious food you cannot imagine!-. We visited the famous map made with mosaics, about Middle East, from 5th Century, which is in St. George's Orthodox Church, knew different handicrafts, enjoyed the yellow sand and the red sunset; and we are making plans to visit the Dead Sea and the wonder rose-red city of Petra.

<http://twitter.com/ICAE2011> <http://www.facebook.com/ICAefbk>
<http://educationpost2015icae.wordpress.com/>

POST- 2015

<http://educationpost2015icae.wordpress.com/>

68th UN General Assembly
High Level Event on MDGs and Post-2015:

N York, USA
24TH SEP- 4TH OCT 2013

<http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/82439/World-We-Want-2015-Events/#vars!panel=798780!>

Find us and get
the latest updates:



We will learn much more in the next days and along our lives and we are committed for the lifelong learning of the people from our countries and the whole world.

Enjoy the pictures and join us. Warm hugs,

Teresa Zorrilla,
Mexico

IALLA VII/ICAE

[1] *Madaba has a long history, being first mentioned in the Bible at the time of Exodus, about 1200 BC. And now, it's the hostess of the VII ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning and Advocacy.*



FIRST IMPRESSIONS - DIRECT FROM MADABA, JORDAN

By **Carolina Clavier**
URUGUAY

- * Jordan - glorious
- * Madaba - beautiful and welcoming
- * The food - delicious
- * The drinks - varied and yummy
- * The hotel - comfortable, well-located, fantastic outdoor area
- * The people - friendly, open-minded, nice to hang out

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOPS!

Was this supposed to be about the course?

Well. In that case, what can I say?

IALLA VII has proved to be the ideal "arena" for this wonderful exchange to take place. At times it seems that we have been working for weeks, yet it seems we have so many things to do that we can stay for two years. I think the best word to describe it is INTENSE.

So far we have discussed and tried to understand some key concepts, but we ended up with more questions than answers, which - in fact - is a plus: more food for thought... and little by little, things starts to unveil to us...





ICAE INVITES: The Human Right to Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda



The Global Campaign for Education (GCE), the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and Education International, along with the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE), the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE), the Africa Network Campaign for Education for All (ANCEFA), the Arab Campaign for Education for All (ACEA), the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Popular Education (CEAAL), IBIS, ActionAid, Global March Against Child Labor, Oxfam and Open Society Foundations, are pleased to invite you to the event

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Invited speakers include States' and United Nations representatives, UN Special Rapporteurs and Advisors and civil society representatives. The names of the speakers will be confirmed in a second round of this invitation.

The 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly will see the launch of Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's Special Report: A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Current international debates indicate there is traction for having a standalone goal on education in the post 2015 development frameworks. The details of such a goal, however, remain to be determined. In this context, a broad group of civil society networks is hosting this event to discuss how best to establish an education narrative, goals and core indicators that are grounded in a human rights perspective.

Tuesday, September 24th, 2013

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Open Society Foundations Headquarters

224 West 57th Street, New York, NY

Refreshments will be served.



Space for this event is limited. Please RSVP by Friday, September 20th at sherry@campaignforeducation.org | awilson@gce-us.org

Message from the Swedish Folk High School organizations to UNESCO General Director Irina Bokova

Message from the Swedish Folk High School organizations to UNESCO General Director Irina Bokova during her visit to the Red Cross Folk High School in Stockholm:

Adult learning and education is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for the realization of other rights. This must be acknowledged in the post 2015 development agenda.

Mats Ehn

Read more: <http://folac.se/images/ibrk.pdf>

Special Adviser Reflects on UNSG Report



21 August 2013: In an interview with UN Radio, Amina Mohammed, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, reflected on the recently released report, 'A Life of Dignity for All: Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015.'

Mohammed highlighted, *inter alia*: key MDG achievements; the report's

<http://twitter.com/ICAE2011> <http://www.facebook.com/ICAefbk>

<http://educationpost2015icae.wordpress.com/>

emphasis on dignity; governments' role in raising ambition; and means of implementation for the new development agenda.

On the MDGs, she said much remains to be done, including on education quality, sanitation and poverty. Mohammed said the report emphasizes dignity for all and a rights-based agenda that speaks to poverty, the environment and sustainable development. She stressed that no one should be left behind. Mohammed described three ways governments could raise ambition and achieve the MDGs, beginning with ensuring sufficient domestic budgets to address the environment, education and health. She stressed the importance of creating partnerships and meeting and increasing resource commitments. She also recommended improving domestic capacities and institutions, including data and statistics.

On means and implementation, Mohammed said conversations on the new financial architecture for the post-2015 agenda must be as robust as the demands for the agenda itself.

Looking ahead, Mohammed called for "consensus around a universal agenda that puts sustainable development at the core" with eradicating poverty as its primary objective. She described the future development agenda as an opportunity for "rebirth and reinvestment" as a global community to make multilateralism work for the poor.

Read more: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/special-adviser-reflects-on-ung-report/>

...



Information note

Regional campaign to ensure education as a human right Civil society organizations demand education not to be considered a commodity

Civil society organizations, groups and networks from 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are demanding their States to ensure education as a fundamental human right without discrimination on the global agenda to be agreed in September post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

Under the slogan Post-2015 Agenda: For the security of the human right to Education for all. We are in Campaign!, they are calling on the authorities of their nations to impinge on UN bodies to ensure the inclusion of a five-point minimum agenda.

This agenda, agreed by networks of Latin America and the Caribbean, requires of the States not to go back in the national and international regulatory developments regarding the right to education and prevent the transformation into positions that seek to consider it as a commodity.

"We suggest that Post-2015 proposals should guarantee this right to all people throughout their lives, especially youngsters and adults", affirm the organizations leading the campaign such as the Council of Adult

Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL) with the support of CLADE, ICAE, FLACSO, FME, REPEM, the Environmental Education Day for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility, ALOP, Mesa de Articulación, ALER, Fe y Alegría Internacional, among others.

The items of the agenda include guaranteeing education as a free and universal human right aimed at promoting sustainable development without poverty or gender violence, and a dignified life for humanity.

It also implies engaging a priority investment of resources to ensure this right to people throughout their lives, especially young and adult people, and promoting active citizenship with a view to having fair and non discriminatory societies.

These proposals are expected to be adopted by the High Level Panel, that will inform the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who will present the Post 2015 Global Agenda at the next UN General Assembly on September 25 this year.

In the ongoing discussions concerning the proposals that will follow the MDGs there are positions intending to place education as a commodity rather than a right and limiting the role of the State to ensure education to all peoples according to the national and international regulatory frameworks that have the obligation to promote, respect and guarantee.

Xxxx (city) xxx (date) xxxxxx 2013

Dissemination is appreciated

For further information please contact xxxxxxxx (name and cell phone number of people who do interviews' link)

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE FACEBOOK OF THE COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION FOR LATIN AMERICA (CEAAL) ON ADULT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

Let us join in this campaign for our method!

<https://www.facebook.com/ceaalencampana>

<http://www.ceaal.org>

<http://youtu.be/s3mibZSkrf0> (video for the EBA, conducted by CEAAL with Peruvian EBA students).

A campaign poster for CEAAL. The background is dark blue. On the left, there are three circular inset images: the top one shows an indigenous woman with red face paint looking at a laptop; the middle one shows two men in a classroom setting; the bottom one shows a group of four young girls in colorful traditional clothing. The main text in large yellow letters reads 'CEAAL POR LA EDUCACIÓN DE JOVENES Y ADULTOS POST 2015'. Below this, in white italicized text, it says 'Cada día somos más, únete a la Campaña.' At the bottom, two URLs are listed in orange: 'www.facebook.com/ceaalencampana' and 'http://www.ceaal.org/derecho-educacion/'. In the top right corner, an orange banner says '¡Estamos en Campaña!'. On the far right, there is a vertical column of logos for various organizations: CEGOL, Consejo Latinoamericano de Escuelas de la Educación, ICAE, FLACSO BRASIL, ALER, REPEM, Fe y Alegría, ALOP, and mesa.

Advancing Regional Recommendations on Post-2015: A Dialogue between Civil Society, Governments and UN Representatives on 22 September 2013

toward the UN General Assembly Special Event on the MDGs on 25 September

Register [here](#) by 10 September.

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 3 (CB)

Date: 22 September 2013

Time: 2:00PM-5:30PM EDT



On 25 September Heads of State and Government will gather at a UN General Assembly Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to take stock of

progress and renew commitment toward achieving the MDGs. They will also advance planning towards a cohesive and integrated post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In preparation for this event, a dialogue between civil society, governments and UN representatives will be convened on Sunday, 22 September 2013. This event will be organized by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG). It will provide an opportunity for civil society and Member States to have a meaningful exchange on critical regional issues and policy recommendations looking forward to the next global development agenda.

Representatives of regional civil society networks will present key recommendations with a focus on the findings of the [UN-NGLS consultation](#) on the four main UN post-2015 reports submitted to the Secretary-General. This consultation is being conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish and focuses on regional perspectives and alternative proposals to those presented in the four reports under review.

The dialogue will open with remarks from the President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly, John Ashe; Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson; and Ministerial-level representatives of Ireland and South Africa, the co-facilitators of the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Event. Two panels will follow: 1) regional recommendations and convergences 2) inter-regional debates. After each panel a moderated discussion will be conducted between civil society panelists, Member States and UN representatives and a diverse array of national and international civil society organizations. The dialogue will conclude with reflections from Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning Amina J. Mohammed and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service. The event will be webcast at webtv.un.org and livestreamed on the [World We Want](#) platform.

PROGRAMME: <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article4335>

Participants

This event will be open to all interested representatives of civil society, governments, and the UN system. An invitation will be extended to all Member States, including the co-chairs of ongoing intergovernmental processes: Ireland and South Africa (25 September General Assembly Special Event); Kenya and Hungary (Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals); and Belgium and Guyana (ECOSOC Reform). Ministers and other high-level government representatives who will be in New York for the GA High-level week are particularly encouraged to attend.

Civil society registration is available through CSO-net here:

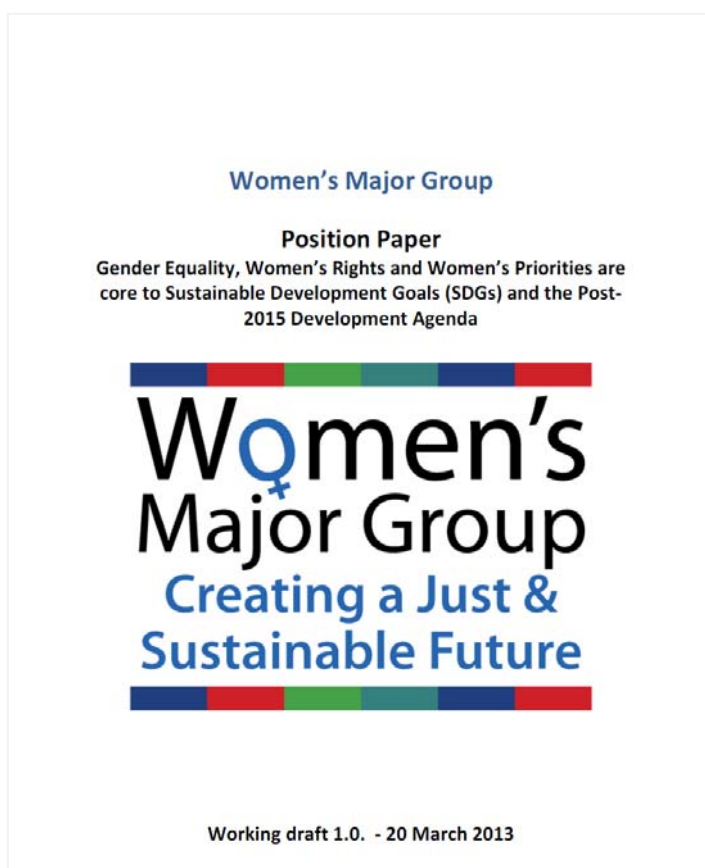
<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=22063&type=8§ion=8>

The deadline for registration is 10 September 2013.

Outcome

Key recommendations and main points made at this event will be summarized by UN-NGLS into a brief outcome document. This summary, together with the UN-NGLS regional consultations report, will be presented and distributed to Member States during the General Assembly Special Event on 25 September.

Women's Major Group / NEW PUBLICATION



Background

Women's Major Group

The Women's Major Group was created as a result of the United Nations 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which recognized women as one of the nine major groups of society whose participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development. The Women's Major Group's role is to assure effective public participation of civil society women representatives in the United Nations policy process on Sustainable Development. The Women's Major Group is organised globally with over 350 representatives of non-governmental women's organisations. The coordination is assured by two organising partners and two core group members, see for more information the website of the UN at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=157>

Aim of this position paper on SDGs and post-2015

Governments and UN Agencies are busy preparing their priorities for a framework of goals and targets for development, following

the Rio+20 summit in June 2012, as well as the post-2015 follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals. Many priorities are already being formulated in the first months of 2013. It is essential that the analysis and recommendations from the perspective of civil-society women's and gender organisations is taken into account.

The authors

The authors of the position paper are women's and gender representatives from the Global South, who have taken the lead in developing their views and priorities, and which form the basis for the consultation and input from all members of the women's major group. The chapters reflect the views of the authors. A summary with the key recommendations from all chapters forms the overall Women's Major Group position paper.

The process

A draft version of the position was sent to all the members of the Women's Major Group who contributed with comments. This 1 March 2013 reflects these comments. Three chapters are not included in this version as the consultation on these chapters has not yet been finalized, these are the chapters on Sustainable Energy, Gender Equality and Conflict and Peace.

Contact details

WECF: secretariat@wecf.eu

DAWN: info@dawnnet.org

GFC: info@globalforestcoalition.org

WEDO: Eleanor@wedo.org

http://www.womenrio20.org/docs/23March_Women's_Major_Group_Pos_Pape_SDG-Post2015.pdf

“Progressive responses to the Global Crisis”



The debate "Progressive responses to the global crisis", organized by Centro del Sur, IteM and FESUR, with the support of ICAE, DAWN, Redes - Amigos de la Tierra (Networking - Friends of the Earth) Uruguay and the Cuesta Duarte Institute of the PIT-CNT (Uruguayan labor union), took place on August 19, 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

At the opening ([see video](#)) participated Luis Porto, Deputy State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Simone Reperger, representative of

the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Uruguay, and Roberto Bissio, ITeM executive director, who moderated the three sessions of the debate.

Yilmaz Ayküz, economist, head of the Centro del Sur, delivered the keynote address on Foreign investments and industrial policy on sustainable development, which included comments from Luis Porto, Deputy State Secretary, and Oscar Ugarteche, Peruvian economist from the Institute of Economic Research of UNAN. (See videos, [intervention of Yilmaz Ayküz](#) and [comments and intervention of the audience](#))



The second session of the debate, entitled "State enterprises: Impulse or slowdown in Latin American development?" included lectures by Manuel Montes, Advisor on Finance and Development of the Centro del Sur, and Humberto Campodónico, former president of the state-owned enterprise PetroPerú. ([see video](#))

The last session, "Trade, investment, integration. Is there a sustainable alternative from the South?", had the participation of Carlos Correa, Advisor on Trade and Intellectual Property at the Centro del Sur, Corina Rodriguez, an economist at the University of Buenos Aires, Sebastián Valdomir, a sociologist at REDES-Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay, and Alexandra Pico, an economist at the Cuesta Duarte Institute-PIT-CNT.

During the event, an open discussion was held with the participation of international experts and the audience.

The Centro del Sur is an intergovernmental organization (IGO) of developing countries based in Geneva, resulting from the work of the Commission of the South chaired by Tanzanian former President Julius Nyerere and the need to strengthen South-South cooperation. It researches and analyzes the problems concerning development and provides Southern countries with support to undertake individual and collective actions at the international level.

Yilmaz Ayküz. Chief economist of the Centro del Sur. He was Director and Chief Economist of UNCTAD until 2003 and the main author and investigators' chief of the Report on Trade and Development. He coordinated



research support to the Group of 24 (developing countries) in the IMF and the World Bank. He has taught at universities in Turkey, his native country, in Europe and Asia, published numerous books and articles on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries and was the first economist to explain the need for an arbitration mechanism of dispute settlement for sovereign debt that allows a soft solution to default situations.

Manuel “Butch” Montes. Advisor on Finance and Development of the Centro del Sur. He was Head of Development Strategic at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), where he led the team that produced the World Economic and Social Survey (WESS), and Head of Policy Analysis and Development in the United Nations Financing for Development Office. He worked in the Asia-Pacific Initiative on Trade and Investment, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Ford Foundation in New York. He was a researcher at the Institute for Developing Economies (IDE) in Tokyo and Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines and the United Nations University / World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU / WIDER) in Helsinki.

Carlos María Correa. Special Advisor on Trade and Intellectual Property at the Centro del Sur. He is the Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Law and Economics, and of the Postgraduate Course in Intellectual Property at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires. He has advised several governments on intellectual property, innovation policy and public health, and was a member of the UK Commission on Intellectual Property, the Committee on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health established by the World Health Assembly and the Group of Eminent Experts on Ethics in Food and Agriculture, FAO.

Humberto Campodónico. Peruvian engineer and economist. He was president of the state oil company Petroperú until December 2012, professor and former dean of the Faculty of Economics of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, researcher at the Center for the Study and Promotion of Development (DESCO), ECLAC consultant. He is columnist of the Peruvian newspaper La República, where he publishes the weekly column “Cristal de Mira”.

Oscar Ugarteche. Peruvian economista. He works at the Institute of Economic Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is a member of the National System of Researchers (SIN) / National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico, coordinator of the Latin American Economic Observatory (OBELA) and president of the Latin American Information Agency (ALAI).

Corina Rodríguez. Economist at the University of Buenos Aires. She is a researcher at the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Public Policy (CIEPP) in Buenos Aires. She is a member of the Gender and Macroeconomics Group of Latin America (Gem-Lac) and board member of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). She works from Feminist Economics on issues related to social and fiscal policies, labor market, poverty and income distribution, and care economy.



Source : <http://agendaglobal.redtercermundo.org.uy/2013/08/19/respuestas-progresistas-a-la-crisis-global/>

RESPUESTAS PROGRESISTAS A LA CRISIS GLOBAL (esp)

<http://agendaglobal.redtercermundo.org.uy/2013/08/19/respuestas-progresistas-a-la-crisis-global/>

<http://twitter.com/ICAE2011> <http://www.facebook.com/ICAEfbk>

<http://educationpost2015icae.wordpress.com/>

UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2013 awarded to Dhaka Ahsania Mission for its “Ganokendra” (People’s Centre) Programme

CONGRATULATIONS!

We want to share with you that ICAE Member: DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION have awarded UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2013 to “Ganokendra” (People’s Centre) Programme

DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION
HEAD OFFICE
DHAKA

Ref. No. No. DAM/CES/714.2/11/

12 August 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very pleased to inform you that Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been awarded UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2013 for its “Ganokendra” (People’s Centre) Programme. In her letter dated 1 August 2013, Ms. Mmantsetsa Marope, Director, Division for Basic Learning and Skills Development Education Sector (The Literacy Prizes Secretariat), UNESCO mentioned that “the Jury highly appreciated the determination of the programme to empower women and girls to cultivate their minds and create an enabling environment so that they can use their latent social energy and forge ahead to achieve sustainable development. “

Ganokendra meaning peoples centre functions as multi-purpose community learning centre and serves as a platform to empower women and girls through literacy promotion integrated with livelihood skills training. DAM has been implementing Ganokendra in hard-to-reach poverty stricken areas in 84 sub-districts of 26 districts in Bangladesh since 1992.

I would like to be personally present to receive the UNESCO Literacy Award scheduled for 9 September, 2013 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. This is for your kind information.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam
President

--

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

House # 19, Road # 12 (New)
Dhanmondi, R/A, Dhaka-1209
Bangladesh

Telephone # (880-2) 8119521, 9123402, 9123420

Fax # (880-2) 8113010, 8118522

Email: dam.bgd@ahsaniamission.org

dambgd@ahsaniamission.org

dambgd@gmail.com

Web: www.ahsaniamission.org.bd

DECLARATION OF THE G20 COUNTER-SUMMIT

To all social movements and civil society organizations,

The G20 Counter-Summit was held during the last two days in St-Petersburg, Russia, gathering more than 30 international delegates of social movements to share visions and analysis with Russian groups, and keep building our articulation strategies to confront the neoliberal corporate world economy. United we say that **What we need is system change !**

Please find below and attached the Final Declaration of the G20 Counter-Summit. Please consider **SIGNING ON** to the statement (name of organization and country) by sending an email to OWINFS G20 working group (serinet.py@gmail.com) which will consolidate signatures. First deadline is Friday, 6 September 2013 for the closing of the official G20 Summit. Thank you for distributing it widely to your networks.

In solidarity,

Diana Aguiar and Pierre-Yves Serinet
Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS) G20+ working group

DECLARATION OF THE G20 COUNTER-SUMMIT St Petersburg, 4 September 2013

Social movements and civil society organizations from different parts of the world have met on 3 -4 September 2013 in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on the eve of the G20 Summit and in a context of the threat by the United States of America (USA) to attack Syria. With the participation of more than 30 international delegates of world social movements, our G20 Counter-Summit, was hosted by the Post-Globalization Initiative.

We voice the vision of peasants and fisherfolks, women and men workers, indigenous communities and people everywhere who say: what we need is system change!

The G20 has not been up to this task, nor even up to the task of durably reforming world capitalism. The G20 is not legitimate, democratic or transparent.

Five years after the financial meltdown, the G20 continues promoting failed neoliberal policies. The cooptation of the so-called emerging economies such as the BRICS is obviously not a move away from neoliberal globalization. On the contrary, these countries have also been giving funds to the IMF - \$75 billion in 2012 to continue forcing austerity measures in countries facing deep recession and social crisis.

Therefore, we stand in solidarity to the struggles of the Greek people and so many others on the European periphery, not to mention the other victims of the IMF who are suffering the burdens of the incompetent troika recipes. Meanwhile, the banks which created the crisis are profiting from the privatization of public Greek infrastructure.

Nothing much different could be expected from the G20, because it is the expression of the corporate capture of our governments, a process that has been deepened in the last forty years, and especially since the G20 attempted its first band-aids in 2008.

During this period a vast architecture of impunity was built to serve the interests of transnational capital. The global economic architecture includes Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and International Investment Agreements such as Bilateral Investment Treaties, the current international and regional financial regimes, as well as institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), and tribunals such as the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

These institutions are responsible for the current crisis and should be deconstructed and rebuilt for the safety of us all. Instead, governments continue to insist on FTAs, such as expressed in the Transpacific Partnership, the Trans-Atlantic Agreement and the WTO Bali Package in the run-up to the Ministerial Summit in December 2013.

This architecture of impunity houses the systematic violations of rights of people and nature by Transnational Corporations, with the complicity of captive states. In the face of these attacks on our rights, affected communities, workers, migrants, women, peasants, indigenous communities and many social movements all over the world are resisting and fighting back. We are mobilizing and building alternatives to the capitalist system. Recent social mobilizations in Turkey, Brazil, Egypt, Colombia, southern Europe and many other places are an expression of the fact that people do not accept the privatization of the public and of the commons.

Government responses to these protests are predictable: widespread repression and criminalization of social movements everywhere. We stand in solidarity with political prisoners and civil society organisations in Russia, as well as the many activists facing repression worldwide.

We want a world where socialization of the vast productive capacity in our world economy is achieved, but through democracy. In contrast, the market as currently constituted privatizes wealth and socializes poverty, repression and ecological destruction. We reaffirm the primacy of human rights and democracy over the rule of the market and finance.

At this moment of extreme danger in the Middle East, we stand united in demanding that outside powers stop adding to the violence in Syria, and we specifically demand that the United States government refrain from its regular tendency to bomb instead of seeking peace. There is no way the threats to escalate violence could possibly improve the situation in Syria. It will only add to the suffering of the Syrian people.

Moreover, bombing Syria will cause further insecurity and violence across the region. We share the worlds opposition to this illegal criminal attack. It is opposition expressed by people and governments all around the world, including the Arab League, UNASUR, several Asian countries, the British Parliament (even), and others. It is a damning indictment of the G20 that these world leaders cannot come together and agree to stop fueling the conflict in Syria.

We equally reject the new world of global surveillance such as PRISM, carried out by the United States National Security Agency and many other powers within the G20. This is a direct violation of the basic human right to privacy and an attempt to create a culture of fear in order to undermine democracy and any expression of opposition to the corporate powers that rule the world today.

The G20 elites will slap each others backs as they provide the most trivial reforms to the world financial and monetary system. But this is not a financial crisis; it is a crisis of civilization. The implosion of September 2008 was the expression of an ongoing process. The adverse power balance, in which so many Treasuries and central banks are under the influence of the private banks, meant that governments transferred massive amounts of resources to the speculative oligarchy.

In doing so, financial and macroeconomic indicators artificially improved but the destruction of fundamental mechanisms of price formation and the expansion of structural insolvency triggered a very acute hegemonic dispute. Even continental Europe has become a new terrain of looting. Unemployment, the dismantling of the welfare state, and widespread privatization are part of the offensive of the neoliberal agenda, in the context of the overwhelming evidence of its doctrinal bankruptcy.

Expressions of these crises include a new wave of unrepayable debt imposed upon consumers and students; more extreme cases of violence against women; volatility of food prices and the endangered food sovereignty of peoples; and the recent strong outflow of capital from poorer to richer economies, leading to enormous currency pressure on Indonesia, Brazil, India and other countries. Vulture funds continue to loot countries in the process of debt write-downs, with their threat to Argentina now requiring our solidarity.

The G20 a self-selected clique of rich and emerging countries regimes that designated themselves as the new steering group for the global economy wanted us to believe there is no alternative to capitalism. They want us to believe that our broken planet can be saved by more of the same measures. Yet these measures are condemning the world to a vicious and endless cycle of crisis and environmental collapse.

We need a new path for a different and better future. Like nature, our alternatives are diverse and simultaneously happening in various levels: global, national and local. They are directed at various aspects of life to ensure that the majority can live well.

Our governments must instead promote the already existing alternatives that could lead to alternative systems and relations. These alternatives were inspired by the ideals of reclaiming our commons from the control of big business. Activists are building a genuinely green and genuinely sustainable path to development and autonomous management, and especially to the constructive use of the commons. We propose Climate Justice and Food Sovereignty, which require the complete overhaul of systems, of hedonistic lifestyles and of unsustainable ways of production and consumption.

We call people everywhere to join global campaigns, which are building these alternatives, among others:

Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity

Climate Justice Now!

Mobilizations of social movements for the Bali Week of Action to end the WTO in Indonesia

Global Network for Justice on Global Investment

G20-OWINFS (Our World is Not for Sale) Network

What we need is system change!