

MOVEMENT DOCUMENT

PORTO ALEGRE CALL FOR MOBILISATION

JANUARY 2001

Social forces from around the world have gathered here at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre. Unions and NGOs, movements and organisations, intellectuals and artists, together we are building a great alliance to create a new society, different from the dominant logic wherein the free market and money are considered the only measure of worth. Davos represents the concentration of wealth, the globalisation of poverty and the destruction of our earth. Porto Alegre represents the hope that a new world is possible, where human beings and nature are the centre of our concern.

We are part of a movement which has grown since Seattle. We challenge the elite and their undemocratic processes, symbolised by the World Economic Forum in Davos. We come to share our experiences, build our solidarity, and demonstrate our total rejection of the neoliberal policies of globalisation.

We are women and men, farmers, workers, unemployed, professionals, students, blacks and indigenous peoples, coming from the South and from the North, committed to struggle for people's rights, freedom, security, employment and education. We are fighting against the hegemony of finance, the destruction of our cultures, the monopolisation of knowledge, mass media and communication, the degradation of nature, and the destruction of the quality of life by multinational corporations and anti-democratic policies. Participative democratic experiences — like that of Porto Alegre — show us that a concrete

alternative is possible. We reaffirm the supremacy of human, ecological and social rights over the demands of finance and investors.

At the same time that we strengthen our movements, we resist the global elite and work for equity, social justice, democracy and security for everyone without distinction. Our methodology and alternatives stand in stark contrast to the destructive policies of neoliberalism.

Globalisation reinforces a sexist and patriarchal system. It increases the feminisation of poverty and exacerbates all forms of violence against women. Equality between women and men is central to our struggle. Without this, another world will never be possible.

Neoliberal globalisation increases racism, continuing the veritable genocide of centuries, of slavery and colonialism which destroyed the bases of black African civilisations. We call on all movements to be in solidarity with African peoples in the continent and outside, in defence of their rights to land, citizenship, freedom, peace, and equality, through the reparation of historical and social debts. Slave trade and slavery are crimes against humanity.

We express our special recognition and solidarity with indigenous peoples in their historic struggle against genocide and ethnocide and in defence of their rights, natural resources, culture, autonomy, land, and territory. Neoliberal globalisation destroys the environment, health and people's living environment. Air, water, land

and peoples have become commodities. Life and health must be recognised as fundamental rights which must not be subordinated to economic policies.

External debt of the countries of the South has been repaid several times over. Illegitimate, unjust and fraudulent, it functions as an instrument of domination, depriving people of their fundamental human rights with the sole aim of increasing international usury. We demand its unconditional cancellation and the reparation of historical, social, and ecological debts, as immediate steps toward a definitive resolution of the crisis this debt provokes. Financial markets extract resources and wealth from communities and nations, and subject national economies to the whims of speculators. We call for the closure of tax havens and the introduction of taxes on financial transactions.

Privatisation is a mechanism for transferring public wealth and natural resources to the private sector. We oppose all forms of privatisation of natural resources and public services. We call for the protection of access to resources and public goods necessary for a decent life.

Multinational corporations organise global production with massive unemployment, low wages and unqualified labour and by refusing to recognise the fundamental worker's rights as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). We demand the genuine recognition of the right to organise and negotiate for unions, and new rights for workers to face the globalisation strategy. While goods and money are free to cross borders, the restriction on the movement of people exacerbates exploitation and repression. We demand an end to such restrictions. We call for a trading system which guarantees full employment, food security, fair terms of trade and local prosperity. Free trade is anything but free. Global trade rules ensure the accelerated accumulation of wealth and power by multinational corporations and the further marginalisation and impoverishment of small farmers, workers and local enterprises. We demand that governments respect their

obligations to the international human rights instruments and multilateral environmental agreements. We call on people everywhere to support the mobilisations against the creation of the Free Trade Area in the Americas, an initiative which means the re-colonisation of Latin America and the destruction of fundamental social, economic, cultural and environmental rights.

The IMF, the World Bank and regional banks, the WTO, NATO and other military alliances are some of the multilateral agents of neoliberal globalisation. We call for an end to their interference in national policy. These institutions have no legitimacy in the eyes of the people and we will continue to protest against their measures.

Neoliberal globalisation has led to the concentration of land ownership and favoured corporate agricultural systems which are environmentally and socially destructive. It is based on export-oriented growth backed by large-scale infrastructure development such as dams, which displace people from their land and destroys their livelihoods. Their loss must be restored. We call for democratic agrarian reform. Land, water and seeds must be in the hands of the peasants. We promote sustainable agricultural processes. Seeds and genetic stocks are the heritage of humanity. We demand that the use of transgenics and the patenting of life be abolished.

Militarism and corporate globalisation reinforce each other to undermine democracy and peace. We totally refuse war as a way to solve conflicts and we oppose the arms race and the arms trade. We call for an end to the repression and criminalisation of social protest. We condemn foreign military intervention in the internal affairs of our countries. We demand the lifting of embargoes and sanctions used as instruments of aggression, and express our solidarity with those who suffer their consequences. We reject US military intervention in Latin America through the Colombia Plan.

We call for a strengthening of alliances, and the implementation of common actions, on these principal concerns. We will continue to mobilise

on them until the next Forum. We recognise that we are now in a better position to undertake the struggle for a different world, a world without misery, hunger, discrimination and violence, with quality of life, equity, respect and peace.

We commit ourselves to support all the struggles of our common agenda to mobilise opposition to neoliberalism. Among our priorities for the coming months, we will mobilise globally against the :

- World Economic Forum, Cancun, Mexico, February 26–27, 2003
- Free Trade Area of the Americas, Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 6–7 and Quebec City, Canada, April 17–22, 2001
- Asian Development Bank, Honolulu, May 2001
- G8 Summit, Genoa, Italy, July 15–22, 2001
- IMF and World Bank Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA, September 28–October 4, 2001
- World Trade Organisation, Qatar, November 5, 2001

On April 17, 2001 we will support the international day of struggle against the import of cheap agricultural products which create economic and social dumping, and the feminist mobilisation against globalisation in Genoa. We support the call for a world day of action against debt to take place this year on July 20 and the mobilisation for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, August 31–September 7, 2001).

The proposals formulated are part of the alternatives being elaborated by social movements around the world. They are based on the principle that human beings and life are not commodities, and in the commitment to the welfare and human rights of all.

Our involvement in the WSF has enriched understanding of each of our struggles and we have been strengthened. We call on all peoples around the world to join in this struggle to build a better future. The World Social Forum of Porto

Alegre is a way to achieve people's sovereignty and a just world.

Signatories :¹

- Ação da Cidadania contra a Fome e pela Vida [Citizen's Action Against Hunger and for Life] (São Paulo, Brazil)
- Agir Ensemble Contre le Chomage — AC! ['Let's Take Action Together Against Unemployment'] (France)
- Agremiación de Funcionarios de la Universidad de la República — AFFUR [Staff Association of the University of the Republic] (Uruguay)
- Alianza Social Continental [Continental Social Alliance] (Americas)
- Alternative Information and Development Center (South Africa)
- Alternatives (Canada)
- Amigos de la Tierra Internacional [Friends of the Earth International]
- Ananda Marga (Sudamérica) [Ananda Marga (South America)]
- ARCI — Associazione Recreative Culturali Italiani [Italian Association for recreation and culture] (Italy)
- Articulação Nacional de Mulheres Trabalhadoras Rurais [National Articulation of Rural Women Workers, Brazil]
- Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos [Permanent Assembly on Human Rights] (Argentina)
- Asociación Sindical de Profesionales de la Salud de Buenos Aires [Workers' Association of Health Professionals of Buenos Aires] (Argentina)
- Associação Potiguar Amigos de Natureza [Friends of the Earth Association of Rio Grande do Norte State] (Brazil)
- Associazione per la Pace [Association for Peace] (Italy)
- Associazione Ya Basta [Association "Ya Basta" (literally, "Enough !")] (Italy)
- Associone Nazionale Artisti-Artigiani di Strada [National Association of Street Artisans and Artists] (Italy)
- Assozione Culturale Punto Rosso [Cultural Association Punto Rosso (Red Dot)] (Italy)
- ATTAC [Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions for the Aid of Citizens] (Argentina)
- ATTAC (Brazil)

- ATTAC (France)
- ATTAC (Russia)
- ATTAC (Switzerland)
- ATTAC (Uruguay)
- TTAC Catalunya (Spain)
- Bloque Social Alternativo — Comité de integración del Macizo Colombiano [Alternative Social Block. Integration Committee of the Colombian Macizo Region] (Colombia)
- Cambodian Human Rights & Development Association (Cambodia)
- Campaign for Popular Democracy (Thailand)
- Carta del Cantieri Sociali [(Charter of the Sites of Social Construction] (Italy)
- Casa Diritti Sociali [House (of) Social Rights] (Italy)
- Central de Trabajadores Argentinos — CTA [Workers' Central Union] (Argentina)
- Central dos Movimentos Populares — CMP [Central Organisation of Popular Movements] (Brazil)
- Central Independiente de Obreros Agrícolas y Campesinos [Independent Central Organisation of Agricultural and Peasant Workers] (Mexico)
- Central Única dos Trabalhadores — CUT [Workers' Central Union] (Brazil)
- Centre Tricontinental [Tricontinental Centre] Louvain-La-Neuve (Belgium)
- Centro Cultural 25 de Abril [April 25 Cultural Centre] (Brazil)
- Centro de Estudos e Assessoria em Política Públicas — CEAPP [Centre for Research and Advising on Public Policy], (Brazil)
- Centro de Professores do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul — CPERS [Teachers' Centre of the State of Rio Grande do Sul] (Brazil)
- Centro Felix Varela [Felix Varela Centre] (Germany)
- Centro Felix Varela [Felix Varela Centre] (Cuba)
- Centro Novo Medello di Suiulppo [Center For New Models of Development] (Italy)
- Centrostudi Internazionali Milano [Center for International Studies, Milan] (Italy)
- Cetim (Switzerland)
- CIPSI — Coordinamento di iniziative popolari di solidarietà internazionale [Coordination of people's initiatives of international solidarity] (Italy)
- Coalición de Organizaciones Democráticas Urbanas y Campesinas — CODUC [Coalition of Urban and Peasant Democratic Organisations] (Mexico)
- Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos [Independent Human Rights Commission of Morelos] (Mexico)
- Comitato anti WTO Abruzzo [Anti WTO Committee, Abruzzo] (Italy)
- Comité de l'appel de Bangkok [Bangkok Call Committee] (Switzerland)
- Comité de Proyectos de Comercio Solidario [Committee of Fair Trade Projects] (Italy)
- Comité pour l'annulation de la dette du Tiers Monde [Centre for the Cancellation of Debt] (Belgium)
- Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontarito [Community for Voluntary Service] (Italy)
- Confederação Nacional dos Bancários — CNB/CUT [National Confederation of Bank Employees, affiliated to CUT] (Brazil)
- Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Educação — CNTE [National Confederation of Education Workers] (Brazil)
- Confederació General del Treball — CGT [General Labour Confederation] (Catalunya, Spain)
- Confederación de Organizaciones de Funcionarios del Estado — COFE [Confederation of State Employees' Organisations] (Uruguay)
- Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT — dissident) de la Republica Argentina [General Labour Confederation of the Argentine Republic — dissident]
- Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux [Confederation of National Unions] (Quebec, Canada)
- Confederazione Cobas [Confederation of Grassroots Unions (comitate del baso)] (Italy)
- Congreso Nacional Indígena [National Congress of Indigenous Peoples] (Mexico)
- Consorcio Italiano di Solidarieta [Italian Consortium of Solidarity] (Italy)
- Consulta Popular [Popular Consultation] (Brazil)
- Contato Italiano Per L'acqua [Italian Focal Point for Water] (Italy)
- Cooperativa MAG Financera (Italy)
- Coordinación Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas — CNOC [National Coordination of Peasant Organisations] (Guatemala)

- Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo — CLOC [Latin American Coordination of Rural Organisations] (Latin America)
- Coordinadora Nacional Plan de Ayala — CNPA [Ayala Plan National Coordination] (Mexico)
- Coordinamento Asociación Pacifista Venecia [Coordination Association of Pacifists, Venice] (Italy)
- Coordinamento Lombardo Antiwito [The Anti-WTO Committee of Lombardy] (Italy)
- CREA/RS — Conselhos Regionais de Engenharia, Arquitetura e Agronomia / Rio Grande do Sul [Regional Councils of Engineering, Architecture and Agronomics / Rio Grande do Sul State] (Brazil)
- Dialogo 2000 (Argentina)
- Diverse Women for Diversity (India, Mexico, Europe)
- Droit au Logement [Right to Housing] (France)
- Espaces Marx [Marx 'Spaces'] (France)
- Fala Preta — Organização de Mulheres Negras [Fala Preta — Black Women's Organisation] (Brazil)
- FASE [Association of Organisations for Social and Educational Assistance] (Brazil)
- Federação dos Trabalhadores no Comércio no Estado do Ceará — FETRACE [Commercial Sector Workers' Federation of the State of Ceará] (Brazil)
- Federação Nacional dos Sociólogos [National Federation of Sociologists] (Brazil)
- Federation Internationale Syndicale de l'enseignement [International Federation of Teachers' Unions] (France)
- Federation Syndicale Unifie [Unified Federation of Unions] (France)
- Feministas del Movimiento Social de Mujeres de Argentina [Feminists of the Women's Social Movement of Argentina]
- Feriwalla Vikas Mahasangh [Hawkers Development Federation] (India)
- Fisics per al Desenvolpment [Physicists for Development] (Catalan, Spain)
- Focus on the Global South (Thailand)
- Fórum Brasileiro de ONGs de Movimentos Sociais para o Meio Ambiente e o Desenvolvimento [Brazilian Forum of NGOs of Social Movements for the Environment and for Development] (Brazil)
- Forum Mondial des Alternatives [World Forum for Alternatives] (Dakar, Senegal)
- Fórum Mondiale Alternative Itália [Alternative World Forum of Italy] (Italy)
- France Amérique Latine [France Latin America] (France)
- France Libertés [France Freedoms] (France)
- Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Juventude Rural [Foundation for the Development of Rural Youth] (Brazil)
- Fundación Genero y Sociedad [Gender and Society Foundation] (Argentina)
- Fundación José María Llorens [José María Llorens Foundation] (Argentina)
- Gamins de l'Art rue [Street Art Kids] (France)
- Grupo de Apoyo Mby'a Guarani [Mby's Guaraní Support Group] (Paraguay)
- Grupo de Reflexión Rural [Rural Reflection Group] (Argentina)
- Grupo Para la Contra Información Sobre la América Latina [Group for Counter-Information on Latin America] (Greece)
- Grupos de Estudiantes Solidarios [Students in Solidarity Group] (Argentina)
- Hemen eta Munduan — Iniciativa Popular de Euskal Herria [Euskal Herria Popular Initiative] (Catalan, Spain)
- Holy Cross Justice Commission / Instituto Olga Benario Prestes [Olga Benario Prestes Institute] (Brazil)
- Instituto Terrazul [Terrazul Institute] (Brazil)
- Intercâmbio, Informações, Estudos e Pesquisas — IIEP (Brazil)
- INTERFOROS (Honduras)
- Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya [Alternative Inter - Union of Catalan] (Spain)
- Intersocial Montevideo (Uruguay)
- Japan Network on Debt and Poverty (Japan)
- Jubileo Sur [Jubilee South]
- Juventude Avançando [Youth Moving Forward] (Brazil)
- Korean Catholic Coalition for Alternative Economics (Korea)
- Korean Confederation of Trade Unions — KCTU (Korea)
- Korean Farmers League (Korea)
- KOPA — Korean Organisation Against Free Trade (Korea)

- KPA — Consortium for Agrarian Reform (Indonesia)
- Labour Coordinating Center (Thailand)
- Labour Working Group (Indonesia)
- Lavoro Societa — CGIL (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro) [The General Italian Confederation of Work] (Italy)
- Lega Ambiente [Environmental League] (Italy)
- Lega Italiana per la Lotta Contro l'AIDS [Italian League for the Struggle Against AIDS] (Italy)
- Les Penelopes (France)
- Liberazione [Liberation (Newspaper)] (Italy)
- Ligue Internationale pour les Droits des Peuples [International League for the Rights of Peoples] (Rome, Italy)
- Loro [Lado ?] Yunounu [Yuvaon ?] Sangh [Organisation of Youth In Struggle ?] (India)²
- Lunaria (Italy)
- Madres de Plaza de Mayo — Linea Fundadora [Mothers of Plaza de Mayo — Founding Tendency] (Argentina)
- Marche Mondiale des Femmes contre les Violences et la Pauvrete — MNCP [World March of Women Against Violence and Poverty] (France)
- Movimento de Educação Popular e Direitos Humanos [Movement for Popular Education and Human Rights] (Brazil)
- Movimento de Mulheres Trabalhadoras Rurais de Rio Grande do Sul [Rural Women Workers' Movement of Rio Grande do Sul] (Brazil)
- Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens — MAB [Movement of People Affected by Dams] (Brazil)
- Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra — MST [Movement of Rural Landless Workers] (Brazil)
- Movimento laici America Latina [Secular Movement for Latin America] (Italy)
- Movimento de Educacion Popular e Direitos Humanos [Popular Education and Human Rights Movement] (Brazil)
- Movimento de Mulheres Agriculturas [Women Farmers' Movement] (Brazil)
- Movimento dos Conselhos Populares [Popular Councils' Movement] (Brazil)
- Movimento Unido de Solidaridade para Colombia [Unified Movement in Solidarity with Colombia] (Brazil)
- Mujeres de México, Chihuahua [Women of Mexico, Chihuahua] (Mexico)
- Multisectorial de Mujeres [Multisectoral Women's Organisation] (Argentina)
- Narmada Bachao Andolan — NBA [Save the Narmada Movement] (India)
- Network for Political and Social Rights (Greece)
- Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores — ORIT [Inter-American Regional Workers' Organisation] (all America)
- Organizaciones Multisectoriales de Mujeres [Multisectoral Women's Organisations] (Argentina)
- Pastoral da Juventude Rural do Brazil [Brazilian Rural Youth Pastoral] Paz y Tercer Mundo [Peace and Third World] (Spain)
- Rete Contro G8 [Network Against the G8] (Italy)
- Project for Ecological Recovery — PER (Thailand)
- Radio Citta Pescara [Radio City, Pescara] (Italy)
- Red Ciudadana Para la Abolición de la Deuda Externa [Citizens' Network For the Abolition of Debt] (Spain)
- REDES — (Red de Ecologia Social) [Network for a Social Ecology] (Uruguay)
- Amigos de la Tierra [Friends of the Earth] (Uruguay)
- Rete di Lilliput [Lilliputians' Network] (Italy)
- Rete Radie Resch [Network of Resch Radio] (Italy)
- Revista Cuadernos del Sur [*Notes of the South* (Journal)] (Argentina)
- Revista Thesseis (Greece)
- Rivista Altra Economia [The Other Economy Journal] (Italy)
- Sempreviva Organização Feminista [Sempreviva [Always Alive] Feminist Organisation] (Brazil)
- Servicio Jurídico Integral para el Desarrollo Agrario [Integral Legal Services for Rural Development]
- Servicio Paz y Justicia en America Latina [Peace and Justice Service in Latin America]
- SIN — Cobas [Base Committees for Schools] (Italy)
- Sindicato Nacional dos Trabalhadores do Banco Central do Brazil — SINAL [National Union of Workers of the Central Bank of Brazil]
- Sindicato de Profesionales de la Salud de Buenos Aires [Health Professionals' Union of

Buenos Aires] (Argentina)

- Sindicato de Sociólogos do Est. de RS [Union of Sociologists of Rio Grande do Sul] (Brazil)
- Sindicato de Trabajadores Sociales de Paraguay [Union of Social Workers of Paraguay]
- Sindicato dos Químicos de Osasco e região, São Paulo [Union of Chemists of Osasco and region, São Paulo] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Químicos de São Jose dos Campos [Union of Chemists of São Jose dos Campos] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Rodoviários de Cachoeirinha — RS [Railway Worker's Union of Cachoeirinha, Rio Grande do Sul] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Servidores Civis nas Forças Armadas do RJ [Union of Civil Servants in the Armed Forces of Rio de Janeiro] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Sociólogos do Est. de SP [Union of Sociologists of the State of São Paulo] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Universidade de Brasília [Union of Workers of the University of Brasília] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Federais em Saúde, Previdência e Seguridade Social [Union of Federal Health, Welfare and Social Security Workers] (Brazil)
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Urbanitários no Distrito Federal [Union of the Urban Workers of the Federal District] (Brazil)
- Sindicato Nacional dos Trabalhadores dos Institutos de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento Agropecuário [Nacional Workers' Union of Agricultural Research and Development Institutes] (Brazil)
- Sindicato Servidores Municipais Caxias do Sul — RS [Union of Municipal Civil Servants of the Town of Caxias do Sul Rio Grande do Sul State] (Brazil)
- Sind-Saúde — MG [a union of health workers] (Brazil)

- SUD-PTT (France)
- Syndicat National de l'enseignement Superieur [National Union for University-Level Teaching] (France)
- Tandem Sur Norte [Tandem North South] (Argentina, France, Brazil)
- Telangana Front (India)
- Transnational Institute — TNI (Netherlands)
- Tribunal Ético con la Impunidad [Ethical Tribunal Against Impunity] (Paraguay)
- Tutti Altra Arte [All Alternative Art] (Italy)
- Union de Mujeres de la Argentina — UMA [Union of Women of Argentina]
- Unión Nacional de Organizaciones Regionales Campesinas Autónomas — UNORCA [National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasants Organisations] (Mexico)
- Unione Italiana Spor Per Tutti [Italian Union of Sport for All] (Italy)
- Via Campesina
- Vida, si! [Life, Yes !] (Argentina)
- WINFA (Caribbean Farmers, West Indies)
- World Rainforest Movement Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action — YUVA (India)

NOTES

¹ Thanks to the following for their help with expansions and translations : Arturo Escobar, Eliane Lima, Michal Osterweil, and Alda Radaelli.

² We cannot understand the first two words in this name in the document as available, and think that there might have been some mistakes in keying in the names from the original document that was presumably signed in handwriting. The words we suggest in place, and the translation of the name using these words, are our suggestions. Eds.