

**Memory from the IAI CC Chat, 07/01/13**  
**Evaluating the achievements of Africities, working towards convergence at the 2013 WAI**

**Agenda:**

- Preparing for Tunis

**Participants:** Alessio Surian, Cesare Ottolini, Cristina Reynals, Mike Davies, Yves Cabannes.

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[Cesare]: Hello, has everyone read the IAI CC Chat Minutes from 21/12/12?

[Cristina R.]: Yes

[Mike]: I'm reading it now

[Cesare]:

The situation hasn't changed much:

- We have confirmed our commitment, our participation and workshops at the WAI, and are looking for accomodation and partnerships to support our participation.
- With regard to the participation of other networks and organisations:
  - HIC is still not involved, as you can see in their December-January newsletter, where they announce 2 events in Tunis (The Right to the City, the Right to Land) with no mention of the WAI.
  - No-Vox is absent. Only recently has someone turned up to support the proposal on the WAI blog/website.

The situation in Tunis remains quite fluid:

- However, the government is cooperating.
- We are in contact with the Tunisian Trade Union which is organising cheap flights and hotels.

Positive aspects:

- We are in concrete discussion with Meena Menon (India, a WSF comrade, leader of the textiles union, UNDP consultant) about the participation of a joint delegation with Action Aid.
- We are talking with Knut Unger (German Tenants' Union) about the international meeting for victims of the housing markets.
- Also with P. Dario (Campaign against Vale, Brazil) about a meeting against the mining companies
- Most importantly: We are talking with Via Campesina, as you will have read in our conversations over the last few days.
- In addition, we are trying to open up a new front: see the discussions which have begun with Sheela Patel (SDI, India)
- With regard to Africa, Salih Said (SOS Expulsions, Algeria) has recently informed us that he is mobilising his network (CMODH, Coordination of Human Rights Organisations in the Maghreb) in 5 North African countries.
- With regard to organisations on the ground in Tunis, we are already in contact with people to organise a preparatory meeting on 15 February, at the next meeting of the WSF IC.

With regard to partnerships, after Christmas we will resume contact with the foundations (Misereor, OAK, FRL):

- Misereor: we have an agreement in principle to support the preparation and participation of African inhabitants (30,000 euros).
- OAK: We are waiting on a response about a bi-annual project which includes the WAI.
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation: ditto

[Mike]: OK - I think the most critical factor right now is finance. A major problem with the mobilisation for the Africities is it has raised expectations among potential participants that were hoping we would be able to finance them, in solidarity with other international organisations. It will be very, very, important to get some kind of agreement with SDI after Africities.

[Cesare]: Mike, we need to prepare the proposal for Misereor by mid-January. When can we work on this?

[Mike]: I'll be working exclusively on WAI from tomorrow, so any time in the next few days... when I have electricity, that is!

[Cesare]: Skype tomorrow, 8th January at 15.00 GMT? Unfortunately I can't do it any earlier.

[Mike]: OK, Cesare, 15.00 is fine.

[Mike]: SDI is veering towards a more political line, at least rhetorically, and we may be able to use this.

[Yves]: You're right, Mike. An agreement with SDI and Amnesty is important. However, judging by the letter which Cesare circulated, No-Vox are strongly opposed.

[Mike]: Sure, but No-Vox is a regional organisation, important but not very widespread. Maybe they feel threatened (beyond the personal questions).

[Mike]: I think maybe Jules Dumas should be in charge of communicating with Annie.

[Alessio]: I agree with Mike.

[Cesare]: Me too, but we should also consider that many members of No-Vox are already in direct contact with us.

[Mike]: So then let's tackle it from both ends, from the top down and from the ground up.

[Cesare]: I suggest that we discuss this in further detail tomorrow. Would anyone like to join us on Skype tomorrow at 15.00 GMT? Mike, could you pass on the invitation to Jules?

[Mike]: I'll try.

[Cesare]: However, to support the participation of many comrades, the Antennas need to create partnerships at local level, in support of the construction of joint committees to promote the WAI in particular.

To achieve this, we need to:

- Publish a global WAI newsletter as soon as possible, announcing the WAI.
- Send letters of support for WAI to foundations and any other organisations we hear about that support it
- Ask the Antennas and IAI members to support self-financing
- For this purpose, we will distribute the information from the Committee on partnerships and administration again, requesting the immediate collaboration of the Antennas. There are 80 days to go.

[Mike]: So it's really urgent! That's not much time!

[Cesare]: Does anyone have any other suggestions on this?

[Cristina R.]: As well as that, we all know that nothing will happen here until March.

[Cesare]: Can we have a look at the workshops?

[Cristina R.]: OK

[Cesare]: Leaving the market to housing well one billion people: Paul M. has already been working on a way to involve more organisations, cooperatives in particular, including SDI.

[Mike]: Sorry but I have to go, I'll get back to this later. Hugs to all!

[Alessio]: And you

[Cristina R.]: And you

[Cesare]: Ciao! See you tomorrow.

[Cesare]: International Meeting for the Victims of the housing markets. MODEVIFA should write and send the draft proposal to set up an inclusive working group, bearing in mind the agreement with the USF in Naples. What do you think?

[Cristina R.]: Ernesto is waiting on our call. Do we still have contact details from the first USF Naples meeting?

[Cesare]: Could we have a Skype call in the next few days with you and Ernesto? Wednesday 9th January at 17.00 GMT?

[Cristina R.]: Yes.

[Cesare]: Who else?

[Cristina R.]: Just us for now.

[Cesare]: The meeting on Zero Evictions and land grabbing, with Via Campesina. Who could do some more concrete work on this? Bearing in mind that 30 March will be the final march of the WSF, on World Earth Day.

[Cristina R.]: Who is coordinating this workshop?

[Cesare]: At the moment, there is no coordinator.

[Alessio]: I could support the workshop in Tunis and facilitate the dynamics, but not coordinate it.

[Cesare]: Candidates and suggestions? This is a strategic workshop to bring WC and IAI together with VU. Yves?

[Cristina R.]: We could facilitate communications with VC in Argentina

[Cesare]: OK, let's hope they respond more quickly than before. Isabelle Delforge has just written to me today, from the VC international secretariat, stating her availability. We also have a political meeting arranged with them in Tunis to further discussions and take concrete decisions on collaboration. VC's 20th anniversary (Jakarta, June) and IAI's 10th anniversary (September) will be no formal occasions for all of us.

[Cristina R.]: The truth is that each time we see them, we arrange a meeting and then they disappear. It's best to leave it in your hands and wait for the decisions.

[Cesare]: OK, in the interim, with your and Alessio's collaboration, let's continue to discuss this matter, also with Memo and Cristina, who have worked on the Zero Evictions Guide, with the proviso that a more active decision will be taken before 18 January, that is before subscriptions for WSF workshops close.

[Cristina R.]: OK

[Alessio]: OK

[Cesare]: Yves, I've been trying to develop, with Ilaria Boniburini and Edoardo Salzano, USF agreements about common goods, but with no success. Edoardo is ill and Ilaria is still in Kigali.

[Cesare]: What does everyone think and suggest? Bearing in mind that in the USF we stated that the WAI is the natural follow-on from this strategic commitment.

[Alessio]: Until now I haven't envisaged a WAI2 in Tunis. Maybe this is a stage in WAI's development. The focus on workshops and strategic alliances seems more important to me.

[Cristina R.]: Remember that when we evaluated WAI 1 we suggested that we optimise our energy for the second WAI. We need agreements in order to achieve it.

[Yves]: The discussion on common goods is very well-developed in the Anglo-Saxon world, I think, with two tendencies, one more political, as we discussed with Salzano, and another much more based in the community, for example in the "Transition towns" movement.

[Alessio]: Yves, these two tendencies are not incompatible. "Transition towns" has participative potential.

[Yves]: Regarding workshops, how do we approach the ad hoc workshop on The Right to the City and the Right to Land? What are the most important workshops? The one on evictions, among others? Alessio, what you say is right, and one task is precisely to articulate the work being done at the micro local level, which is the "Transition Towns" approach in many places, making changes on a different scale. It's interesting to see how they work, for examples, with the Conservatives in England, and they lost of lot of their transformative potential with reproducing recipes.

[Alessio]: Yes, the danger of "methodological" approaches, a bit like what happened with the OPs in Brazil.

[Yves]: Interesting comparison!

[Cesare]: Yes, the WAI will be rather different, perhaps more political...

[Alessio]: Great. I need to go, hugs to all.

[Cristina R.]: And you, Alessio. I'll write to you about UPU-ALAS in the next few days.

[Cesare]: As well as the IAI workshops, up to now the following ones have been [registered in the WSF 2013 programme](#):

- International meeting of victims of real estate markets (MODEVIFA, Argentina, IAI)
- Leaving the market to house one billion people (CENCA, Peru, IAI)
- Fighting for Zero evictions and land grabbing to support the popular sovereignty of territories (UCISV-Ver, Mexico, IAI)
- Pour le droit à la terre et à la ville : la terre a une fonction sociale! (AITEC, HIC)
- Quelle production sociale de l'habitat pour satisfaire les besoins sociaux des populations? (No-Vox)
- Habiter, habitats et habitant-e-s : les luttes pour ses droits (No-Vox)
- La problématique de l'habitat en Afrique (CERPAC, Sénégal)
- Land grabbing vs food sovereignty (La Via Campesina – International)
- We all are bank tenants: financialisation of housing and infrastructure - needs and options for transnational solidarity (Habitat Netz / Witten Tenants Association, Germany)
- Accaparement des terres (Combonian Missionaries)
- Living in urban slum: human and environmental injustice (Combonian Missionaries)

As well as this, the following appeared on the WSF website today:  
Popular University on the Right to the City (Centre for Social Studies (CES) - University of Coimbra and the Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy, HIC)

We should remember that there will be task of collection and systematizing of data and information.

[Cristina R.]: OK. Cesare. Are we going to publish the Memory?

[Cesare]: We'll need to decide how to proceed, who will work on it, with what deadline and what resources.

[Yves]: OK, thanks, ciao

[Cristina R.]: Ives, were we not chosen for the V 31, do you know?

[Cesare]: Before we all go, can we set a date for the next IAI CC chat?  
We need to discuss:

- Achievements in the WAI process
- Achievements with regard to logistics
- Final WAI programme
- IAI CC agenda
- Agenda for political meetings

Is there anything else? How about Monday 21st Jan, 17.00 GMT?

[Cristina R.]: OK. I think the others have left.

[Cesare]: Cristina and the others who will read these minutes: a reminder that soon there will be an joint evaluation via Skype of the advocacy process for the fund for land and housing, and planning for the second half of the year, including preparation for the International Meeting "Leaving the market to housing well one billion people", in the framework of the WAI-WSF in Tunis.

[Cristina R.]: I'll be waiting for it

[Cesare]: OK, anything else?

[Cristina R.]: As soon as the call is announced, I need to send out invitations so that those interested can find funding.

[Cesare]: OK, we'll work on it in the next few days.

[Cristina R.]: O.K. We're meeting with Ernesto on Wednesday. Big hugs!

[Cesare]: Good, let's conclude and resume discussions on [Monday 21/1/2013 17.00 GMT](#).  
Ciao, in solidarity.

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