

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INHABITANTS

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Follow-up report no. 4: Notes and conclusions of the IAI's coordinating committee. (Nairobi, 19-21 January 2007)

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Participants :

On the 19th and 20th of January, during the WSF held in Nairobi, the Coordinating Committee of the IAI held its annual meeting in which participated some of the chief members of the technical support committee.

Notes :

The meeting was summoned to discuss the following agenda:

- Approval of the 2006 activity's report
- Evaluation of the IAI as regards the charter of the founding principles and the achievement of the program
- Approval of the 2006 report and the 2007 budget
- The Zero Eviction campaign
- The Urban Popular University
- The IAI structures (Coordinating committee, technical support committee, secretariat, status)
- Alliances and partnerships with networks involved in the housing/accommodation domain (No-Vox, SDI, COHRE, HIC, etc.) and with other schools (FAL, FALP, Universities, etc.)
- Strategic perspectives and the 2007/2008 program of activity at the global and regional level (construction of the urban way, worldwide assembly of inhabitants, regional projects, etc)
- IAI's participation at the WSF 2007
- Approval of the demand for IAI membership
- Others

After the presentation of the report « Evaluation of the period 2006, IAI: The establishment of necessary dynamics » by the coordinator Cesare Ottolini, the discussion emphasized several points. For example, the importance to IAI of electronic communication channels, mailing lists, the web site, etc, as tools for reinforcing the voice and the propositions of inhabitants at the international level.

The Zero Eviction campaign was successfully launched in several regions worldwide: The Dominican Republic, Brazil, Italy, France, Russia, Peru, and in Africa (Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.) A close coordination process was initiated with Chennai in Tamil Nadu, in the south of India and with Zimbabwe. In the case of the conversion of Kenya's debt to Italy, successful thanks to the W Nairobi W campaign, it's interesting to note that Italy seems to have a new work scheme and would be ready to extend her support by giving funds for mass population housing in order to avoid evictions in other developing countries as well. As regards the United Nations committee which deals with evictions (UN-AGFE), the report shows that this committee is practically non-functional. This is due to the fact that the United Nations have not prioritised it, which is necessary for its revival. This year saw the development of better relations with other urban networks, despite a few cases where a defensive and competitive attitude was perceived. Among the important relations, there are the local authorities (FAL, FALP, the Basque government), the anti-debt movements such as Latindad the cry of the excluded, European social movements and universities (Buenos Aires, Lyon, London)

Another issue mentioned by the report was the Urban Popular University, where it was agreed to work a little more on the methodology, especially regarding the concept of co-production of knowledge, experimented as from the first meeting at Buenos Aires in May

2006. The implementation of a second UPU meeting in the Dominican Republic in April 2007 was also confirmed.

As regards the proposition of the Urban Way, it is presently supported by roughly 200 organisations in some 40 countries. The necessity to make efforts so as to facilitate the adhesion of other organisations was reiterated. However, the coordination committee as well as IAI members has the task of diffusing this proposition.

In relation to the participation of the IAI in the social forums, it was noted that a certain elite attitude exists. In July, the IAI succeeded in becoming a formal member of the International council (IC) WSF and, during the Parma meeting, the IC integrated the housing topic during the WSF of Nairobi.

As regards the management of the Alliance, it was pointed out that the founding members meet once a year or are in fairly regular contact. Even though the lack of bureaucracy in the Alliance and the importance given to the secretariat is positive, we notice that the management of the Alliance would require great efficiency to implement its decisions. It was therefore proposed to reinforce the secretariat and the coordination committee and to approve their status.

Decisions:

Finally, the coordinating committee approved through vote the 2006 activity report, while the financial report corresponding to the first period of the FPH-IAI convention, which closes on the 30/4/07, will be discussed at the next coordinating committee meeting. Emphasis was placed on the fact that, thanks to attentive management, and the research of partners generating new resources, proper support could be given to the program of activities decided on, the structure and the tools.

The committee also approved the demands for adhesion to IAI.

The approved priorities of the IAI 2007- 2008 program of activities

- Supporting the launching/ durability of the regionalisation processes of the IAI activities (Zero evictions campaign, UPU), notably in Latin America and the Caribbean Islands, Africa, Europe
- Organisation of specific global events (World zero eviction day in October 2007) and in relation to the WSF dynamics (global day of action in January 2008)
- Exploration of opening up IAI to inhabitants associations from the East, with the World Urban Forum 2008 at Naijing in mind.
- Reinforcement of the construction of the Urban Way of inhabitants and of urban movements, linked to other urban networks, with the global assembly of inhabitants (2008-09?) in mind.
- Following-up on partnerships with other schools opening up in the urban domain, (local authorities, progressive governments, universities) and related to the WSF.
- Re-launching the internal/external systematisation (restarting www.habitants.org, UPU, membership)
- Strengthening certain instrumental aspects (status, secretariat, fundraising)

This program must prioritise the use of the social capital of the IAI members, as well as the available budget and/or look into partnerships already open or in gestation.

Reference to other documents:

Actors: Inhabitants

Geography: Global

Theme : Alliance, Right to housing

Associated document :

- Evaluation of the period 2006. IAI: The establishment of necessary dynamics.

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