

**Minutes from the IAI CC chat on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012**  
**Evaluation of the achievements of the Africities Summit, working towards the convergences of the WAI 2013**

**Agenda:**

- Evaluation of the Africities Summit
- Launch of the World Assembly of Inhabitants process (WSF Tunis, 26-30 March 2013)
- AOB

**Participants:** Cesare Ottolini, Guillermo Rodríguez Curiel, Cristina Almazán, Pedro Franco.

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[Guillermo]: I agree with the agenda.

[Cesare]: Africities: over 5,000 participants (local authorities, NGOs, governments). We organized an inhabitants' workshop and participated in others (housing finance, participatory budgeting, African forum for citizen participation).

Mike Davies coordinated the preparatory phase as well as our presence in Dakar very well, disseminating the proposal throughout the continent using a unified and inclusive approach. This has resulted in considerable quality in terms of content and our participation (ten delegates from various countries, including Yves, Jules Dumas and myself). Jules played a very important role in coordinating the workshop on housing finance whilst Yves was outstanding at the institutional level, in terms of efforts to implement participatory budgeting throughout the continent.

We would like to highlight the recommendations made for inclusion in UCLGA's work plan for 2013-14, in particular the proposals for recognition of inhabitants organizations and their responsibilities, the formation of a multi-stakeholder advisory group on evictions for Africa and support for the development of policies for social housing and agrarian reform, based on the human rights and financed through the cancellation of the foreign debt.

The distribution of 250 copies of the [FR](#) and [EN](#) versions of "[Memoria de los habitantes](#)" about the WAI 2011 has increased the impact of our policy proposals.

Everyone, including the UCLGA and inhabitants' organizations, has recognized our positive contribution.

Our partnerships with Misereor and the FPH have encouraged greater preparation and participation, although it is also important to highlight other partnerships developed by delegates with IAI support.

Articles, reports and recommendations can be found in: [Africities Summit: "Building Africa from its territories: which challenges for local governments?"](#)

[Guillermo]: Brilliant, and this illustrates very well the themes and action lines for the WAI.

[Pedro]: Ok, congratulations on the good progress and the results...congratulations and greetings as well to Mike and Yves...

[Cesare]: In addition, we have had WAI preparatory meetings with Annie and Koné Massa from No-Vox, Sidiki, Malick Gaye, Pascale Thys and Julien Woessner from the FPH. The report has now been disseminated (EN/FR).

[Guillermo]: I have read it carefully.

[Cesare]: In short: apparently everyone is in agreement. However, No-Vox is very weak and HIC has almost no presence in the region. Malick has participated as ENDA, arrogantly ignoring Lorena's authority.

Furthermore, Malick and Sidiki have boycotted the sessions at the Africities Summit, choosing instead the meetings that were announced in the working-class neighborhoods. However, these meetings have been organized merely in support of UN-Habitat's "I'm a City Changer" campaign, that is, the "Manifesto for Cities" which was strongly contested by almost all of civil society during the WUF in Naples. [The civil society: UN-Habitat's "Manifesto for Cities" does not represent our opinions and strategies.](#)

Another confirmation of this servile approach: Malick and Sidiki were merely interested in obtaining resources to set up a WAI website or something of the sort.

We need to reflect on these attitudes, on the roles that we each play and on the need to progress the IAI commitment in Dakar as well. In this sense, it is interesting to see that different inhabitants organizations in Dakar that have participated in the Africities sessions have requested IAI membership.

[Guillermo]: Faced with these positive results, what should each of the Antennas be responsible for doing? I mean, the WAI will take place based on the strength of the commitments that are made. I am sorry to hear about the political situation of HIC and No-Vox. I think, therefore, that we must continue to progress without excluding them, as UN-Habitat has the funds and the power to disseminate its platform. Which is not ours.

[Pedro]: We should therefore double our efforts to achieve a large-scale WAI to contest the official policies...

[Cesare]: However, the others outside of the IAI have not responded to the report on the meetings in Dakar for the WAI which was drawn up by Julien.

[Pedro]: It will be smaller than Senegal, I would imagine...

[Pedro]: We should get to work on it straight away, Cesare...to set it up with organizations and networks, including HIC and No-Vox... and ourselves internally...

[Guillermo]: I suggest that we work in two scenarios, one optimistic and one realistic. This means identifying and processing thematic areas, those with lead responsibility, possible attendance, posters, bulletins, conferences, workshops, etc, and above all securing the necessary funding to ensure a representative attendance by the most important grassroots movements worldwide.

[Pedro]: Ok Memo...

[Cesare]: Keep in mind that, according to the "agreements", the call for the WAI would have to be sent out by mid-January, that is to say quite late. We would therefore have to strengthen our leadership role, without falling apart. We don't need to organize too many events, but rather involve our colleagues from the CC and the Antennas in the preparation. Therefore:

1. We have already officially registered the WAI;
2. Paul Maquet is working on the proposal for the meeting "Leaving the market to house one billion people";
3. Cristina R. has registered the workshop on the victims of the housing market;
4. We are talking with Via Campesina regarding a possible joint event on land grabbing/evictions.

Furthermore, we are trying to organize a preparatory event with inhabitants organizations in Tunis in mid-February 2013 to take advantage of the next meeting of the WSF IC.

Do you have any other suggestions?

[Pedro]: 1. Working internally with the IAI Antennas and Organizing Committees to begin to shape our contribution... taking steps to obtain the resources for a decent representation (remember the economic disaster in Senegal...).

2. Second scenario: Cesare working with the networks and other organizations outside of ours, creating the conditions for the final agreement.

Another point is the mobilization within each of the areas where the Regional Antennas are located... I will be in Haiti from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January...

[Guillermo]: The full picture is, in the first stage the activities of the World Social Forum and secondly the WAI. Both are related and it is therefore necessary to develop a refined proposal that will allow for other actors to also be incorporated. On the other hand, it is my view that the IAI CC does not work. Or perhaps does not work as it should? I suggest therefore that we only commit to what is possible to achieve, without unrealistic expectations.

[Pedro]: I believe Memo is referring to the political order? What do you mean, Memo?

[Guillermo]: That's how things are in the political-organizational sphere. I recognize the success in the areas of administration and international relations. To say it more simply, the members of the CC do not commit themselves to the substantive activities. It would be worth knowing who we can really count on and, from there, to begin an intensive process towards the WAI.

[Cristina Almazán is now joining the discussions.]

[Cesare]: Regarding this point, we are already progressing. The internal Committee on partnerships and administration works very well. We will need to strengthen the Committee for the WAI. However, in Tunis the CC will have to discuss and pass a proposal for the evolution of the CC, reformulating responsibilities and members, in line with reality and the 2011-16 Strategic Lines, and taking into account the fact that in 2013 we are going to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For example, in Africa, the IAI is in full development, thanks to the commitment of Mike and Jules Dumas.

[Guillermo]: I think it's perfect that the CC members from Africa are taking on the commitment of expanding the IAI and would also like to emphasize that the success of the WAI will depend on Mike and Jules.

[Pedro]: I propose that we begin to close this subject Cesare, as we're 15 minutes away from finishing the allotted time.

[Cesare]: There is a good group and many more who would like to participate. With caution, however, given the legacy of colonialism/servitude implemented by certain NGOs is a powerful and dangerous drug.

[Guillermo]: Ok then, what shall we do to ensure the success of the WAI?

[Cesare]:

Proposal:

The IAI confirms its unified commitment to the construction of the WAI as a step towards the Urban and Community Way. To contribute towards this in concrete terms, efforts will be strengthened at various levels (territorial, global, political and partnerships) to implement the process which was started by the WAI in Dakar and continued throughout 2012, particularly at the People's Summit, the USF in Naples and the World Zero Eviction Days.

Therefore everyone is invited to download and disseminate:

- "[Memoria de los habitantes](#)" about the WAI 2011 (also in [FR](#) / [EN](#) versions)
- Achievements and content in [2012: Campaigning and building in solidarity the Urban and Communitarian Way to live well on our planet!](#)

In particular, we have decided to continue the dialogue with all networks, although we will act on different levels:

1. Construction of unified WAI committees for promotion on a territorial level, tasked with the dissemination of information and construction of the political and material conditions for the participation of inhabitants organizations;
2. Dissemination of information on a global level through an IAI NL in 10 days;
3. Strengthening of the IAI working group for the WAI, which will be in charge of political aspects, content and logistics;
4. Support by the global IAI coordination for the partnership proposals of the Antennas on a territorial and global level to encourage preparation and participation in the WAI.

Organizing, on the occasion of the WAI in Tunis:

1. The IAI CC (agenda to be defined)
2. Different political meetings (Via Campesina, others to be defined)

Regarding the events to be organized, what do you suggest?

[Guillermo]: I agree with the tasks.

[Pedro]: I also agree with your proposals. I propose that you ask the other members of the CC what they think and whether they have any other proposals to include...

[Guillermo]: I agree with Pedro, there are many tasks for just three organizers.

[Cesare]: Actually there are many more of us who are also active:  
Paul for the event "Leaving the market to house one billion people";  
Cristina R. for the workshop on the victims of the property markets;  
Mike for the mobilization of Africa;  
But yes, we will ask the CC and all IAI members for a strategic commitment to the WAI.

[Guillermo]: Cesare, I understand that you have the complete picture, so please break down the tasks that we should each be taking on.

[Cesare]: Regarding the draft Call for the WAI that Memo has drawn up, we are going to use it for the NL article. We must not forget that we have other proposals for disseminating the information, e.g. using Facebook on a massive scale and also by creating a blog.

[Guillermo]: However, this document needs to be revised and there is some information that still needs to be included.

[Cesare]: Yes, we are going to revise it. In the meantime, as the other networks were not in favor of the proposal to hold a competition for the WAI logo, Nicola has already drawn the new logo, updating the one from 2011, and we will send it out very soon.

[Guillermo]: We are very much looking forward to it.

[Cesare]: The most important recommendations: to be unified, to inform, to build the political and material conditions to participate, so that the WAI can be a success.

Bear in mind that those who are truly running HIC are not supportive, stating (there are witnesses) that the WAI will be a disaster and that with this failure the IAI will also fail. Instead of making a commitment to the WAI, the HLRN (Schechla) is organizing the Land Forum on the same date. Therefore we need to support the open and unified approach of Lorena and her colleagues in the various countries.

[Pedro]: Let's move forward with this, Cesare, it is the correct way to go...

[Cesare]: Are there any other comments or suggestions?

[Guillermo]: I agree with the tasks assigned to the Regional Antenna for Mexico and Central America and we will try to strengthen the relationship with Lorena.

[Cesare]: Very well, soon I'll send the Skype minutes. When can we meet again?

[Pedro]: I'll be near a computer both at home and in the office during the holidays... I'll be connected often... I hope you all have a nice break.

[Guillermo]: Cesare and Pedro, happy holidays, dance and drink until 2013 arrives, filled with love, peace, health and happiness to fight against the neoliberal monster. Greetings and love to your families.

[Cesare]: Ok, I will also be connected often, the problem is the others. It is all right if we have the next IAI CC meeting after the Epiphany?

[Guillermo]: All right then, after the Epiphany.

[Pedro]: Thanks Memo happy holidays to you as well, and to Cristina, your family and all at Ucis. Until Victory, Always...

[Guillermo]: Good health to all and good night.

[Pedro]: Agreed Cesare, keeping in mind that I'll be in Haiti from the 11<sup>th</sup>. Bye...

[Cesare]: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013, same time?

[Guillermo]: Agreed for 7<sup>th</sup> January, same time. Warm regards, in solidarity.

[Cesare]: Great, a big hug, and I hope that 2013 will be full of victories and dancing! Ciao in solidarity to all!

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