

World Social Forum in a Glimpse

By: Amade Sucá, Social activist with ActionAid

It is about 4PM in Montreal and 10PM in Mozambique. I am still half asleep but we must rush to *Parc la Fontaine* from where the big event will start. We first had to go to UQAM¹ and do our registration. Soon after that we had to take the metro and then the bus to quickly reach the place we all wanted to be at that time. We were all happy when we noticed we were entering the Park. It was full! About 5.000 people were there with posters, banners and ready for the opening march of the WSF 2016. This is the 12th edition of the WSF since the first one in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001. We are there commenting the fact that this is the first time that the WSF is being organized in a northern country. It has been in Brazil, India, Kenya, Senegal, Pakistan, Venezuela, Mali and Tunisia. That itself is a shift. We looked at ourselves and agreed that the WSF is indeed that largest gathering of civil society to find solutions to the problems of our time. Therefore, no place to host the forum is an inappropriate one. All places face the same problems and challenges caused by this enemy called global hyper-capitalism! The WSF is a space to build concrete alternatives to the neoliberal economic model and alternatives to politics based on the exploitation of human beings and nature.



At that time we noticed that the sound of the march was going up and up again. It was time to start. We marched. We were singing. We put up our placards and banners. We are all here to loudly demonstrate that the current economic and political model is failing. The current system forces 60% of humanity to live in poverty. It has destroyed ecosystems and natural resources. It has made more than 124 million primary and secondary children worldwide to be out of school. Made developing countries lose US\$213 billion a year to tax avoidance by multinational companies and further US\$138 billion in tax breaks. So something must be done. Therefore social movements, activists and artists from all over the world are in Montreal to strengthen the global



movement of international solidarity with the aim of creating another world founded on social and environmental justice, solidarity economy, participative and inclusive democracy and human rights for all. At this point we are called attention to understand that there will be more than 1.500 self-organized events during the next 4 days (10th to 14th). There will be panel and round table discussions, large conferences, convergence assemblies and many more forms of interactions.

All this will be happening around the 13 topics agreed for the WSF 2016 under the theme: **Another world is needed. Together it is possible!** I then stand up and shout in silence: The 2016 WSF has started and we are all in for it!

Viva o Forum Social Mundial!
A Luta Continua!

Montreal, 9th August, 2016

¹ Université du Québec à Montréal