

## Alamin ang inyong mga

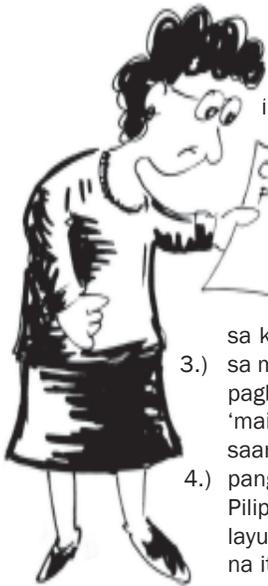
# KARAPATAN

### Anu-ano ang mga kailangan para makapagpa-rehistro para sa 'absentee voting'?

- a.) Legal na pasaporteng inisyu ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas o kaya ay sertipikasyon mula sa Department of Foreign Affairs na ang nagpapalista ay may mga sapat na dokumento o kaya ay pasaporte ngunit may makatwirang dahilan kaya hindi ito maipakita.



- b.) Nasagutang 'registration form' mula sa COMELEC na dapat ay magsaad ng mga sumusunod na importanteng impormasyon:



- 1.) huling address sa Pilipinas ng nagpaparehistro bago napunta sa ibang bansa;
  - 2.) address sa ibang bansa o kaya ay 'forwarding address' sa kasong mga magdaragat;
  - 3.) sa mga lugar na pinapayagan ang pagboto sa pamamagitan ng koreo, ang 'mailing address' ng nag-aaplay kung saan pwedeng ipadala ang balota;
  - 4.) pangalan at address ng kinatawan sa Pilipinas ng nagpaparehistro para sa layunin ng Seksyon 6.7 at 12 ng batas na ito.
- k.) Para sa mga imigrante o permanenteng residente na hindi diskwalipikadong bumoto, isang affidavit na nagdedeklara ng kanilang intensyon na muling manirahan sa Pilipinas nang hindi lilipas ang tatlong taon mula sa pagka-apruba ng kanilang rehistro. Kailangan ding isaad ng affidavit na ito na hindi sila nag-aaplay ng pagka-mamamayan sa ibang bansa.

\* Maaari ring humingi ng karagdagang dokumento o impormasyon ang COMELEC upang maayos ang pagre-rehistro at pagdodokumento ng isang 'absentee voter.' Ngunit ang mga hihinging impormasyon ay yung mga kailangan lamang upang matiyak ang identidad at kwalipikasyon ng mga nagpaparehistro.

# World Social Forum: SHAPING ANOTHER WORLD

Text and photos by **TRACY P. PABICO**

## The World Social Forum

**T**HE WORLD Social Forum (WSF) had its origins in Porto Alegre, Brazil. It was organized in January 2001 by several groups involved in the anti-globalization movement. This marked the beginning of a determined opposition to the ideas espoused by the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, which, since 1971, has fulfilled a strategic role in formulating, promoting and defending neo-liberal policies throughout the world.

Organizing the WSF in Brazil was a significant decision. The experience of grassroots organizations in Brazil has been a source of inspiration for the birth of the World Social Forum.

Approximately 20,000 people attended the First WSF from 117 countries.

The second and the third World Social Forum was again held in Porto Alegre in January



Women from India speak out against gender discrimination



**ANOTHER WORLD FOR AFRICA.** African church people march during the opening of World Social Forum

2002 and 2003. The second WSF witnessed the participation of 15,000 delegates, with over 50,000 people from 131 countries.

The fourth World Social Forum was organized in January 2004 in Mumbai, India. The WSF 2004 in Mumbai marked a great leap in the internationalization of the WSF process. It had approximately 100,000 delegates from around the world.

The fifth World Social Forum went back to Porto Alegre, Brazil in January 2005. It was attended by over 120,000 delegates, with most coming from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, France and the United States.

The sixth World Social Forum was "polycentric" in nature. It promoted the decentralization of the WSF process. The Polycentric WSF events were organized in Caracas, Venezuela and Bamako, Mali in January 2006, and in Karachi, Pakistan in March 2006.



**HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS:** World Social Forum participants discuss issues on human rights

The seventh World Social Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya in January 2007, marking another leap in the global process of WSF and making it the most globally representative WSF so far.

#### The African Experience

Almost 50,000 delegates from across the world turned up for the first-ever World Social Forum in Africa last January 20-

25, 2007. Activists, social movements, networks, coalitions and progressive forces from the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Africa converged in Nairobi, Kenya to put issues like social economic justice, international solidarity, gender equality, peace, human rights, cultural diversity, and protection of the environment on the world's agenda.



The World Social Forum took place under the banner "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives" to continue to challenge the global issues gripping the WSF and the people all over the world through an African perspective.

The WSF 2007 in Nairobi has been a great opportunity for the African nations for international solidarity. The WSF was a venue for the African people to tell the world the continuous history of African struggle against foreign control and also to show the rich heritage of culture and language and to showcase its natural wealth.

The forum also conveyed a clear message that it is time for the world to consider Africa for what it is. Africa is a continent in political and social turmoil that deserves global attention, but should not to be considered merely as the land that needs help through the traditional international agreements and policies. The WSF acknowledges the leading role of the African people in their own struggle through their own indigenous and innovative ideas and practices.

The WSF 2007 opened with a Peace March of the Kenyan people from the slums to the Uhuru Park in Nairobi. Delegates from all over the world also marched to Uhuru Park to launch the seventh WSF. The opening ceremony was filled with speeches of solidarity and cultural performances from Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

The first three days of the

WSF was devoted to self-organized activities such as workshops, meetings, assemblies, rallies, film and cultural activities. The series of workshops and other activities were held at the Moi International Sports Complex, Kasarani.

Sharing of reflections and proposals for action was the focus of the fourth day of the WSF. It had simultaneous big Forums on 21 thematic issues on human rights, debt, free trade, culture, migration, among others (referred to as the 21 Forums of Struggles, Alternatives and Actions). Finally, the WSF 2007 in Nairobi ended with a Ceremony at the Uhuru Park.

#### Achievements

The World Social Forum process has grown over the years and is able to draw increasingly huge numbers of people from all over the world. Major initiatives have emerged from the WSF, such as the coordinated mobilization in 2003 in favor of peace against



**Nairobi 2007: Thousands of delegates from across the world turn up for the first World Social Forum in Africa to share experiences, debate on ideas and formulate alternatives.**

war, and the successful Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP), launched in 2005.

A number of regional and thematic forums have also been organized since 2002. These include the European Social Forum, Asian Social Forum, African Social Forum, Mediterranean Social Forum, and United States Social Forum, which continue to generate expectations and hopes among the people.

A Charter of Principles was

drawn up by the organizers of the first WSF to guide the continued commitment and pursuit of the initiative. It also guaranteed that the WSF be a permanent space and process for seeking and building alternatives for a new world order.

The International Council (IC) of the WSF was also created in 2001 to enhance and expand the diversity of the WSF at the global level. The IC is composed of international networks from different regions of the world,

which constitutes several organizations working on issues such as economic justice, environment, labor, women, youth and human rights. The IC is based in São Paulo, Brazil.

From Porto Alegre in 2001 to Nairobi in 2007, the WSF has emerged as a global response to the effects of globalization and neo-liberal economic policies being advanced in most countries. While the international financial and trade institutions like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization continue to prescribe their economic policies which have devastated the lives of the people all over the world, the WSF has become a venue for struggle and resistance. It continues to be an open meeting space for the democratic discussion of ideas, formulation of proposals, sharing of experiences and the articulation of social movement's opposition to globalization.

Social movements around the world are working to

## Charter of Principles WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

**1** The World Social Forum is an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among Mankind and between it and the Earth.

**2** The World Social Forum at Porto Alegre was an event localized in time and place. From now on, in the certainty proclaimed at Porto Alegre that "Another World is Possible", it becomes a permanent process of

seeking and building alternatives, which cannot be reduced to the events supporting it.

**3** The World Social Forum is a world process. All the meetings that are held as part of this process have an international dimension.

**4** The alternatives proposed at the World Social Forum stand in opposition to a process of globalization commanded by the large multinational corporations and by the governments and international institutions at the service of those corporations' interests, with the complicity of national governments. They are designed to ensure that globalization in solidarity will prevail as a new stage in world history. This will respect universal human rights, and those of all citizens – men and women – of all nations and the

environment and will rest on democratic international systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality and the sovereignty of peoples.

**5** The World Social Forum brings together and interlinks only organizations and movements of civil society from all countries in the world, but intends neither to be a body representing world civil society.

**6** The meetings of the World Social Forum do not deliberate on behalf of the World Social Forum as a body. No one, therefore, will be authorized, on behalf of any of the editions of the Forum, to express positions claiming to be those of all its participants. The participants in the Forum shall not be called on to take decisions as a body, whether by vote or acclamation, on declarations or proposals for action

that would commit all, or the majority, of them and that propose to be taken as establishing positions of the Forum as a body. It thus does not constitute a locus of power to be disputed by the participants in its meetings, nor does it intend to constitute the only option for interrelation and action by the organizations and movements that participate in it.

**7** Nonetheless, organizations or groups of organizations that participate in the Forum's meetings must be assured the right, during such meetings, to deliberate on declarations or actions they may decide on, whether singly or in coordination with other participants. The World Social Forum undertakes to circulate such decisions widely by the means at its disposal, without directing, hierarchizing, censoring or restricting them, but as

demonstrate that sustainable development and social economic justice can only be achieved in people-centered development and self-reliant progress.

#### Anti-WSF?

While the WSF has earned the trust and confidence of civil society organizations worldwide, it has not been spared from criticisms from both right-wing and left-wing groups, including the socialist and communist parties, and even the anarchists.

The WSF has been criticized by socialist and communist parties for formulating pragmatic ideas and espousing vague criticisms on neoliberalism. On the other hand, anarchists have also criticized the WSF in its attempt to act as the central decision-making body for dissident groups.

For most WSF participants, the WSF is not a decision-making body, but rather a space for public debate and deliberation. This gives way to another



**Noel Cabangon, a Filipino artist, sings his rage against illegitimate debt during the WSF closing ceremony**

criticism: that the WSF has no established process for consensus-building and adopting statements or advocacies.

The WSF is also subject to the same criticisms as the anti or alternative globalization movements, namely that the globalization and capitalism they oppose are inevitable, and that globalization and capitalism are the most effective means of addressing global poverty. WSF participants have

responded that the idea of the 'inevitability' of globalization is simply an ideological myth, hence they embrace the slogan, '**Another World is Possible**'.

#### Into the Future

The Organizing Committee has the challenging task of deciding the future of the WSF, both in terms of venue and process.

The next WSF will be organized in 2009 but nothing

is definite yet about the venue. There are varied opinions from the members of the Organizing Committee of the WSF as to where the next WSF will be organized.

Whether the WSF 2009 will be held in Brazil, Africa or elsewhere, the important thing is the process that the WSF should set up in between the two forums. There has to be collective action to respond to global issues and events. Social movements should be more active in between forums to take action in the events that are taking place everyday all over the world.

The World Social Forum will go on. It will continue to mobilize people, to meet and exchange ideas and to march towards a shared vision of shaping another world.

#### SOURCES:

- <http://wsf2007.org/>
- <http://www.ipsterraviva.net>
- <http://www.wsfindia.org/>

deliberations of the organizations or groups of organizations that made the decisions.

**8** The World Social Forum is a plural, diversified, non-confessional, non-governmental and non-party context that, in a decentralized fashion, interrelates organizations and movements engaged in concrete action at levels from the local to the international to build another world.

**9** The World Social Forum will always be a forum open to pluralism and to diversity of activities and ways of engaging of the organizations and movements that decide to participate in it, as well as the diversity of genders, ethnicities, cultures, generations and physical capacities, providing they abide by this Charter of Principles. Neither party representations nor military organizations shall participate in the Forum. Government leaders and members of legislatures who accept the commitments of this Charter may be invited to participate in a personal capacity.

**10** The World Social Forum is opposed to all totalitarian and reductionist views of economy, development and history and to the use of violence as a means of social control by the State. It upholds respect for human rights, the practices of real democracy, participatory democracy, peaceful relations, in equality and solidarity, among people, ethnicities, genders and peoples, and condemns all forms of domination and all subjection of one person by another.

**11** As a forum for debate, the World Social Forum is a movement of ideas that prompts reflection, and the transparent circulation of the results of that reflection, on the mechanisms and instruments of domination by capital, on means and actions to resist and overcome that domination, and on the alternatives proposed to solve the problems of exclusion and social inequality that the process of capitalist globalization with its racist, sexist and environmentally

destructive dimensions is creating internationally and within countries.

**12** As a framework for the exchange of experiences, the World Social Forum encourages understanding and mutual recognition among its participant organizations and movements, and places special value on the exchange among them, particularly on all that society is building to center economic activity and political action on meeting the needs of people and respecting nature, in the present and for future generations.

**13** As a context for interrelations, the World Social Forum seeks to strengthen and create new national and international links among organizations and movements of society, that, in both public and private life, will increase the capacity for non-violent social resistance to the process of dehumanization the world is undergoing and to the

violence used by the State, and reinforce the humanizing measures being taken by the action of these movements and organizations.

**14** The World Social Forum is a process that encourages its participant organizations and movements to situate their actions, from the local level to the national level and seeking active participation in international contexts, as issues of planetary citizenship, and to introduce onto the global agenda the change-inducing practices that they are experimenting in building a new world in solidarity.

*Approved and adopted in São Paulo, on April 9, 2001, by the organizations that make up the World Social Forum Organizing Committee, approved with modifications by the World Social Forum International Council on June 10, 2001.*