

# PEOPLES CONGRESS

## Plenary Session Report

Written by Liliane Metz Krencker

Liege, November 2, 3 and 4, 2007

The Motorium-Herstal

**## Dedicated to a group of world citizens from GOMA in KIVU ##**

### Summary:

1. Participants
2. Introduction
3. First evening:
  - Presentation of the participants
  - Choice of workshops for the following day
4. Opening of the Plenary Session
5. Installation of the different workshops
6. Visit to Eben Emaël (Eben Ezer Tower and planting of the World Unity Tree)
7. Reports of the different workshops results
8. Creation of 2 groups: Peoples Congress and ASCOP
9. World Unity Day
10. Miscellaneous

### Peoples Congress:

- General Objectives
- Objectives for the next 3 years
- Internal Regulations
- AMIP and the PC communication antenna
- Council of the wise men
- Election of the executive committee
- Election of the bureau
- PC decisions
- Calendar

### ASCOP:

- Activities and Internal collaborations
- ASCOP specific projects
- By-laws changes
- Need for a new coordination office

### **"Special Comment" The letter from Goma "**

Before leaving for Liege we received a letter of support signed "Your brothers and sisters from Kivu, in Goma in the Republic of Congo. We were all very touched and we suggested in Liege that this plenary session should be dedicated to this group from Goma who had taken the time to write such a long and beautiful message of support  
All the former and newly elected delegates are grateful to them and will never forget

# 1. Participants:

## Delegates elected to the Peoples Congress

- Henri Cainaud, Vice-president of the Peoples Congress (France)
- Peter Davidse ,Registry treasurer (Holland)
- Marc Garcet IEM director(Belgium)
- Bernard Chuzeville , elected delegate 2007 (France)
- Ursula Grattapaglia Director Bona Espero Center (Brazil)
- Chris Hamer elected delegate 2007 Australian association of WC (Australia)
- Gilliane Le Gallic, Director of plan " maintenance of Tuvalu " (France)
- Joel Luguern elected delegate 2007 (France) French registration Center
- Liliane Metz Krencker elected delegate 2007 (France)  
World Citizen Registry general secretary
- Vincent Peingnez elected delegate 2007 (France)
- Heloisa Primavera elected delegate 2007 (Argentina)
- Ulisses Riedel elected delegate 2007 (Brazil)
- Rob Wheeler elected delegate 2007 (U S A )
- Roger Winterhalter President of the Peoples Congress (France)

## Representatives of the ASCOP and observers:

- Alain Ball (France)
- Brigitte Carraz (France)
- Didier Coeurnelle (Belgium)
- Luc Delcroix (Belgium)
- Daniel Durand (France)
- Odile Durand (France)
- Claudine Fischer (Switzerland)
- Giuseppe Grattapaglia (Brazil)
- Dorin Hehn (Romania)
- Fanny Heros (Tuvalu)
- Thonton Kabeya (Congo-Shaba)
- Alphonse Meets (Belgium)
- Paulo Nascentes (Brazil)
- Jean Pierre Laperches (Belgium)
- Jacques LeFrançois (Belgium)
- Florian Ruymen (Belgium)
- Vanda Riedel (Brazil)
- Janaína Vieira (Brazil)
- Maria Angela Silva (Brazil)
- Rasmus Tenbergen (Germany)
- Jean Verstraeten (Belgium)

## Support and messages of support of those who could not come:

### Elected delegates:

- René Wadlow (United Nations)
- Rolf Haegler (Switzerland)
- Leo Rebello (India)
- Josiane Trumps (France)

### Register of the World Citizens

- Geneviève Charpentier
- Jean Michel Richard

### Cité Esperantienne:

- Giorgio Silfer

### CILAME:

- Jerry Bourgeois
- Michel Forestier

## 2. Introduction:

For the Peoples Congress, the old and new elected delegates, the main purpose of this meeting, scheduled already from the beginning of the year was crucial because it would allow everyone to get to know each other and especially to prepare the objectives of the next 3 years, to discuss them and to formally establish and distribute to everybody the tasks necessary to their achievements. In addition, an executive committee including 9 members had to be elected and a bureau of 4 people selected among the members of this committee.

It's possible that the first major mistake was that the former bureau had not been sufficiently informed of the program and the timing of the agenda that were prepared by some world citizens in a small group. The second mistake was to mix the ASCOP meeting with the PC delegates meeting.

The PC delegates needed to meet to prepare their strategies; they wanted to work together and especially to have enough time to discuss them. We should not forget that some delegates had come from far away. The meetings should have remained more strictly parallel. The training of the newly elected delegates could not be done in a proper way and some of them went back home with a lot of unanswered questions.

It seems to us very important that all these remarks be carefully recorded, to be a lesson for future meetings. A non virtual meeting is a particularly rich moment during which we must take advantage of every minute to settle all the pending issues.

## 3. the first meeting, Friday evening, November 2

It was held in the Youth Hostel in Herstal and this was an important reunion for some of us and the opportunity to meet new people for others.

*A list of all the delegates former and new with their address can be requested via the internet.*

Around 5 pm, the first delegates arrived and went to reception to get their registration files and information documents and especially the complete and itemized agenda for the next two days. Then the participants had a meal together and prepared the next day meeting.

It is at the beginning of that meeting that each of us could introduce himself and explain why he or she decided to become a candidate and what he or she was expecting from this meeting and from its role as a delegate.

An agenda of this meeting defining the plenary session precise purposes as well as the

Workshops proposals for the following day and a list of important decisions which have to be taken during these two days meetings were given to the delegates and to some of

The present ASCOP members.

### Workshop Proposals:

1. How to finance the Peoples Congress?
2. How to revitalize the AMIP (World Press Agency)?
3. Which form of government are we going to promote?
4. By which steps / actions could we go from a virtual worldwide government to a real worldwide government?

Two other workshops were proposed by the participants of the ASCOP

1. Living together
2. Working together

These two workshops will the second day work together as "Living and working together"

### Important decisions which will have to be made:

1. Election of the executive committee 9 members (vote)
2. Review and approval of the changed internal regulations
3. Choice and installation of the different commissions
4. WOCIT (World Citizen Tribunal) Japan
5. Relation with other "mundialist" organizations and choice
6. Collaboration with the different organizations created by the PC
7. Collaboration with other organizations (peace, environment and solidarity)

8. Collaboration with the "mundialized" villages
9. Collaboration between delegates
10. Creation of an Internet site for the Peoples Congress
11. Calendar of activities for the next years

#### **4. Opening of the Plenary Session: November 3rd, 2007**

**Roger Winterhalter**, president of the People' Congress opened the Plenary Session by welcoming the new delegates and thanking them for coming to Liege from sometimes very far away to attend this session. For some of them it was their first meeting with the Peoples Congress

**Marc Garcet**, president of the Institute of " mundialist" Studies (IEM) addressed the participants with a message of welcome while explaining the creation of the IEM, its missions and its work

**Henry Cainaud**, Vice-president of the Peoples Congress made then a quick recall of

the history of the creation of the Peoples Congress and the various additional organizations that it has created during the last 40 years:

- World Press Agency (AMIP)
- Institute of " Mundialist "Studies (IEM)
- World Community against Hunger (SMF)
- Consultative Assembly to the Peoples Congress (ASCOP)

**Daniel Durand**, President of the World Citizen Registry presented his best wishes and proposals on behalf of the voters

#### **5. Installation of the different workshops**

Four workshops were installed

- "Living together"
- "Working together"
- "Economy and Solidarity"
- "Commission of finances"

#### **6. Visit to EBEN EMAEL:**

In the afternoon a visit to Eben Emaël and the Eben Ezer tower was organized with all the participants

It is a tower museum constructed by Robert Garcet, the father of Marc Garcet, delegate to the Peoples Congress. This 33 meters high building inspired by the New Jerusalem according to San John. Its 7 floors tower is crowned by the 4 revelation cherubs.

Next to the tower, the group planted the third World Unity tree.

Several delegates and citizens of the world had brought soil from their country or from their city to help plant the Maple tree and fertilize the Belgian earth with germs of Peace.

The entire group then went back to the Motorium to have dinner

#### **7. Presentation of conclusions of the different workshops:**

These conclusions having been simply read and not written up on paper board for everybody to be reviewed, it has been difficult for us to report them in these minutes. We published only the conclusions that have reached us but other contributions are welcome

#### **Workshop on economy and solidarity**

8 people were in this workshop from different institutions:

Ulysses Riedel (Planetary Union, Brazil, [www.uniaoplanetaria.org.br](http://www.uniaoplanetaria.org.br))

Daniel Durand (Solidarity against Hunger, France,) [www.globidar.org](http://www.globidar.org)

Mark Garcet (AIGS, Belgium, [www.aigs.be](http://www.aigs.be)),

Brigitte Carraz (House of world Citizenship, Mulhouse, France, [www.109.sangneuf.free.fr](http://www.109.sangneuf.free.fr))

Helois Primavera (RedLASES: Latino American socio economic Solidarity network, Argentina, [www.redlases.org.ar](http://www.redlases.org.ar) ),

Paulo Nascentes, Angela Silva and Wanda Beatriz (Planetary Union, Brazil).

The different initiatives and approaches of everybody being shared and an agreement was made so that:

1. A permanent network of exchanges and experiments (blog?) was created as an initiative of this meeting.
2. The Planetary Union offers all its resources (television channel and Website), also a place where to organize the next PC meeting in Brasilia

### **8. Separation of the participants in 2 groups:**

On one hand the delegates of the Peoples Congress and on the other hand the ASCOP representatives  
The delegates of the Peoples Congress discussed various outstanding administrative problems

The general Objectives of the Peoples Congress were accepted as published on the PC site

### **The Peoples Congress Mission:**

- Establish the inventory of all the needs common to human kind
- Proclaim the necessity of Public World Institutions able to satisfy this needs
- Define:
  1. The domains where it is necessary to have Public World Institutions
  2. The transfers of skills that will have to be accepted in favour of World Institutions by the Nation States
  3. The necessary procedures for the creation of Public World Institutions
  4. The structures of the supra-national world federal authority to be created
- Express in World Declarations the opinion and the choices of the people of the world about the events concerning human kind's fate
- Intervene with governments or international authorities on current world problems
- Study the expert's reports on world constitution projects and give one's opinion
- Present a draft proposal of a world federal constitution to the governments and to the national parliaments as well as to various international authorities
- Take all the necessary initiatives to start a democratic world parliament including a chamber for the people of the world
- Look for collaboration and the creation of culture, information and education organizations to facilitate the awareness of universal solidarity.

And it was also decided that the recommendations of the Bohicon seminar would be taken into account by the Peoples Congress

### **Recommendations of the BOHICON seminar (October. 2006)**

- Considering the objective of the world citizens, to lead a common action to organize peace and security through world institutions
- Considering that the predominant preoccupation of every man today that is to develop and give existence to ideas and institutions able to resist effectively to all the threats of the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Considering the scourges that threaten mankind to day like: malnutrition, pollution of environment, the monopolizing and waste of raw materials and resources and the demography explosion

Therefore the participants in the "mundialists" studies seminar in Benin recommended:  
to the ASCOP and the Peoples Congress that:

- ASCOP and the Peoples Congress work at the institutionalization of world citizenship
- ASCOP and the Peoples Congress promise to organize and to support action to train and inform all the world citizens
- ASCOP and the Peoples Congress engage in:
  - a) Discussion with authorities to promote the idea of world citizenship
  - b) Training the people in world citizenship ideas
  - c) Convincing governments for equal distribution of richness to the advantage of world citizenship
  - d) Researching financing for the local structures necessary to develop world citizenship
  - e) Lobbying the international organizations including the United Nations to promote world citizenship and the culture of a democracy as a way of life at the local, regional and international level

## Objectives for next 3 years:

Not enough time had been left for the finalization of the short term objectives for the next 3 years and this will therefore have to be discussed between the members of the bureau and the executive committee and through SKYPE chats and meetings

Some important subjects were however approached

a) **The World Press Agency (AMIP)** that will have to be reorganised in the near future and that will have to inform, and to react very fast to current events

It has been decided that a commission should be created to deal with the revival of the AMIP. One person should be responsible in each continent

- Europe: Roger Winterhalter
- India: Bhuppy Kishore and/or Dauji Gupta
- North Africa: Ben Salem
- Sub Saharan Africa: Landing Niassy

Daniel Durand offered to contact all these people who can become informers from AMIP to the local medias

What will be needed especially it is to create a regular audience in the local, regional or even national medias that will broadcast and publish the PC delegates opinions concerning all the current world problems

## b) Council of the wise people:

Some changes in the Internal Regulations were introduced, discussed and accepted and finally ratified during the Liege plenary session

Among these amendments it is necessary to notice the creation of a Council of Wise People. In reality, in the Internal Regulations it was said that the elected delegate was elected for life until he or she dies and was replaced by the deputy delegate. Now it was decided that the delegates are elected only for 9 years

In order to save time, the amendments were approved by vote as a whole, however the amendment on the creation and the by-laws for the Council of the Wise People could not be accepted with the rest of the regulations because some delegates were opposed to it and suggested that this amendment should be discussed more in details and later

This decision not having reached consensus, the debate will go on and probably will be finalized during the next plenary session .

For the time being only Henry Cainaud former PC vice president decided to be part of the Council of the Wise people

(Please see here the Regulations of the Peoples Congress)

### 9. Council of the Wise People:

9.1. A Council of the Wise People has been created which elects a President and defines his own functioning.

9.2. The Council of the Wise People includes Delegates not re elected by the Peoples Congress upon simple request on their part.

9.3. The Council of the Wise People has to:

- to watch the "mundialist" and democratic character of the activities of the Peoples Congress
- to chair the Elections Control Commission in the Peoples Congress
- to designate financial controllers for the Peoples Congress
- to take care of urgent matters notably in case of fault of the Peoples Congress Executive Committee or the Bureau

9.4. The Council of the Wise people must be informed about all activities of the Peoples Congress and its Executive Committee

It issues opinions or judgments on the facts and situations that it becomes aware of.

It can program some points to be discussed on the agenda of the PC sessions

### **c) Administrative Decisions:**

Elections of the Executive Committee

#### **9 candidates were elected**

- DAVIDSE Peter
- GARCET Mark
- GRATTAPAGLIA Ursula
- HAMER Chris
- METZ-KRENCKER Liliane
- PRIMAVERA Heloisa
- RIEDEL Ulisses
- WHEELER Rob
- WINTERHALTER Roger

#### **4 elected representatives to the bureau**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • Président         | PRIMAVERA Heloisa     |
| • Vice President    | METZ KRENCKER Liliane |
| • General Secretary | GARCET Marc           |
| • Financial Officer | DAVIDSE Peter         |

Deputy General Secretary proposed by Marc Garcet : DURAND DANIEL

It is to be noticed that these elections did not reach the necessary quorum of 40 % and that it is why according to the internal regulations new election had to be scheduled after 2 weeks by mail and Internet. Later in December the quorum was reached and the elections validated .

### **d) Calendar**

- Ulisses Riedel promised to plant a world unity tree in Brasilia on March 21, 2008
- The next plenary session should take place in 18 months
- Ulisses Riedel offers to organize the next plenary session in Brasilia in summer of 2009
- -Dorin Hehn offers to organize a meeting of the Peoples Congress in Timisoara (West Romania) in September 2008
- In December 2008, " mundialist" demonstrations will be organized during the celebration of the Human Rights anniversary

### **9. Day of World Unity:**

On the day of equinox in March of every year

As the acting administrator of the ASCOP, Daniel Durand has given to the PC and the administrative bureau a petition signed by 156 people of 16 countries. Through this petition the signatories have asked the Peoples Congress to declare the day of equinox in the month March of every year " **World Citizens Day**", and "**Day of World Unity**", symbol of a day of action against inequality, injustice, racism and exclusion. The signatories want that the human society to be constructed, to be granted a common right based on planetary democracy

Given that this point was already on the agenda, the delegates present and represented had to vote to approve this decision...It was approved by unanimity minus two abstentions

### **10 Miscellaneous**

#### **Two commissions are create:-**

- Commission for redeployment of the AMIP with the nomination of one representative per continent
- Financial Commission represented by Peter Davidse, Chris Hamer and Rob Wheeler

#### **Creation of the network " work together "**

The idea came from the two pre existing workshops that decided to work together

"Live together "and "Work together "

This network organized by Alain Bal whose association " Planète bleue " is now part of the

ASCOP and other Belgian associations presided by our friends Luke Delcroix and Florian Ruymen; as well as from the Swiss association, the " The Universal Bridge " presided by Claudine Fischer.

### **The representatives of ASCOP had in principle to discuss:**

- The lack of a ruling team for the ASCOP and the necessity to find a coordinator as quickly as possible to end the interim mandate of Daniel Durand and Liliane Metz Krencker
- The changes to be made to the internal regulations
- President, Administrative Council, compulsory or facultative character of the annual contribution
- The collaboration with the Peoples Congress
- The plans that each of the member organizations would like to share with the others

### **General conclusions:**

To conclude we must acknowledge that a lot of our agenda was not covered and that a lot of work and decisions that we had thought we would be able to take were delayed. In the coming weeks we would have to finalize them through email and the telephone between the members of the executive committee and the bureau. It is always discouraging to delay decisions and we think that the PC meetings which must be dedicated to our internal development should be organized with the PC delegates only.

Enlarged meetings will have to be decided by the executive committee after consultation and the bureau agreement.

Here is a short exhaustive list of the subjects which were not approached during the session and that should be discussed during the next meeting only with the delegates.

- Collaboration of the PC and the ASCOP
- Collaboration of the PC and the "mundialized" communities
- Collaboration of the PC and the WFM (World Federalist Movement)
- Collaboration of the PC and WMGD – WUPED –and the civil society associations ..UBUNTU- CONGO etc...

### **Other decisions that should have been taken concerning:**

- The legal status of economical and political international refugees
- The recommendations of the Bohicon seminar
- The celebration of the 60 th anniversary of the charter of human rights
- The declaration of Liege still to write and publish •