

PROCESS, AGENDA, METHODOLOGY AND CATALAN CONTRIBUTION

The process

A consensus will be reached during 13 months of international and multilingual online deliberation. The process has been designed to allow the 300 participants to reach a level of consensus over a common declaration. This final declaration will derive from the proposals presented and evaluated by those experts, in response to the five global issues proposed.

Our objective is to achieve the highest level of consensus possible by compiling the proposals of experts who wish to make other worlds possible. Our specific aim has been to gather participants whose ideas have stem from different and varied areas of work: the social movements, universities, from local world, and non-governmental organizations etc., and who originate from all four corners of the globe.

Click on the links to see procedure for each step of the process.

Agenda

In the face of the current socio-economic global crisis - a crisis of our model of civilization - it is not enough to look for solutions for the financial, economic, energy or food crises. We want to rethink the system in its entirety, and for that reason we have proposed five questions for our participants to respond to; responses which will form and shape a more inhabitable world for all:

Topic 1. **What world do we want?** Generate proposals for common values and objectives. (Closed for proposals)

Topic 2. **What world do we have?** Generate proposals for how to live in a finite world: resources and population. (Closed for proposals)

Topic 3. **How should we decide?** Generate proposals for global political organization. (Closed for proposals)

Topic 4. **How should the world be managed financially?** Generate proposals for global economic and financial organization. (Closed for proposals)

Topic 5. **How should we communicate?** Generate proposals for global communication organization. (Closed for proposals)

In January 2011, the consultation on the Draft of the Barcelona Consensus Declaration has been carried out and it has been presented at the World Social Forum 2011 in Dakar. The final version will be approved at an encounter to be held in Barcelona in May 2011.

Methodology

1. Making proposals

For each of the five thematic consultations our 250 participants were asked to present **proposals**. Each proposal had to be brief - a maximum of five lines - and contain a **single key idea** so that the other participants can more easily show their degree of agreement. In order to be able to put together and systematize all contributions, we ask participants not to make more than 10 proposals on a single topic.

2. Evaluating proposals

Once the experts' proposals were collected, the facilitation team translated them and systematize them. They were then published at [deliberaweb](#). Using [Delibera](#), participants could evaluate all proposals and demonstrate their level of agreement on each individual proposals. It also allows experts to make comments.

3. Consultations - Calendar 2010

- 1st. Values and objectives (January – March 2010)
- 2nd. Ecology and population (April – May)
- 3rd. Politics and security (August - September)
- 4th. Economics and finance (October-November)
- 5th. Communication and culture (November– December)

There were a 6th consultation in relation to the final Declaration's draft document; a document which was made up of the proposals that obtain the highest level of consensus on each thematic consultation (May 2011).

4. Consultations – results

The deliberation system in use enables the immediate visualization of the level of consensus obtained by each proposal. Participants can at any point check the progress of the deliberation process for each individual proposal or topic.

Once the deadline for a thematic consultation is reached, participants can see the level of consensus reached for each proposal and each topic.

The resulting text, made up of the proposals with the highest **level of consensus** and the most interesting comments of each thematic consultation, is part of the Barcelona Consensus Declaration. This Declaration was ratified at a meeting in the city of Barcelona in May 2011, and signed by participants.

5. Barcelona Consensus Conference at the beginning of May 2011

Experts who participated regularly by sending in and/or evaluating proposals were **invited to the final meeting in Barcelona in May 2011**, to assess the final document and celebrate its worldwide release. This document will then be sent out to governments, international organizations, the social movements and the media.

6. Presentation at the World Social Forum 2011

The draft of the Barcelona Consensus Declaration was officially presented at the **World Social Forum in February 2011 in Dakar**, and the proposals compiled on the five Global Issues. It is our intention to promote international synergy and to start a Global Social Consultation that will enable the participative identification of an Action for a Common Transformation every year.

7. Communication and global impact plan

Once the Barcelona Consensus Declaration is formulated and presented, accompanied by a book and documentary about the process, its proposals and participants, we have the intention of undertaking a **publicity tour, visiting 4 cities across the five continents**. These will be the cities and towns where the participants that have engaged the most in the process live. The objective of this tour is to engage the social movements and their networks, as well as public institutions, in the process.

8. Global Social Consultation on an Action for a Common Transformation 2011-2012

During the Dakar World Social Forum in February 2011 a Global Social Consultation has been launched. Such consultation has as its main goal the identification of an Action Common Transformative every year, promoted by organizations and networks from all over the globe that have participated in Social Forums during the past ten years, accepting its Charter of Principles and echoing the call that “another world is possible”.

The procedure for organizing such a consultation would consist of:

- a period for each organization or coalition to send their proposals of global actions;
- a period to agglutinate and summarize those proposals;
- a period of consultation where each organization can express their intention to commit to those actions (e.g. up to a maximum of three actions);
- the launch of the 2012 Action for a Common Transformation with the most support among participating organizations.

9. Participation Handbook

We have produced a Participation Handbook as a guide to participation in the online multilingual thematic consultations. The basic guidelines of the deliberative process are:

- * To write and send in proposals in brief format and to evaluate the proposals sent in by the others.

- * The objective is to widen one's views through those of others, accepting that proposals can reach different levels of consensus and attempting to reach the lowest common denominator.

- * Proposals should not focus only on the actions necessary for governments and international institutions, but also on what citizens and their organizations can do – always in an international framework and, wherever possible, making a distinction between the different categories of countries (North/South, poor, industrialized, emergent etc).

Catalan contribution to the Barcelona Consensus

During the Catalan Social Forum (FSCat) held in Barcelona on 30-31 January 2010, the Barcelona Consensus was made public with the aim of raising both awareness and the participation of Catalan organizations and citizens.

The organization team of the Barcelona Consensus participated actively in the preparation of the FSCat, and presented a seminar to which other organizations and Catalan experts were invited to send in their proposals on the five key topics. We then held a live thematic consultation that included about one hundred Catalan participants.

The proposals with the highest level of consensus will be fed into the thematic consultations of the international process, meaning the Catalan voice which gives the project its name, will be heard as a single participant.