



Organization:





Press Release

May 1, 2 and 3: Barcelona, the start of a new consensus

Scholars and activists from all over the globe will discuss in Barcelona a new consensus on the social, economic, environmental and media issues we face today

Barcelona Consensus: a path of change for the outraged

We are in a global process of change where citizens from around the world are seeking answers to the global crisis. Meanwhile, the ruling consensus, rather than financing with 50,000 million dollars for poverty reduction, agreed upon as one of the Millennium Development Goals, has spent 50 times more on saving speculators, because banks are “too big to fail”, contradicting their own neoliberal doctrine that the market regulates itself and governments should not intervene. The “rescuers” now see themselves impoverished and being pursued by the financial institutions that, through rating agencies of dubious objectivity, are enhancing speculation to the maximum level.

**We are outraged and rightfully so. It’s time to organize an urgent action at the global level
“For an inhabitable world for all”**

That is why Nova-Centre for Social Innovation began in 2009 a process to build a new consensus on concrete alternatives to the dominant Washington consensus. Taking advantage of the communication and deliberation possibilities that the cyberspace offers, 250 people**, gender-balanced and in number proportional to the population of each region of the world (126 from Asia, 43 from Africa, 45 from America, 31 from Europe and 5 from Oceania) have been providing solutions to address the major current global political, economic, environmental, cultural, and media powers.

The draft document of this commitment, presented at the World Social Forum in Dakar in February 2011, sets out nine axes in which to work, and guidelines for doing so: survival in this emergency situation, a participatory democracy, environmental sustainability, a sustainable social economy, a non-speculative financial system, a society of shared knowledge, a world without war or violence, a fair globalization, and world governance. We propose that every society, every person, every community, and every country adopts some of the 68 shared objectives of the Barcelona Consensus and commits to act on these in the most adequate area or sector.

Thirty of the BC participants will gather in Barcelona from 1 to 3 May to adopt a new global social consensus and define transforming actions for the coming years. This new Consensus will be presented on May 3rd at “Palau Centelles”, behind Barcelona City Council and this will be the highlight of the deliberative process initiated two years ago.

The Barcelona Consensus also opens the possibility of contributing proposals for the innovation of socio-economic models. The best of the models received will be granted 20,000 € over the course of a year to develop the idea.

** These 250 scholars and activists have had the help of the International Advisory Board of the Barcelona Consensus, comprising of 16 women and 15 men. Council members are people like Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Federico Mayor, Fatma Alloo, Susan George, Walden Bello and Vandana Shiva. They are responsible for ensuring the focus and the plurality of the process and endorse the major decisions of the Barcelona Consensus.



The experts

Barcelona Consensus International Meeting

Federico Mayor Zaragoza
(Spain)
President of the Culture of Peace Foundation



The former director-general of UNESCO and current president of the Culture of Peace Foundation has expressed his commitment to the Barcelona Consensus, joining its Advisory Board, actively taking part of its activities in the Dakar World Social Forum and confirming his presence at the Barcelona Consensus International Meeting. Renowned for his defense of peace and the human rights and for the pacifist focus given to the UNESCO, his opinion resonates at a global level.

Nahla Chahal
(Lebanon-Iraq)
President of the Arab Women Researchers Association



Writer, journalist, researcher and activist, Nahla Chahal is currently living in Paris.

Luís Lopezllera-Mendez
(Mexico)
President of Promoción del Desarrollo Popular

Juan Carlos Anselmi Elissalde
(Uruguay)
Director of CUDITA

Wahu Kaara
(Kenya)
African Social Forum
and Kenya Debt Relief Network

Yun Jianli
(China)
Xiangfan Environmental Protection Association

Leonor Concha Martínez
(Mexico)
Sociologist, Women for Dialogue



She worked for 8 years with indigenous movements in the Chiapas region. In 1979, she founded "Women for Dialogue" and currently coordinates the National Network for Gender and Economy (REDGE) that integrates 45 civil organizations in 23 states of the republic.

Kin Chi Lau
(China)
Department of Cultural Studies Lingnan University &
1000 PeaceWomen Coordinator

Michael Warschawski
(Israel)
Founder of the Alternative Information Center



Ever since Warschawski founded the Alternative Information Center in 1984, the conflict between Palestine and Israel has a powerful voice, attentive to the injustices and media manipulations of this specific conflict. He is a renowned opinion leader and writes periodically for many publications around the globe, such as:

Le Monde Diplomatique, International Viewpoint, ZNet or Monthly Review.

Krishna Murthy Padmanabhan
(India)
Forum Mondial des Alternatives Fellow



This political scientist represents the sensitivity of the most impoverished classes in India.

Fatma Alloo
(Tanzania)
Founder of the Tanzania Media Women's Association



One of the pioneers of contemporary African feminism, and founder of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (founded in 1987). Her work for recognition of women, and an activist in civil society movement, make her an influential voice in Africa.



The experts

Barcelona Consensus International Meeting

Lavinia Mohr
(Canada)
Program Director of the World Association of Christian Communication

Seán Ó Sióchru
(Ireland)
Leader of the Communication Right in the Information Society



With over 20 years as an expert consultant on international communications and media, he is the leader of CRIS and co-founder and director of Nexus Europe. He has participated in numerous projects related to the right to information and publications that focused on ICT and their potential for the social movements.

Ahmed Rahmani
(Morocco)
Director of the Institut de Reserches sur la Modernité

May East
(Brazil – United Kingdom)
Gaia Education & Findhorn Ecovillage



For the past 18 years, May has lived in the Findhorn Ecovillage in Scotland. She is an environmental educator, working with intergovernmental agencies, educational institutions and the United Nations for the preparation of studies for sustainable development. Director of Gaia Education, an organization that works to achieve sustainable transitions.

Devaki Jain
(India)
Feminist Economist



Renowned Indian economist, with numerous publications and books on the empowerment of women, the human rights, development, cooperation between poor countries and decentralized democracy, among other topics. She is also the founder of the Institute of Social Studies Trust that she has directed for 20 years.

Sirajul Islam
(Bangladesh)
Ashrai



He has worked with NGOs in Bangladesh for 26 years, especially in community development, gender, environment and microfinance. He has written books on mobilizing local resources and currency management. He writes regularly for various newspapers of Bangladesh.

Antanas Buracas
(Lithuania)
Monetary Policy
And Intellectual Resources scholar



Influential teacher with over 40 years experience as an economic advisor to various international banks, he has received numerous awards, and is a member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences since 1976 and is the vice chairman of Universal edition of the Encyclopedia of Lithuania.

Ibrahima Coulibaly
(Mali)

President of the Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes

Loreta Navarro Castro
(Philippines)

Founder of the Center for Peace Education

Rama Mani
(India)

World Future Council Fellow



Recognized internationally as an expert on peace, justice and human security, Dra. Mani currently works as a research project manager at GCR2P New York and the Center for International Studies at the University of Oxford. She has started a project called "Justice Unlimited" to promote peace through networking with local counterparts.

For MEDIA REGISTRATION and information on the availability of the speakers during the days of the meeting please get in touch in advance with the department of media and press.

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The Organizations

Barcelona Consensus International Meeting

An initiative of:



Nova - Social Innovation Centre is an independent and non-profit non-government organization (NGO) that aims to promote the knowledge and practice of social innovation to develop the capacities of individuals and social movements to strengthen, through their own activities, their contribution to a just, peaceful and sustainable world

With a global network of experts and professionals and more than 50 projects implemented in the Middle east, Europe, Latin America and Asia, Nova generates and disseminates knowledge providing direct support to civil society in conflict zones, promoting transparency and democratization of public institutions and developing the consensus of Barcelona on alternatives to neoliberal globalization.

With the collaboration of:



And the participation of:

- Patrîr - Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (Romania)***
- CRID - Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Developpement (France)***
- Association européenne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (Belgium)***
- Alop - Asociación Latinoamericana de Orgs. de Promoción al Desarrollo (Mexico)***
- IBASE - Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas (Brazil)***
- CAD - Coalition des Alternatives Africaines Dette et Developpement (Mali)***
- Palestinian Medical Relief Society (Palestine)***
- CETRI - Centre Tricontinental (Belgium)***
- Forum Mondial des Alternatives (Belgium)***

In Catalonia:

- Ubuntu - Fòrum Mundial de Xarxes de la Societat Civil***
- Xarxa d'Economia Solidària***
- Centre d'Estudis sobre Moviments Socials – UPF***
- Centre UNESCO de Catalunya***
- Fundació Cultura de Pau***
- Fundació Alfons Comín***
- El Xamfrà***
- Fòrum Ciutadà de Mallorca***
- Sostre Cívic***



Program

Barcelona Consensus International Meeting

May

day 1

*Reception and introduction of participants
Objectives and program of the meeting
Review of the Barcelona Consensus Declaration*

day 2

*Elaboration of a Global Action Plan
Approval of the Declaration "Commitment for an inhabitable world for all"
Gathering with local organizations*

day 3

*Approval of the Global Action Plan by world region
Resolution of the Grant for Innovative Socio-economic models
18:30 Special Exhibition of the Castellers at the Sant Jaume Square
19:00 Closing Event in Palau Centelles (Baixada de Sant Miquel, 8) behind Barcelona Council*

Organization:



With the support of:



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