

Committee “Peripheral Cities” UCGL

REPORT OF THE INITIATIVES AND MEETINGS CONCERNING THE FAL-P, HELD DURING THE FAL-FALA IN BELEM (BRAZIL, JANUARY 2009)

The two seminars organized by the network FAL-P, in coordination with social movements inside the World Social Forum, as well as the meetings between elected officials of the network for interdependent metropolises were rich of debates on the topics of public services, access to rights, strategic axis to build “interdependent metropolises” for another possible and necessary world. These initiatives show the way in which peripheral local authorities irrigated the whole debates of the FAL /FALA through their experiences and their engagements.

The current crisis sharpens contradictions. It carries dangers but also opportunities in the relation between local and global, as well as in the axis metropolization/globalization, in a world where 50% of the population are urban.

The global crisis we know will accentuate social/territorial inequalities already existing in metropolises, with a consequence of increasing urban segregations, reinforcing the “walls”, real or virtual, cutting our urban spaces. All indicates that the first victims of this systemic crisis will be the metropolitan suburbs and popular districts. These ones are likely to become the “variable of adjustment” of the neoliberalism in crisis in metropolises.

Vis-a-vis these logics, metropolitan local authorities and social movements can build solidarity and dynamic for social inclusion, contributing to the alternatives and resistances necessary to draw territories and metropolises offering to all new rights and opportunities for the future.

This requires to defend and develop public services accessible to all citizens in their everyday life; to promote a decentralization making closer the power and citizens, by guaranteeing to local authorities financial means of their development (to rebalance the richness) to carry out ambitious public policies; to increase citizen’s participation and participative democracy by also opening to new forms of social engagements and networks; to ensure the right for mobility and the right for centrality; to develop a right for culture, starting from the richness of each one; to contribute to a metropolitan life for women... these where several topics approached in our working days in Belem.

To act in this direction means to build another hegemony, against the neoliberal model, which currently dominates our territories.

Experiences and social and democratic inventiveness deployed by popular suburbs to build a “living together” in a process of fast urbanization, sometimes disordered, constitute an important richness – to be valorised - to answer the challenges of interdependent, sustainable and democratic metropolises.

In a planet becoming more and more “urban”, to be based on these assets and to push this logic means to take part concretely, from local level, to “another possible and necessary world” for our citizens and our territories.

We develop these debates inside the “Forum of the Peripheral Local Authorities (FAL-P) for interdependent metropolises”, and we would like to amplify them through the preparation of the 2nd world forum, in May 2010, in the Spanish city of GETAFE (metropolis of Madrid).

The objective is : to collectively elaborate and adopt a *World Charter for Interdependent/Sustainable and Democratic Metropolises*, which would become a reference within the world municipal movement, in particular within United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG).