

# **PAD**

## **International Round Table**

### **2013**



Processo de Articulação e Diálogo

# **PAD International Round Table – 2013**

A report on the gathering, which approaches its 20th anniversary

São Paulo, November 4 – 6, 2013

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# *Description*

The purpose of this document is to report the main points of PAD's International Round Table held in São Paulo from November 4 to 6, 2013. Its goal is to think about articulation challenges and priorities regarding the ecumenical cooperation between 2014 and 2016, based on the Action Plan for the period.

The report has five sections:

- (1) **Introduction:** the main elements of the Round Table and its participants;
- (2) Feature topics on the **internal environment:** PAD and its main internal environment elements presented in the discussion;
- (3) Feature topics on the **national environment:** the main Brazilian environment aspects according to the analysis by the participants;
- (4) Feature topics on the **international environment:** systematization of the international environment elements presented in the Round Table; and
- .
- (5) Feature topics for the next **Action Plan:** the main results and decisions of the gathering.

# **1. Introduction**

The International Round Table took place in São Paulo on November 4, 5 and 6 and had the presence of several PAD sectors representatives, as well as two guest speakers: Wenche Fone (development policies director at the Norwegian Church Aid) and Priya Lukka (economist boss of the Department of Politics)<sup>1</sup>.

The meeting is biannual and brings together the articulation members in order to muster support to the creation of an Action Plan for the following period. In 2013, it was held at the Centro de Formação da Sagrada Família, in São Paulo.

On the first day of work, the group shared their impressions (both national and international) of Brazil after 2013, identifying challenges for the country over the next two years. The elements analyzed included Brazil's global insertion and the actions of its civil society and, specifically, a multilateral articulation such as PAD.

On the second day of discussion, participants pointed the most prominent challenges for PAD until 2016 and thought over strategic priorities and actions for the articulation.

# **2. Feature topics on the internal environment (PAD)**

- The aims of the Action Plan for 2012-2014 have matured, and are summarized below. Our goals are to strengthen our joint action and bring visibility to the Real Brazil, which has been our main topic.
- Inequality and South-South relations were central issues throughout the past two years.
- The articulation was able to provide recognition and visibility for actions by several players in Brazil and Europe, instead of investing in publications by PAD. Several articles have been therefore promoted and some of them were the basis for political incidence, both in Brazil and in Europe.
- There was an investment on PAD's visibility, through website improvements and the creation of a Facebook page and a monthly journal.
- The workshops entitled "Communication for rights, cooperation, sustainability and development" were organized:
  - Their goal was to promote the exchange of communication experiences among organizations – agencies, ecumenical organizations, social movements and NGOs – with focus on a cooperation action for the visibility of our causes, based on the underlying question: "How do we communicate the Real Brazil?"
  - The workshops took place in Erechim (RS), Belém (PA), Recife (PE) and São Paulo (SP).

<sup>1</sup> See the list of participants in the Annexes.

- The meetings stressed the relevance of emphasizing causes and banners instead of institutions.
- The workshops encouraged reflection upon some crucial matters: what do we learn from making communication? Why do we do better what is done together?
- The outcome for the workshops is to be published.
- PAD must think of itself as a facilitator and a hub, able to influence the permanent dialog with the international ecumenical cooperation.

### *3. Feature topics on the national environment*

- The Amazon region: the current situation of traditional peoples, quilombolas and Native Brazilians in the world's largest biome is little known and these groups face big challenges regarding infrastructure projects.
  - Grilagem (forging documents to appropriate land illegally), persecution of rights defenders, cattle raising, mining and agribusiness have taken up 17% of the rainforest.
  - The Belo Monte Dam is a large scale project which exposes the contradictions of the Brazilian model.
  - In order to move large projects forward, the government has sabotaged the incidence of the organized society in the area.
- The protests in June made evident the centrality of urban issues for Brazil and the rejection to how politics is conducted in the country.
  - The representativeness of political parties was highly objected.
  - The rejection of the traditional media was one of the convergence points.
  - It was the first time this generation (which has only known the "Lula years") understood the correlation of forces with the police.
  - The progressive/left-winged sector should be in touch with the youth on the streets, as they are demanding for new ways of conducting and understanding political actions.
- One of the challenges is how to strengthen bonds between the countryside and the cities. Urban issues are in greater evidence and demand articulation to bring advancements in the correlation of forces process.
- World Cup for whom? There are promises of a public legacy, but it will be private, yet funded by public money.

## **World Cup for whom? <sup>2</sup>**

### **Development and inequality**

*The great inequality experienced in Brazil does not occur by chance. The economic improvements have been failing to change this scenario.*

*In 2011, Brazil was the world's 6th economy and ranked 84th in the HDI report.*

*It currently occupies the 88th position in the global education ranking, with 14 million illiterates and 30 million functional illiterates among the population above 15 years old. From those who begin elementary school, 41% do not conclude it.*

*It figures in the 72nd position in the health investments ranking (US\$ 317/person per year, according to the WHO). Brazil has one of the highest land concentration rates in the world;*

*It has a deficit of 5 million new housing units and 15 million units demanding adequacy (in 2010, there were 6 million empty housing units), and 59 percent of the homes does not have basic sanitation;*

*Public transport is of poor quality and insufficient;*

*There are about 50,000 homicides per year, and most victims are young black men who live in the peripheral area of large cities;*

*The country is one of the largest producers and exporters of food, but 16 million Brazilians do not have access to the minimum daily calories necessary;*

*There are 14 million families with per capita income inferior to R\$ 70/month*

*(€25). Expenses with the Bolsa Família program: R\$ 15.5 bn (0.35 percent of the GDP, whereas debt interests consume R\$ 230 bn, or 5.3 percent of the GPD).*

*Environment destruction; The interests of the Brazilian debt (external: US\$ 300 billion, internal: R\$ 2 trillion) take 36 percent of the annual federal budget.*

### **The numbers of the World Cup**

*In 2012, the Federal Audit Court expected the public investments in the World Cup 2014 to reach R\$ 27.4 bn (urban mobility, airports, and stadiums), from which 98% would be public funds.*

*According to the Senate consultancy, this number may now reach R\$ 65 bn. These costs do not cover incentives, security and other expenses.*

*In 2011, the health budget was of R\$ 63 bn, while education received R\$ 47 bn. No funds have been assigned for the reallocation of families which are being evicted from their homes.*

*In the 2007 Pan-American Games held in Rio de Janeiro, costs were originally estimated in R\$ 350 million, but final expenses reached R\$ 3.9 bn.*

*For the 2014 World Cup, Fifa expects a turnover of US\$ 3.8 bn, or R\$ 7.6 bn (three times higher than the Cup hosted by Germany).*

*Fifa is expected to enjoy R\$ 600 million in federal tax exemption.*

*The construction of 9 public and 3 private stadiums will cost R\$ 6 bn. ➤*

<sup>2</sup> Inspired by a presentation made by Centro Gaspar Garcia in the round table.

*Privatized airports will receive most of the investments.*

*Natal, Manaus Brasília and Cuiabá do not have soccer teams in the Brazilian premier league and there is not enough public for the size of the stadiums.*

*Recife: the three main soccer teams in town already had their stadiums, and the World Cup City concept is implemented.*

*Costs of the Natal stadium: approximately R\$ 600 million, while the city's budget for health is of R\$ 571 mi; education, R\$ 328 mi, and housing, R\$ 3.1 mi.*

*In 2011, the city government of São Paulo gave the Corinthians soccer team R\$ 500 million in investments, and failed to employ the same amount in the improvement of risk areas.*

*All private stadiums have received public incentives.*

## **The World Cup cities**

*Like companies, host cities are to be organized under the business logic – efficient and safe for maximum profit in the minimum time for the event sponsors and construction companies (a new concept for the city);*

*Business pragmatism, based on external interests which exclude the political dimension of democracy, social reality, local culture and civil rights (market-oriented system).*

*The Government sets the legal basis, funds and evaluates business (urban operations, urban concessions, private-public partnerships, criminalization of social movements and poverty);*

*The city is split in two: one side is "legal",*

*modern and global, whereas the other is "illegal", segregated and hidden;*

*The city undergoes embellishment operations to become a "post card" (the image of the product for sale). It is all part of the "World Cup kit".*

## **Evictions, a chapter by itself**

*Once information is not transparent and there is no definition regarding what is related to World Cup, this number may be higher;*

*Evictions are justified by the construction or expansion of stadiums, urban mobility (expansion of avenues, driveways, subway lines, and railroads), expansion of airports, bus stations and harbors, and the city beautification;*

*There are no specific projects with information on the housing units to be brought down;*

*Families found about the eviction through the press and there is no dialog in the search for alternatives;*

*Financial compensations are insufficient (cash or rent fares);*

*When there are alternative homes, they are far from the original location;*

*Projects are always set over areas that experience higher legal fragility;*

*The World Cup has been an excuse for the eviction of communities long consolidated in coveted areas;*

*Real estate speculation around large construction works becomes a hindrance for lower classes;*

*Evictions justified by the environmental laws;*

*Evictions caused by fires.*

- The idea of ‘Youths’ receives a central position. They are the main subject in the June Journeys, but they are as old as the individuals who are volunteering to work in the World Cup.
- The June Journeys have brought politicized diversity and renewal, inspiring the redesign of our practices and the development concept.
- The South-South relation is a reflex of the inner Brazil. The relations with Africa are an example.
- Institutional violence and racism in Brazil.
- The election of a Protestant homophobic preacher for the Human Rights Commission in the Congress stressed the religious fundamentalism and exposed the issues of religious manipulation and the need to build the affirmation of a secular government as a reassurance for rights. The Brazilian secular government only exists in theory.
- The Laborers’ Party (Dilma and Lula) have been in power for 12 years and yet has not funded education properly, for instance. Few organizations criticize the government and the June Journeys evidenced the presence of such disapproval in society.
- It is imperative to re-invent the means of environment organization and analysis. Journeys show that compensatory policies do not change the country’s structure, and yet this so-called successful model is being “exported” to other countries, mostly in Latin America and Africa.
- Domestic and global expansion of agribusiness.
- Energy and transnational industries in the segment, which ranks second in fund exportation. The first position belongs to banks. There are 54 dams under construction, a clear sign of the race for this energy source. The funds are public. There is an institutional scheme to appropriate our commodities, conducted by some companies.
- The disarticulation of organizations is related to the leaving of some cooperation agencies and the weakening of networks and articulation processes.
- The crisis reinforces the issue of the colonial heritage, women violation and ethnocide.
- The environmental matter has been often dissociated from social struggles.
- Our major achievement in 2013 was the revitalization of the idea of the legitimacy of the fight for rights, popular mobilization and social matters and movements.
- Political reform platform: the government has tried to co-opt this agenda, but that was not possible. The nature of political reform became something that creates an agenda and this is a propositional topic in our popular field.



## *4. Feature topics on the international environment*

### Brazil's image abroad

- Brazil is depicted in the international media as a developing country with a great potential.
  - There are doubts about the impact of a concrete reduction in structural inequality, mostly about race and gender.
  - Brazil has an impressive economic growth, one of the strongest global economies and is fostering large projects to speed its growth.
- Democracy works and the civil society is well organized, capable of influencing more global political processes.
- Brazil is also recognized by its income transfer social programs, which managed to diminish extreme poverty over the last ten years.
- It is also an important player in the international scenario, actively present in groups such as IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa), G20, UNASUR, BRICs, and others. The country will host the World Cup and the Olympic Games.
- However, millions of Brazilians still live below the poverty line and income distribution is unequal. Progress is sided by rights violations, mostly affecting poor and vulnerable people. This is where the protests that took place in June are situated.
- The people and supporting institutions for agencies in their home countries find it difficult to understand why it is still necessary to help Brazil. The European financial crisis and the reality experienced by African and Asian countries affect this complex debate as well.
- Ecumenical agencies have been actively present in both internal debates and the media in their home countries, especially in the impacts of inequality and the rights violation in developmental infrastructure projects and large events. In order to do so, they have been exposing Brazil's other image: landless workers, quilombolas, indigenous peoples, populations in poor urban areas, women, young people, etc – that is the reality of people whose rights are not ensured.

### *Brazil and the international scenario<sup>3</sup>*

*In 1992, the world was easier to understand: there was the North and the South. Many things have changed now. There was an enormous ideological change. In Europe, there is now a focus on economic development, rather than the support of developing economies. Some speakers in Scandinavian countries affirm that the traditional development means are coming to an end. African leaders claim for support, but they also need commerce and investments.►*

*The AIN is also involved in trade and development matters. What we see now is a great emphasis on free trade. Many people believe there should be more relations between the private and development sectors. Three weeks ago, there were elections in Norway and a right-winged party is now in power. That means that investments and trade are in evidence, and the idea that they will develop poor countries is consolidated. If we take a deeper look, we will see a traditional development method, focused on education and basic needs; The Norwegian conservative party believes that there are more shared interests among poor and rich countries. What does that mean for Latin America? A strong trend for the approach that evaluates the development of a country with basis on its GDP. In the academia and the government, it is said that the support to development should come from middle-income countries. It is a more internal debate. In Brazil, Dilma is responsible for that, and NGOs and the people should demand for this discussion instead of leaving it up to the development sectors. In the previous government, a lot was said about inequality, but not in this one. Brazil receives most of the support for development from Norway, but not in the traditional way. The money is being directed to the Amazon fund. Some questions that may arise: is it correct to provide support to a country that is capable of hosting a World Cup? How is this money going to be spent? The development support now seeks visible, short-term results. We must be more efficient and embrace*

*strong policies to fight corruption and narrow down the number of supported countries and causes. We ran an independent evaluation of development support, and the results point that it is necessary to demand more progress in the human rights area. If the country is not able to do so, it will be cut off from the list. We should go for these large numbers. People speak about the world as if it was homogeneous, and it must be better studied. At least in Norway, we classify countries under three categories: (1) fragile governments focused on humanitarian aid; (2) low income countries focused on basic needs; and (3) medium income countries like Brazil and Kenya, heterogeneous countries where we are present. Scandinavian countries will suspend bilateral support actions. Organizations in middle-income countries play an important role and may change this situation. However, we must prove our value as soon as possible. AIN has already begun its debate: are we a development player or a development organization? Is it possible to be a player in one country and an organization in another? This may exist, even in a more complex scenario. Every human being is equally worthy and the poor are the poor, no matter where they live. We must show that the vertical support model adopted by Europe is no longer adequate. We must be united. How to work with countries such as Brazil? That brings questions about the work in incidence and the programmed work. The role of activism is far more important. The civil society has an active role to be developed. On the other hand,*

*we understand that many sectors of civil society have been facing pressure from governments, as well as Brazil. Latin America is still one of the most unequal areas in the world, with high growth rates and greater inequality and marginalization of some sectors. The tax collection and distribution is a major concern. In 2012, the European parliament signed a cooperation treaty and the South-South cooperation has been widely discussed. We'll see how that will occur. The right to land, land concentration and family agriculture are some of the topics we regard as important to Brazil. There is a concern about the inequality x poverty matter. An increased income always produces results. Programs such as Bolsa Família had great impact over extreme poverty, but not on income distribution. Still, if that means the problems are over, why are Brazilian social programs spending more than other Latin American countries? In fact, some of the expenses have not improved the situation, as there is a tendency to favor privileged sectors. That becomes evident when we look at health and education statistics. Indirect taxes cause a monetary transference effect both in Brazil and Bolivia. Brazil spends a lot and those amounts do not reach the poorer sectors. The challenges lie in understanding taxes and expenses and discussing in search for changes. If we only look at the numbers, we might assume that Brazil is better than most countries, but that does not mean we should be yielding.*

## **5. Feature topics for the next Action Plan**

In groups, participants thought over the main challenges and priorities for PAD in the next two years. The “Real Brazil” was again confirmed as a central issue for PAD. In a plenary session, participants defined the central challenges for the articulation and confirmed the priorities, which were approached according to the lines of action established by the group.

### **Challenges**

- Expose the contradictions and violations in the Brazilian growth model and its implications in international geopolitics;
- Radically add social-environmental justice to the discussion about development, combining the rural and urban agendas;
- Deepening national and international articulation relations from emerging topics of democracy in the Brazilian scenario and the ecumenical cooperation;

## Priorities<sup>4</sup>

### **Line 1: Knowledge production**

- Political reform and a secular government.
- Mapping the productions related to PAD's causes (by sector). Identification of preexisting maps.
- Dissemination of the “Real Brazil” document, which covers the social and political impacts of the 2014 World Cup.
- Updates on the dossier on the criminalization of social struggles.
- Mapping and diffusion of studies and researches on the impact of the construction of dams.
- Production of informative syntheses about the Real Brazil to be nationally and internationally promoted.
- Incentive of the texts production by organizations on human rights violations for the Monitoring Report on Human Rights in Brazil.

### **Line 2: Training for institutional visibility and sustainability**

- Make communication among partners easier;
- Create centers for training, elaboration and exchange from common, strategic themes among sectors (emerging themes about democracy, growth and development paradigms, inequality and sustainability).
- Deepen the analyses of visibility strategies in order to strengthen sustainability.
- Focus on incidence – how to promote dialog with agencies including the new narratives? Material translation, website, etc.
- Cycle of workshops for exchange and visibility of common causes for the Real Brazil. Focus on the democracy debate: articulation with new subjects and their new narratives

### **Line 3: Incidence**

- Continue to issue Public Notes, rethinking its elaboration process and the digital production in a continuous manner.
- Identify the ongoing articulation initiatives in networks abroad that match the themes approached by PAD, such as Direito a Terra e Território (“Right to Land and Territory). Promotion of exchange between these networks.
- Weekly update and monthly monitoring of the website. Permanent updates of social media and bimonthly journal publication.
- Participation in processes/initiatives for the dialog, articulation and incidence with the following groups: (1) ACT-Aliança; (2) Projeto Conjunto de Monitoramento de DH); e (3) Rede de Justiça Ambiental, (4) Plataforma Dhesca, (5) Plataforma pela Reforma Política, (6) Comitê Nacional em Defesa dos Territórios frente à Mineração; (7) Abong; (8) Via Campesina; (9) Rebrrip; e (10) Plataforma do Marco Regulatório.

<sup>4</sup> The Round Table identified priorities considered by PAD's Executive Coordination in the process of elaboration of an action plan for 2014 – 2016. These topics summarize the priorities defined by RD and the PAD coordination in this process.

- Participation in exchange activities for South-South exchange with basis on the development – rights – democracy triad.
- Creation of a “radar” to detect incidence agendas that may be embraced and supported by PAD.
- Organize Executive Coordination Meetings to follow up on PAD’s Action Plan and make any necessary adjustments.
- Organize a sector round table in the second year of the Action Plan.
- Organize and International Round Table to take stock of the Action Plan and propose perspectives.



## **6. ANNEXES**

Participants in the International Round Table

### ***Organization***

1. Abong
2. Ajuda da Igreja Norueguesa
3. Ajuda da Igreja Norueguesa
4. Centro de Agricultura Alternativa
5. Centro de Apoio ao Pequeno Agricultor
6. Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos
7. Christian Aid
8. Christian Aid
9. Christian Aid
10. Conselho Nacional de Igrejas Cristãs do Brasil
11. Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço
12. FASE
13. FIAN BRASIL
14. Fundação Luterana Diaconia
15. Heks
16. IBASE
17. INESC
18. Instituto Terramar
19. Koinonia
20. Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens
21. Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra
22. PAD – Assessoria de Comunicação
23. PAD – Secretaria Executiva
24. Pão Para o Mundo
25. Rede Ecumônica da Juventude
26. Sociedade de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos
27. SOS Corpo
28. TIJUPA

### ***Representative***

- Vera Masagão  
Arne Dale  
Wenche Fone  
Marilene Souza  
Vitor Hollas  
Rêne Ivo  
Ana Rocha  
Mara Luz  
Priya Lukka  
Lusmarina Campos  
Sônia Gomes Mota  
Fátima Mello  
Célia Varela  
Cibele Kruss  
Uli Ide  
Moema Miranda  
José Moroni  
Cristiane Faustino  
Rafael Soares  
Leonardo Maggi  
Ísis Campo  
Michelle Prazeres  
Júlia Esther  
Mathias Fernsebner  
Daniel Souza  
Marco Polo  
Carmen Silva  
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