

Social Forum

Team Observation Protocol

Instructions:

Please take notes on the sessions you attend, paying particular attention to the following major questions/themes. At the end of the forum, the team of observers will meet to exchange observations, compare notes, and to make plans about whether and how to collate and/or share their observation reports.

General/ Background

EVENT: Specify the Event you are observing, location, and major sponsor(s):

NUMBERS: Estimate the number of participants in observed event:

PARTICIPANTS: Describe the general overall makeup of the participants (i.e., age/nationality/class-occupation)

FUNCTIONS: What is the main function or purpose of this session (i.e., does it aim to exchange experiences, communicate skills, develop joint actions/campaigns, share analyses, build solidarity)?

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND Describe the organizational affiliation(s) (or lack thereof) of presenters and (if possible) audience.

Process

Discuss your observations about the process involved in the meeting. Was there discussion about what process to use? Did facilitators seek to maximize inclusion or equity in participation? Was there a clear agenda that was followed? To what extent were presenters able to respond to interests of audience?

To what extent (if any) do you see the norm of tolerance of diversity being reinforced in this meeting?

Was there explicit discussion of or use of consensus decision making processes?

Ideologies

Describe the primary ideologies evident among the speakers and audience at this session.

To what extent is there ideological diversity among participants? To what extent is there conflict among participants over ideological positions?

Movement Identities

Describe your observations about the identities of activists conveyed at this session. For instance, do people articulate associations between themselves and a global movement? Do they make references to or highlight parallels between their concerns and those of other movements? How do they frame their identity in relation to other parts of the movement? How do they frame their identity in relation to their targets/opponents?