

Summary Response to the USSF Site Selection Recommendation: Summary of Concerns & Alternative Proposals

November 12, 2013

Assessment of situation:

- * Appreciate need for date and place to build momentum & seek funding.
- * Appreciate the offer of the 3 Philly groups to host.
- * Concern about further NPC work needed around logistics & budget for success of event & USSF process long term.
- * Concern that we have not adequately reached out to and developed other groups that could host next USSF.
- * Concern that NPC decisions made in Philly and reiterated in Atlanta have not been implemented (outreach to & development of multiple sites; defining and implementing polycentric model, hubs, satellites, central site.)
- * Concern that Detroit 2010 political preparations, and logistical and Anchor direct experiences/lessons were not incorporated into the Philadelphia discussions and report recommendations.
- * We believe there is still time to implement prior decisions and have 2015 USSF, polycentric style (or flip USSF 2015 & PMA 2016)

We recommend:

- Site selection process be re-opened, with full implementation of the Philly/Atlanta NPC decisions.
- Develop sites for 4 regional Social Forums or regional PMAs *based on locales where people are already in motion*; engage and unite poor and “newly” dispossessed (egs., Northwest & Appalachia mobilizing on environment and dispossessed workers; US tribes and Canadian First Nations on environment and land rights; fast food and WalMart low-wage worker actions in several centers and nationally, and more.)
- Possibly flip the dates for the USSF in 2015 and the National PMA in 2016, with PMA participants enlisted to plan for the USSF the following year.
- Commitment to and plan for intentional development of new leadership for committees.

We offer

- Outreach support using the 2010 USSF Registration database of organizations.
- A draft outreach letter to these organizations and others, with special emphasis on locales where people are in motion.

In Solidarity,

Poverty Working Group – Mary B-J

MWRO-- Maureen & Sylvia

DAWG – Evelyn & Beth

Assembly to End Poverty – Monica & Marian

USACAI -- Rob