FORUM ON CONFRONTING CRISIS AND WAR

CO-ORGANISED BY RESIST, ILPS, IBON AFRICA AND KENDREN, NAIROBI, AFRICA

HELD AT THE OLIVE GARDENS HOTEL

NAIROBI, KENYA

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REPORT BY: KEVIN WANYAHORO
INTRODUCTION

The General Secretary of the Asian Pacific Research Network (APRN) welcomed the participants to the workshop. Most of the participants were quite familiar with each other having come back to back from another workshop on confronting climate change. This workshop was on the financial crisis facing the world today. The people’s response is RESIST which is the international people’s campaign to confront the global economic crisis resist fascism and imperialist wars and had partnered with IBON Africa, ILPS and KENDREN to make this a reality. It was agreed that it must be this time that African governments must come out to defend its people, all else the people will dismantle the system as it exists today for it has failed to protect its people. There were calls to get the IMF and World Bank technocrats out of our finance and planning ministries for they were seen to be the stumbling blocks to our countries social, economic development. There must be prudent use of domestic resources because borrowed resources saddle us with a debt that has to be repaid.

The current Global capitalist crisis causes & consequences

Paul Quintos policy officer at IBON International gave a synopsis of the current crisis that the markets find themselves in at the moment. Paul informed the participants that there exists a Neoliberal offensive based on a laissez-faire model where the market reigns supreme. All too often, this leads to the erosion of social rights and entitlements. This means less government involvement in exchange controls, less spending on welfare and social services, aggressive competitiveness, at the expense of human rights, wage freezes, international subcontracting, greater exploitation of working people everywhere. While at the same time we witness continued state support for corporate elites, especially the military-industrial complex.

Capitalist offensive against the working class to lower labor costs

- Automation- this is where machines have taken precedence over human labour leading to major layoffs and high unemployment and retrenchment.
- Off shoring labor-intensive assembly (international division of labor) where sweatshops are on the increase. In these sweatshops there is little regard for labour rights and human rights. There are reports of child labour, long working hours under inhabitable conditions and molestations.
- Capitalist restoration in China (+2 billion global labor force for international monopoly capital)
- Immigration
- (Reagan-Thatcher) union busting to protect big private capital.

Paul talked of the other face of the neo liberal offensive Globalization which favours Liberalization, privatization and deregulation policies imposed on third world countries by imperialist-controlled institutions (IMF-WB-WTO). All this is modeled to enable global capital to secure:

- cheaper raw materials & inputs
- cheap labor
- access to markets
Spread of outsourcing, subcontracting and relocation of labor-intensive assembly manufacturing to low-wage countries (e.g. EPZs)

He analyses that after more than 2 decades of neoliberal globalization it is clear that the Richest 1% in the world population owns 40% of global household wealth (as of 2000) while the Poorest 50% of the world population share less than 1% of global household wealth. It means then that obscene wealth for the few, and poverty and misery for the majority is the order. It means that 1 in 6 people in the world face starvation or malnourishment, 17 infants under the age of five die every minute, mostly due to preventable causes. It also means that half of all girls in the poorest countries have no access to primary education and half a million mothers will die at childbirth this year due to the lack of basic health services and nearly a billion people live in urban slums where illness and early death are rife.

For Paul the illustration is simple, the basic contradiction in the capitalist system, means competition and anarchy in production leading to Accumulation and over-accumulation as a result there is Crisis of Overproduction. The resultant factor is the Inherent tendency in a system based on the exploitation of the many by the few. And hence a structure that resembles the illustration below:

In an attempt to surmount the crisis of overproduction, international monopoly capitalists have pushed and continue to push for Neoliberal Globalization through, (Doha Round, FTAs, among others).Military Keynesianism/Militarism, US War of Terror and Financialization, that is squeezing profits from speculation and bubble economies rather than real production.

Financialization simply means amidst overcapacity in production, surplus capital concentrated in the hands of international elites is seeking to profit in speculative investments. Financial manipulation and speculation in stocks, securities, credit, derivatives, and other financial instruments demonstrating the unmitigated greed and parasitism of the financial oligarchy. Facilitated by financial liberalization and deregulation hence increasing separation of asset valuation and profits from production, a major factor in increased volatility and instability in the global economy today.
Quoted figures show that outstanding derivatives worldwide as of December 2007 exceeded US$ 1.144 Quadrillion. The listed credit derivatives stood at USD 548 trillion, The Over-The-Counter (OTC) derivatives. a boom bust where by the mid- 1990s to 2000 we experience over inflation of the stock market bubble (especially in IT-related stocks) due to irrational exuberance and artificial wealth effect which encouraged consumption and hence stimulated economic activity in an otherwise stagnant economy. The resultant effect is a rising house prices fuelling debt-driven consumption. Speculative, self-feeding and no basis in real economy. Meaning house prices increased faster than housing rents, incomes, interest rates and the economy. Disposable incomes fell. A rising house prices and “wealth effect” which spirals to collateral for further debt and borrowing and encourages continued consumption but only while house prices rise. This is evident in the Securitization” of mortgages where loans are sold to other banks and investors, bundled as MBS, CDO and subprime loans at (5% interest). And hence it looks more like:

In the US by August 2007, subprime mortgage backed securities began imploding in the portfolios of banks and hedge funds from around the world. Since then, one major bank after another has announced credit losses in the tens of billions. A sub-prime crisis. And as a result there were Cascading effects. Where there were falling wages/unemployment, Mortgage payment defaults, Foreclosures, House prices fall, Stock values of big banks fall, and as a result bank collapse, so credit crunch.

The result is a financial crisis hence economic crisis More than 4 million homes foreclosed in the US. Savings, health insurance, and retirement funds of millions of ordinary Americans who were enticed to invest in pension funds and assorted financial instruments will also be wiped out as banks and investment houses write-down billions in assets and so a credit crunch leading to a recession, with over 15 million jobless, 9.5% unemployed. This has the Contagion effect to the rest of the world economy US, EU and Japan and the world economy,52% of world GDP, EU (23%), US (22%), Japan (7%),EU links
with US, 24% of exports to US, 15% of imports from US. Japan links with US, 23% of exports to the US, 12% of imports from US.

For the third world it means less access to foreign capital (FDI, ODA, debt), lower export revenues, lower tourist revenues, lower remittances from overseas workers. These are all not necessarily bad if our economies had not been made structurally dependent on the above through long history of colonial and neocolonial maldevelopment. In Africa it means that over 180,000 South Africans lost their jobs between December and March, pushing the unemployment rate to 23.5 per cent. Standard Bank predicts that the country could lose up to 400,000 jobs this year. Over 100,000 Egyptian workers were laid off in the six months ending in March, and up to 500,000 could lose their jobs this year. Some 12,000 miners have lost their jobs in Zambia. In Tanzania some 20,000 horticultural workers face redundancy as demand for vegetables and cut flowers in Europe and the US plummets. Nigerian government revenues are down 30 per cent, largely because of the sharp drop in oil prices. Overall, an additional 12–16 million people will be thrown into poverty in Africa, the UN estimates and per capita income in Africa will shrink for the first time since 1994 - AfDB reports.

Strategic or longer-term implications of the current crisis

A protracted period of severe global economic stagnation and instability, imperialist crisis and desperation driving greater economic and political aggression, inter-imperial rivalries and competition, the US in particular is compelled to be more economically, politically and militarily aggressive to preserve its hegemony against challengers and imperialism exerting ever greater efforts to pass burden of crisis onto the people of the world. However, the current crisis is a challenge as well as an opportunity to strengthen our movement for a genuine alternative. We need to study the root causes and implications of the global capitalist crisis on our families, communities, farms, factories, workplaces and schools. Learn the people’s most pressing demands and actions to confront the crisis. Organize ourselves to uphold, defend and promote the rights and interests of the exploited classes and sectors of society. Link up with grassroots organizations, unions and other formations at various levels on the basis of common interests in order to build political unity and accumulate strength for the mass movement for change. And also mobilize to demand decent work, livable incomes, land, and basic services, among others. Finally, to fight for a just, peaceful, democratic and sustainable future.

The trends however show that there are no signs or recovery, certainly not in terms of jobs and people’s wellbeing. The ILO estimates that labor markets are likely to pick-up 6-7 years after “economic recovery of People’s money/ resources being used to bailout the finance oligarchy. There being a need to develop, spread and raise the militancy of mass struggles for employment, land, decent incomes, better working and living conditions, and access to social services. It is not enough to call for reforming the governance of the IFIs more is required. The CSOs should therefore rally around the theme of we need jobs and justice for all. Meaning asserting the right of all women and men to find decent and productive work that ensures their security and human dignity, but also work that is engaged in meeting social needs for the present and future generations, including access to food, education, health, housing and basic services for all. And to demand socially productive work for all is to say that we need to move away
from the grossly unjust and irrational economic system where production is for private profit even as the most basic needs of the vast majority of people remain unmet.

**Neocolonialism and the current crisis in Africa**

Patrick Bond of the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Development Studies and Centre for Civil Society, Durban took the participants through a session on the above theme, for him the issue is the Global economy and African crisis the, fiscal pressure, interest rates and monetary policy, financial flows, investment trends – especially extraction, trade-related policy processes, overseas development aid and labour flows and remittances. He argues that in 2000 there was attention to African poverty; hence the UN’s Millennium Development Goals which made strong arguments for increased resource flows. The British-African Commission for Africa’s ambitious report prefigured G8 initiatives on debt, aid and trade at the Gleneagles summit. There were Civil society campaigns - Make Poverty History, the Global Call for Action against Poverty and the Live 8 series of rock concerts - involved millions and raised consciousness. However, the logic underlying high-profile analyses, strategies, tactics and alliances associated with the new-found concern for African underdevelopment could indeed exacerbate poverty and dependence.

Professor Bond illustrates the following caption on Africa’s increased poverty rates 2001 compared to 1981 – worsening above orange:

IMF projects Africa’s growth at 1.5% in 2009, but excess optimism is IMF trademark
The alternatives that have been floated to Africa have also included NEPAD. But what is NEPAD? For Professor Bond, he asks who influenced the drafting of NEPAD? It emerges that there were extensive consultations with:

- WB president and IMF managing director (November 2000 and February 2001);
- major transnational corporate executives and associated government leaders (Davos WEF in January 2001);
- G-8 (Tokyo in July 2000, Genoa in July 2001);
- The European Union president and individual Northern heads of state (2000-01).

He asks, what was civil society's input?

Until April 2002, no trade union, civil society, church, women's, youth, political-party, parliamentary, or other potentially democratic or progressive forces in Africa were consulted, hence, virtually every major African civil society network and organisation that analysed NEPAD on its own attacked the plan's process, form and content (see Bond, P. [ed][2002], Fanon’s Warning: A Civil Society Reader on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Africa World Press and AIDC).
How does NEPAD conceptualise Africa’s challenges?

The Programme is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world. NEPAD begins by framing the problems using phrases such as 'exclusion' and 'a globalising world'—instead of the critical language traditionally used by great African analysts, e.g., 'neo-colonialism' and 'imperialism'. The automatic presumption is that the 'poverty' and 'backwardness' of Africa are as a result of 'exclusion' and 'marginalisation' from 'globalisation. A different presumption, not even considered, is that worsening poverty for the masses is an intrinsic feature of globalisation, much as it was a corollary of apartheid in South Africa.

NEPAD’s 'critique' of neoliberalism in Africa has remained that the structural adjustment programmes of the 1980s provided only a partial solution. They promoted reforms that tended to remove serious price distortions, but gave inadequate attention to the provision of social services. Neoliberalism as a partial solution argues that but what if structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) represented not a partial solution but instead, reflecting local and global power shifts, a profound defeat for genuine African nationalists, workers, peasants, women, children and the environment. What if SAPs were the result not of Africans searching honestly for solutions but instead mainly reflected the shift in power relations at both global scale (where financial and commercial circuits of capital were ascendant) and within individual African states, away from lobbies favouring somewhat pro-poor social policies and (at least half-hearted) industrial development, towards cliques whose strategies served the interests of acquisitive local elites, Washington financiers, and transnational corporations? Bond asks What if 'promoting reforms' really amounted to the IMF/WB imposing neoliberal policies on desperately disempowered African societies, without any reference to democratic processes, resistance or diverse local conditions? And if 'removal of price distortions' meant:

- repeal of exchange controls (hence allowing massive capital flight),
- subsidy cuts (hence pushing masses of people below the poverty line), and
- lowered import tariffs (hence generating massive deindustrialisation)?

NEPAD suggests privatisation of infrastructure and social services. Promote PPPs as a promising vehicle for attracting private investors, and focus public funding on the pressing needs of the poor, by building capacity to implement and monitor such agreements. The next priority is the implementation of a Public-Private sector partnership (PPP) capacity-building programme through the African Development Bank and other regional development institutions, to assist national and sub-national governments in structuring and regulating transactions in the provision of infrastructural and social services.

The new partnership for Africa’s development, Codesria and third world network-Africa declaration on Africa’s development challenges, argue that the most fundamental flaws of Nepal, which reproduce the central elements of the World Bank’s Can Africa Claim the 21st Century? and the ECA’s Compact for African Recovery, include: The neo-liberal economic policy framework at the heart of the plan, which repeats the structural adjustment policy packages of the preceding two decades and overlooks the
disastrous effects of those policies. The fact that in spite of its proclaimed recognition of the central role of the African people to the plan, the African people have not played any part in the conception, design and formulation of NEPAD. Notwithstanding its stated concerns for social and gender equity, it adopts the social and economic measures that have contributed to the marginalisation of women. That in spite of claims of African origins, its main targets are foreign donors, particularly in the G8. Its vision of democracy is defined by the needs of creating a functional market. It under-emphasises the external conditions fundamental to Africa's developmental crisis, and thereby does not promote any meaningful measure to manage and restrict the effects of this environment on Africa development efforts. On the contrary, the engagement that it seeks with institutions and processes like the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, the United States Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the Cotonou Agreement, will further lock Africa's economies disadvantageously into this environment.

Alternative perspective, Globalisation of people, deglobalisation of capital on this Bond quotes ... "I sympathise with those who would minimise, rather than with those who would maximise, economic entanglement among nations. Ideas, knowledge, science, hospitality, travel; these are the things which should of their nature be international. But let goods be homespun whenever it is reasonably and conveniently possible and, above all, let finance be primarily national. John Maynard Keynes (1933), ‘National Self-sufficiency,’ Yale Review, 22, 4, p.769. Further, ‘Fix it’ or ‘Nix it’? Nobel economics laureate Joseph Stiglitz...” I used to say that since we are going to need these institutions it is better to reform them than to start from scratch. I'm beginning to have second thoughts. I'm beginning to ask, has the credibility of the IMF been so eroded that maybe it's better to start from scratch? Is the institution so resistant to learning to change, to becoming a more democratic institution, that maybe it is time to think about creating some new institutions that really reflect today's reality, today's greater sense of democracy. It is really time to re-ask the question, should we reform or should we build from start?" Financial Times, 21 August 2002. Susan George renowned author and a leader of ATTAC, France argues that these institutions have had their chance. Anytime anyone asks, ‘And what would you put in its place?’ I am tempted to respond, ‘And what would you put in the place of cancer?’

Reforming the international financial and economic architecture.

Africa seems to be the testing ground for new policies, regardless of whether we don’t get the desired results

Soren Ambrose (Action Aid)

Various reform processes are underway (or not) in response to the financial and economic crisis that engulfed the world. The changes being discussed are not necessarily transformative in nature. The G20 clearly not a new formation, begun 10 years ago in Canada with the 20 large economies including G8 + China, India, South Africa, Indonesia, Australia. It's a broader group of countries, but entirely self-selected. G20 has shot to prominence last year with the financial crisis. The one where they put out a statement with some hints at what the global economy should be doing is during the London Summit. The IMF head volunteered to represent the African interest in London. Ethiopia was invited as head of NEPAD.
At the London meeting, they put out a communiqué listing various measures: mobilizing USD1.1 trillion to assist the world get out of the crisis. But a lot of that money doesn’t really exist – USD750 M was going through the IMF (looks at it as lead agency for addressing financial crisis for developing countries). There were a couple of tiny hopeful signs in the communiqué:

(a) They started to talk about reforms in international cooperation regarding tax measures, particularly in controlling tax havens.
(b) A new allocation of SDRs – to bolster reserves or convert into hard currency. Finally got approved USD 250 billion by the IMF. Africa got USD 11 B of what was being distributed. It is important to track how SDRs are being utilized, and the push for new targeted allocations.
(c) G20 urged to go into more regulatory reforms.

G8 – had a summit in July in Italy, but the only thing significant is that there was a pledge for USD40 Billion for food crisis assistance. The Summit itself cost USD 400 million for security expenses among others. The next one is scheduled for Canada next year.

The African Development Bank tried to take a leading role in talking about the crisis. It held several meetings, and formed Committee of 10 (finance ministers, central bank governors) to talk to G20. It has devoted some new money to counterbalance the situation. Trying to rescue several big projects underway that investors have pulled out of. It has been shifting money into private sector finance.

The G20 talked about reforms in the IFIs: - but very minor reforms actually – greater representation for Africa. Governance reform “Double majority voting” - in addition to ‘one dollar, one vote”, ‘one country, one vote.” The IMF made a big deal about reforming their conditionalities – not as many, and not as broad ranging as they used to be. They argue no more structural criteria for their loans but it remains to be seen. Change in the IMF – countries have to implement reforms before they get into an IMF program – pre-conditions – ‘exogenous shock facility’ – getting inflation rate down, among others. But still these are the kind of conditions that would cripple a countries’ capacity. There may be a new debt crisis for Africa as a result of this crisis. Some of the countries that managed to liberate themselves (Ethiopia, Angola and Ghana) have now gone back to IMF programs.

There are suggestions of a High profile reform process at the UN, the proposals are not terribly impressive, and there are some opportunities though:

- It started with the inauguration of former minister of Nicaragua into the presidency of the UN general assembly – real leftist
- He put together commission of experts – Stiglitz commission – issued preliminary report with some proposals:
  - A global economic coordination council at par with UN Security Council for economic matters to replace G20 & G8 as the central politburo of the world economy. This would function on a constituency basis (somewhat more democratic).
  - Towards a new international financial institution that is more democratic and more equitable
  - Instituting innovative fund mechanisms – carbon tax, etc.
  - Regulatory cooperation & creation of new international regulatory bodies
  - SDRs for development purposes
Reform of global reserve system – free the world from dependence on USD as basic reserve asset
International bankruptcy court for debt work-out mechanisms
Emergence of a bloc within the UN an ‘Alba bloc’ that is very vocal – a new political opening in the UN, but also within the G77 (managed to retain unity despite attacks from the EU). This is an opportunity for reforms – civil society has not done as much as it should (and not let opportunities pass us by). Like tax on financial transactions – that would have the effect of discouraging the ‘global casino’ – not gotten a lot of support for this proposal though.

Vitalis Meja

Looked at the implications for Africa. How Africa responds to this has serious implications on how we get our sugar and bread issues. Two areas need focus:

a. Implication of so-called reforms on policy content of these institutions
b. How these would impact on our lives. Structural aspects.

All these reforms are still pegged on neo-liberal agenda meant to facilitate global trade. It’s still more on how we bail out these institutions. But how to bail out the people has not yet been discussed. The UN is supposed to be the leading institution guiding policy framework – but when the G20 groups meet, they issue declarations that are followed up by the IMF-WB. They are very vague on where this money is supposed to be spent. How is the fund in the Bank addressing the crisis – we are going to ease a bit on the conditionality, double your ability to access our resources, provide you with technical assistance so you can get through it, there is actually no reform, but about how we are assisted to access resources, how do we deepen the reforms that have were started decades ago. There is actually nothing new, i.e. Let us give money to turn you into pure capitalist system they argue. These so-called reforms are used to sell new debts to the African country – it’s all about access. It has not shifted any of the focus into development. It’s about business. IMF-WB have messed us for so long, do we want them to continue?
It’s time for us to use this crisis to either reform these institutions or to shut them down. This is the right opportunity for Africa to take its policy space – IMF and the WB are responsible for this crisis, and we cannot listen to them for policy advice for getting us out. African governments have taken strong policy positions that reflect the situation on the ground. It is therefore time that we are able to enhance our domestic resource mobilization capability. Active involvement of people in the policy making process. We have to start looking at new institutions that put the African interest at hand.

The discussions then went on a break out sessions with the guidelines being:

1) What are the current trends in your country in terms of the workshop topic
2) How are the people affected?
3) How can we fight the causes and consequences of these crises? What should be our demands and how can we advance these demands?
The workshop topics centered on:

1) Debt crisis
2) Job crisis
3) Energy and resource wars

The group on debt crisis discussed that it was clear that debt was a common phenomena in most countries. Debt is as a result of borrowing, mostly irresponsibly. Kenya was cited as a country that has continued borrowing albeit irresponsibly, both domestically and externally. Zimbabwe’s case is much more glaring. It was argued that parliament everywhere has to start getting more serious in policy making; lobby groups should lead this campaign. It may be frustrating but it can’t be left that way. The only way things can change is if countries can get self serving and enough resources. Otherwise the major INGOs and other initiatives have to keep up the struggle. The policy making frame work has to be standardized where countries themselves are in charge. The lenders in the IMF and World Bank do not see themselves as institutions that should be discussed. Hence in individual countries there have to be mechanisms where the borrowing authorities have to be checked to avoid reckless borrowing.

On the job crises, the workshop group working on this reported that:

1. What are the current trends in your country in terms of the workshop topic?

Countries represented: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Philippines. The public sector and private sectors have been affected by massive retrenchments- industries. This is done using criteria which has not been understood there has been loss of labour at levels that affects the nation as a whole. So how much can one do for him/her and for the nation as a whole? Job security is becoming an issue globally. Most people are never confirmed even if they are still on probation. Job creation has become a vicious cycle of misery. There exists a discrepancy in terms of balance of payment an indication- rates of currency with respect to the US dollar. Leading to members of youths turning into crime due to unemployment, and many other people living under USD1 per day. There is therefore a need to redefine poverty. In most of these countries People who have formal jobs are about 2 million people, (about 5 %) - about 95% are unemployed. The majority of the 95% are involved in the informal sector. While youths coming from schools and universities are also unemployed, and others involved in the part time –jobs. Labour issues have been problematic even before the financial crisis. As a result of the financial crisis- the effects were felt, further reaching to the massive layoffs in the EPZ- Kenya Human Rights research- over 3000 jobs were to be lost in Naivasha, in the EPZ- over 20 000 jobs were to be cut off. Many companies were affected including the telecommunications- massive retrenchments, (e.g. ZAIN). The IMF/World Bank policies were already in place that discouraged the hiring of people in the public sector leading to more layoffs. Brain drain has also increased affecting the country’s development. Labour union in Kenya makes noise but it has been compromised--e.g. Teachers, nurses, doctors, Kenya Airways, (even the police had planned to go on strike) they did go on strike but the government did not do anything. The job crisis is also affecting the transport industry, health industry. There is no provision for overtime allowance in the private sector. The farmers have not been able to quantify agriculture sector as a
job/livelihood. Effect of the financial crisis led to their products not being sold like in the agriculture sector. Most people working in Kenya except for those working in government do not have pension schemes. No job creativity in line with population growth thus increasing levels of unemployment-thus creating vigilantes. Many parents no longer concentrate on building nobility and character, motivation and making them accountable citizens to their children. Of the population of students who qualify to go to universities only 5%, are absolved whilst 95% do not have anywhere else to go – thus a lot of competition to be accepted into these institutions, increasing the chances of unemployment. In Zimbabwe 90% unemployment, 5% formal employment, of the 90 %(unemployment) are involved in the informal sector. The labour movement is losing its membership because of the above dynamics-mostly interested in national politics and not concentrating on their work. The return of Zimbabweans from Diaspora – due to job cuts in USA and EU, Australia, South Africa has exacerbated the incidence further. The job crisis even began before the onset of the financial crisis- the ESAP legacy (early 1990s-present). Still in Zimbabwe Job crisis –due to plastic economy (post colonial legacy-former British colonies).This affects the whole continent. The present government did not plan for the future- this also has to do with the education curriculum that the African governments inherited from its colonies-thus lack of innovation. There exists more of a salary oriented economy. The problem is we have not been able to define what work is. In the Philippines they have experienced Increase in lay offs especially in EPZ. Those who do not lose their jobs work on short contracts, harsh conditions, long hours. There are similarities between Philippines and other countries’ context

2. How are the people affected?

Increase in poverty-health, shelter, lack of pension funds. Most expectant mothers who are working are laid off and not given maternity leave. Reduction in, annual leave from 3 months to 1 month leave. Many parents no longer concentrate on building nobility and character, motivation and making them accountable citizens to their children

3. How can we fight the causes and consequences of these crises? What should be our demands and how can we advance these demands?

There is need to review the structure and framework of economic policies that suit the needs of the country and not the international financial institutions. Let’s match the mass unemployment and mass poverty. The mass social needs need to be met. African governments and its people need to have creativity and be patriotic in terms of persuading their nationals abroad to come back home and be productive. There should be a shift in the education curriculum so that each person is able to derive a livelihood from what he/she is able to do. People’s movements should take the lead advocate for people centred economic policies that address the needs of the people, which are not prescribed from outside.

On energy and resource wars the best illustration is as follows below, from Professor Bond’s presentation:
Africa’s oil map

- Substantial oil reserves
- Oil and wars: Sudan, Angola, Chad, Congo
- US imports 16% from Africa and in 10 years 25%
- Africa Command!
- Chinese patrimonial politics, EU EPAs, SA $5 bn arms acquisitions, persistent coups

(credit: Horace Campbell)

“For too long official Washington has been gripped by the perception that the United States has no vital interests in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nothing could be further from the truth. As the political and security conditions of the Persian Gulf deteriorate the availability and appeal of reliable, alternative sources of oil for the American market grows. African oil is emerging as a clear direction U.S. policy could take to provide a secure source of energy.”

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Walter Kansteiner III, 2003
Conclusion

In the closing session it was averred that the starting point is to look at the people who make things so difficult. Then we must locate the real energy that people have put together and that has helped them to push on despite the oppression. Those that suffer the backlash of the neo liberal processes, they have alternatives. This is what we must understand so that we can be able to demonstrate and use it to counter this neo liberal offensive.

The value systems too must change and holistically, from education, health and in the daily lives of the people. But this will only happen if the unspoken and unaccepted groups come together, to champion for the change of the value system. There must be an effort to support the genuine people; they too must arise to defend their rights. The question is how do we turn this activism into the success of the struggle? The answer it was argued in turning the wealth of the genuine people into a formidable force. With the realisation that development models are essentially exploitative and destroy life and livelihoods. It must be stated that the state in its current formation is not working for the people, it is decadent and it kills its people. We therefore have to use what we have to stop it. We must locate alternatives even as we dismantle it. The African Development bank to has to be reformed this is because it has already been hijacked. There is need to have new institutions. CSOs have the challenge to lead this, and so the challenge was put to every participant that when they go back to their countries and regions then they must begin the work of campaigning towards these goals.
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<td>Reality Tested Youth Programme</td>
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<td>Rarieda Youth Movement</td>
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