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## *WSCF: a Pro-Globalisation Movement*

### *Coming to Terms with Terms*



*To label our enemies and adversaries is a powerful means to discredit them. Let us have a look on the aims of the Federation in the light of solidarity, justice and equality, which we also stand for. What is the globalisation like, which we want?*

#### ANTI-GLOBALISATION PROTEST

Yes, you have read correctly: *pro*-globalisation not anti-globalisation movement. But what sort of globalisation are we talking about?

Protesting at meetings of the G7/8 (the meeting of the richest industrial countries' leaders), the WTO (World Trade Organisation), the IMF (International Monetary Fund) etc. has a long tradition. Since the WTO meeting in Seattle, however, the media has started to focus more closely on this "other" side of politico-economic summits. But what sort of image are they transferring by their reporting?

The term "anti-globalisation" has been attached to those people protesting at meetings of the above mentioned organisations - and has become particularly popular since the Genoa G7/8-summit in July of this year. I actually think "anti-globalisation" is a label used by the media as a means of discreditation or even as a weapon. What does "anti" refer to, and should the counter-movement identify itself with this label?

#### AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD-WIDE SOCIETY

Globalisation is a term we use in an inflationary way - it is in the title of articles, it figures in themes of seminars and conferences, it is in the title of this MOZAIK. "Globalisation" is attached to communication, economy, culture, social phenomena; to fashion, food and music. It is such a broad and widely used term that you could actually consider it to mean nothing and everything. Maybe because it is such a ubiquitous term nowadays we simply accept it uncritically without reflecting on the actual meaning of "globalisation". And thus we (assuming that we identify with protesters at G7/8 summits and similar events) often accept the label "anti-globalisation" without questioning it at all.

The term "globalisation" from its basic meaning, however, can be defined as the process by which individuals and groups in geographically separate societies are becoming *increasingly interconnected*. It can be seen as a gradual development of a world-wide society.

#### DISCREDITING THE PROPOSALS

Considering this definition and its implications I think we should be more than careful to avoid the term "anti-globalisation". Labelling the protesters of Genoa as such saves those in the centre of the criticism - the G7/8, IMF, WTO to name just a few - to deal with the arguments of the protest movement. The 200.000 people protesting were not simply against something but had concrete proposals as to how the globalisation process could be formed in a different way. The ATTAC movement, for example, suggests to introduce a *Tobin Tax*, to grant debt relief to the poorest countries, etc. (see an other article in this MOZAIK). By saying these people are simply "anti" and by only showing the handful of protesters who were using violence, the media discredits the movement and thereby finds a good excuse for not having to listen to the protesters' proposals.

#### AN ANTI-INEQUALITY, ANTI-INJUSTICE MOVEMENT

What the "Genoa-people" are against, however, is the form and direction of the current globalisation process. The so-called "anti-globalisation" movement is against *market-driven corporate* globalisation that follows the *neoliberal* economic model. It is against a specific form of globalisation, which means further concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few on the one hand, and poverty and marginalisation for the world's majority on the other. Those opposed to continue along this way are fighting for an *inclusive* globalisation based on cooperation and solidarity. Thus the movement may better be described as an anti-inequality, anti-injustice movement.

#### A PRO-SOLIDARITY, PRO-JUSTICE MOVEMENT

And even these terms do not seem to be appropriate: being "anti" usually means that you are against something but do not really know an alternative. Since the current movement, e.g. embodied by the internationally ever so fast growing ATTAC, indeed has alternatives to offer, we should look for some positive terms. We could describe the movement as pro-solidarity, pro-justice, pro-environment and pro-democracy.