

UBUNTU, A WORLD FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS LAUNCHED, BARCELONA, SPAIN, APRIL 1ST, 2001

With a view towards uniting civil society efforts worldwide, a world forum of civil society networks was launched on April 1st, 2001 in Barcelona, Spain. Under the Kiswahili name of Ubuntu*, this forum has been created to join efforts and strengths of international civil society networks working in promoting peace, dignity, sustainability, justice and human rights.

The Forum was an initiative of Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director General of UNESCO, and includes some of the main international civil society networks in North and South. SID is part of the standing committee that would further work on

the basic documents and prepare the activities of Ubuntu for the coming months.

* Ubuntu is an age-old African term for humaneness - for caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of creation. Ubuntu, as an ideal, means the opposite of being selfish and self-centred. It promotes co-operation between individuals, cultures and nations. Ubuntu thus empowers all to be valued: to reach their full potential in accord with all around them.

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