

# Final Report

## International Conference on the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination: Global Social Inclusion 20-21 June 2011, Bangkok Thailand

In the two days of the International Conference on the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination has shown how we have increased our commitment and took action to fight all forms of racism and discrimination. Our past engagements have not been wasted because we are continuing the struggle to enable true freedom and empowerment for the poor, marginalized, socially excluded and the underserved. We must continue our work because for every moment that we fail to act decisively someone suffers, whenever we forget that someone suffers a generation may suffer more, and if generations continue to be discriminated without even the knowledge that there is something better for them, we might not achieve what we have set out to accomplish. We will have lost the war.

As a background, since 3-4 August 2006 when the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific was officially launch the number of members have grown exponentially in 20 countries and we hope our impact should similarly grow as well. Years ago we shared our predicaments, the plight of those who have become victims of discrimination and five years hence you are now sharing practices that changed the living conditions by opening new opportunities to those you have served.

We were guided by a UNESCO Ten Point Action Plan on the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination when we set out to solve the problems of discrimination that we have repeatedly talked about the past two days.

In this conference we look back to this ten point action plan as we share our practices on the following topics:

1. Regional coalitions of cities against racism and discrimination implementation of the ten point action plan which provides as insights from cities and local governments that have adapted and learned from its application.
2. Towards a global inclusive society is a session that shares the experiences on how initiatives have increased inclusivity within communities and in governance using policies as tools
3. Cities as melting pots: reducing economic, political, social, cultural, and educational gaps between urban and rural communities provides us lessons and practices that have addressed the inequitable distribution of resources, knowledge and opportunities between urban and rural communities.
4. Ethics, freedom of expression and participation also reveals values as well as respect for rights as practiced in communities which is actually a way by which the silent voices are heard.
5. Rights of people to security and peace presents the inalienable rights of people and that the bottom line is that everyone should be protected and enjoy a life free of conflicts and exploitation.

Setting the climate for discussions in this conference Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim, Regional Director UNESCO Bangkok directed our attention to the immediate ratification of international declarations that seeks to eradicate racism and discrimination. UNESCO actively championed these goals as a partner of the United Nations Commission on Human Right. The instruments agreed upon at the international level should be cascaded to the grassroots because the most viable platform to launch concrete and meaningful action is by cities and local governments in any country. ***As such this Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific is not just a group of local governments and leaders having a shared vision it is a global community of nations united against the evils and the destructive effects of racism and discrimination to the human person.***

The mandate that the coalition has set for itself is based on global values against racism and discrimination. Guided, the concrete action steps should create dynamic synergies among all the stakeholders in the community. Everyone should be involved, government, community groups, households and support groups. Dr. Gwangju Kim urged that a program of action (POA) should guide all stakeholders. The POA is not for mere personal and political gain this is for the development of diverse societies and social cultures.

In our gatherings every year such it is our duty to share, it is our duty also to learn both from success and from failure. The message is clear, let all live in dignity. The point of our keynote is social inclusiveness and the basic action to start this is to listen to the silent voices.

We have all been urged by the National Municipal League of Thailand to take on a role because through governance we can make a very significant difference against racism and discrimination. Making a difference needs policies that are informed by research, studies of existing conditions and the current realities to respond effectively to the needs of the people.

Later Dr. Gwangju Kim pointed out during a short interaction that more and more countries are decentralizing governance which is also about recognizing diversity among citizens of a nation and among nations.. Given this, there would be greater value to enabling social inclusion, integration and the principles that eradicate racism and discrimination.

### ***Plenary on Regional Coalitions of Cities against Racism and Discrimination Implementation of the Action Plan***

The first plenary discusses actions taken in Suva, Fiji; Bangladesh, and Jhansi India. The perspective is about what have been accomplished in each of the ten action points agreed upon by the Coalition of Cities.

#### **Summary of Presentations and Highlights:**

Fiji is a small nation beset by cultural diversity that affected its political landscape. The country has gone through 2 military and 1 civilian takeover in the past two decades. These political upheavals can also be traced to religious indifference. In implementing the ten point action plan the proponents initiated a

study that would inform policymaking which has produced the policy on balance of gender and race in the composition of elected officials which affects the type of policies formulated. There are other positive impacts such as having a common name for all races living in Fiji and there is a new law that all those who live in Fiji is a FIJIAN unlike in the past when race depended on cultural backgrounds. However, Suva the municipality of the Dr. Gavidi has not been doing well in supporting victims of racism. In a country such as Fiji race should not be a basis for hiring but a person qualifications. There are also various NGOs working against racism and discrimination. Social inclusion is promoted through regular council meetings regular conducted in communities to challenge racism and discrimination.

In Jhansi City India, Dr. Lai reported that the goals of the coalition are about taking care and close to humanity. In a city like Jhansi, social inclusion is important because there are many religions, customs, practices, giving rise to many challenges. A suggestion is to spread harmony and peace person to person because we have to be sympathetic to the plight of others by listening and interacting with them. A practical recommendation is to provide the necessary funds to help those who cannot afford to finance structural changes and governance programs for health, housing, sanitation etc.

Bangladesh reports that while racism hardly exists there is concern over occurrence of discrimination in the country. The affected parties here are the women who actually still lag behind makes and have poorer access to opportunities. Despite some discrimination to women it was also reported that there is no discrimination policy in the Bangladesh today. There are also political problems and disharmony among parties when formerly local leadership is basically non-political according to Ex Mayor Mohd. Overall, discrimination is also being reduced because of the impact of education.

#### Discussions:

Following the presentation one of the clear questions is whether the changes were initiated by government and the response focused on how government in the early 1970s was influenced by religious affiliations and how it has also resulted to laws that reduced non tolerance for religion. Fiji has women's crisis centers to support victims abused by husbands. It was also well taken to bring in Lawyers to provide assistance to victims.

There was a suggestion to mobilize public private partnerships to support activities on anti discrimination. This was also well taken and accepted for prompt action.

Explaining how, amid diversity, there are successful initiatives in Fiji, it is because advocates persevered in going back to communities to convince them to adopt new models for change and not stick to practices that supported racism and discrimination.

A series of questions on concrete actions and sustainability was asked but only a few responses were made and may need more attention in the future. The point of the question was to have a baseline of indicators for a plan and a way by which to measure the progress in the coming years.

Synthesis of Plenary 1: An almost common experience in each country is diversity and multi-culturalism. Changes in these countries started as ideas informed by research or logical thought were transformed

into policies which guided societal action. There are still absent policies and there are more issues that need study. For example, reports have not tackled a detailed discussion of what has changed since the ten point action plan was implemented. There are no baseline indicators to compare to the current state of the people in relation to discrimination and racism. The availability of funds and sustainability are also hanging questions in the implementation of policies and the ten point action plan.

### ***Plenary Session: Towards a Global Inclusive Society***

The second plenary probes programs and practices that promoted inclusivity or builds on social inclusion building approaches that frees people from discrimination and racism. The first report from the Philippines revealed how political commitment to education can make a difference and how it has become a strong catalyst for change. The second report looks at a holistic integration of human rights into governance not just as a token recognition but a solid foundation for a society in Gwangju with the aim of using this system to eliminate discrimination. The last report from Nepal cuts across critical activities towards fighting discrimination with practical approaches in communication and community building.

The keynote discussed to us social inclusion and about analyzing and measuring social inclusion in a global context. It also introduced social integration because it seeks to create a society for all. Overall the discussions encouraged that mere talk is not enough and there should be action. The ten point action plan is meant to be a checklist that should guide everyone. UNESCO in itself has its own strategy and this is being used to help the coalition of cities. An important part is the discussion on indicators of performance and indicators of results because this is what cities need in implementing the action plan.

### **Summary of Presentations and Highlights:**

Mayor Dycoco shared with us a powerful approach that empowers people and builds an inclusive society thereby reducing discrimination brought about by poverty. Education is a mandate by the department of education in the Philippines but it is also the responsibility of the local government to ensure that it is implemented effectively. The presentation showed that interventions in education worked and has benefitted young people and adults who are now given another chance at a good education to become competitive and productive. The municipality of Libon values education as a potent force for change and empowerment. This holistic program is called BHEMM (Basic Higher Education Municipal Model) is being implemented in cooperation with key stakeholders represented by the local school board. The BHEMM has several components and programs for all ages. Early childhood care and development for the very young child, feeding programs, parents participation, special education classes, and programs on alternative learning and technical and vocational courses for adults.

Some indicators presented clearly showed how successful this programs and practices are in Libon, Albay. The alternative learning system for example, in 2007 hardly did anyone complete a course but

now in 2010 there are 480 individuals who have graduated. The technical vocational program has produced more than a thousand graduates. This is because the municipality of Libon has also invested much in education.

The City of Gwangju has its own strategy of weaving into the fabric of governance the concept and principles of human rights. Boldly, it has declared that it is a human rights city. Rightly so, this city with pride has been at the forefront of human rights advocacy within their own boundaries and abroad. The government of Gwangju as an independent city uses this to empower people and to eliminate discrimination. It is the first Asian city to have a declaration of human rights and it has supported human rights causes in Asia unmindful of whatever political backlash. Groups and NGOs in the city are working closely together to support this move of strengthening Gwangju as a human rights city. To maintain this direction Gwangju has decided to concentrate on reconciliation and collaboration internally and externally. Internally it will continuously strive to abolish discrimination totally and build human rights governance. Everyone must contribute and this can only be sustained with appropriate strategies. Externally, it shall continue to host activities such as the world human rights cities forum.

In Nepal efforts are afoot for a Governmental non discrimination policy. The policy allows interventions by the municipality in social services and other developmental issues to address the problems on discrimination.

To complement policy, advocates are practically using the Mass Media to raise public awareness. They have a radio program and a television program that tackles issues on human rights and elimination of discrimination. This is also being done in collaboration with a number of stakeholders including non government organizations.

#### Discussions:

The important thing is not just to sign a commitment paper or design a plan there should also be analysis and truthful sharing of practices with each other to combat all forms of discrimination. The chairperson Mr. Jaishi cited that all forms of discrimination create conflicts in society, structural or religious. It creates an effect of some sort that result to lagging behind of a society.

Indeed it was pointed out during the discussions that the importance of education must not be overlooked. There are a lot of efforts in education and good practices which we can learn from.

Again the issue of resources and funding was raised to be able to implement programs like education which is a strong force for social inclusion

Having noticed that there are already several initiatives being done by the members of the Coalition the question was raised on how to assess performance? What are the indicators to show that we have accomplished something? What changes did occur to people and those who have benefitted from these programs? How can this Coalition keep track of implementation and impact globally and at the regional level?

According to UNESCO, in education we can use enrollment rate, participation among ethnic groups. While using indicators in a certain communities this may also be used and compared to performance in other communities.

This brings the discussion to a question of whether UNESCO could help in monitoring performance and in providing instruments to measure the changes happening. UNESCO may provide its name but may be constrained by the amount of resources it has to do the actual work in tracking, monitoring and evaluating.

A suggestion for a declaration of commitment was raised to use the current agreements as a baseline that will be reviewed in the next conference of the coalition of cities. This will promote continuity and cohesive action despite working on respective area.

Synthesis of Plenary 2: Building an inclusive society rest upon enabling and empowering people. There are no standard rules or blueprints but there are limitless number of approaches that communities can use in establishing an inclusive society.

As education has been the vehicle of change in Libon, Albay the city of Gwagju banks on human rights and Nepal uses policies and communications to fight against discrimination. There could be other approaches and strategies and perspectives by which discrimination can be eliminated. In all these, it is important that there is strong political determination to implement. Without it there can be no successful education programs, no confidence on a human rights based governance, poor policy and communications. As we have seen, Mayor Dycoco did not falter, Gwangju city has courageously staked its name on human rights, and Nepal goes public to wage war against discrimination. But in all we must know whether we are winning the battle and the war because by effectively tracking and knowing if there are changes since we started. Simply put, are we making a difference?

***Plenary on Cities as Melting Pots: Reducing economic, political, social, cultural and educational gaps between urban and rural communities***

The plenary on rural and urban gaps or inequality discusses lessons and studies made in Vietnam, Nepal and Bangladesh. All the presenters pointed out the realities of how and why rural areas lag behind in many respects to urban areas.

A challenge was also posed to the presenters and to everyone about striking a balance between creating melting pots or salad bowls. Melting pots is described as losing identity and salad bowls is retaining that same identity by a people. An insight was provided on how social quality should be aligned with quality of life. The premise is that quality of life may not be achieved if there is no social quality because people live within a social sphere.

Summary of Presentations and Highlights:

The rural urban gap is very much like an existing system because in a way it perpetuates itself. In the presentation of Nepal where they are a multi ethnic, multi cultural and multi religious nation 86% of the population are found in the rural areas. However, the human development index is far higher in urban areas that indicate better opportunities and access to facilities. Also the lower the caste the lesser they can achieve in education and other matters like representation. Dalits for example are of a lower caste comprising only 13 percent of total population and they are only afforded 5% representation. The gap has led to exclusions of people, inadequate access to opportunities, and imbalanced development, and political instability because of dissatisfactions.

Efforts are being done to apply international instruments and integrate this to national legal systems. Nepal has Promulgated the “Caste –based Discrimination and Untouchability Act 2011 which is also supported by a National Women Commission and a Dalit Commission. These are policies and mechanisms that protect rights and enable people. Local government should be effective and there should be coordinated planning at the national level. At the community and governance level capacity building is important.

Vietnam is experiencing a high rate of urbanization from 19% in 1986 to 30% in 2009, however although urban areas comprise only 25% of the population it holds 70% of the national wealth. This is a clear indication of a rural and urban gap. According to the studies made in Vietnam this gap is closing because of migration. In effect, rural people go to the urban areas and partake of the 70% national wealth. Although this rural to urban migration has also created problems in key cities.

Vietnam has a policy on household registration which is actually a means to manage population movement and a source of information for development purposes such as provision of social and economic services. However, because the open market system has promoted more movement some citizens are not able to register and thus fail to avail of services and become vulnerable with less social protection. This system is now being revised because it is also a cause for discrimination but it is still being debated in Vietnam.

Likewise in Bangladesh there are several indicators that show that there are indeed observable rural and urban gaps. This has prevented those from rural areas access to facilities, education, social services and other opportunities. Urban dwellers enjoy much of the benefits of development. What is being proposed is to move towards better local governance which also includes provision of adequate resources. The call is for UNESCO and possibly more organizations to help in implementing programs that lead to reducing and eliminating discrimination caused by the inequalities.

#### Discussions:

Our discussion started with Vietnam about how a system such as theirs usually allots more funds to local governance particularly to rural areas. Not directly in response, the registration system discussed, affects those living in rural areas and those migrating to urban areas. It was clarified that it is not easy to be a permanent resident in Vietnam because of the registration system requirements.

In other countries like the Philippines there is no problem with registration which leads the discussion to asking what could be the problem in Vietnam. It was reported that there is still a debate on how to change the system, some say it should be removed, but it should be changed gradually, because the government may encounter other problems if it takes drastic actions.

Another clarification was about how rural to urban migration has reduced the gap. It was explained that this is simply because there are more jobs or in reality more wealth in urban areas which rural residents are not starting to avail for themselves by migrating to urban areas.

A positive comment was made on how Bangladesh fights discrimination and how it is also retaining the identity of its people.

Although an inquiry on micro finance was raised it was still unclear how this would impact in reducing reduced inequality and how it closed the gap between urban and rural areas.

A motion was presented that there would be exchange visits among all members of the coalition.

### Synthesis of Plenary 3

According to the Chairperson of the plenary, the speeches and presentation delivered and with the support of UNESCO shows we are now serving our constituencies, as Albert Schweitzer has said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, the only ones who will be truly happy are those who truly serve". All of us here hold the key to create a dynamic synergy, we are serving our constituents holistically, therefore it is conclusive to say that we are destined to be happy.

The rural urban gap is very evident and it is happening in all countries whether rich, poor or developing. There are different factors and solutions that may bridge or close this gap but a common response would be to address this through responsive and effective policies. This is what Nepal, Vietnam, and Bangladesh is doing. This gap is also a big problem because it actually is about addressing the problems of the majority of population of a country. We need to more sharing which was proposed during the discussion to find solutions from within or from our co members in the coalition. We also need to become melting pots and also a salad bowl in supporting each other because this coalition is actually a thriving and blossoming global community against discrimination.

### ***Plenary on Ethics, freedom of expression and participation***

This plenary discusses the most critical of rights of a person and a people. This is about freedom of expression and participation. Without the two rights we will live in a society of dictatorship and social exclusivity. The Thailand presentation discussed a local situation applying the freedom of expression and participation. To foster expression the City of Yogyakarta has developed a case study for two way communication between government and the people. Looking at inclusivity we have been provided a view on how indigenous people in Benguet Province in the Philippines made governance work and flourish.



Working on the thesis that social inclusion needs freedom of expression but it should be guided by ethics, ethics also need to be proactively promoted in varying contexts. Finally, local governments can and should play a key role in promoting ethics and ethical freedom of expression to quote Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan. We must be mindful that ethics applies in all aspects and in varying circumstances. Ethics can be learned and internalized from a young age in school and through media that it is actually a stronger factor in making choices and decisions. In practical application, an ethical leader then could lead an effective democratic government.

In terms of freedoms we need ethics because we cannot exercise our freedom at the expense of others. In expressing ourselves the truth is important and we do not curtail the freedom and rights of others because we have to be responsible. Without ethics then promotes conflict and even discrimination and racism.

#### Summary of Presentations and Highlights:

The presentation from Thailand is within a context of a current conflict in a multi cultural setting. The Thailand Constitution explicitly protects the freedom of expression and participation. Based on this the city has initiated several projects to enable expression and participation highlighted by a People Congress Project. To be able to listen to the people an assessment was also conducted of the current situation of the people and putting up of suggestion boxes that are opened regularly. A website also becomes a source of information and interaction by the people. An innovative knowledge park is like a library where anyone can access information. It is not only about communicating but is also about taking action by initiating and supporting activities by the people. Participation is further enhanced by inviting ethnics to manage and be part of governance.

This two-way communication initiative is part of the public communication strategy in Yogyakarta. It is about expressing problems by the people and government reciprocates by responding and proactively announcing its programs. In the past communities were not well informed about government programs and there was less transparency. At the other end the people could not tell government what it wants. This is an example of an evident breakdown in communication. To create reform, Yogyakarta looked at a strategy for empowering and improving community participation within the local development process. Turning the problems into something positive the process will enable government to communicate to communities and in turn communities may now communicate its aspirations and needs. It is a meeting of goals and sharing in the task of developing the community. In reality there will be actual face to face meetings with the Mayor and the utilization of SMS, email, websites, a public service complaint desk, open phone numbers and other potentially effective communications channels. All these will be guided by a response procedure. It has already specific indicators such as number of persons accessing communication media, response of government, how many have actually joined. The efforts and innovation of Yogyakarta has been recognized as a premiere city in the country. But how does government respond to complaints when people raise them? A particular unit to respond to complaints

was created which is a good example to overcome public problems. We learned that it is not about being simply a leader but in reality we all need a servant heart for the public.

The uniqueness of the Benguet presentation is about indigenous peoples struggle for an improved quality of life. A local government code in the Philippines guides how services and mechanisms operate in providing services to the people. But this is being implemented in a culture that is older than any existing law in the Philippines. It is the policy of the state to recognize and respect the ancestral domains and ownership practices of the Igorots. In this regard the Municipality of Atok has fully respected the culture in the area. A policy and plan approved by the municipality was formulated according to their own customs and traditions. Discrimination and inequality is being prevented by policy and leaders in the municipality of Atok. Culture is also integrated into existing local government programs. Given this basic elements of respect to the indigenous culture the municipality has reaped numerous awards and recognition.

Synthesis of Plenary 4: Ethics is essential to promoting freedom of expression and participation. Without it there may be a curtailment and even violation of rights and freedoms of people. But more than abstract values there are ways of learning about ethics and actually practicing these rights and freedoms. Both Yala in Thailand and Yogyakarta in Indonesia builds upon creating mechanisms to enable open communication and transparency. Not just a mere document, it is complemented by actions on governance. In Benguet we appreciate respect for a culture older than existing laws made by the contemporary government. This is also applied and integrated in current programs. Overall these freedoms and rights have become a countervailing force against discrimination.

### ***Plenary on rights of people to security and peace***

The plenary shows the conditions affecting communities that clamor for security and peace which are important foundations in establishing a community free of discrimination and racism. If people can walk without fear outside their homes this is a sign that people can also freely develop to their fullest potential. The India reports deals with providing mechanisms and policies to reduce discrimination highly diverse cultures living as one community. In Sri Lanka, we are presented with how good governance works also in a diverse cultural setting. Papua New Guinea also bolstered the fact that good governance responds to reducing and protecting against discrimination.

Security and peace are immensely affected by existing conflicts in countries and regions. Armed conflicts have perpetuated racism and discrimination. But there are also problems of security and peace in our own households and in relatively peaceful communities. Rape, murders and sexual harassment occur every day to women and girls in every conceivable setting. It is systematic and widespread and it destroys the lives of victims, especially young girls. We can adopt many successful responses to this silent perpetrator of discrimination and we can learn from experts on the field of gender and response.

We should help victims because in most cases the young girl and woman is helpless and do not know what to do. Let us help them make decisions on their own.

#### Summary of Presentations and Highlights:

We can all learn from India with its diverse cultures based on religion and how they together as one nation. Despite having different religions there is relative peace and harmony among communities. Mahatma Gandhi fought against racism. Discrimination however was reported to exist based on caste, status in life and other factors. Discrimination also creates unrest, religious and social and creates a burden on society. It also results to gaps and inequality to people. There are clamors to change policies if it no longer responds to the current conditions and aspirations of the community. Also, right to information contributes to reducing discrimination in any setting. Sensibly, information and education has become an approach in India which may close the gap and reduce discrimination and promote other positive effects on economic competitiveness and social protection. Priority must be given to women because they have always been the most vulnerable and deprived. Policies for rural area development are important to reduce discrimination as discussed earlier there is a gap between rural and urban areas but funding is important and assistance is needed.

Drawing lessons from Sri Lanka, the report also examine cultural diversity. It is possible that despite having different religions people can live in harmony like in Balangoda. Governance is important in maintaining harmony and provision of good policies in the community. Improving education is also a very important strategy and in this case there are schools friendly to diversity of religion. Some good practices shared are on employment and also on solid waste management practices linked with micro economic practices. These are manifestations of good government.

In Papua New Guinea diversity also meant being divided. It is rich in natural resources but it is also one of the poorest in the world. Migration because of development like the Liquefied Natural Gas project in Papua New Guinea is also creating problems in urban areas if not handled well.

An inclusive society must be able to protect people and give them security and peace. These concepts are affected by poverty, education, health, and employment or livelihood.

Security is important to human life and once survival is threatened it affects the security and peace in a community. This can be prevented through the implementation of programs such as skills development complemented by neighborhood watch programs and young people as responsible community volunteers. Gender can also be protected like the Urban Safety program in Papua New Guinea. We learn that activities like sports, also teaches values and promote cooperation. In addition developing cooperation projects also contributes to initiatives to respond to racism and discrimination.

#### Synthesis of Plenary 5

Security and peace can be established in a community through good governance and responsive policies that reduce discrimination and racism. By implementing good programs the chances for improving

quality of life increases all the experiences shared revealed that we can only give people security and peace when we are effective in taking care of social, economic, and cultural needs and aspirations.

Not to be forgotten important aspect of security and peace is about protection of gender rights and empowering women. Much discussion on this matter and origins of gender inequality and discrimination and this clearly needs our attention in succeeding conferences and gatherings.

## CONCLUSION

We learned much about the experiences of how to implement the ten point action plan using this as a checklist that will guide each and every city and local government. We are also aware that there are several approaches that we may adopt in building an inclusive society blending diversity without losing identities of culture. We are not limited to blueprints but we have the capacity to innovate and start anywhere depending on our current realities. The gap of urban and rural communities is how discrimination and racism has manifested in many countries. There are different factors that have contributed to this gap but in most cases the solution is political through policy and in mobilizing all sectors. We are also aware that if we are to enable and empower there must be respect for rights that promote freedom of expression and participation. Likewise, respect for rights will become the foundation for crafting policies and programs that provides security and peace to people.

But what sets this conference apart is the fact that we are all eager to implement programs and it is observed that the ten point action plan needs the adoption of new tools that will help us become more effective in fighting discrimination and racism. Based on our analysis these are the tools recommended by this report:

**Tool to determine to the Strategic Orientation** of a city and local government – we must determine clearly our problems, the right solutions, and develop a plan to ensure success of our own unique approaches.

**Tool to track and evaluate success** and learn– our discussions have constantly asked, where are we now, have we made progress. A Monitoring and Evaluation guide may be provided to all to start identifying their own indicators and how this can be monitored. Later there should be tools on how stakeholders are able to measure their own performance and learn from them.

**Tools and mechanisms for Continuous learning** – we should not be limited to an annual gathering to learn we should take advantage of every opportunity to learn not just us but also those who work at the grassroots.

**Tools on Informed Decision making and policy making** – policies are important it guides societal conduct and develops a system and structure that may shape and influence behaviors.

**Tools and aids in developing public private partnerships** – because there is need to bring in resources from all sectors be it financial or logistical to help in the implementation of actions.

**Tools and aids for effective communication** – we need to understand each other better as a united global community, and our constituents also have to understand clearly what is happening now and what we can do to collectively lead to change. Furthermore we have to communicate to others our advocacy we are still a small speck in the global arena.

These are but some basic tools that all of us may develop to become more effective advocates, implementers and leaders. All of us must learn by doing and experience like the children taught ethics in Bangkok.

Some suggestions from members include conducting a planning session to be supported by UNESCO. There is a clamor to have a document that would represent the aspirations of the participants of this conference which we will bring to our next gathering such as a statement of commitment and action through a Conference Declaration.

We need commitments of specific projects reported to the Coalition through a website and provide others how it is being implemented and what we have learned in implementation. The common issues we face in fighting racism and discrimination should be provided and studied for us to have a common appropriate response and let us treat this as FORUM ISSUES. There is a call to expand and we have already outlined the tools to make this advocacy more inclusive. Let us also adopt measures so that other poorer cities and local governments are able to attend activities like this conference. Again like the children in Fiji, non discrimination is understood as both about equality and equitability. ***“We should be the same like others”***. True enough without discrimination equal and equitable opportunities and access open up for an improved quality of life.