

**Dot Keet:** I'm an academic activist. Teresina is my neighbour, my friend, my compatriot and comrade, from one of the weakest and poorest country in Africa. I came from supposedly the richest country in Africa: South Africa. But I can tell you that many of the features that are common to African Countries you can see in South Africa as well. Five millions people's HIV-AIDS, and terrible poverty in rural areas, in the same way that you can see in Mozambique. And I don't want to speak about South Africa; South Africa with Brazil, has the "privilege" of having the worst income distribution in the world, between tiny privileged elite and the great mass of population. But I'm not talking about these facts and figures, because you have seen many, you will receive many. I want to focus on the causes of this terrible situation in Africa, because we cannot find the solutions, if at least we know the primer causes. I can tell you that in South Africa and in other Countries of Africa today, 25 millions people with HIV-AIDS cannot get treatment, because the health service has been run down and destroyed and they have to pay for medicines. This is because of privatization and privatization has been forced in Africa by FMI and WB, because this is market driven processes. In doing this, IMF and WB have deliberately encouraged those who control the States in Africa, to see themselves as the beneficiaries of privatization: so they have private hospitals, private school, private transports, they also become the owners of the new privatized institutions. So they are a new elite, they exploit the position in the State to become a new entrepreneur class. So, when outside world, attacks Africa for corruption... of course there is corruption and the elite that take advantage from the position have to be condemn, but they are been encouraged to do so by IMF and WB, this market driven processes. The second thing is: IMF and WB, for twenty, thirty years in Africa, have been telling us to liberalize our economy, open our trade, and deregulate our market. What has been the effect? The few industries Africa had have been destroyed, and millions more have been put in unemployment; as effect is in bad enough, trade liberalization means that European farmers are dumping their products in our markets, and small producers of corn cannot compete whit corn from United States; small producers of milk cannot compete whit Parmalat from Italy: Parmalat has come to South Africa, has bought up a yogurt and milk industry, is importing powdered milk from Italy and is destroying our economies. Trade liberalization is doing that and privatization. Now, in addition to IMF and WB, we have the WTO, forcing us to doing the same things, and the latest thing the WTO has saying we must open up our services to global cooperation, from United States, from Europe; we must sell our services, that are the life blood of our people, must be run by companies from Washington, from Paris and London. Water is now being owned by France, by French companies in South Africa: people have to pay for water in order to survive, because of the IMF and now because of the General Agreement on Trade and Services in the WTO. All of this is adding to the capital act flows of our country: these companies that come to our country, they don't come for beneficence, for philanthropy: they come to make profits and the profits come back to Europe, and go back to United States and so on. The myth of aid flow goes to Africa has to be exploded: even when the G8 promises 25 billions dollars to Africa - promises, they don't deliver-, 2000 billions dollars leaves the South for the North every year. We are subsidising the North, the North is not subsidising the South. Colonization came to Africa and they took out the people of Africa as slaves, then the colonists discovered our gold, our diamonds, and our platinum, and they discovered our timber, and our forests and they took out our resources, for 300 years. Now, after exploiting our resources, and exporting capitals from Africa, they are taking our social capital, our doctors, nurses, agronomies, engineers, are working in Europe. And we are train them, with our taxes and our resources and they are been brought to Europe and United States. This is a new form of extraction from Africa, is taking the skills that we have created for our people.

In addition to all this -and this is short time that I have-, we are going to pay a heavy price for the global climate crisis, that is emerging: the North owes us, we do not owe the North, the North owes us an ecological debt, because they developed out exploiting world resources and our resources, for 300-400 years, and they had industrialized on bases on pollution and abuse of the world climate. All the humanity will pay the price, and we are beginning to pay the price, but you can be sure it is the people of the Caribbean, of Latin America, of Africa and of Asia, who are going to pay the biggest price of the global crisis. I'm focusing on the forces that are created the crisis of poverty in the South, in particularly in Africa, where we are having huge destructions: desertification, flooding and so on.

And now, what is our solution? There are millions of solutions. I want to focus on these three institutions, that have taken over the running of Africa, and we have a new colonization of Africa, they are taking over the

government role in Africa, they are forcing governments to implement policies and are opening Africa up, to a new exploitation. We have to get rid of the IMF and WB: there is no other solution, get rid of them, get out of Africa. The second thing is: we have to get rid of this WTO trade driven world system: it is not trade that is primary; it is its production, its people's need, not the international trade. We have to get rid from the WTO. How can we do this? We either close down these institutions all together. If we don't, we subordinate them to the United Nations system, and all the UN agencies, must be under an umbrella of human rights, environment, social and gender, labour conditions. That is what we want. If we need a global governance, to solve out our common problems, we have to reform the United Nations, we have to take the United Nations back, and make the United Nations a genuine instrument of our global cooperation; but all United Nations agencies, and these IMF, WB, and WTO, if they survive, must be subordinated to this higher principals, that I'm talking about. This is not easy, because to get a different United Nations we need the mobilization of the people of the world, which is what we are doing, and we have to change our governments, because the governments that have to change the United Nations. And now it's a challenge for all us, but I'm happy to say: I have the feeling that in Africa today that new social forces, new social movements, are developing. And to anybody who is tempt to be an afro-pessimist, I live in Africa in these conditions and I'm a great optimist: new social movements are emerging in Africa and we will join you to fight and change the global system. Thank you.