



REPORT

Meeting of Cooperation Circles of the United Religions Initiative (URI) of Brazil.

THE POWER OF BELONGING TO URI AL&C *"Walking together with joy"*

Belo Horizonte - Minas Gerais - Brazil

July 30th to August 1st, 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Cooperation Circles of the United Religions Initiative (URI) of Brazil was organized by the Regional Coordination, the regional assistant in Brazil, in cooperation with the Circle of Cooperation Belo Horizonte.

The vision of Meeting "The power of belonging to URI AL&C, walking together with joy" was to promote dialogue and interaction between URI Cooperation Circles of Brazil and create joint action strategies for this MCC. Empowering the CCs for inspiring, accompanying and supporting each other, at this so beautiful work of bringing the kingdom of peace on our beloved planet.

It was chosen as the venue for the realization of the meeting, the Retreat House Portal da Paz, which belong to the Brhama Kumaris, amid the Sierra Cipó, in the city of Belo Horizonte, with wide and comfortable spaces for all planned activities in peace and tranquility of being in the middle of nature.

The meeting was attended by members of 8 out of 9 Brazilians CCs:

- CC URI Brasilia
- CC URI Goiás
- CC UNISOES Salvador
- CC MIR Rio
- CC MISP São Paulo
- CC Fé Menina - São Paulo
- CC URI Campinas

- CC URI Belo Horizonte

Other people present were the Regional Coordinator: Enoé Texier (Venezuela); the assistant of the region in Brazil: Deivid Gomes (Brazil); the Director of Global Support to the CCs: Maria Eugenia Crespo (Argentina); and Global Council Trustee Genivalda Cravo (Brazil). They arrived in the city of Belo Horizonte and held for four days meetings that enabled them to get involved, to share successful experiences of work that each CC develops in your area and to plan joint activities. It had a total of fifteen (15) participants.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Build bridges between URI CCs Brazil;
- Create a plan of work for the MCC URI Brazil;
- Evaluate impact and learning.

3. PROGRAM

THE POWER OF BELONGING TO URI AL&C *"Walking together with joy"* Meeting of CCs of URIALC Brazil Belo Horizonte, July 30th to August 1st, 2015

Wednesday, June 29

Arrival and reception of participants - Free Ride

Night

Reception at the Retreat House - Meeting sharing dinner.

Thursday, June 30

Morning

7:00 Breakfast

9:00 Blessing's Day by the host CC Belo Horizonte and Brahma Kumaris support.

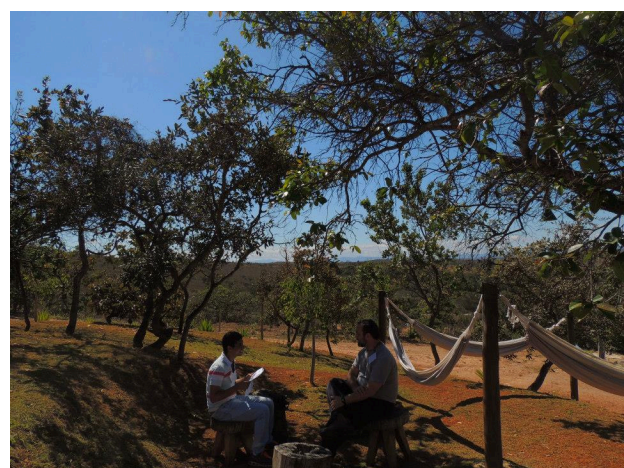


9:15 Welcome - First Formal welcome to participants. Presentation face to face of Deivid Gomes: the Assistant of the Regional Coordination for Brazil. Basic information agenda.



9:30 Appreciative Interview

- To start making the connection between the representatives of the various CCs
- Conformation of pairs
- Introduce the partner the group.



10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 PART 1 Participating in the network

WHAT IS URI?

All participants share their views about the benefits, potential and actual, of belonging to URI

11:00 PREAMBLE, PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

Reading and reflection on the practice of PPPs

11:30 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CCs (The right to vote in the election of representatives to the Global Council - Roles and commitments)



12:00 Lunch



Afternoon

2:00 Blessing by the CCs Brasilia and Goias

PART 2: INFORMATION SHARING AND LEARNING ON THE NET

2:15 INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE OF STORYTELLING
What is this practice and why it is especially useful for CCs

2:30 PRESENTATION OF INTERFAITH STORIES

Each CC presents his(s) history(s) identifying the group key teachings.

3:15 Coffee Break

3:30 IDENTIFYING INTERFAITH LESSONS TOGETHER THROUGH STORYTELLING

4:00 STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION NETWORK

One of the main advantages of belonging to the URI network is the opportunity to connect with other people and form friendships and alliances with other CCs and related organizations. Each CC brings their own experiences, talents and resources, which when combined create a greater impact than if you work alone.

5:30 Timeline – URI AL&C and URI Brazil – years 2000-2015



6:15 "The strength of the body, sound of being" - Alice Gress CC MIR
Effective indigenous experience to harmonize the body and mind



7:00 *Dinner*

8:00 Presentation of the campaign "The Earth is sacred and wants Peace" - Ana Santos CC UNISOES

Friday July 31

Morning

7:00 *Breakfast*

9:00 Blessing by the CCs Campinas and MIR

9:15

"Planting a tree together" –

Seeding a plant together to symbolize rooting and fruiting of our family ties in the URI.



10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:30 **PART 3 - IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING**

Reflecting, reviewing and recognizing the impact each CC is doing in their particular community. The importance of being and belonging to an interfaith community.

11:30 **Public agendas of Brazil on social and human rights and religious diversity - Elianildo Nascimento - CC URI Brasilia**

12:00 **Lunch**



Afternoon

2:00 **Blessing by the CCs UNISOES, Interfaith Group of Sao Paulo and Féminina**



2:15

"Positivization of the Conflict/Problem" - Genivalda Cravo - Trustee

2:45 "How to participate in group discussions and consultations?" -
Mostafa Bartar - CC Campinas

3:15 *Coffee Break*

3:30 **Meditations for joy and fraternity (BK)**

PART 4: THE ROAD AHEAD

4:00 **PLANS URI BRAZIL 2015**

Big goals, priorities, projects and shared initiatives, priority needs to achieve the goals (other than financial), actions needed to achieve the goals by 2015.



5:30 **Chartres Labyrinth - Elias de Andrade - CC Interfaith Group São Paulo**
His symbolic journey offers a space of meditation and inner connection.



7:00 **Dinner**

8:00 Sacred shared interfaith experience to the closure in the Retreat House



Saturday August 1st
Morning

7:00 Breakfast



9:00 Transfer to the place of the public closing event
10:00 Public act of closure

- Welcome greeting - Nilmário Miranda, Human Rights Secretary of the State of Minas Gerais;
- Presentation of URI - Maria Eugenia Crespo. Director of Support to CCs worldwide and parte of the Regional Leadership Team of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Presentation of the Region AL&C - Enoé Texier - URI Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Deivid Gomes – Assistant for the Regional Coordination.
- Opening Interfaith Prayer organized by the CC Belo Horizonte with representatives of the CCs and inviting the participation of spiritual leaders of the city.
- Presentation of each CC:
 - 1.- What is peace from the particular point of view of your religious/spiritual tradition?
 - 2.- Tell or show a concrete particular experience of interfaith coexistence.



4 - FINAL DELIBERATIONS

1. Positioning against the PEC 215, PEC 171 (decrease of criminal age), PL 3722, PEC 99; PL 1219 (Statute of Religious Freedom) of 2015 and PLC 160: Family status.
2. Support for the International "Water and Spirituality" UN Campaign.
3. Support PNDH 3 - Human rights and religious diversity; creation of the Municipal and State Committees of Religious Diversity and support CNRDH - National Committee for Respect of Religious Diversity SDH / Presidency of the Republic.
4. We stand in solidarity to support the rejection of the persecution of Baha'ís.
5. Support and promotion of the project of the Lutheran Diakonia Foundation on assistance to the disaster;
6. Support the annual campaign "The Religion for Children" GNRC;
7. "Xô Nuclear" - Global Campaign for non-use of nuclear energy.
8. Reconciliation with Nature
9. Make one single document from URI Brazil positioning for several issues.
10. All cases in accordance with the URI Charter of Principles will be supported.
11. Work for the recovery of water;
12. Reconciliation with Mother Nature: Introductory course to the Roots of Religion; Campaign "The planet is sacred and wants peace". Campaign "is lacking water on the planet". (CC SP, Salvador and Fe Minina).
13. National Reconciliation with Nature Meeting inviting all religious and interfaith movements.
14. Solidarity Contribution: Providing information and responsibility of each CC;

15. Legal Status of the MCC URI Brazil: committee responsible for drafting the proposal and present it to the other CCs: Zenaide, Mostafa and Elianildo.
16. International Day of Peace in September - all CCs
17. National Day Against Religious Intolerance: January 21.
18. World Interfaith Harmony Week - February
19. Disclosure of the services provided by religious traditions and institutions - Successful Practices.
20. MCC URI BRAZIL: Brazil's participation in the Global Council - Interest of participation. URI Brazil considers important the participation of the MCC on the Global Council.
21. Approval of the methodology of collective decision for the nomination.
22. Election of Trustees: to raise the participation of CCs and verify applications available for the region; coordinate the methodology, participation and building possible consensus.
23. Strategic Plan: CCs must submit their proposals and suggestions as quickly as possible (Graça offers to systematize the Action Plan MCC URI Brazil)
24. Campaigns and resolutions supported by all CCs.
25. Letter with the issues that the MCC URI Brazil supports or is contrary.
26. Follow the Charter of URI as the northern route of consensus and conflict mediation.
27. Follow the spiritual dimension to heal the Earth, individually and as group.

5.- ACHIEVEMENTS

The program included suggestions of all CCs who participated in the group calls. It showed respect for cultural diversity, the different rhythms of people. We constantly reviewed and rebuilt the program to adapt to the situation, and reach, as indeed it did, to meet the objectives of our meeting and perform all the activities that were planned.

As for the call, we reached to gather representatives from 8 of the 9 CCs that currently make up the MCC URI Brazil. These participants were chosen by their CCs and participation was compromised.

The Retreat House Portal da Paz is a very auspicious, beautiful, clean and quiet place, in the middle of a lovely nature with trees, flowers, birds and butterflies. This condition of tranquility of the place, helped people to focus on the daily agenda; with comfortable rooms and spaces suitable for different activities: a large workroom, different gardens and outdoor areas suitable for rituals, ceremonies and group dynamics, comfortable room with good natural light and views of the Sierra Cipó.

Meeting face to face almost all the brothers and sisters of Brazil allowed them to reconnect with the sense of unity and belonging to a regional and global network and set up new objectives. This coexistence allowed to strengthen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and respect for their differences in diversity of their cultures and spiritual traditions, creating the need to enter the new chapter of the URI platform.

Teamwork without losing the objectives, supporting each other carefully all the time in different situations was key to successfully conduct the meeting.

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Brazil.**

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"Walking together with joy"



Belo Horizonte – Minas Gerais – Brazil – 2015