

ACTION

for Conflict Transformation

A global network of individuals and organizations
committed to positive action to transform conflict

Website: www.action-global.org

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At the ACTION members review and global retreat the ACTION Steering Committee confirmed and further committed itself to the building of regional centres as a central part of the ACTION strategy. This expanded and helped to focus discussions that had taken place between Steering Committee members in the Philippines in 2006 and during the initial Transition Phase from May to September 2007.

It was agreed that the ASC in Johannesburg, originally envisaged as a global hub for ACTION, should redefine itself as a regional centre and take steps to explore the strategic and organisational implications of this decision, and then implement a new strategic direction accordingly.

In line with this the ASC has engaged the services of an organisational development change agency, with local expertise and the skills required to facilitate the process. ASC staff and ACTION members in Southern Africa have committed themselves to this process, integrating the proposed directional shift with other processes that address a broader set of concerns.

The clear understanding of ACTION as a network movement committed to community based linking and learning requires additional change processes. The organisational change process will be driven by the staff at the ASC, with the support of ACTION members in South Africa and an external Organisational Development team, and will define and implement complementary strategies.

These will aim to make the ASC, as a regional base, more sustainable, more easily able to respond effectively to local needs, less project-bound and accordingly less donor dependent in its direction. We also aim to more clearly link our projects to the expected impact they will have and thus be able to demonstrate the changes we believe our programmes are already contributing to.

Learnings that arise during this process will feed into deeper research initiated by the Support Centre into effective organisational models for network movements like ACTION, that link development and conflict transformation initiatives at community level with advocacy and lobbying interventions that influence policy makers and structures at national, regional and global levels.

The ongoing learning processes will be communicated with the rest of the network and a shared body of knowledge will develop that strengthens other contexts in which ACTION is building movements and organisations that close the gap between vulnerable communities and policy makers.