

Right to Say No Peoples Summit Programme August 12-13 2019

What do we hope to achieve by the end of the 1,5 days

At least 50 grassroots and solidarity activists have to;

- Deepened their understanding about consent rights, specifically the Right to Say NO, and are clear about its political power
- Thought about the question of development alternatives (the YES) and how this links to the NO
- Considered the risks of saying NO and generated ideas, from experience, about how to address this and
- Identified efficient strategies based on shared experiences and better knowledge of the “Right to say NO “political and legal environment
- Planned for the month of action on the Right to Say NO

Day 1:

- Welcome and Registration
- Struggles for the Right to Say NO – a panel of community activists who present the resistance of their communities against extractivism
 - Questions, comments, commonalities (we could do a card exercise to identify common themes related to political demand, strategy, tactic, the yes etc.) this will help make it more participatory (it would be helpful to identify from these experiences what worked – so can eventually be adapted in other countries – and what did not work so that we can adjust accordingly)
- Drawing on/illustrated by the cases, a series of inputs/facilitated conversations on:
 - What do we mean by the Right to Say No? What makes it different from Free Prior and Informed Consent?
 - Why is the Right to Say NO so politically important in this moment globally and especially in Africa?
 - Where does the right of consent lie? What are the different tools and instruments through which we claim the right to say NO?
 - What are the arguments generally advanced by governments for countering the right to say NO? (on political and legal basis)
 - Who can say No? What about women and other marginal/voiceless groups in communities?

Day 2:

- Inputs/facilitated discussion continues addressing:
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 - What do we mean by YES and why is this such an important part of the Right to Say NO?
 - What are the risks associated with resistance, and claiming our Right to Say NO, and what are the ways we can manage this?
 - How can we effectively claim the right to say NO, who would be the allies? How can we optimize the results of our actions ?

- The regional campaign
 - The initial ideas about the campaign that have emerged since last August at the regional and national level – where we are now and the next steps – maybe we could highlight possible regional targets but not go deeply given the questions we have?
 - October month of action – history and proposal. Break into groups to:
 - Discuss what you would like to do in your community/nationally?
 - What/who is your target? What action/s would you like to take?
 - Your messages – we need to find a way of being creative here – remember the T-shirt exercise of Michael? How will you get visibility?
 - Who do you need to bring on board?
 - Who will take responsibility for what?
 - What, if any, support do you need regionally?

