**Notes from the Inaugural NMF – EARTHRISE Dialogue on (Re)imagining Society and the State**

**Ideas to frame a series of Dialogues/Enquiries for 2017**

Note this should be read in conjunction with the papers presented at the inaugural dialogues

These are 2-day weekend dialogues (note the term “dialogue” in this context could mean – discourse, exchange of ideas, discussions, interchange, building new information and knowledge etc )

**Theme 1 – Reimagining a Truly Global Society - one Human Family and one Earth Community with a Common Destiny**

**Sub-themes**

* Understanding global dynamics as one global village
* Our duty to protect the Global Commons
* Global Problems – Global Solutions – Global Solidarity – Global Rules by “we the peoples”
* Building a just, sustainable and peaceful world

**Theme 2 - Re-imagining Society that is built on Fundamental Values and Principles of Freedom, Equality, Dignity and Democracy**

**Sub-Themes**

* Reimaging the practice of democracy in building real, equitable, sustainable, thriving, peaceful communities
* Building social participation in socially useful labour the produces socially useful goods and services that meet the natural needs of people – building an economy the serves society (not vice-versa)
* Cultivating local social entrepreneurship and locally owned enterprises
* Learning from indigenous knowledge and philosophy as alternative visions for societal development e.g. Ubuntu, Buen Vivir, the Happiness Index etc
* The purpose of learning, health and well-being as a common good

**Theme 3 - Re-imagining the Nature and Character of the State in which “The People Shall Govern”**

* The evolution of nations and the nation state
* New countervailing political forces for direct democracy versus electrical processes and political parties
* Understanding rule of law – the process of constitution making, delegating and deriving authority and legitimacy to govern
* The State as enabler of social justice, peace and societal development

**Theme 4 - Re-imagining Humanity and Mother Earth**

* Building and advancing humanity through knowledge & culture, harmony & healing
* Understanding the Anthroposcene
* The meaning of The Earth Charter and The Rights of Mother Earth as supreme global compacts between society and the state

**NOTES ON THE PLENARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE MEANING AND PRACTICE OF THE ART OF DIALOGUE**

GIVEN THE CURRENT CONTEXT THERE IS URGENCY TO SPREAD & EMBED THE PRACTICE OF MEANINGFUL AND PURPOSEFUL DIALOGUE DEEPLY AT ALL LEVELS IN SOCIETY

Use the 4 lines of enquiry as the base but with 1 SIMPLE goal – building a conscious society

* Building and connecting people, communities – local to the global
* Building Consensus
* Listening deeply
* Dialogue of the soul, the spirit rooted in culture and explicitly learning from indigenous cultures
* Basing the dialogue on the common Humanity and on being human as the core
* To reflect, find solutions and implement!!
* To create space / Holding space for people to bring who they are, starting from where they are at (create new spaces that reach out to excluded groups e.g. unemployed young people and embrace / open space for healing
* Have to respond effectively to gender relations
* Highlighting the intersectionality of the issue we face
* Bridge the gap between all different groups in the country
* All people educated and less educated, rural or from urban areas must have representative. Have their opinions heard. Being able to speak for themselves.
* Thinking deeply about the language/s we use, it can connect the head, heart and spirit and bring more people into these dialogues and into re-magining and co-creating the alternative***.***
* Bringing the dialogue / plans down to the level of the everyday man
* Freeing people’s feelings: even amongst us
* Avoiding anger becoming self-righteous and destructive?
* We must get out of our “Eiffel Towers” and go back into the communities and with groups that in fact **NEED** to be listened to!!
* Create spaces / permanent centre where the ideals we stand for can exist for broader society
* What is the grand dialogue of 2016 generation