

REPORT

STREETNET INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH

Coastlands Hotel, West Street, Durban, South Africa

(12 – 14 November 2002)

Opening

The StreetNet International launch was opened on the evening of 12 November 2002 during a dinner attended by the participants as well as 72 invited guests including local government representatives, researchers and organisations which have been working in co-operation with StreetNet during the three-year preparations for the launch from 2000 – 2002. The function was opened with Christian, Moslem and Hindu prayers by some of the participants.

StreetNet Steering Committee member Mbu Mchunu summarised the work which had been done during the preparation period, and the keynote speech by Durban Deputy Mayor, Logie Naidoo, outlined Durban's commitment to its policy on the informal economy and welcomed participants to Durban. Ela Bhatt, founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India, WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment, Globalising and Organising) international research coalition, HomeNet International alliance of home-based workers, and StreetNet International alliance of street vendors, opened the conference.

In the morning of the second day, Wednesday 13 November 2002, all participants briefly introduced themselves and their organizations.

Constitution

This session was chaired by JP Purshotam of the Legal Resources Centre, and recorded by Pat Horn. The draft constitution which had been circulated and revised, based on comments and suggestions from participants prior to the event, was the basis of the discussion. After discussion, clause by clause, the constitution was adopted **unanimously**.

Logo

This session was co-chaired by Asha Moodley, Chairperson of the StreetNet Steering Committee, and Winnie Mitullah, Director of WIEGO's Urban Policies programme. Participants inspected the different logo designs which had been prepared according to the specifications which had been sent beforehand by some organisations. One design was clearly popular among most participants, but there was a long discussion about how to adapt it. It was agreed to adapt it and present it to the first International Congress for final adoption.

Policy resolutions

The following policy resolutions were adopted:

1. Party political policy
2. Class and Gender Organisational Policy
3. Policy on Sustainability and Financial Self-Sufficiency
4. Condolences to the family of Kasuba Mwamba

Another six policy resolutions were handed in from the floor, on the following topics:

1. Encouraging mergers into national alliances (*WEAZ, Zambia*)
2. Circumstances under which member organisations could be expelled from StreetNet (*ASOMIVAN, Costa Rica*)
3. Promoting the rights of street vendors (*Alternativa, Peru*)
4. Promoting subsistence and development of street and market vendors (*Alternativa, Peru*)
5. In protest of the Korean government's driving of a street vendor to his death (*NFSVK, Korea*)
6. Partnership-building (*KATINIG, Philippines*)

As there was not sufficient time left to discuss these resolutions, it was agreed that they would be typed and circulated to all participants after the launch, with the purpose of tabling them for adoption by the Interim Committee or the International Congress.

Three-year Plan

This session was co-chaired by Pat Horn, International Co-ordinator of StreetNet, and Marty Chen of the WIEGO Secretariat. The draft 3-Year Plan which had been circulated prior to the launch formed the basis for the discussion.

New regions:

StreetNet should gather information about areas outside of Latin America, Asia and Africa, particularly the developing world. Work in these areas, particularly Central America and the Caribbean, should start based on the information gathered.

Affiliation fees:

It was agreed that member organisations of StreetNet should pay a joining fee of \$50 on registration, and thereafter an annual fee which should be proportional to the size of membership. This annual fee should be determined by the Interim Committee and finalised by the International Congress at its first meeting, due in early 2004.

Law, litigation and the informal economy:

Information should be gathered on legislation and constitutional provisions in different countries/cities on livelihood rights, human rights and other provisions, to assist organisations taking up legal battles. This is something StreetNet could ask the Law & Informal Economy project of WIEGO's Organisation and Representation programme to do.

In many countries there are legal clauses regarding the right to work and the use and recovery of public space, which are contradictory in the case of street vendors and their experience, and which need to be challenged.

In the Philippines there is a very good law on the rights of street vendors to earn and develop their livelihoods on the streets – Ordinance 452 – but it is not implemented. In fact, we have been receiving regular reports about harsh crackdowns on street vendors in Manila. It was agreed that StreetNet should pilot a campaign for the implementation of Ordinance 452 in the Philippines.

International forums:

StreetNet needs to ensure the representation of street vendors' organisations in international labour forums such as the International Labour conferences of the ILO and the ICFTU, and other forums such as international conferences of Mayors, etc.

Policy dialogues:

There have been policy dialogues in India and Ghana, and as a result in Ahmedabad street vendors are being harassed less than before. It was agreed that policy dialogues should be arranged in more countries.

New street vendors' Code or Declaration:

The Bellagio Declaration needs to be revised and updated to produce a new Code, or Declaration, which could be used with municipalities, and parts of it even incorporated into law.

Social security:

StreetNet needs to meet with WIEGO Social Security programme about work on the social security needs of street vendors, market vendors and hawkers specifically. The focus should be on social protection for mothers, children and the elderly, as well as business insurance.

Specific projects:

Member organisations wishing to put forward specific proposals for adoption as StreetNet projects, should send detailed proposals. The International Council would have to consider such proposed projects, and if it is agreed that it should be taken on as a StreetNet project, StreetNet would have to allocate existing funds if there are, or try to raise funds for it. Such projects would include the following types of activities:

- marketing projects, including import-export trade between member organisations;
- technical assistance on trade issues;
- reform of laws and regulations;
- organising projects (organising street vendors);
- fights against corruption;
- empowering vendors not to be dependent on intermediaries.

Organisational support:

StreetNet would probably not be able to raise much funding for the expenses of member organisations. However, the best way to build the capacity of member organisations to support themselves would be by StreetNet arranging fundraising training, and providing contact details for donors for member organisations to approach directly for funds. Member organisations will then develop their own independent relationships with donors.

Plight of Korean street vendors:

It was agreed that the story of Park Bong-Gyu, who had immolated himself in protest as a result of the poor treatment received at the hands of the Korean authorities, should be published in the StreetNet newsletter and the website. StreetNet member organisations should hand letters of protest to their Korean embassies and consulates, as requested by the NFSVK. It was pointed out that there are many countries where street vendors are being viciously oppressed, such as in Colombia where large numbers of people are regularly being assassinated, and agreed that details of such oppression should be forwarded to StreetNet for similar publication in the newsletter and website. StreetNet will circulate these reports to member organisations and appeal for international support.

Elections

The following Interim Committee was elected to operate until the first properly constituted International Congress, which is scheduled to take place in March 2004 according to the Three-Year Plan:

PRESIDENT: Churchill Mrasi Informal Business Forum, Gauteng, SA

VICE-PRESIDENT: Rashim Bedi, SEWA, India

TREASURER: Sara Mungia Union Feminina de Floristas 1936, Bolivia

SECRETARY: Elvis Nkandu Chisala Alliance for Zambian Informal Economy Associations

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: 1. Fatoumata Bah, CNTG, Guinee

2. Jacob Woods, Ghana TUC

3. Fikiswa Sifika Eastern Cape Alliance of Street Vendors, SA

The voters' roll was compiled by the International Co-ordinator, Pat Horn, of participants present whose organisations would qualify to register with StreetNet in terms of the constitution adopted on the previous day. The elections were conducted by the Network of Independent Monitors (NIM).

Conclusion

The StreetNet International launch was concluded with a short address by the newly-elected president, Churchill Mrasi, at 1 p.m. on 14 November 2002. A Press Conference was held

after the conference at 3 p.m. on the same day, at which the results of the launch were announced to the press.

Compiled by Pat Horn

International Co-ordinator, November 2002

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFRICA

Country	Organisation	Name	Sex	Contact
1. Benin	USYNVEPID – CSPIB c/o FES Cotonou	Clarisse Gnahoui	Female	Direct tel: 09229 334373 (h) or c/o Gratien Hounsinou 335353 (w) or 334696 (h) Fax. 09229 303227, gaganon@caramail.com
2. Ghana	Greater Accra Market Union c/o Ghana TUC	Deborah Yemotely Quaye	Female	Tel: 09 233 21 220455, tuc@ighmail.com , fax 09 233 21 667161
3. Ghana	Informal Sector Desk, GTUC	F. X. Owusu	Male	C/o Gawu@ighmail.com , tuc@ighmail.com Tel: 09 233 21 669 549 fax 09 233 21 667161
4. Ghana	Ghana Trade Union Congress	Elizabeth Fiadjo	Female	C/o tuc@ighmail.com , Tel: 09 233 21 669 549 fax 09 233 21 667161
5. Ghana	Ghana Trade Union Congress	Jacob Woods Kartey Otum	Male	C/o tuc@ighmail.com , Tel: 09 233 21 669 549 fax 09 233 21 667161
6. Guinea	Confederation Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinee	Fatoumata Bah	Female	nenefune@yahoo.fr , cntg@yahoo.fr
7. Kenya	Kisumu Alliance of Street Vendors	Teresa Akong'o	Female	C/o wvmitullah@swiftkenya.com
8. Lesotho	Khathang Tema Baitsokoli	Lucia Kanyana	Female	C/o cooperatives@ilesotho.com , fax: 09 266 320738, tel: 09 266 (22) 324929, cell: 09 266 (22) 854115 (David M. Sehloho)

9. Malawi	Malawi Union for the Informal Sector	Patricia Chimbayo	Female	C/o Kenwilliams Mhango swedef2001@yahoo.com
10. Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Labour Congress	Ibrahim Adams Kamara	Male	Tel: 09 232 22 226869, fax: 09 232 22 224439
11. Swaziland	SFTU	Ntombi Nkosi	Female	Mr. Sithole 09 268 6038374 (cell) or SFTU 09 268 5056575 or 5055118 (tel) 603 8374 (fax)
12. Zambia	Alliance for Zambia Informal Economy Associations	Elvis Nkandu Chisala	Male	C/o Mike Chungu (WEAZ) mobile: 09 260 9690 4853

ASIA

Country	Organisation	Name	Sex	Contact
13. Bangladesh	Self Employed Union	Farida Akter	Female	Tel. 09 801 7001, fax. 09 880 2 8015919 e-mail: bftuc@agni.com
14. Bangladesh	Chattagram Footpath Hawkers Samity	Abu Mohammad Razib Uddin	Male	razib@abnetbd.com , tel. 09 88 031 652158
15. India	National Alliance of Street Vendors of India	Arbind Singh	Male	Fax: 0991 612 265705, nidanpat@hotmail.com , or aspatna_2000@yahoo.com
16. India	National Alliance of Street Vendors of India	Rashim Bedi	Female	sewa@wilnetonline.net
17. India	National Alliance of Street Vendors of India	Santosh Vas	Female	Janodaya, No. 3, 9 th Cross, 5 th Main, Jayamahal Extension, Bangalore – 560 046. tel: 0991 80 333 2564
18. India	National Alliance of Street Vendors of India	Suresh Kapile	Male	204, Raja Ram Mohan Rai Marg, Mumbai – 400 004 (India) tel: 09 91 3855336/7 , 3864476
19. Korea	National Association for Street Vendors Korea (NASVK)	Kim Heung – hyun	Male	Tel: 09 82 02 22320685 fax:09 82 02 223320687 takebest@hanmail.net ,
20. Korea	NASVK	Choi In Gi		livre9@hanmail.net , livre9@hotmail.com
21. Korea	NASVK	Park Seo Hee		livre9@hanmail.net , livre9@hotmail.com

22. Philippines	KATINIG	Jose Romeo B. Ebron	Male	jbebron@yahoo.com
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LA TIN AMERICA

Country	Organisation	Name	Sex	Contact
23. Bolivia	Union Femina de Floriastas	Sara Munguia	Female	Tel: 09 591 22 417953
24. Colombia	Federacion Nacional de Trabajadores del Comercio, Fenaltrac - CGTD	Cristobal Camargo	Male	cgt@col1.telecom.com.co ,
25. Costa Rica	La Directiva de Asomuvan	Jesus Lizardo Leal Chacon	Male	Lizchacon42@hotmail.com
26. Ecuador	Asoc. Tawantinsuyu	Arturo León	Male	C/o Toa Kuri kuritoo@hotmail.com cc: elena_patina@harvard.edu
27. Peru	Programa Urbano de DESCO (Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo)	Maria del Pilar Corzo Arroyo	Female	fepromu@terra.com.pe
28. Peru	Alternativa	Guillermo Nolasco	Male	guille@alper.org.pe

WIEGO FAMILY AND FORD FOUNDATION

Country	Name	Sex	Contact
29. India	Ela Bhatt	Female	Bhattelaad1@sancharnet.in
30. U.S.A.	Marty Chen	Female	Martha_Chen@ksg.harvard.edu
31. Kenya	Winnie Mitullah	Female	wvmitullah@swiftkenya.com
32. Zambia	Mike Chungu	Male	mikechungu@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Province	Organisation	Name	Sex	Contact
33. Gauteng	Informal Business Forum	Churchill Mrasi	Male	2 nd Floor Export House, Cnr. West and Mande Streets, Sandown, 2196, tel (011) 883 5843, fax. (011) 884 5672
34. Gauteng	Informal Business Forum	Rose Nkosi	Female	2 nd Floor Export House, Cnr. West and Mande Streets, Sandown, 2196, tel (011) 883 5843, fax. (011) 884 5672
35. Gauteng	Informal Business Forum	Ellias Edmund	Male	2 nd Floor Export House, Cnr. West and Mande Streets, Sandown, 2196, tel (011) 883 5843, fax. (011) 884 5672
36. Gauteng	Informal Business Forum	Susan Khoza	Female	2 nd Floor Export House, Cnr. West and Mande Streets, Sandown, 2196, tel (011) 883 5843, fax. (011) 884 5672
37. Gauteng	Informal Business Forum	Maria Mdluli	Female	2 nd Floor Export House, Cnr. West and Mande Streets, Sandown, 2196, tel (011) 883 5843, fax. (011) 884 5672
38. Kwa-Zulu Natal	Self Employed Women's Union	Zodwa Khumalo	Female	Tel: (031) 304 6504, fax: (031) 304 6503
39. Eastern Cape	Self Employed Women's Union	Sibongile Magwedla	Female	Tel: (047) 532 6561, 531 3119, fax: (047) 531 4902
40. Mpumalanga	Self Employed Women's Union	Ntombincane Sithole	Female	Tel: (013) 755 3334, fax (013) 755 3301
41. Eastern Cape	Eastern Cape Street Vendors Alliance (ECSVA)	Fundile Jalile	Male	SEWU Umtata Tel: (047) 532 6561, 531 3119, fax: (047) 531 4902
42. Eastern Cape	(ECSVA)	Anderson Mkhuzo	Male	073 184 3468 fax: (047) 568 0195 SEWU Umtata

43. Eastern Cape	(ECSVA)	Fikiswa Sifika	Female	Sister's home 040 654 0065 or 072 145 8733
44. Eastern Cape	(ECSVA)	Evelinah Matyeshana	Female	Tel: (043) 733 9374, 083 754 2680 (daughter)
45. Eastern Cape	(ECSVA)	Thokozile E. Sahlulo	Female	(041) 977 1525 or 083 558 9577
46. Eastern Cape	African Hawkers and Informal Business	Ethel Skweyiya	Female	083 9292 802
47. Northern Cape	African Hawkers and Informal Business	Seipone Shushu	Female	083 522 0370 (053) 833 4347 fax
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49. Eastern Cape	Community Entrepreneurship Business Initiative	Chantel Cooper	Female	Tel: (041) 487 3569 Fax: (041) 487 3572

Day Delegates

50. Pat Horn

51. Nozipho Lembethe

52. Lou Haysom

53. Asha Moodley

54. Mbu Mchunu

55. Sizakele Mkhize

56. Khona Dlamini

57. Arun Naicker

58. Deena Pillay

59. Emmanuel Dlamini