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StreetNet International is an international alliance of organisations of street vendors, hawkers and market vendors, which is based in Durban, South Africa. It was formed in November 2002 with the objective of promoting and consolidating local, national and international solidarity amongst these workers of the informal economy, building national alliances amongst their organisations, and promoting recognition of their contribution to national economies. This has become more urgent now when they are beset by the crises of unemployment and poverty. Today, StreetNet International has forty affiliates, drawn from Africa, India, Latin America and Asia.

Since its inception, StreetNet International has worked together with its affiliates including the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India which has worked with like-minded organizations such as the New York-based Women's World Banking and International Coalition of Women and Credit, as well as the action research inspired Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), to make this vital sector of workers visible to local, national and international institutions, including governments. StreetNet has embarked national initiatives and international campaigns, often in alliance with trade unions and social movements, urging cities around the world to acknowledge and express their recognition of street hawkers, market and street vendors, through the adoption and implementation of street vendor-friendly inclusive urban policies. The 2010 World Class Cities for All (WCCA) is the first of these campaigns. The WCCA campaign focuses on the inclusion of poor communities and other marginalised and excluded groups, in the formulation of policies, decisions and other planning processes that impact on their lives. In the current universal environment of financial collapse and increasing unemployment, the work of StreetNet International becomes more urgent.

While much of its work has been accomplished through the support of donor funding, StreetNet International has always aimed at being financially self-sustainable. When it was established, StreetNet International passed a founding resolution on self-sustainability and financial self-sufficiency, which commitment was successively repeated at subsequent Congresses. The most recent such resolution was Resolution 18 on a fund-raising policy for StreetNet International, passed at the Third StreetNet International Congress in 2010. In terms of this resolution, a distinct structure is to be established with the legal powers to implement income-generating endeavors' directed towards organisational financial self-sustainability of StreetNet International.

All affiliates pay affiliation fees to StreetNet International, which constitute a source of funds towards financial self-reliance. However, these fees form a very small fraction of the monies required to cover the costs of StreetNet International's various activities. As a consequence, StreetNet has remained reliant primarily on donor funding. Such funding has come from partners like the FNV (Netherlands), Ford Foundation, Canadian Labour Congress and more recently, Gates Foundation.

The funding from the Gates Foundation enabled us to increase our capacity, expand our operations worldwide and run a fairly successful World Class Cities for All (WCCA) Campaign in South Africa in 2010, through which eThekweni Municipality in Durban, was forced to abandon its project of demolishing the Early Morning Market in order to build a shopping mall in its stead. These funds have also enabled our work on educating informal workers through country activities run by our affiliates, exchange visits amongst our affiliates which enable them to learn from each other's experiences, and various international meetings.

However, we are aware that donor funding is not reliable, nor sustainable as a consistent source of funding. In many instances, donor funding forces organizations to deviate from their objectives in order to align themselves with donors' priority areas. Presently, in view of the global financial crunch, we are also aware that our traditional donors could change their funding priorities, making us even more vulnerable. We predict that by the end of 2013, we are unlikely to secure enough funding from our

customary donors, to be able to carry out StreetNet programs and activities. This makes our project of building self-sustainability even more urgent.

This letter has been written to you and many others, both in South Africa and in the various countries housing our affiliates, whom we think will support an organisation such as StreetNet International, the work it does, and its vision for ensuring a just world for street and market vendors and hawkers. We urge you to become a Friend of StreetNet, and to contribute towards building its project for financial self-sustainability. We are also exploring other possible ventures with partners in our quest for financial independence in our above mentioned implementation of Resolution 18. An Investment Code to ensure that our initiatives remain ethical and do not transgress the rights of others has been drawn up.

StreetNet International has currently opened a Reserve Account to build funds for its/our sustainability project, into which we have invested some of our self-generated funds earned through organisational work. As a Friend of StreetNet you can assist us by:

1. Giving us a one-off donation which we can use to add to our reserve account OR
2. Give us an annual donation OR
3. Assist us with long term funding (in periods of three to five year) on an ongoing basis until we reach our goal of becoming self sustainable. We are willing to send you a proposal if you consider this option.

Part of our strategic plan for Resolution 18 is to source investors for start up capital for our investment venture. We currently have a potential investor who may be willing to loan us capital based on a number of criteria of which one being that we find a donor who is willing to co-invest .

Please contact us if you wish to help our organisation make this venture a reality. We are happy to send you any information that you may require.

Should you wish to make a contribution to our reserve funds, below is Our Banking details.

Bank Name : Nedbank
Account Name : StreetNet International
Account Number : 1301 293 814
Branch Code : 130 126
Branch : Musgrave
Swift Address : NEDSZAJJ

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Finance Panel Review Team

***International Council members: Oscar Silva (Argentina) (President); Ms Anastasie Maswamba (RD Congo) (Vice President) Ms Shikha Joshi (India) (Secretary); Ms Clarisse Gnahoui (Benin)
Ms Juliana Brown-Afari (Ghana); Ms Madeleine Toukara (Guinee); Ms Dorothy Kenneth (Kenya);
Ms Sandra Florez (Nicaragua); MsSouley Zeinabou (Niger); Ms Fatou Bintou (Senegal); Mamadou Fall (Senegal)
Narayan Neupane (Nepal); Fundile Jalile (South Africa)***