

StreetNet International Policies

Class and Gender Organisational Policy (adopted at StreetNet Launch, November 2002)

This international congress:

NOTING

- That street vending is increasing all over the world as a result of job losses and lack of employment in the formal economy, and that this trend is irreversible;
- That street vendors, market vendors and hawkers now represent a third of the urban informal workforce around the world;
- That the majority of street vendors in most countries, especially the poorest, are women;
- That vendors seek the right to vend without harassment and to have regular selling spaces in places that customers frequent, storage and child care facilities, and basic infrastructure such as water, shelter and toilets;
- That vendors, like all urban informal workers, are concerned with social services (health, education and child-care), law and order (protection and the ability to work steadily without disruption), and the establishment of a negotiation framework and local appeals mechanism;
- That there is a need for strong membership-based representative organisations of street and market vendors and hawkers, to struggle consistently for and secure these rights and facilities;
- That there are, however, class differences and gender differences between vendors, which results in some being much more economically secure than others.

HEREBY RESOLVES

- That StreetNet International will take over the work started by the StreetNet Association to build strong organisation;
- That StreetNet will remain committed to focus primarily on the needs of the poorest street and market vendors and hawkers, including the particular needs of women vendors;
- That StreetNet will remain committed to empowering women vendors and assisting them to overcome the marginalising effects of gender discrimination;
- That StreetNet will remain committed to building strong leadership among the poorest and most disadvantaged vendors, particularly women;
- That StreetNet will continue to work in alliance with the international trade union movement and its affiliated national organisations, the international co-operative movement, credit organisations and other organisations which are promoting the

collective self-empowerment of the poorest workers in the formal and informal economy through democratic accountable membership-controlled organisations.

PROPOSED: KATINIG, Philippines

SECONDED: Informal Business Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa

Party Political Policy (adopted at StreetNet launch, November 2002)

This international congress:

NOTING

- That street vendors, market vendors and hawkers probably now represent a third of the urban informal workforce around the world;
- That vendors seek the right to vend without harassment and to have regular selling spaces in places that customers frequent, storage and child care facilities, and basic infrastructure such as water, shelter and toilets;
- That it is common for political parties to promise to provide for the needs of vendors in order to secure their votes, but that such promises are not always kept;
- That some street and market vendors' organisations are controlled by political parties and do not enjoy the independence or capacity to determine their own policies and practices;
- That vendors' organisations which are affiliated to political parties are particularly vulnerable when their political parties fail to win in elections.

HEREBY RESOLVES

- That StreetNet International will retain a position of neutrality in relation to all political parties in all the countries where StreetNet has member organisations;
- That StreetNet member organisations will have the right to each decide on their own policies regarding their relationship to political parties, but those who have chosen party-political affiliation will not impose their choice on StreetNet or other member organisations, including member organisations from the same country;
- That StreetNet will support policies which are favourable to street and market vendors and hawkers only on the basis of the issues;
- That StreetNet will equally pressurize and lobby all political parties and governments in all countries to support the policies on the regulation and development of services and facilities for street and market vendors and hawkers which StreetNet is promoting.

PROPOSED: AZIEA, Zambia

SECONDED: KATINIG, Phillipines

Policy on Sustainability and Financial Self-sufficiency (adopted at StreetNet launch, November 2002)

This international congress:

NOTING

- That street vending is increasing all over the world as a result of job losses and lack of employment in the formal economy, and that this trend is irreversible;
- That street vendors, market vendors and hawkers now represent a third of the urban informal workforce around the world;
- That in many places, organisations of street vendors emerge in times of crisis but gradually fade away – when there is a recurrence of crisis, the organisation is often no longer in existence;
- That there is a need for strong membership-based representative organisations of street and market vendors and hawkers, to struggle consistently for and secure their rights and facilities for economic activity;
- That strong organisation needs to be sustainable and financially self-sufficient in the long term.

HEREBY RESOLVES

1. That StreetNet International aims and seeks to become financially self-sufficient, for the sake of accountability and commitment of member organisations, who will be required to pay affiliation fees.
2. Other means of fundraising will be identified and pursued, including:
 - international trade between street vendors' projects in different countries;
 - savings and credit initiatives;
 - fundraising events (such as cultural events, etc.) .
3. StreetNet International should practice sound financial management and control.
4. StreetNet will promote, develop and strengthen organisations of street vendors which can sustain the cause of street vendors and their right to earn a livelihood.

PROPOSED: Informal Business Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa

SECONDED: Ghana TUC

For the Development of Promotional Policies for Street Vendors by National States (adopted by first international congress, March 2004)

Considering:

- That, by mandate of the Constitutions of every democratic country, work is enshrined as a right and a social duty and the State accordingly is obliged to promote conditions that eliminate poverty and assure citizens of equal opportunities to achieve useful occupations and which protect them against unemployment and under-employment in any of its forms.
- That, street trade and the various activities of the informal economy are a consequence of the structural imbalances within our countries and of the unjust existing relations of subordination in the international order.
- That, street vendors, besides generating sources of employment and incomes for themselves and their families, constitute an important channel of distribution and commercialisation of products which facilitates the basic provision of products for the subsistence of important sectors of the population.
- That, it is convenient to national interests to reconcile the rights of informal workers, to relate to security and favourable conditions for their work with processes of order and development of the cities and the countries; channelling thus the economic and social force of informal traders and workers in the informal economy, in order to enable its development as part of democratic socio-economic systems and equitability.

WE RESOLVE THAT:

- To promote in each country a statement of requirements and public services and of preferred and adequate location of informal workers in the urban space in the social interest, with reference to the specificities and conditions of its situation.
- Encouraging in each country and city the formulation of integral Programs of promotion of informal workers that pay attention to the rights of street vendors as citizens and merchants, articulating the economic and social politics that respect these rights, the use of urban space and economic development, etc.
- To fight for the rights of informal workers, claiming their rights to work, welfare and development;
- To develop strategic alliances with the union movement and other actors in local, national and world development.

PROPOSED: FEDEVAL, Lima – Peru (December 2003)

SECONDED: Eastern Cape Alliance of Street Vendors and AZIEA

Foreign and migrant street vendors (adopted by first international congress, March 2004)

The First International Congress of StreetNet NOTING

- That there is a lot of cross-border trade in many regions of the world, and many of the traders concerned and hawkers, street vendors and informal market vendors who are trying to eke out a living for their families in other countries because of the limited opportunities in their own countries;
- That many of these informal traders face harassment from the authorities, which makes them particularly vulnerable to bribery and extortion;
- That in addition to harassment from authorities, these traders often face hostility and xenophobia from the citizens of the host country;
- That there will be an item on Migrant Labour on the agenda of the ILO's International Labour Conference in June 2004, which will draw international attention to the plight of migrant and undocumented workers trying to earn a living in foreign countries;

HEREBY RESOLVES

- As an international organisation committed to improving the lives of street vendors in all countries of the world, to oppose xenophobia and to discourage member organisations from adopting xenophobic policies or practices in relation to foreign nationals from other countries;
- To encourage informal market vendors, street vendors and hawkers in different countries to engage voluntarily in trade with each other, and to develop the suitable terms and conditions for such trade to their own advantage;
- To attend the International Labour Conference of the ILO in June 2004 in order to participate in the Committee on Migrant Labour with a delegation of participants most accustomed to working with foreign and migrant street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers;
- To participate in the Committee on Migrant Labour at the International Labour Conference with the objective of gaining recognition in the wording of its Conclusions or other ILO instrument about the situation and problems faced by foreign street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers in particular.

PROPOSED: NFSVK

SECONDED: USYNVEPID

Our fight against harassment and government crack-downs (adopted by first international congress, March 2004)

The First International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

- That many of our members are facing constant harassment and government crack-downs, which continually interfere with their productivity and their ability to earn a decent livelihood;
- That the harassment faced by street vendors takes many forms, including violent attacks, sexual harassment, bribery and extortion – sometimes perpetrated by authorities and sometimes perpetrated by thugs, gangsters and syndicates working hand-in-hand with the authorities;
- That there are many types of gender-specific harassment, including different forms of gender-specific violence and sexual harassment, faced by women and children street vendors;

HEREBY RESOLVES

- To fight tirelessly against all forms of harassment of street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers throughout the world, including by initiating and participating in international campaigns;
- In cases where harassment occurs and results in injury or losses, compensation will be demanded;
- To publicise to the world's population at large the problems experienced by street vendors, market vendors and hawkers with all forms of harassment, and to draw attention to the gendered nature of harassment experienced by women, who constitute the majority of the poorest street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers in most countries;
- To pressurise local and national government authorities to engage in social dialogue with street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers and/or their organisations and elected representatives in order to avoid the approach of harassment or engaging in crack-downs.

PROPOSED: FEDEVAL

SECONDED: AZIEA and KASVIT

For the Promotion of Informal Women Workers of the World (adopted by first international congress, March 2004)

Considering:

That, the predominant trend in world globalisation subordinates the economies and the States of the developed countries, limiting their possibilities for the generation of jobs and decent incomes for the working class; by which unemployment and under-employment increase, as well as the number of workers in the informal economy, increasing the impoverishment of the majorities in our societies.

That, before this situation in the majority of our countries informal trade was an expression of livelihood strategies to achieving the survival of people's families, but now (in informal trade) there is an accelerated increment of the number of women, children and elderly.

That, in the composition of informal vendors extensive numbers, and often the majority percentage, are women, who add to their role of women and workers, that of mothers, family responsibilities, leadership roles, etc.

That, in the majority of our societies women are not recognized by means of the same equal opportunities as males, they are confined to domestic work or are subordinated to men, denying them the means that can fully develop their capacities and abilities, or to contribute to their national, communal, personal development, in social, political, and economic fields.

By which the Congress:

AGREES

To promote relations of equality among men and women, encouraging our organisations to focus on learning equitable and democratic practices.

To support the presence of the women working in public spaces, operating in the representation and decision-making capacity of our organisations, and to surpass the traditional role that limits them to subordinate roles.

Encouraging the active role of women and men in the demand and exercise of economic and social rights, related to the conditions of workers and citizens.

Condemning the use of subcontracted gangsters who perpetrate acts of sexual violence against women.

PROPOSED: FEDEVAL, Lima – Peru (December 2003)

SECONDED: AZIEA and Eastern Cape Alliance of Street Vendors

Street children (adopted by first international congress, March 2004)

The First International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

- that many of the world's cities have increasing numbers of children living on their streets;
- that these children are vulnerable to danger and abuse, many of them survive by begging, many of them fall prey to substance abuse at an early age, and many fall into the clutches of criminal elements who exploit them to commit crimes for which juveniles face lighter punishments than adult criminals;
- that unfortunately many people confuse street children and street vendors and do not understand the difference;

HEREBY RESOLVES

- to create public awareness of the difference between street vendors and street children;
- to promote preventative programmes to ensure that the children of street vendors do not become street children, by means of:
 - affordable child-care facilities for pre-school children of street vendors;
 - accessible education for children of street vendors;
 - further opportunities for the development of the potential of the children of street vendors;
- to pressurise local and national government authorities to initiate social programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the potential of children below the age of 15 living on the streets, and their parents.

PROPOSED: AZIEA

SECONDED: KASVIT

Informal economy workers (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

From 26th to 30th March 2007, a workshop on collective bargaining in the Informal Economy, strategies and litigations for Street vendors was held in Saly, organised by StreetNet International, whose affiliates were represented by informal economy workers.

Those informal economy workers:

- Considering their non-recognition in a legal and regulatory framework;
- Considering the fact that the Labour Codes used in most countries do not consider their concerns;
- Considering the lack of representation in the decision-making structures;
- Conscious of their vulnerability and their social exclusion;
- Measuring all humiliations and harassment from policemen, municipal authorities and fiscal services;
- Considering their dynamism, their innovation capacity, their creative spirit and their business sense;
- Conscious of the economic weight of their sector in the national economy and their strategies of poverty reduction, street vendors affiliated to StreetNet:

Demand a better organisation and structuring that are in line with their developmental aspirations, from StreetNet affiliates.

Call with all their energy for a system of social protection for all their workers.

Demand to Administrative and Municipal authorities, the creation of a legal framework for street vendors.

Invite those in power (the government) to establish the social dialogue as a mean to solve all litigations that occurred concerning street vending.

Demand to Governments the recognition of a status of street vendors.

Invite all street vendors wherever they are to unite around StreetNet in order to exchange the positive experiences and successes.

Demand to national States and decentralized local authorities to propose the reform of labour, hygiene, security, civil and trading obligations codes, in order to adapt them to the reality of the Informal Economy.

PROPOSED: CNTS, Senegal

SECONDED: NUIEWO, Uganda

StreetNet and Fight Against Poverty (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

This Second International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

The need to enable StreetNet to become a big and powerful organisation in the fight against poverty;

To seek StreetNet partnership with big International Institutions (E.U, U.N, global union federations GUFs) and international Human Rights NGOs, etc.) involved in the fight against poverty;

To involve affiliated organisations in the planning of StreetNet activities;

The International Coordinator and Council to establish a calendar of visits to affiliated organisations to listen to their members;

To organise exchange workshops on practical experiences;

To organise trainings of organisations affiliated to StreetNet International on Informal Economy;

To supply affiliated organisations with the documentation on Informal Economy.

PROPOSED: LDFC, Democratic Republic of Congo

SECONDED: KENASVIT, Kenya.

HIV-AIDS in the informal economy (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

This Second International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

1. That many street vendors are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, either because they have lost their employment through being HIV- positive or suffering from AIDS, or because they have to support more and more dependants as they lose breadwinners in their extended families;

2. Uganda is one of the countries in Africa that has initiated the Market Vendors Aids Project (MAVAP) which has done a good job. This could be referred to as a role model for other affiliated organisations that may wish to establish such initiatives.

HEREBY RESOLVES that all affiliated organisations should establish HIV/AIDS committees at their members' places of work, focus objectively on sensitisation programmes, voluntary counselling and testing procedures for workers to know their HIV status, treatment of infected clients by providing them with ARVs (anti-retroviral treatment) and other necessities - including prevention.

StreetNet International and all StreetNet affiliates should make possible contacts with other International Organisations to solicit funds for affiliates to run HIV/AIDS programmes. StreetNet should also establish an international Sub-Committee on HIV/AIDS in accordance with Clause 10.6(d) of the StreetNet Constitution.

Exchange of visits and sharing of experiences is of paramount importance and must be encouraged. Partner-ships need to be established with health institutions and health professionals (both medical and psychological) for maximum effectiveness.

PROPOSED: NUIEWO, Uganda

SECONDED: USYNVEPID, Benin

Worker Education in the informal economy (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

This Second International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

StreetNet's affiliation to the International Federation of Workers Education Associations (IFWEA);

StreetNet's role in monitoring and evaluation of the IFWEA Southern and East Africa project on organizing workers in the informal economy;

StreetNet's history of collaboration at country and regional level with IFWEA affiliates WEAZ (Zambia), PLADES (Peru), Workers' College and Ditsela (South Africa) and relationships with LARRI (Namibia), SEWA Academy (India), LEARN (Philippines), LRS and Khanya College (South Africa);

The need for more capacity in workers' education organisations to be able to take on facilitation of informal economy workers' education activities for StreetNet's affiliates.

HEREBY RESOLVES

- To participate in the Worker Educators' Forum for workers education in the informal economy which will be convened at the international conference of IFWEA in

Ahmedabad, India, in December 2007, to contribute and gain some experience about perspectives on workers' education in the informal economy.

- To develop a 3-year Workers' Education programme spanning 2008 to 2010.
- To continue to develop informal economy worker education materials and make these available for wider use by informal economy workers' organisations, in collaboration with IFWEA affiliates.
- To identify and develop worker educators from among the affiliates of StreetNet International.

PROPOSED: FEDEVAL, Peru

SECONDED: CTCP-FNT, Nicaragua

Exchange visit criteria (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

This Second International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

That StreetNet International has an extensive programme of exchange visits between affiliates, started during the first three-year plan from 2003 - 2005 but ongoing during the current three-year period from 2006 - 2008;

That StreetNet is involved in an additional programme of exchange visits in our joint UNI-StreetNet programme in francophone West Africa;

That we have experienced two instances of abuse of exchange visit funds.

HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the following criteria, in addition to (and to strengthen) the existing administrative requirements and procedures, in relation to all exchange visits supported by StreetNet:

(a) The purpose of exchange visits is to learn more about the following from each others' experiences:

- organising strategies appropriate to workers in the informal economy, particularly market vendors, street vendors and hawkers;
- how collective bargaining is done (what are the issues, which authorities are the negotiation partner, how does the organisation structure its own negotiating teams, how do the negotiating teams report back, etc.);
- what gains have been made for the members, and how far can such gains be replicated;
- how do the organisations build, administer and sustain themselves;

- how do the organisations build their leadership (particularly women leadership) and develop their capacity;
- comparison of organisational systems and structures, and how well they work;
- what common experiences they have which they would like to share with other organisations of market vendors, street vendors and/or hawkers.

(b) StreetNet funds allocated to exchange visits are to be used exclusively for the realisation of the above mentioned objectives.

(c) Organisations participating in exchange visits are expected to make a contribution (however small) to the costs - and such contribution should be clearly indicated in the financial reports.

(d) None of StreetNet's funds allocated to exchange visits may be used by participants for personal spending money. Participants who wish to make purchases in the country they are visiting have to organise their own private funds for this purpose.

PROPOSED: AZIEA, Zambia

SECONDED: KENASVIT, Kenya

Creation of regional structures in StreetNet (adopted by second international congress, August 2007)

This Second International Congress of StreetNet:

NOTING

That StreetNet affiliates in certain regions have established some level of direct co-operation with each other in various ways;

The proposals for establishing an Asian regional structure developed by affiliates attending Street-Net's Asian Regional Workshop in Nepal in November 2006;

The constitutional provisions already in place for regional finances (Clause 11.2).

HEREBY RESOLVES

That StreetNet International should establish regional structures in a bottom-up manner based on the co-operation between affiliates in the region, as follows:

- one focal point organisation will be identified by the International Congress or the International Council in each identified region, who will house the regional structure of StreetNet and co-ordinate the communication between affiliates in the region;

- the focal point organisation will report to the International Council, and to the Executive Committee and the StreetNet office between International Council meetings;

- the focal point organisation will be bound by the provisions of Clause 11.2 of the StreetNet International constitution with respect to fundraising and financial management;

It will be the responsibility of affiliates in each region to organise and strengthen StreetNet in their region.

That the following regional structures should be established at this International Congress, with the possibility of being revised, sub-divided or added to at future International Congresses according to StreetNet's expansion: - Asia; - West Africa; - East and Southern Africa; - Latin America.

That the StreetNet office should negotiate with the identified focal point organisations about their willingness to house StreetNet's regional structures, and endeavour to raise funds to cover the administration costs incurred by focal point organisations.

PROPOSED: KENASVIT, Kenya

SECONDED: CTCP-FNT, Nicaragua