

SATUCC – STREETNET JOINT WORKSHOP
ORGANISING WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

held at Booyens Hotel, Johannesburg

2 – 5 October 2008

DECLARATION

Representatives of 13 SATUCC affiliates in 11 SADC countries, 9 StreetNet affiliates in 7 SADC and 2 East African countries, one independent informal economy organisation in the SADC region and 2 West African national trade union centres (all from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mocambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia) in recognition of the fact that the majority of workers in the SADC region are in the informal economy, have resolved to forward the following policy and action proposals to SADC via SATUCC:

1. Informal workers' labour rights

- 1.1 SADC member states should align their legislation and policies with the ILO's 2002 Resolution on Decent Work & Informal Economy.
- 1.2 Existing labour rights should be extended to informal economy workers, including their representation by unions of their choice.

2. Employment creation & livelihoods in informal economy

- 2.1 The current 5-year strategic plans of SADC should be reviewed to include job & employment creation in informal economy;

3. Social protection for informal workers

- 3.1 Tripartite forums in all SADC member states should be enhanced to improve their effectiveness in covering informal economy workers;
- 3.2 SADC should monitor that its member states implement signed protocols dealing with social protection;
- 3.3 SADC member states to extend social protection to informal economy workers (including own-account workers) along the lines of the regional best practice which is in place in Mocambique.

4. Informal workers and representation

- 4.1 SADC should recognise informal workers as workers;

- 4.2 SADC should recognise SATUCC as a representative of the interests and concerns of informal economy workers;
- 4.3 Country delegations to SADC should include informal economy workers' representatives.

5. Migrant workers and cross-border trade

5.1 SADC should develop policies in the following:

- legal protection of cross-border traders;
- social security for migrant workers and cross-border traders in the region;
- HIV/AIDS;
- educational policy for migrant workers;

5.2 SADC should establish an informal economy board at regional level for the recognition and representation of all migrant workers, including cross-border traders;

5.3 SADC member states should establish affordable shelters at border posts for cross-border traders, with storage space for commodities. Consideration should be given to the establishment of accommodation co-operatives;

5.4 All existing SADC protocols on movement and trade (customs duties, visas, goods clearance) should be respected by all member states and strictly adhered to.

6. 2010 FIFA World Cup

6.1 SADC should commit to making the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which will be held in South Africa, into a SADC event;

6.2 SADC, SATUCC and StreetNet share a mutual commitment to ensure that the 2010 FIFA World Cup benefits the well-being of all the citizens of SADC, including all the workers of SADC, of whom the majority are to be found in the informal economy.

6.3 SADC member states should undertake to respect the rights of all the workers in the region (including those working in the informal economy) in all processes leading up to and during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

6.4 The provisions of the 2010 FIFA Framework Agreement currently under negotiation between the NEDLAC parties in South Africa (government, business, labour and the community constituency) and the FIFA LOC (Local Organising Committee) should be extended to apply in all the SADC member states.

The following proposals are hereby forwarded to SATUCC for consideration for the strengthening SATUCC's capacity to represent the workers of SADC in the informal economy:

1. StreetNet & SATUCC should encourage their affiliates to network more about their work and experiences of organising workers in the informal economy;
2. StreetNet & SATUCC should disseminate information about their activities to all informal economy workers and what they are doing – step up their publicity to informal economy workers;
3. The workers' group in all tripartite forums should include informal economy representatives;
4. SATUCC should play a facilitating role to enable affiliates to participate in bi-partite forums;
5. SATUCC should encourage affiliates to take on informal economy workers' organisations as direct affiliates;
6. SATUCC should create an informal economy desk;
7. StreetNet should participate in deliberations in SATUCC structures on what is to go forward to SADC;
8. The World Class Cities for All (WCCA) campaign* initiated in South Africa in 2006 in preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup should be extended into all SADC countries by the affiliates of SATUCC and StreetNet International in those countries – particularly around football training planned in SADC countries and relate tourism plans, and the establishment of Fan Parks or public viewing stations in all the SADC countries;
9. SATUCC & StreetNet should give consideration to creating a regional body to represent informal economy workers in SADC region.

* *see details on www.streetnet.org.za*