

**StreetNet New Manifesto Campaigns
Latin American Planning Workshop.
Buenos Aires, 16 March 2011**

Welcome (Oscar Silva, SIVARA & StreetNet President).

He introduced StreetNet's New Manifesto campaign and documents in files, and stated that the purpose of workshop was to exchange ideas about the campaign. Participants introduced themselves.

Sharing experiences on successful campaigns (Adrian Martinez, CTCP).

Organisational experiences from Nicaragua: CTCP built their organisation from the class struggle against oppression, working for another world of social and gender justice, and against prostitution and drugs. The popular economy in Nicaragua is about 50% own account workers and family activities. CTCP initiated the SEICAP Network – FOTSSIEH Honduras (here present) is part of it. Their vision is based on the importance of unity and solidarity.

CTCP is StreetNet's regional focal point organisation for Latin America. CTCP's new manifesto is a theory for a new world of social solidarity economy, as an alternative to the market economy. Adrian also mentioned the new law in Cuba recognising small and micro enterprises.

New Manifesto Campaign – Introduction, Vision & Plan.

Review of tools for action (Pat Horn, StreetNet International Co-ordinator).

Pat introduced the vision of StreetNet and its international campaigns. The first, which was initiated in South Africa in 2006 in preparation for the FIFA 2010 World Cup, in India in 2008 in preparation for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, and now in Brazil in preparation for the FIFA 2014 World Cup, was the World Class Cities for All (WCCA) campaign. The second is the New Manifesto campaign, a participatory campaign to be initiated and driven by StreetNet affiliates in their countries to develop an international manifesto of street vendors' needs and demands. This is not the same new manifesto that CTCP talked about, which is their philosophy and theory of economic transformation through the social solidarity economy.

She presented the New Manifesto basic campaign document, and the Questionnaire prepared by Campaigns Co-ordinator, Nora Wintour, for affiliates to use as a guide when designing their campaigns and collecting information for the New Manifesto.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS.

Uruguayan participants from the Asociacion de Feriantes de Ferias Especiales (AFFE) (the Association of Stallholders of Special Markets) talked about the need for new laws for regulating street vending, and the problems of being persecuted by police and evictions during the Copa Americas. They were very happy to hear about these kinds of campaigns.

Nanci Godoy explained the draft law about recycling – Argentinian provincial law. Francisco Luchetta talked about other Ordinances regulating informal trade in Argentina.

Brainstorming campaign goals at national level (Vilma Arevalo, FOTSSIEH).

She explained that there is now an alliance between street vendors & rural producers in Honduras. She mentioned the FOTSSIEH training programmes, including management of cooperatives.

Adrian Martinez provided the following guidelines:

International campaigns must have a political as well as a practical purpose. He reminded participants to think about how to ensure the equal participation by women in organisational work. He stated that public policies need to be developed, and social dialogue with government strengthened. He emphasised the need for own-account workers to be recognised as workers, and of their contribution to economy.

Each participant was asked to read the campaign document & take 15 minutes to write down their ideas for StreetNet's New Manifesto campaign. There was a general discussion about how to defend their rights.

Participants put up the following cards on the wall, prepared by themselves, later sorted into 6 different categories by facilitators Vilma and Adrian:

ECONOMIC

- Create cooperatives to supply street vendors with fair priced goods;
- Develop the solidarity economy;
- Create an international institute or register about street vending at international level;
- Introduce regulations at national level in keeping with national circumstances;
- Facilitate access to credit;
- Improve cooperatives through training programmes at the workplace;

TRAINING

- Disseminate information about own account workers;
- Provide informal traders with technical and professional training;
- Provide training in self-esteem and women workers' rights;
- Establish agreements with the government and the municipality;
- Use mass media;
- Create campaign committees;
- Visualise street vendors on the basis of their strengths not their weaknesses;

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Take ownership of our organization;
- Be represented at district and federal level by taking part in elections;
- Regulate informal economy work;
- Provide training programmes on rights;
- Provide training for women heads of household;
- Provide training in different trades;
- Provide training and awareness programmes on the environment;
- Call for recognition of street trading as an alternative economy (and not informal);

SOCIAL DIALOGUE/ DEVELOPMENT.

- Municipality should improve infrastructure for workers;
- Informal trading should be recognised as an income-generating activity;
- Agreements or bye-laws should be established with the municipality;
- Adopt the manifesto at international level so as to build awareness among governments;
- Organise and strengthen the National Federation of Informal Economy Workers in Argentina (FENASTEI);
- Carry out a massive information campaign;
- Recognition of the basic rights of a worker (according to ILO standards);

- **SOCIAL**

- Include the rights to health, housing and education;
- Increase self-esteem and promote the social value of vending;
- Promote access social protection (SAWU Argentina);
- Provide a universal benefit per child to ensure school attendance;
- Create mutual societies;
- Social protection and retirement pensions should be available as for other workers;
- Call for official recognition of street and informal traders as workers;
- Adopt a policy on the eradication of child labour;

- **LEGAL**

- Use a system of social payments as a tool for social inclusion of street traders (in Argentina)

- Include all workers in the system of social “monotributes”;
- Be recognized as a worker;
- Create a law at international level based on the law in Nicaragua on the informal economy which considers that it is a « necessary evil »;
- Promote informal economy workers’ education to improve their levels of legal understanding;
- Promote the right to social security, and ensure that there is equality in the different agreements;
- Ensure that gender equality is promoted in all communications;

Oscar shared the work in Argentina whereby SIVARA is able to provide health and social protection for members. SIVARA also has a draft law to protect door-to-door vendors.

Main points to consider when designing a plan of action (Adrian Martinez, CTCP). Adrian stated it was important to develop political recognition for our work, and to make political alliances. While there may be progressive governments, as is the case in many Southern Cone countries, we must not become dependent on them. It is best to work in an alliance but not adhere to any political party. We need a programme which responds to our interest, programmes directed by women (e.g. for credit) or a social audit – as way of fighting against corruption.

GROUP WORK: Campaign Plans of Action.

1 Campaign Goals.

- (1) Unity of purpose for unity of action
- (2) Raise awareness, dignity and political participation of informal economy workers
- (3) Aim to gain legal recognition of informal economy workers
- (4) Aim to gain recognition of the economic contribution of informal economy workers.

2. Campaign Allies.

- (1) All trade unions (such as FNOTNA-CROC, SIVARA and trade union centres) and NGOs; faith based institutions
- (2) Community organizations; mutual societies
- (3) Government agencies, at national, provincial and municipal level
- (4) Mass media

3. Campaign Coordinating Committee.

- (1) Informal economy organisations and other trade unions
- (2) Equal representation of men and women
- (3) Representation by organisation at national level
- (4) Local organising committees

4. Main Activities

- (1) Workshops, talks, debates
- (2) Written reports for internal distribution; public diffusion through radio, TV and publications;
- (3) advocacy work at Congress or government level
- (4) Awareness raising and diffusion
- (5) Distribute information at street markets; stadiums; handicraft fairs etc
- (6) Media conference, information bulletins; meetings with other groups; recreational activities and sports

5. Expected Results

- (1) Social inclusion and improvements in standards of living
- (2) Make the New Manifesto a reality so that we take our own destiny into our hands
- (3) Working in dignity
- (4) Access to training; work security; collective agreements
- (5) Recognition of economic contribution of informal trading;

6. How can you measure the results?

- (1) Through project reports.
- (2) Increase in membership; changes in public opinion; improved legislation;
- (3) Through a survey of members.
- (4) Increase in solidarity among workers.

7. Time frame.

- (1) **24 months.**

8. Human resources

- (1) Volunteers.
- (2) Union leaders, experienced in collective agreements ;
- (3) A national committee composed of 4 members from each district.

9. Financial resources

- (1) Trade union dues;
- (2) Income-generating schemes and special funds;
- (3) Grants from external organisations and government grants.

10. Monitoring mechanisms

- (1) Through social networking, such as FaceBook and Twitter, internet and monthly bulletins ;
- (2) Monthly, six-monthly and annual reports ;
- (3) A commission to review accounts set up by the association of vendors.

CLOSURE

Pat thanked everyone for their enthusiastic participation, and stated that the report would be translated and circulated to all participants and StreetNet affiliates.

PH/NW 4.04.2011.

List of Participants.

Vilma Arevalo – FOTSSIEH (Honduras)
Margarita Martinez –CROC (Nuevo Leon, Mexico)
Alvarez Osima (SIVARA)
Maria del Carmen (SIVARA La Plata)
Stella Segura (SIVARA, La Plata)
Laura Sekulich (SIVARA Quilmes)
Claudia Bertolotti (SIVARA)
Susana Menendes (SIVARA Quilmes)
Ricardo Valle (SIVARA admin)
Matias Sanchez (SIVARA admin)
Maria Silva, (SIVARA)
Luis Suppa, SG of UTISARA (informal workers)
Ines Hernandez – SIVARA San Miguel
Francisco Luchetta – SIVARA San Miguel
Nanci Godoy – SIVARA Buenos Aires
Jessena Lovo – CTCP Nicaragua (young workers)
Orlando Mercado – CTCP Nicaragua
Adrian Martinez – CTCP Nicaragua
Fernando Gallardo AFFE (Uruguay)
Lucia Melnikov AFFE (Uruguay)
Pat Horn – StreetNet International Co-ordinator