



StreetNet Newsletter



EDITORIAL

Towards an ILO Recommendation in 2015 on transitions from the informal to the formal economy

Pat Horn,
International Coordinator

In 2004 StreetNet International was first accredited by the ILO (International Labour Organisation) to participate in the 92nd session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) as the international representative organisation of workers in the street vendors' sector of the informal economy.

Already by that time, the founders of StreetNet had participated in the ILC discussions in 1995 and 1996 leading to the adoption of ILO Convention 177 on Homework, and the discussions in 2002 leading to the adoption of the ILO Conclusions on Decent Work and the Informal Economy.

The ILO Governing Body is given its mandate on a yearly basis at the ILC, where all member countries of the ILO send tripartite delegations of representatives of employers, workers and governments. Two Government representatives and one each of the worker and employer representatives are the delegates to the conference with a right to vote in the plenary. The other members of the delegation are known as advisors, with a right to vote in particular committees, but not in plenary.

The agenda of topics to be discussed at the annual ILCs are decided two years in advance by the Governing Body. Each topic is then assigned to a Committee. The agenda items assigned to a specific Committee to discuss may result in a Convention, Recommendation, Protocol or Resolution. The Conclusions of the Committee are presented, discussed and adopted in the Plenary meeting at the end of that year's session of the ILC.

Each Committee is also tripartite with employer, worker and government delegates nominated by different countries to participate in the Committee. The Committee is presented by the ILO Office with a pre-prepared report to be used as background. It is also presented with a draft document, which is used as the basis for the discussions of the Committee.

In addition to the delegates and advisors described above representing governments, employers and workers, other international organisations may also attend the ILC. These organisations have to be accredited beforehand by the ILO as "international NGOs" and their representatives attend the ILC as observers. They do not have voting rights, but may attend Committee meetings and meetings of the Workers' or Employers' Group (with the permission of the Chairperson of the Group). This is the status of StreetNet, WIEGO and the global union federations who are accredited to attend the ILCs.

Since the discussions in the ILC take the form of various degrees of bargaining over issues, participants tend to work in groups which give them more say in the process. StreetNet and WIEGO have had to adopt sustained and multi-pronged strategies in order to influence the ultimate conclusions on the informal economy starting at least 18 months before the ILC.

Since being accredited, StreetNet has played a visible role in ensuring the following instruments are more explicitly inclusive of the interests of workers in the informal economy:

- Towards a fair deal for migrant - workers in the global economy (2004)
- ILO Recommendation 198 on Employment Relationship (2006)
- ILO Recommendation 200 on HIV and AIDS (2010)
- ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors (2012)

In 2014 and 2015, StreetNet has been playing a key role in the ILC discussions for a new ILO Recommendation on "transitions from the informal to the formal economy" which can potentially become an effective tool in improving the lives of street vendors and informal traders around the world.



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Transitions from the informal to the formal economy in the interests of workers in the informal economy What formalisation do we want?

By Pat Horn,
International Coordinator

Formalisation must offer benefits and protections not simply imposing the costs of becoming formal. It must restore the universal rights from which workers in the informal economy have been marginalised by the neo-liberal model of governance over the past 40 years, and reintegrate them into legal and regulatory frameworks.

- **Organising/Labour Rights:** Workers in the informal economy must be able to effectively exercise their rights to organise and bargain collectively, as well as their other fundamental rights at work.
- **Voice and Bargaining Power:** Collective voice comes through being organised in democratic membership-based organisations. Representative voice comes through having representatives of these organisations participate in relevant policymaking, rule-setting, collective bargaining, or negotiating processes including by means of direct representation in tripartite forums.
- **Legal Identity & Standing:** The working poor want to be recognised as legitimate contributing economic agents by policymakers who frame both macro-economic and sector-specific economic policies. This necessitates extending the scope of labour laws to categories of workers traditionally excluded and/or amending laws so they cover the full range of employment relationships.
- **Economic Rights:** The working poor in the informal economy are entitled to a wide range of labour, commercial, and land-use rights in order to: improve their employment arrangements and secure their livelihoods; make their economic activities more productive; and use their representative voice to achieve appropriate changes to the wider institutional environment that affects their work and livelihoods.

- **Social Rights, including Social Protection:** Social protection coverage must be extended to all workers in the informal economy through social assistance and/or social insurance mechanisms, as part of universal social security.

Formalisation has different meanings and implications for different categories of informal workers. The informal economy includes economic units, self-employed workers (a majority of whom are own-account workers striving for survival, with a small minority being entrepreneurs) and wage workers who work informally in either informal or formal enterprises but whose rights as workers are denied. Informality also occurs along global supply chains, where sub-contracted workers are deprived of decent working conditions.

For the self-employed, formalisation means receiving the benefits of operating formally, including: enforceable commercial contracts; legal rights to a secure place of work and means of production; access to markets; preferential prices for worker-controlled cooperatives; membership in trade associations or other associations of their choice; protection against creditors; and social protection.

For informal wage workers, including those who work informally in precarious jobs in formal enterprises, formalisation means obtaining a formal wage job - or formalising their current job with a secure contract, worker benefits, membership in a formal trade union, and employer contributions toward their social protection. Many informal wage workers work for formal firms and households, not just for informal enterprises.

This is based on the "WIEGO NETWORK PLATFORM: TRANSITIONING FROM THE INFORMAL TO THE FORMAL ECONOMY in the interests of workers in the informal economy 2014."

International Labour Conference 2014 - What did we gain?



By Pat Horn,
International Coordinator

For StreetNet, WIEGO and our other partners in the informal economy, the following strategic gains were made towards the text of a new ILO Recommendation:

- **Economic units** - The term “workers and economic units,” defined to include enterprises, entrepreneurs and households, is used throughout the text. This was a victory for workers' language and terminology instead of the corporate enterprise terminology employers were advocating.
- **Public space** - After a hard battle, it was agreed to add public space (or public spaces) as a place where work is carried out in the informal economy in Clause 6(b). HOWEVER, this gain was weakened by mention in Clause 16(n) of “regulated access” to public spaces.
- **Own-account workers** - Specifically mentioned in Clauses 8(b) and 9(a), this consolidates the recognition of own-account workers defined in the 2002 Conclusions on Decent Work and the Informal Economy.
- **Cooperatives and social and solidarity economy** - Mentioned in 8(c) and 9(d), this is a significant advance from previous ILO language of “social enterprises” and “social economy.”
- **Collective bargaining** - In contradiction of prior agreement had been reached between us and the trade union movement on this, a bitter struggle was initiated in the Workers' Group by some long-standing European members, who felt that direct participation by workers and economic units in the informal economy in collective bargaining, particularly in tripartite forums, would “weaken tripar-

tism”. This was the one crucial issue for informal workers that we had also lost in Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors. We had to do a lot of lobbying with our allies to neutralise this internal dynamic and a reasonable compromise was crafted. Interestingly, on this issue the Employers had no objections.

- **Representation** - there was significant recognition of the right of workers and economic units in the informal economy to representation.

What did we lose?

- **Local government** - Specific mention of local government was thrown out on the advice of legal experts. This is probably precisely why ILO instruments are so ineffective as far as the local government level is concerned. We need to find a way around the legal technicality to get a strong mention in the Recommendation of the importance of the responsibility of local government for providing an enabling environment for decent work in relation to many categories of workers in the informal economy.
- **Avoiding destruction of livelihoods in the process of formalisation** - this proviso was clearly spelt out in the text of the Proposed Conclusions, but this has now been lost in the amendments resulting in a new clause that merely talks about “ensuring opportunities for income security and livelihoods.”

On balance, our lobbying and advocacy before the International Labour Conference including wide distribution of the WIEGO Platform on transitions from the informal to the formal economy in the interests of the workers in the informal economy, in which 12 of StreetNet's affiliates made inputs, was successful - as we made significant gains in the text of the draft Recommendation.

International Labour Conference 2015 - What do we still need to fight for?

By Pat Horn,
International Coordinator

As we go to the International Labour Conference in 2015, we will focus on key points for the strengthening of the text of the proposed new ILO Recommendation on transitions from the informal to the formal economy. These are:

Collective bargaining

THIS is one of the most critical areas where we need to deepen understanding that it has to involve ALL kinds of employers (including intermediaries and labour brokers) and ALL kinds of workers (including own-account workers) to exercise their rights to collective bargaining, including with authorities at local government level and other relevant bargaining counterparts. We should try to get the current text (which we had to even struggle for) strengthened further in this regard. For this we need to do quite a bit of education work, especially of traditional trade unionists who are less exposed to new ways of organising workers in the informal economy.

Local government

We need to find a way of getting around the technicality that in ILO instruments in particular and the international legal framework in general, the word “national” means “the competent authority,” and develop an argument for disaggregating in this instrument the particular role and responsibility of local government in developing their by-laws and urban policies to provide a conducive environment for formalisation processes.

We have been exploring how the international local government networks are going about building their relationships within the United Nations system, such as the UCLG (United Cities & Local Governments), in searching for some wording that could help us bypass this technicality.



Public space

There is a contradictory element in the proposed conclusions regarding this concept. It was accepted as a legitimate workplace of workers in the informal economy in Clause 6(b) under the SCOPE, but in Clause 15 under LEGAL and POLICY FRAMEWORKS, only “regulated access” to public spaces is recognised. This contradiction needs to be harmonised with the clear and unambiguous recognition of the universal right to freely access public space.

Natural resources

We failed to anticipate the complications presented by the vast range of rights and sovereignty issues around mineral resources, in raising the issue of natural resources. Some thought and careful prior preparation will have to be given to suitable wording about access to renewable natural resources (such as forest products) as distinct from mineral resources which are much more controversial due to their non-renewable nature.

While we are about it, however, we should apply our minds to what we would want to say about informal miners. Their work is very controversial because of their extraction of mineral resources. Nevertheless, they are also highly persecuted informal workers.

Maintaining existing livelihoods during formalisation processes

We need to get this issue back in the text, and possibly strengthen it in line with the way it has been expressed in the WIEGO Platform, i.e. that formalisation should NOT mean, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the loss of livelihoods of workers in the informal economy.



New ways of collective bargaining for changing the world of work

Pat Horn, International Coordinator



Collective bargaining is usually understood as taking place between an employer(s) and employees. However, workers in the informal economy, including own account workers, are engaged in many different forms of collective negotiation with counterparts who are not employers. WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organising) and StreetNet International (StreetNet) have been working together since 2012 on collective bargaining in the street vending and other sectors of the informal economy.

In 2012, Debbie Budlender and Jeremy Grest conducted research for StreetNet on representational systems at a local government level with the participation of StreetNet affiliates such as LDFC (DRC Democratic Republic of Congo), KENASVIT (Kenya), MUFIS (Malawi), CTCP (Nicaragua), UPTA (Spain) and CNTS (Senegal). From this research, they developed a document entitled "Towards a model framework for a local level collective bargaining forum for street traders" which was distributed to all StreetNet affiliates to start putting in practice.

In 2013 and 2014, all StreetNet affiliates were again engaged after circulating the Model Framework throughout the membership. It was requested that they use it as a guide in approaching their authorities to establish local-level negotiating forums, or to make reforms to already existing forums where applicable.

In India, statutory Town Vending Committees have been established after years of struggle by NASVI (National Alliance of Street Vendors of India) and SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) for more inclusive regulation of street vending and meaningful participation in negotiations, by the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihoods and Regulation of Street Vending) Act of 2014. This contains some clear definition of the composition of these forums and well-defined terms of reference to guide how they work. This is the most advanced case identified thus far.

In Sierra Leone, SLeTU (Sierra Leone Traders' Union) is a well developed union which has had significant impact on the

way the Municipal Trade Committees are structured and how they function. However, this work took a back seat in 2014 with the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic prevention of the spread and treatment of which had to take precedence over all other issues.

In Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, the organization SNVC (Syndicat National des Vendeurs du Congo) is working through a combination of bilateral agreements signed between SNVC and municipal and market authorities. They are also participating in a provincial-level forum in which they are the principal representative of the primary stakeholder group of informal traders. This means that they are working at two levels which is frustrating for the organization but also gives them some extra leverage.

In Kenya, where there has been recent restructuring of local government, the elected leadership of the urban alliances that are part of KENASVIT (Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors & Informal Traders) are participating in county-level negotiations in most places except Kisumu, Nairobi and Mombasa, where negotiations are still taking place at city municipality level. In preparation, KENASVIT leadership (national and local-level) have been undergoing continuous negotiations training since these negotiations started at the time of local government decentralisation in 2009.

In Maseru, Lesotho, a multi-stakeholders' negotiations forum dealing with informal trade was established after clashes between street vendors and Maseru municipality in 2012. National street vendors' organisation Khathang Tema Baitso'okoli regards this forum as an effective method of formalised interaction between the authorities and informal traders, which led to a reduction of the unease that previously existed. The municipality uses this forum to bring to the table their infrastructure plans and discuss these with street vendors and informal traders. Thus, from the point of view of the informal traders, there has been a major improvement in transparency regarding development plans, as they feel they are finally being properly consulted.

In Lesotho, Spain and South Africa, organisations of informal traders have been participating in municipally-established forums which operate at the whim of municipal officials. The accountability of these officials to work according to mutually-agreed rules or timetables seems to vary, depending on the strength of informal traders' organisations in holding them accountable. These result in various power abuses, especially if the Terms of reference (i.e. a set of aims and rules as to how the forum should function) and statutory obligations of such forums are not well developed.

The Johannesburg and Durban cases are in stark contrast with the KSD (King Sabata Dalindyebo) local municipality in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, consisting of the towns of Mthatha and Mqanduli. Here direct bilateral negotiations between the African Hawkers' Association AHA (affiliated to the Eastern Cape Street Vendors' Alliance) and the political head of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) have effectively resulted in compliance by the street traders in paying their monthly levies, which were agreed on by negotiation, and the authorities using negotiations to resolve prob-

lems instead of resorting to harrassment.

In Zambia, where there has been no emerging legislation on street trade policy since former President Michael Sata decreed that street vendors should not be removed from their workplaces on the streets, AZIEA (Alliance of Zambian Informal Economy Associations) initiated a public forum in Kitwe on the Zambian Copper Belt, involving street vendors and marketeers as well as workers in other informal economy sectors covered by AZIEA (i.e. carpenters, fisherpeople, poultry farmers, tailors, tinsmiths, visual arts) and other sectors such as freelance photographers on self-regulation of street vendors in Kitwe. So far these forums seem to have some impact on authorities due to the large numbers of informal workers attending, and prominent media coverage they have received.

In Tanzania, TUICO (Tanzanian Union of Industrial & Commercial Workers) has submitted a proposal for a negotiating forum to the municipality of Dar Es Salaam and is waiting for a response. The Municipality is taking a really long time to respond, saying that they are getting legal opinions and researching best practices in other countries before developing their counter-proposal.

StreetNet is encouraging all our affiliated organisations to establish strong collective negotiations forums, and to struggle for their statutory recognition.



FLOW Project Activity Highlights

The activities below are part of Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) project. It has been set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to improve the position of women and girls in developing countries.

StreetNet affiliates in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America are involved in the project and have greatly benefited. FLOW activities have been started since 2013. StreetNet has included some project highlights for the period July 2014-March 2015.



National Training Workshop in Lome

FAINATRASIT, StreetNet affiliate of Togo organised a national workshop on 22 - 23 July 2014 in Lome, Togo. The objective was - to reinforce the leaders' capacities of the organisations in markets.

Thirty eight leaders, twenty eight of whom - young workers and 23, women from several localities attended the workshop. They represented trade-union organisations of Lome markets and several other areas.

The director of governmental structure responsible for Informal Economy (DOSI) was especially invited to address to the participants. He presented the objectives of his structure and spoke about opportunities offered to the informal workers of Togo.

At the end of the workshop, recommendations were made for the different structures present (FAINATRASIT, DOSI, and StreetNet).

For FAINATRASIT, the suggestion was to create a structure for young workers and develop an action plan; DOSI was asked to organise training sessions for the women and the young workers in the informal economy and to build markets with adequate infrastructures. StreetNet should have more seminars, and to pressure DOSI for the construction of modern markets.

National Negotiation and Bargaining Platform



The Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Association (ZCIEA) held a national negotiation and bargaining platform workshop on the 12th September 2014 in Harare.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To come up with a standard framework for local and national level collective bargaining for the informal traders in Zimbabwe
- To train and educate the ZCIEA leadership on better methods of negotiation and collective bargaining
- To identify strategies to build a winning team at negotiations and bargain platforms



Although the workshop produced a document for ZCIEA to implement, the participants felt the area of negotiations was key to addressing the common challenges facing the informal workers operations.

KOSC Policy Workshop

The Korean Street Vendors' Confederation (KOSC), an affiliate of StreetNet, hosted a two-day workshop on 29 - 30 September, 2014. StreetNet Organiser, Sibailly Mdouhoure also attended. Members presented their challenges and concerns.

The main points were also on KOSC's negotiation and action plan towards demands from street vendors to the Seoul municipality; how to improve KOSC by identifying existing strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and obstacles; possible changes required for KOSC to overcome this with an action plan towards Seoul municipal's permit regulation.



National Seminar on the Social Solidarity Economy in Maputo, Mozambique

ASSOTSI, a StreetNet affiliate in Mozambique organised a national seminar in Maputo from 3 - 5 November 2014. Participants came from eight provinces, including Maputo.

The objective of the workshop was to review the activities carried out by ASSOTSI in the social and solidarity economy since the adoption of the Resolution during the StreetNet International Congress held in Benin in 2010.

The seminar discussed the collaboration between ASSOTSI

and the Municipality of Maputo. The working group concluded that collaborative relationships do exist but need to be improved. It was suggested that ASSOTSI adopt a New Manifesto based on the needs of the street vendors in Mozambique.

Participants were informed of ongoing discussions within the International Labour Conference regarding the transition from the informal to the formal economy.

SEWA's National Consultation with Vendors

The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) workshop was held on the 14 -15 November 2014 in Ahmedabad.

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, which was passed in early 2014, legitimises, regulates and protects the livelihoods of the street vendors.

For the Act to be actually implemented, the state rules needs to be framed. However not all vendors are aware of the Act and this impedes the advocacy efforts with government.

The aim of the National Workshop was two-fold: one to create awareness among the vendor leaders about the Act and to make action plan on Act's implementation.

There were forty-nine participants from seven states. Most of them - vendors and union leaders. Legal representatives including a retired judge, lawyers and an ex-mayor also attended.

The Participants made the following suggestions:

- The vendors should be made aware of their rights and duties. More vendors should be mobilised to attend meetings regularly. The new law should also be translated into Hindi as well as other local languages and distributed to raise awareness
- Create and maintain good relations with local authorities/police.
- Give the officials information and create an amicable relationship.



Regional Eastern and Southern Africa Workshop



The Regional East and Southern Africa Workshop on "Social Solidarity Economy" was held from 29 - 31 January 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe. This was hosted by the focal point Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations (ZCIEA). Ten of StreetNet affiliates from seven different countries attended.



It was recommended that:

- All associations should put together their common issues through the focal point office so that they can be consolidated for a common lobbying template.
- All affiliates must approach their ILO offices in their countries to request for their inclusion in the SSE programs.
- The focal point should remind its affiliates to lobby their trade unions in their countries to include them in the delegation for the ILO Conference 2015.
- The region has to seriously consider the meeting of the youth and focal point offices within 2015.
- All countries must start SSE aligned membership servicing programs e.g. Credit & Savings cooperatives.

The region decided to have a fundraising committee headed by KENASVIT & TUICO with ZCIEA, AZIEA and MUFIS being the other supporting team.

Moldova-Business-Sind holds Social Solidarity Economy Workshop

On February 25-28, 2015, the Federation of Trade Unions Moldova-business-sind held a workshop on "Social Solidarity Economy".

Thirty-two representatives of primary trade union organisations from 12 districts attended.

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce international experience in the field of social and solidarity economy for workers in the informal sector, especially street and market vendors and domestic workers.

The workshop considered such notions, like: "Cooperatives - key actors of the social economy", "The role of the social solidarity economy".



StreetNet Resolution on SSE was also discussed during the workshop. It provided a clear explanation of such issues like: social solidarity economy, trade unions and cooperatives.

International Women's Day Seminar



The International Women Seminar took place in Maputo, Mozambique on the 7-8 March 2015.

Twenty-three women from Argentina, Nicaragua, the DRC, Zimbabwe and Moldova participated in the seminar.

Participants celebrated the event of March 8 with women of OTM, and other associations of civil society. The ceremony was held at Heroes Square in Maputo from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. For many participants, it was the first time they were involved in such a ceremony. The participants visited two



informal markets in Maputo: the Xikelete Market and Zimpeto

There was a photo exhibition where participants contributed information about their organisations. The Delegation of Mozambique presented a video on maternity protection, child protection, and protection of domestic workers.

Participants encouraged women in the informal economy to organise a similar event with women belonging to other sectors. They wanted this day to be recognised as a paid holiday worldwide.

Xhidmat-ISH hosts Capacity Building Workshop

With the support of StreetNet and the FLOW Project, Federation of Trade Unions of Azerbaijan "Xhidmat-ISH" organised a capacity building workshop on the 1 and 2 April 2015. This was based on the theme "Forms, methods and tactics of negotiation" in Baku city, Azerbaijan. The workshop was facilitated by an experienced ILO trainer, Vsevolod Barbanyagra.

Twenty-seven trade union activists attended the workshop, 16 of whom were women, who are mainly young workers. The facilitator of the workshop informed the audience primarily about the gist and the concept of the negotiation process, on negotiation stakeholders etc.

The facilitator explained to the participants in detail the nuances of both parties' positions and what issues need to be put forth for negotiation. Particular attention was paid to tactics and forms of negotiation. The main goals of the workshop have been achieved and information about this activity was publicised in national Trade Union newspaper: <http://ulfet-az.com/sendika/9054>



Jamaladdin Ismayilov, Xhidmat-ISH Vice-President addressing the participants during the opening of the workshop



ILO Trainer, Vsevolod Barbanyagra who facilitated the workshop for two days



Pictured are the participants who attended the workshop

Lobbying our government to recognise worker rights in the Informal Economy

Letter to the President of Chile - Michelle Bachelet

In Chile, Sintraloc has worked hard to change public views of informal sector workers as animals, drunks, vagrant persons and social baggage. Since 2005, this work has included influencing the transformation of the informal economy sector to a formal one. The first signs of Sintraloc's success has been in the change in our legislation. In November 2009, the Chilean Government approved Law No. 20.388 in Parliament, which provided the first big push for legal recognition of our work.

However, this recognition of us **as legal workers imposes more obligations on us than entitling us to rights**. We have to contribute to the State with taxes, but do not have any social protection platforms. Further, we have to visit public hospitals as homeless persons instead of as citizens entitled to healthcare. The situation is worse regarding a pension, as we do not have any right to this on retirement or to a pension of Grace granted by the State.

Thus, we have asked the Chilean Government to create the **Bonus Tribute Social Solidarity Platform**. This means, in simple terms, that taxes will be paid by self-employed workers **(those who don't have to submit tax returns)**. These are intended to fund health and welfare benefits for informal sector workers whose contributions will be matched with an equal contribution from the State. This proposal is being studied and we will be driving it constantly by all means possible, to get it accepted

Kind regards
Hardy Vallejos Ramírez
Secretary General Sintraloc
General Coordinator of the Americas



Activity and Organising of the Trade Union of Self - Employed and Commercial Sector Workers of Georgia



Georgia (A country in the Caucasus situated at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe) - in May 2014, a meeting was organised by the Self-Employed and Commercial Workers Union of Georgia (SCWU). This was attended by 14 individuals and resulted in the creation of the Gori Central Bazaar Primary Union Organisation.

The problems workers experienced included the government's attempt to move the bazaar from the central location in the city to the suburbs. The sectoral branch began negotiations with the local administration and met with the majority representative, party, Soso Vakhtangishvili. Through the efforts of the SCWU, the unwavering support and solidarity of the workers, a compromise was reached in the form of an agreement that the bazaar would remain at the current location until 20 January 2015.

Despite using all of the strength that the union possesses, the SCWU was unable to unionise 100% of the bazaar employees. Only 80 merchants of the 1500 joined the Self-

Employed and Commercial Workers Union of Georgia.

However, in 2015 they were evicted from the territory by investors; trade unions have not been able to realise their request to stay in the old market area. The employees didn't leave the union but do not pay union fees. The SCWU unionised 70 employees.

Regarding union branch activities, the first trade union organisation in the casino where there are 150 employed, was created. Of the 150 employees, 21 are trade union members; these people have to work very hard without overtime pay or any breaks. They are also exposed to hazardous conditions. It should be noted that it's very difficult to engage with company owners as their sector is a private one. All the employees are members of the trade union - they all are afraid to lose their jobs. An effort is being made to enrol many union members so that it will be possible to approach the employer jointly.

Since 2006, Georgia is the only country that doesn't have labour inspections. This jeopardises the employees' rights every day. There is no real mechanism in the country that can monitor employers' arbitrary behaviours. As for the current situation, the SCWU is happy that government made a decision to have labour inspections. SCWU hopes that this will help the union in the fight to challenge injustice against workers.

Information provided by Miranda Mandaria, SCWU President



StreetNet welcomes Belarusian Trade Union "Vmeste" ("Together") as an affiliate

Currently, the union unites more than 630 members. Ninety per cent of the members are self-employed individual entrepreneurs (IE), operating in the retail trade and offer services eg taxis, sewing, repairs etc. Others are farmers.

The Entrepreneurs' strike movement in 2005-2006 motivated entrepreneurs to create union "Vmeste" in 2007.

"Traditional trade unions are not only able to defend our interests, but sometimes hinder us in the struggle for our economic and social rights. This happened because the unions have become part of the state machine", says Union leader Irina Yaskevich.



Union Leader - Irina Yaskevich



StreetNet International publishes this newsletter in four official languages offering affiliates information and opinions

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Organising and Challenges of Informal Worker Rights



Nov Srey Leak at the Deum Kor Market, where she has been trading for thirty years

NOV SREY LEAK is 41 years old; she has completed her Grade 12. She's married and has 5 children (3 boys and 2 girls). She has been a mushroom seller at the Doem Kor Market in Cambodia where she lives, for 30 years.

In the beginning of 2010, Doem Kor Market did not have many street vendors, but after 2013, there was an influx of street vendors. Five years later, a company called **Chum Saroeun's**, required tax payment from street vendors, ranging from **10 000 to 30 000** Khmer Riels per month. Non-payment of these taxes meant they would not be able to trade.

In 2000 the Chief officer of Doem Market had released an urgent letter to the street vendors to move out but did not state the reasons as to why they should move. In response to this problem, Srey Leak had mobilised the street vendors and sent a letter of complaint to the Chief Officer of Kor market, Mr Heng. She had also gathered the group to meet Mr Khan Toul Kork, the Governor. There were many police officers who intervened and did not allow them to meet the Chief officer, Governor Khan Toul Kork. However, the group of street vendors pushed past the police and entered the Governor's office.

Mr Khan Toul Kork, could not help them with a solution despite numerous attempts to meet him. His response was that the government needed to develop the area. Later, the traders went to the Hun Sen office but were met with resistance by 20 police officers. "I was scared as I thought the people in my group would be arrested or worse killed," Srey said. The traders persisted and continued to meet with the officials and discuss possible solutions. This resulted in their being allowed to trade at the old place. However, they have to wait for an alternative new place.

Nov Srey Leak joined the Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA), because she believes IDEA is an assembly of the informal economy



sector, which is necessary for building a strong solidarity to fight corruption and exploitation of the poor, and the street vendors.

"After becoming a member of IDEA, I was elected to be a head of the advisory board on September 18, 2014 with 17 people. IDEA gave me the opportunity to go on an exchange visit to India to look at the working conditions there and to participate in workshops and other social events."

In 2014, Srey Leak's group met the Chief Officer of the Doem Kor Market, when they attended a public forum to raise their issues and concerns as vendors. They have had discussions to unite sellers and market management.

"Street vendors in other places face problems of evictions. Our group is willing to support and assist the street vendors in the markets of Kilo Lek 4 and Oreusey Market, from which, we have heard, they will be evicted in near future," said Srey Leak.

Since August 16, 2014, Doem Kor Market has changed its image positively. The sellers (street vendors) and traders from other provinces have a good place to sell their products. The place is well maintained with market security guards and there is no violence or exploitation of the traders