



Representatives of street vendors from across the Americas come together in São Paulo to fight for their rights

18th of May 2022 - From May 23 to May 26, representatives of [StreetNet](#) affiliates from the American continent will meet in-person for the first time since the start of the pandemic in 2020. The Regional Meeting of the global alliance StreetNet International will span over the course of three days and it will be an unparalleled space of learning, of sharing of experiences, reflection and debate on crucial issues for street and market vendors. It will also be an opportunity to come up with a strategic plan for the development of StreetNet International's activities in the region for the next 4 years.

The Regional Meeting will be hosted by [UNICAB - União Nacional dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras Camelôs, Feirantes e Ambulantes do Brasil](#) - the national alliance of street vendor organizations in Brazil which has recently celebrated its 11th year of existence. The Regional Meeting will also be co-organized with the assistance of the regional focal point organization from El Salvador and led by Comrade Herminio Diaz, General Secretary of the organization [FESTIVES - Trade Union Federation of Independent Sales Workers of El Salvador](#), and StreetNet Americas regional team, the Organizer for the Americas, Maíra Vannuchi and Global Advocacy and Urban Policies Specialist Pilar Balbuena.

On the occasion of the meeting, on the morning of the 23rd of May, the seminar **Challenges and ways of the international struggle of workers in the informal economy** will be held, with debaters from TUCA - ITUC-Americas, Wiego - Women in the Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing, Unisol - Central of Cooperatives and Solidarity Enterprises Brazil, UTEP - Union of Workers of the Popular Economy Argentina and the Brazilian national congressman Vicentinho, from the Workers' Party, who will speak about the work of building a Parliamentary Front for the Defense of Workers in the Informal Economy in the country. [The meeting can also be followed online.](#)

The Regional Meeting is a tremendous opportunity to understand the current legal, social and labour landscape for street vendors and other self-employed workers in the region. It will feature representatives of informal traders' organizations from 14 countries - most of which are women, due to StreetNet's commitment to encourage women's leadership and participation.

"StreetNet International is committed to strengthen its affiliated organizations not only at national but also at regional level, that's why such Regional Meetings are very important space for our members to get together, share their experience and knowledge, discuss common challenges and opportunities as well as to develop a mid- and long-term strategy and possible joint collective actions or advocacy campaigns at regional level" said Oksana Abboud, StreetNet's International Coordinator.

If you are a journalist interested in covering this event, please contact:

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About StreetNet: StreetNet is a global alliance of organizations of informal traders with the goal of representing street vendors, hawkers, and cross border traders at the international level. It has over 600 thousand members across over 50 countries. It was established in 2002 in Durban, South Africa.