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Street vendors organizations across Asia come together in Kathmandu, Nepal to fight for their rights and recognition as workers

Representatives of street vendors from Nepal, Cambodia, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and Thailand will gather for the first time in Kathmandu at Hotel Thamel Park from 30th of January to February 2nd 2024. This Regional Meeting of the global alliance StreetNet International, 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 regional activities in Asia.

The Regional Meeting of street vendors will be hosted by the Nepal Union of Street Traders (NEST) with the support of the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT). It will also feature the presence of Solidarity Center.

In recent years, NEST has been involved in a fierce battle to defend the rights of street vendors in Kathmandu against the policies of the municipality, led by mayor Balendra Shah. During the Regional Meeting, NEST will be organizing market visits so street vendors from different countries can strengthen their solidarity and learn from each other's successes. **"During these 22 years of NEST's existence, we have fought for our rights, including massive public demonstrations, sit-ins, peaceful protests and collective bargaining."** says Maya Gurung, current leader of NEST and member of StreetNet's International Council, **"This Regional Meeting is very important for us in Nepal to develop our international networks and it is a golden opportunity to share experiences, achievements and identify and propose solutions to our problems"**.

In addition, the Regional Meeting will create an opportunity for the representatives of street vendors in Asia to decide on the best regional approach, **"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 spaces 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](http://www.streetnet.org.za): *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.*