

Report Summary of the StreetNet President - 2019 to 2023

This report is a reflection of the collective power of teamwork, unity of purpose and focus on the struggle to realise dignity, decent work, respect for and recognition of informal economy workers' rights as legitimate and essential workers. Street vendors and market vendors make up a big percentage of informal economy workers and are the main StreetNet International constituency. Hence it is important for us, as StreetNet to continue building up the momentum on our strategies, engagements and demands for the elimination of violence and harassment in our workplaces so that an effective transition from the informal to the formal economy can take place.

**** June 2019, International Labour Conference: ILO**

Convention 190 on the Elimination of Violence and harassment in the world of work

* Continuation of engagements done in 2018 - working with the WIEGO team and delegates, StreetNet International delegates engaged the workers' group and different governments.

* SNI President was tasked to address the African governments Group on the need for them to support the Convention and to especially include protection of informal economy workers and prevention of violence and harassment in the informal economy workplaces.

* SNI President addressed the ILC Plenary on behalf of StreetNet International, motivating the Conference to ensure that the Convention includes the protection of informal economy workers and the prevention of violence and harassment in their workplaces which are usually in the public space(s). The speech was jointly prepared by the International Coordinator and the President in consultation with the WIEGO team.

Results:

* Some governments, especially the African governments group responded positively and supported the informal economy workers' position

* The workers group supported our cause, with the assistance of informal economy workers who were in the workers' group.

* Article 2.2 under the Scope of the ILO Convention 190 states that; The Convention applies to all sectors whether private or public, both in the formal and informal economy and whether in the urban or rural areas.

* ILO Recommendation 206 on the Elimination of Violence and harassment in the world of work, under Protection and Prevention, subsection 11, states that: "In facilitating the transition of informal to formal economy, Members should provide assistance and resources to informal economy workers and employers and their associations to prevent and address violence in the informal economy".

I have given details on the ILO C190 and R206 because these two are an important tool in our continuing struggle against violence and harassment in our world of work.

We need to continue and upscale engagements with our respective governments to ratify and implement the ILO Convention 190 in our different countries.

**** International Labour Conference 2020**

**** International Labour Conference 2021**

- * The StreetNet International President presented a speech on behalf of StreetNet International. The speech called for:
 - * Social dialogue with workers in the informal economy.
 - * Universal social protection for all, a need which the Covid-19 pandemic accentuated.
 - * Progressive and sustainable financing of inclusive social protection.

ILC Working Party on Inequality and the World of Work: 25 November 2021

* SNI President presented an intervention speech on behalf of SNI, International Domestic Workers Federation, HomeNet International, Global Wastepickers Alliance and WIEGO. The speech articulated the following:

- ** Exclusion of informal economy workers from labour rights, workers' rights and protection.
- ** Covid-19 intensified inequalities.
- ** Recovery of economies and post pandemic societies require solutions with a gender equity perspective where the role of workers in the informal economy as public health agents, care workers and workers contributing to societies is at the centre and forefront of the fight against poverty and inequality.

**** ILO 14th African Regional Meeting in Côte d'Ivoire - 11 December 2019**

SNI President was a panelist in the discussion topic: **Transforming Africa's informal and rural economy for decent work.**

Key message to governments: Ratify Convention 190 for effective transition from informal to formal economy.

****ITUC New Year School - Lome, Togo**

SNI President spoke on the need for trade unions to present social protection plans which include informal economy workers, drawing the attention of some delegates to the non-inclusion of informal economy workers in some of their programming. A representative, Stefano Belluci of the International Institute of Social History engaged the President and indicated interest to work with SNI. Later during the year, he introduced his colleague, Andrea's Admasie, who works with IISH's Africa desk. This was the birth of a partnership between IISH and StreetNet International.

**** Skoll World Forum- October 2020**

Presented on Extending social protection to the informal economy in the face of Covid-19.

**** 9th United Nations Virtual Forum on Business and Human rights**

Topic- Informality: How to approach the Elephant in the Room?

**** May 2022, West and Central Africa Regional Meeting, Senegal**

Reflections and experience sharing on challenges, survival and lessons learnt during Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns

Regional plans for future work

**** Salzburg Global Seminar on Health and Well-being: Gender Equity in the Post pandemic Rebuilding - October 2022**

Presented on:

What is informal economy?

Realities of an informal economy worker

What is StreetNet International?

What is ZCIEA?

**** GEFONT Congress July 2022, Nepal**

**** COSATU Congress, September 2022 - South Africa**

****WIEGO General Assembly - November 2022**

SNI President nominated and elected into the WIEGO Facilitated side event: Advancing Street vendors and market vendors' Interests

MEDIA

****** StreetNet International Media did a lot of work in information sharing and profiling different leaders, members and activities by SNI affiliates. The News and information articles drew the attention of more organisations who invited me to speak about informal economy work, StreetNet International and our issues.

****** StreetNet International Media, working with the Ford Foundation ran a Media campaign in which I was interviewed by a number of international media Houses and outlets about StreetNet International, our work and challenges as informal economy workers.

**Lorraine Sibanda,
StreetNet President
ZCIEA President**

April 2023