



[PRESS RELEASE] Informal economy workers gather in São Paulo to make the Social and Solidarity Economy a reality for all workers and celebrate the International Day of Street Vendors

From 14 to 16 November 2023, [StreetNet International](#), a global alliance of organizations of street vendors, is organizing a workshop gathering workers' representatives of informal economy organizations and international trade union federations to promote the Social and Solidarity Economy. In particular, the aim of the workshop is to discuss worker-led cooperatives as an inclusive alternative to achieve decent work for all workers. The event will take place in the [Slaviero Downtown Hotel](#) in São Paulo.

"As workers in the informal economy it is very important for us to come together in Brazil and discuss the Social and Solidarity Economy, especially because **this is a time where we seek to transform our activities to more sustainable livelihoods**. We also want to ensure we get protection from the violence and harassment which continues to affect street vendors in particular, as our workplace is in the public space. **By getting together and focusing on the Social and Solidarity Economy as a model of work, we shall be able to build more sustainable and protective workplaces**", stated StreetNet's President, Lorraine Sibanda.

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has become increasingly important in recent years. A **Resolution by the UN General Assembly on "Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development"** was passed on April 18th 2023, and the International Labour Conference has also considered the Social and Solidarity Economy a **viable solution to re-balancing economic, social and environmental objectives**, according to a [Resolution passed in June 2022](#).

However, it is still unclear how exactly workers in the informal economy, which make up to [61% of all workers globally](#), can seize this opportunity. The international workshop "**The Social and Solidarity Economy: Sustainability For A Better Future**" will therefore gather workers' representatives to discuss on what SSE means for workers, how worker-led social and solidarity economy units can advance the [decent work agenda](#), how we can collectively build an alternative to the current economic system and promote sustainable development. As StreetNet International Coordinator, Oksana Abboud, explains:

"For quite a time, the issue of SSE, with a focus on cooperatives creation as one of the SSE units, was always discussed at StreetNet but it was not a priority on its leadership agenda to enhance the role of SSE units for the StreetNet constituency. **SSE is one of the strategic objectives of StreetNet, also defined in a Resolution adopted at the 7th International Congress in 2023**, and it's a perfect time for all of us to develop a clear practical plan for the promotion of SSE among StreetNet affiliates as it serves a lot of purposes, especially towards building a stronger collective voice to strengthen negotiation power of street vendors as well as facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy processes, which should be smooth and without harm to anyone engaged in informal employment."

On November 14th, there will also be an opening of an exhibition about street vendors and their workplaces across the world, to celebrate the International Day of Street Vendors. It will take place at Slaviero Downtown Hotel in São Paulo at 9am. Journalists are welcome to attend this ceremony which will feature speeches by StreetNet International leaders, as well as the leadership of UNICAB (União Nacional de Trabalhadores e Trabalhadores Camelôs, Ambulantes e Feirantes do Brasil). Individual interviews can also be arranged after the opening.

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

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