Towards a gender-transformative SSE: a thinking lab

Vanessa Pillay
Organization & Representation Programme
Women’s Economic Empowerment is about working poor women having access to and control over the resources they need to improve their lives and livelihoods.

It is also about women having the agency to influence the policy, regulatory and institutional environment that shapes their lives and livelihoods.
Excluded due to their: gender, race or caste, social class, employment status.
Women are continually organising

- to challenge oppression and exploitation
- against structural crisis that needs radical alternatives
- for economic, political and social justice.
Any transformative change that is gender-sensitive must address...

The root cause - a patriarchal and predatory capitalist economic system that needs women at the bottom to be exploited for the profit and privilege of those at the top.

How will the social solidarity economy replace the status quo?
How will oppressive power structures be dismantled and transformed?
What will change about paid productive labour and unpaid or undervalued reproductive labour?

The need for an enabling environment for policy and practices through which women can reclaim their agency.
Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities, rights, protection and voice. WIEGO promotes change by improving statistics and expanding knowledge on the informal economy, building networks and capacity among informal worker organizations and, jointly with the networks and organizations, influencing local, national and international policies.