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Contact us at WIEGO !

Address :
WIEGO
79 JFK Street #32,
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
Tel. : 617-496-7037
email : wiego@wiego.org
Web : www.wiego.org
Facebook:
[facebook.com/wiegoglobal](https://www.facebook.com/wiegoglobal)
Twitter: [@wiegoglobal](https://twitter.com/wiegoglobal)

What's going on at WIEGO?

Take a look at our
[recent](#) and [upcoming](#)
events and activities!

News from SEWA

SEWA has published the first issue of "SEWA Rashtriya Patrika", SEWA's Mouthpiece integrating women workers in national development. This [April, 2016 newsletter](#) includes an introduction from SEWA founder, Ela Bhatt, an article about U-WIN cards (Unrecognized Workers Identity Number) for workers and an article about a SEWA public hearing to resolve fish workers' issues.

The second edition, published in [July, 2016](#) featured a piece on India's new solid waste management rules and the impact of these on waste pickers.

The [record from a panel discussion](#) at the International Labour Organization's [World of Work Summit](#) mentions a SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) initiative as an "excellent model for supporting transformative self-employment".

WIEGO MBO Newsletter



A Newsletter for Membership-Based Organizations of Informal Workers

GREETINGS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the WIEGO MBO Newsletter. We love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to submit content for the next issue, please email us at wiego@wiego.org.

Celebrating 20 years of C177 and Advocating for Future Change

In 1996 the ILO adopted the Convention on Home Work (C177), representing a major victory in the struggle for decent work and rights for homeworkers. The convention was the culmination of a process spearheaded by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), which involved collaboration between homeworker groups and union, NGO and academic allies. At the 1996 International Labour Conference (ILC) these groups worked together to successfully advocate for the convention's adoption, despite hostility from employers.

Although the adoption of C177 represents significant progress for homeworkers, twenty years later only 10 countries have ratified. Also, implementation is an ongoing challenge as few governments and employers are willing to carry out its provisions.

At the Global Conference of Home-based Workers held in New Delhi in February 2015, it was decided that homeworkers worldwide would use the 20th anniversary of C177 to highlight the ongoing challenges they face, and to campaign globally for governments to ratify and implement other demands contained in the Delhi Declaration of Home-Based Workers. So far in 2016, WIEGO and homeworker partner organizations have made much

progress towards this goal, starting with an international event held in Ahmedabad in March, organized by HomeNet South Asia (HNSA). Attended by about 150 participants, the event sought to increase solidarity and highlight the need for more national C177 ratifications. At the event, affiliates of HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet South East Asia participated in formulating a platform of demands for home-based workers, which was subsequently circulated to home-based worker and support groups in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. This platform would be presented by a delegation of homeworker representatives during the 2016 ILC, described below:

2016 International Labour Conference on Global Supply Chains

From May 30 to June 10 2016, a delegation of homeworkers and organizers from Africa, Latin America, South Asia and South-East Asia participated in the [2016 ILC](#) to raise awareness about the issues of decent work and rights for homeworkers in global supply chains. They presented the [platform of demands](#) on decent

work for homeworkers in global supply chains which sets out key issues and challenges faced by homeworkers and their demands for improved working conditions, rights and decent work.

As a result of interventions by the WIEGO delegation, the official Conclusions coming out of the discussions includes text which recognizes homeworkers as being part of global supply chains. The Conclusions also acknowledge the ILO Convention on Home Work (C177) as one of the instruments that the ILO should base its programme of action on to address decent work in global supply chains.

Other events to mark the anniversary of C177 and raise awareness in 2016 are on the next page.



WIEGO delegation at the 2016 ILC



Special event at ILC 2016 commemorating 20 years of C177

During the ILC, the Workers' Group of the ILO organized a special event, "Commemorating 20 Years of the ILO Convention on Home Work (C177)". WIEGO and homemaker representatives participated in the event where panelists reflected on the negotiation process towards a Convention 20 years ago, progress to date in terms of country ratification, discussed examples of legislation protecting home-workers and the Convention's continued relevance today.

Looking forward... Home-based workers in WIEGO's developing global network celebrated Home-Based Workers' Day on October 20th 2016, using this occasion to promote the campaign.

More information:

- [Myths and facts about home-based workers](#)
- [Promoting the ILO Home Work Convention \(C177\) and the Rights of Home-workers](#)
- [C177: The Homework Convention- Its Time for Action!](#)

HomeNet Eastern Europe Marks the Anniversary of C177



Photo: Participants in the week of events in Sofia, Bulgaria

From June 17 to 20, 2016 members of HomeNet Eastern Europe gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria to take part in activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the ILO Convention on Home Work (C177). Representatives of home-based worker organizations from five

countries (Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey) participated in the events organized by the Bulgarian Federation of Self Employed and Informal Workers, the Association of Home-Based Workers of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Union for Direct Democracy. The programme of

events included an exhibition/ bazaar where own-account home-based workers (HBWs) from the five Eastern European countries were able to display and sell their wares, a meeting between country representatives and WIEGO, a press conference to raise the visibility and voice of HBW representatives from the region, and a gathering where home-based worker leaders from Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries delivered a [Declaration](#) of Home-Based Workers to the office of the Minister of Social Affairs in Bulgaria.

My Fair Home Campaign

On June 16, 2016, MBOs of domestic workers around the world held events to celebrate International Domestic Workers Day. This year celebrations have focused on the ["My Fair Home" campaign](#). As described by the [International Domestic Workers Federation \(IDWF\)](#), "The 'My Fair Home' campaign focuses on the employers of domestic workers – encouraging them to personally take the My Fair Home pledge to commit to upholding the rights of domestic workers in their own homes. The campaign is a collaboration

between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)."

See photos and read about events that took place in [Tanzania](#), [Ghana](#), [Hong Kong](#) and [more](#).



IDWF and ILO Representatives showing support for "My Fair Home"

WIEGO Network at Third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3) of the Habitat III Conference

A WIEGO Network delegation made up of informal worker representatives, researchers, organizers and technical support individuals attended PrepCom3 (July 25-27 in Surabaya, Indonesia) to ensure informal workers' voices are represented in the forthcoming New Urban Agenda. As part of this engagement, WIEGO has worked in a collaborative process with MBOs to develop a Workers' Platform: see [Implementing the New Urban Agenda: How Local and National Governments Can Support the Urban Informal Economy](#). We have received great feedback from MBOs on this platform; many thanks to everyone who organized local meetings. This platform was reviewed at a capacity-building workshop in Surabaya (just prior to the start of PrepCom 3) for use there and was finalized for use in Quito where the Habitat 3 meeting took place in October. More information on WIEGO's participation in this process is on the [WIEGO website](#).

WIEGO, IDWF, StreetNet, ARB Representatives attend United Nations events

In July, a series of events were held in San Jose, Costa Rica in advance of the second meeting of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel (UN HLP) on Women's Economic Empowerment. First, UN Women hosted a side event on the ratification of C189 in Latin America. WIEGO organized a delegation of leaders affiliated with IDWF to make interventions during the event, including: IDWF Latin America Regional Coordinator Marcelina Bautista, President of IDWF Chile affiliate FESINTRACAP Ruth Solar Olate Moreno and Gender Secretary of Costa Rica IDWF affiliate ASTRODOMES Maria del Carmen Cruz Martinez. In addition, WIEGO Project Officer Edith Anampa presented on the Domestic Workers Benefits Campaign recently launched in the San Borja district of Lima, Peru as a good practice. Subsequently, the WIEGO delegation was joined by Executive Director for the Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB) Nohra Padilla, and Gender Secretary for SINTRACOPEA (Costa Rica StreetNet affiliate) Kattia Barquero Rojas for the UN HLP Latin American Regional Consultation. The WIEGO delegation made several interventions during an open-floor session with President Luis Guillermo Solis of Costa Rica. **More information:**

[WIEGO's ongoing engagement in the UN HLP process](#)
[Summary of events in Costa Rica](#)



Some members of WIEGO Delegation with the President of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solis

Special Feature: Market Vendors Get Organized in Tanzania- "The Union Brings Attention!"

In August of 2016, Jane Barrett (Director of WIEGO's Organization and Representation Programme), visited the Mchikichini Market in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. While there, she visited the trade union [TUICO](#) (Tanzanian Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers). TUICO is an affiliate of StreetNet International and TUCTA (the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania). She spoke with TUICO branch chair Abdala Nyangalia and secretary Anthony Chingunje about organising in Mchikichini Market and about their union. Here is what they had to say:

"We have 2000 members in the Informal Worker section of TUICO. TUICO also organises in supermarkets, the finance sector, services including call centres, and even in the industrial sector. The total membership of TUICO is around 100,000. We have 65 members in this market, but we are organised in five other markets in Dar es Salaam, and in many other towns, including Arusha. The founders of this branch of the union were the kanga sellers.

The service we give our members includes legal advice, and we help solve grievances and settle disputes – like disputes with customers who walk away without paying the full price, or disputes with the municipal or district officials. We act as the arbiters. The members pay 1000 Tanzanian shillings (about 50 US cents) a month for membership. They come and pay cash in this office, where we record all

payments in a book.

Workers in the market also pay a daily fee to the municipality of 300 shillings. This is a kind of rent. The money is collected by the occupation Associations – kanga sellers, batik makers and sellers, babalishhe cooks, those selling matumba (used clothes), tailors, and so on. The leaders of the Associations collect the money in cash every evening and hand it over to the municipal officials early the next morning. The leaders in turn are paid by the Association to do this job. The Associations do this in order to avoid disturbance by the municipality. Workers pay 200 shillings a day to their occupation Association.

The difference between the Associations and the Union is that the Union is not confined to the boundaries of the market. It connects the workers to the workers in other markets, and to workers in other sectors. As informal workers we are represented on the national committee of TUICO. We are treated equally and make the same contribution to ideas and decisions as the representatives from other sectors. The good thing is that our chairperson is also on the regional committee of the union, and is treated with respect. When we have big problems and challenges, the other workers in TUICO support us. Like if we have a problem with the municipality we take it to the regional committee and then the head quarters of the union. When the municipality hears TUICO is

coming, they shiver. The union brings attention!

Three years ago the market burnt down completely, including the TUICO office here. It took three months for informal workers to rebuild it and in that time they had to do business here and there. The municipality promised to rebuild it, but until today they haven't done so. We don't have any interventions to prevent fire or to put out fire. There are a lot of risks here, like the chemicals used to make batik, but there is nothing to prevent. We will take the idea that the informal workers in Durban at Warwick Avenue Market had to approach the Fire Department to help us with the risks.

We would love more education on mobilising and strengthening our union."

Photos:

left: Abdala Nyangalia, branch chairperson

right: Anthony Chingunje, branch secretary

