



Dealing with the Informal Economy: A challenge for Trade Unions in Southern Africa

Regional Workshop
Windhoek, Safari Court Hotel, 18.-19.October 2006

Programme

Tuesday, 17 October

Arrival of participants

19h00 Welcome Dinner
Welcome Address: *Mr Alpheus Muheua*, President NUNW

Wednesday, 18 October

08h00-08h15 Registration
08h15-08h45 Opening
Opening Remarks and Introduction into the Programme:
Ms Ntwala Mwilima, Senior Researcher, LaRRI
Mr Hubert René Schillinger, Resident Representative, FES Namibia

Session 1: Conceptualising the Informal Economy: Characteristics of the IE and their Importance for Trade Unions

Introductory session (20 min Presentation – 20 min Discussion)

From Informal Sector to Informal Economy; what is the informal economy and what is it not? What characterises informal employment? Segmentation of the informal economy; by type of economic unit / by employment status; Relative importance of informal employment? What is the relevance of the IE for trade unions?

08h45-09h30 Chair: *Ms Ntwala Mwilima*, LaRRI, Namibia
Presenter: *Mr Mike Chungu*, WEAZ Zambia

Session 2: Trade Unions And The Informal Economy in Southern African Countries – Country Studies (I)

Presentation – Main findings of Country Studies (20 min Presentation per Country)

09h30-10h30 Chair: *Mr Bethuel Maserumule*, FES South Africa
▪ Mosambik, *Dr Amelia Bibiane*, SINTIAB/OTM
▪ Malawi, *Mr Mwanda W Chiwambala*, MUFIS
▪ Tanzania, *Mr Charles Panyika*

10h30-11h00 Tea/Coffee

11h00-11h20 Discussion

Session 3: Trade Unions And The Informal Economy in Southern African Countries – Country Studies (II)

- 11h20-12h20 Chair: *Mr Bethuel Maserumule*, FES South Africa
- South Africa, *Ms Caroline Skinner*, University of Kwa-Zulu/Natal
 - Namibia, *Ms Ntwala Mwilima*, LaRRi
 - Zambia, *Mr Grayson Koyi*, ZaCTU
 - Zimbabwe, *Mr Prosper TM Chitambara*, Ledriz or *Ms Vimbai Mushongera*, ZiCTU
- 12h20-12h40 Discussion
- 12h40 **LUNCH**

Session 4: Informal Sector Organisations in Southern Africa – Main achievements, main Challenges and what they expect from Trade Unions

Overview of what informal economy associations exist in Southern Africa; their strength, weaknesses. What is their experience with trade unions? What do they expect from trade unions, if anything? According to them what should the role of formal trade unions in supporting the IE? On the other hand: what hasn't worked and shouldn't trade unions do from IE association perspective? In more general terms: are trade unions the appropriate type of formal organisations to deal with the informal economy? Or shouldn't the informal economy be rather left to private sector organisations dealing with SMME-promotion? What are the pros and cons for leaving the informal economy to business and not to labour? What room for co-operation between business and organised labour, if any?

- 14h00 – 15h00 Chair: *Mr Herbert Jauch*, LaRRi, Namibia
Presenter: 1. *Ms Pat Horn*, *Streetnet International*
2. *Mr David B Chimombo*, MUFIS, Malawi
3. *Mr Cleo Moono*, Joint Consultative Council, Namibia
- 15h00 - 15h30 Discussion

Session 5: Working Groups: (Part I – Organising Structures, Organising Strategies – Expectations from IE Organisations)

Three thematic working groups working in parallel on the basis of guiding questions

- 15h30- 15h45 Introduction into Working Groups
Ntwala Mwilima/ Hubert René Schillinger
- 15h45 – 16h00 Tea/Coffee
- 16h00 – 17h30 3 Thematic Working Groups
Group I: TU Organising Structures in the IE (What works and why)
Group II: TU Organising Strategies in the IE (What works and why)
Group III: What IE organizations/associations expect from trade unions
- Evening: Joint Dinner at "La Marmite"

Thursday, 19 October

Session 6: Recap of Day One and Report Back (I)

- 08h30-09h00 Chair: *Ms Caroline Skinner*, UKZ, Durban, South Africa
Recap of Day One (Session 1-4)
Presenter: *Ms Ntwala Mwilima*, LaRRI
- 09h00-10h00 Report back of Working Groups I-III and Discussion;
(Rapporteurs)
- 10h00 – 10h15 Introduction into Working Groups – IV to VII
Ms Ntwala Mwilima / Hubert René Schillinger
- 10h15 – 10h45 Tea/Coffee

Session 7: Working Groups (Part II -Practical Problems – Services - Sustainability)

Three thematic working groups working in parallel on the basis of guiding questions

- 10h45 – 12h15 4 Thematic Working Groups
Group IV: Main problems experienced by TU in organising the IE and possible solutions
Group V: Services to be delivered to IE operators/workers (Needs, Role of TU in meeting these needs, Prerequisites for ability to deliver)
Group VI: Representation and Bargaining (...)
Group VII: Sustainability (How can unions organise and service the IE without external support? Lessons from good practise. Where is organising and servicing premised on external support?)
- 12h15-13h30 LUNCH

Session 8: Report back (II) – General Discussion - Closing

- Chair: *Mr Evalistus Kaaronda*, Secretary General, NUNW
- 13h30-15h00 Report back from Working Groups IV – VII and Discussion
- 15h00 – 16h00 General Discussion, Evaluation of the Workshop and Way Forward
Closing
