



Good afternoon,

My name is Victoria Okoye.

I speak today on behalf of my colleague Gloria Solorzano Espinoza of the National Network of Self-Employed Workers of Peru (RENATTA), a national organization of informal economy workers and a member of WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing).

The WIEGO Network is a member of the Grassroots Partner Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners, along with Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and the Huairou Commission. Together, we are a platform for grassroots voices of informal economy workers, informal settlement dwellers and women, informing the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda.

As Joan Clos stressed to us yesterday, dignified employment is very relevant component in terms of urban development in the New Urban Agenda. Across the world, informal workers - from street vendors to home-based workers to waste pickers - form a broad base of the global urban economy. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the informal economy accounts for 10 percent of the non-agricultural employment (that is, one out of every 10 workers), ranging from 6 percent in Serbia to 16 percent in Moldova.

Yesterday, my colleague Gloria participated on a side event highlighting global experiences of the grassroots stakeholders and lessons for Europe. Her national network was part of a formal - Dialogue Board that included more than 20 street vendor leaders and the city government of Lima, Peru. This committee met weekly during two years and informed a 2014 city street ordinance regulating street vending in the city's public spaces. The ordinance authorized street trade in Lima and balanced respect for these livelihoods with respect for neighbors and compliance with city health and safety regulations. It institutionalized a Tripartite Committee where street vendors, the City Government and local residents would discuss issues related to trade on public spaces. The ordinance also promoted essential mechanisms for the economic development of street traders and the formalization of street trade.

The consultative committee ended when a new government came into place. Last month, the newly elected mayor reversed many achievements made, by increasing the costs of licenses for street vendors, and reducing their validity from 2 years to one, making it more difficult to acquire licenses.

In the words of Gloria:

“This is why we are in the Habitat III Process, because we believe that The City We Need must be economically and socially inclusive for the informal economy. But this can only be possible if the Habitat III Process takes us into account. This process will impact us, and we want to be included - in the dialogues, in the planning and in the implementation. We don't want a process that promotes the behavior of the current city administration in Lima that went against the inclusion of us as stakeholders.”



We want a New Urban Agenda that prioritizes the following:

1. **Recognizes and supports organized networks of informal workers** who contribute to urban economic growth and build movements towards influencing and enhancing their own development and the cities in which they live.
2. **Formalize engagement and partnerships between local government, national government and grassroots groups and empower organizations of informal workers (especially women) to participate in equal partnership with local government** in decision-making, including participation in the planning, implementation, and monitoring processes.
3. **Develop laws and urban policies that** promote the economic and social security of informal workers and their contributions to the local economy.
4. **Create pathways for incremental formalization and integration of informal workers**, to guarantee decent livelihoods for all.

Thank you.