

## **INFORMAL ECONOMY PLATFORM OF ISSUES**

*“If you want to know what a crocodile eats, you don’t ask a monkey – you have to ask the crocodile or at least something that also lives in the water”*

**African regional workshop held in Lusaka from 17 – 19 October 2001**  
**convened by the Workers Education Association of Zambia**  
*(attended by participants from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mocambique,  
Uganda, Ghana and South Africa)*

1. Governments should recognise the informal economy in their statutes.
2. Organisational structures should be created within government frameworks to represent issues of informal economy at local and central government levels.
3. All governments should create Ministries of the Informal Economy and should harmonise their policies relating to the informal economy.
4. All nations should ratify all Conventions relevant to the informal economy and child labour.
5. The Workers Group at the ILO should include significant representation from workers in the informal economy.
6. Associations of workers in the informal economy should be integrated into the labour movement and thereby in the structures of the ILO.
7. The ILO should undertake education programmes for workers in the informal economy.
8. ILO Conventions and Recommendations on the protection of informal economy workers’ rights, particularly freedom of association and collective bargaining rights, should be introduced and implemented by the ILO.
9. ILO member states should be pressurised to ratify Conventions regarding workers’ rights, including workers in the informal economy.
10. The ILO should co-operate with the WIEGO Statistics Programme in assisting all governments to produce proper statistics on the informal economy in their countries, and this should be a requirement of all governments.
11. Governments should categorise the different kinds of work done in the informal economy, and the specific needs of the workers in those different areas of work.
12. There should be social security for workers in the informal economy in all countries.
13. Trust funds should be established by trade unions for retrenched workers.