

*Draft*

# Urban Thinkers Campus-India

## The City We Need Fosters Inclusive Prosperity

(05.10.2015 to 08.10.2015)

**Urban Lab. 4** (6<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2015)

**Session Title:** Informal Livelihoods and Inclusive Urban Planning

Session time: 90 minutes

**Sponsored by WIEGO**

Jacaranda-1, India Habitat Centre

<http://utc.niua.org/utc2015/>

**Session Brief:** Urban economies throughout the world rely heavily on the informal workforce, which in India represents over 80 per cent of all urban workers. Yet informal workers—and their livelihoods—tend to be ignored or excluded in city planning and local economic development. Financial inclusion alone cannot make up for exclusion from city plans and economic policies, and shared prosperity cannot be achieved without the voice of the majority of workers at the policy table. This session will identify components of an inclusive policy framework for a range of urban informal worker groups, recognizing the urban working poor as economic agents who contribute to both economy and society.

### References:

1. Ela Bhatt (2005), *We Are Poor But So Many*, Oxford University Press
2. Marty Chen and Caroline Skinner (2014), *The Urban Informal Economy: Enhanced Knowledge, Appropriate Policies and Effective Organization*, Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South
3. Vanessa Watson (2009), 'The Planned City Sweeps Away the Poor...', *Progress in Planning*
4. International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 204 (2015)

### Speakers and Chair:

Chair: Mr. Brij Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Joint Secretary, National Urban Livelihoods Mission

Keynote: Ms Namrata Bali, SEWA

Speakers:

1. Mr Arbind Singh, National Alliance for Street Vendors, (NASVI)
2. Ms Laxmi Narayan, Co-Founder of SWaCH Cooperative (Pune)
3. Ms Shalini Sinha, Sector Specialist, Home Based Workers, Urban Policies Program, WIEGO

### Session Background

In this Session, we present an approach to urban planning and local economic development that recognizes the contributions of the informal economy and seeks to integrate informal workers—and their livelihoods—into urban planning and economic policies. We advocate for "inclusive urban planning" by inviting organizations of urban informal workers to have a seat at the policy table as well as equitable allocation of urban space, urban services, and urban infrastructure in support of urban informal livelihoods, not just formal firms.

**About WIEGO:** Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities

and rights. WIEGO creates change by building capacity among informal worker organizations, expanding the knowledge base about the informal economy and influencing local, national and international policies. [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)

WIEGO has special accreditation to attend the Habitat 3 meetings as a civil society partner to the process; is a member of the steering committee of the World Urban Campaign and is co-chair of the Grassroots Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners. WIEGO representatives have been invited to join 3 of the Policy Units responsible for drafting the New Urban Agenda document to be presented to the Habitat 3 Summit. In addition, WIEGO is an active partner in other urban global advocacy platforms, including the urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) campaign; the Right to the City platform; and the International Labour Conference.