

Interregional Symposium on the Informal Economy

Enabling transition to formalization

Geneva, 27-29 November 2007

Room V

Tuesday 27 November 2007

08:00 – 10:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:30 **Groups session** (Employers: Room III; Workers: Room VI)

10:30 – 12:30 **I – Introduction**

- **Decent work and the informal economy: development in trends and policies in the follow-up of the ILC 2002 discussion**

- **Objectives of the Symposium and modalities of work**

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector
Assane Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection Sector

- **Perspectives on transition to formality**

Keynote speech: Victor Tokman

Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Rose Karikari Anang, GEA, Ghana) representative

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

II – Practical strategies and good practices enabling transition to formalization

14:00 – 16:00 *Short Film: Out of informality - Ghana's way to decent work*

Improving labour legislation, labour administration and labour inspection: lessons of practical experience

Chair: Government

Facilitator: Azita Berar

- **Re-inventing public policies to deal with informality in Argentina**
Marta Novick, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour - Argentina

- **Informal economy and labour inspection in East Africa** *Sammy Nyambari, Executive Director of the African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC)*

- **Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Peru – tbc) representative**

Discussion

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:30	Representation: review of recent experiences <i>Chair: Workers</i> <i>Facilitators: ACTRAV/ACTEMP</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employers' organizations (Turkey and Bulgaria - tbc) ▪ Workers' organizations ▪ The role of cooperatives in the transition to formality <i>Hagen Henry (ILO)</i> <p>Discussion</p>
18:30 – 20:00	Reception Delegates' Bar (R3)

Wednesday 28 November 2007

09:00 – 10:00	Groups session (Employers: Room III; Workers: Room VI)
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10:00 – 12:00	Improving the regulatory environment to facilitate integration to formal economy <i>Chair: Employers</i> <i>Facilitator: Azita Berar</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extending multi-faceted legislation to home-based enterprises in Chile <i>Mario Ossandón, General manager of the technical Cooperation Service of the Chilean Government (SERCOTEC)</i> ▪ Micro-finance and transition to formality in Egypt <i>Motaz El Tabaa, Alexandria Business Association</i> ▪ Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Lydia Ali, JEF, Jamaica) representative <p>Discussion</p>

12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
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14:00 – 16:00	Social security and the informal economy <i>Chair: Government</i> <i>Facilitator: Emmanuel Reynaud</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive social security for the informal economy (India) <i>K.P Kannan, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector in India</i> ▪ Informal economy, independent workers and social security coverage in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay <i>Fabio Bertranou (ILO)</i> ▪ Social security for all: Towards a global social security floor <i>Michael Cichon (ILO)</i>

- **Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Eric Oechslin, OIE, tbc) representative**

Discussion

16:00 – 18:00 Gender equality, decent work and the informal economy

Chair: Workers

Facilitator: Mary Kawar

- **Supporting women workers in the informal economy in India**
Jyoti Macwan, Self Employment Women's Association, India
- **Women's entrepreneurship and formalization** *Frealem Shibaba, Amhara Business Women association, Ethiopia*
- **Expanding women's employment opportunities: the need for childcare** *Naomi Cassirer (ILO)*
- **Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Argentina – tbc) representative**

Discussion

Thursday 29 November 2007

09:00 – 10:00 Groups session (Employers: Room III; Workers: Room VI)

10:00 – 11:30 Improving productivity and working conditions of informal economy workers

Chair: Employers

Facilitator: Emmanuel Reynaud

- **Participatory approaches to improving safety, health and working conditions in informal economy workplaces (Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam)**
Yoshi Kawakami (ILO)
- **Formalizing traditional apprenticeship systems in West Africa**
Richard Walther, Agence Française de Développement
- **Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (Maureen Onyango, FKE, Kenya) representative**

Discussion

11:30 – 13:00 Integrated strategies to address the informal economy at the local level

Chair: Government

Facilitator: Azita Berar

- **Integrated local strategies for upgrading the informal economy: the case of Ghana**
Kwamena Amoasi-Andoh, National Programme Coordinator, Ghana Decent Work Programme

- **Inclusive planning for the urban informal economy: Lessons from Durban, South Africa**
Caroline Skinner, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- **Discussants: 1 worker and 1 employer (B.P. Pant, AIOE, India) representative**

Discussion

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:00 III – Synthesis of the Symposium discussions

- **Symposium highlights presented by ILO rapporteurs**
Azita Berar and Emmanuel Reynaud

Discussion

- **Closing remarks**
Assane Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection Sector
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector