

# THE LAUNCH OF HOMENET INTERNATIONAL AT ITS VIRTUAL CONGRESS

23-24 February, 2021

**ORGANIZING  
HOME-BASED WORKERS  
GLOBALLY**



# Acknowledgments

HomeNet International (HNI) wishes to thank home-based workers (HBWs), their organizations, allies and partners in change that have, over time, generously supported the HBW movement around the world and who have participated and worked hard to make the launching Congress a reality.

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# 1 Inaugural Poem

Today we are celebrating, we join hands and we  
Organize internationally, in spite of everything.  
Today we are present, standing with dignity  
Who could imagine that home-based workers  
Not even the pandemic could subdue them and  
That we can build, even if it's virtually.  
I have a glass in my hand to be able to toast,  
We will come out strengthened, to go out fighting  
In spite of everything, we will become warriors  
To help organize the whole world against all odds.  
We are workers coming together, out of necessity  
No matter our color, religion, race, we must come together  
As we are diverse, today we are going to inaugurate  
Home Net International.  
We are workers, we belong  
To a special class, a working class  
We will never give up trying to get recognized and  
Exit from invisibility.  
Today we put on our gala dress to inaugurate  
We have fought the pandemic with  
Commitment and solidarity  
Here I say goodbye with a big virtual hug.  
But no less fraternal and with happiness  
To be all united in HomeNet International  
We are home-based workers and I say it with dignity  
We maintain our homes, with strength and unity.  
We shall overcome, we shall overcome globally  
As organized workers we shall overcome  
Like a world anthem we shall overcome.

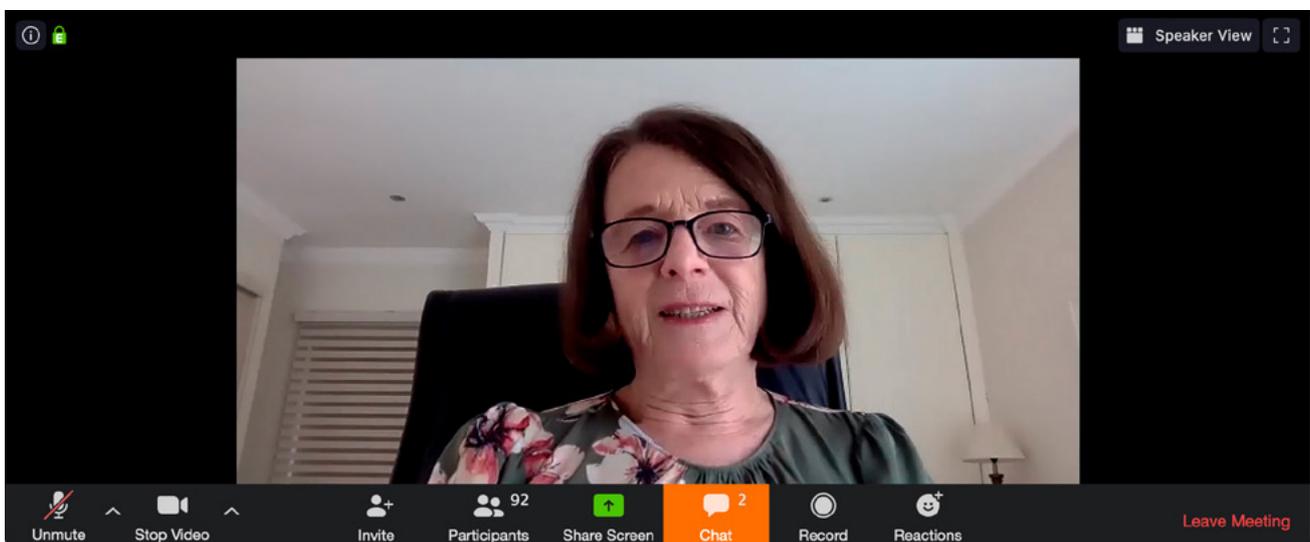
**Patricia Coñoman**  
CONATRADO CHILE

## HomeNet International Vision

Our vision is for greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers and for a strong, united, and representative voice on global platforms where home-based workers effectively engage and challenge those, such as governments and employers, who have power over their working lives.

HNI Constitution

## 2 Joining hands in spite of everything



It was Chris Bonner (International Working Group member and WIEGO Advisor) who opened and welcomed delegates to the launch of HomeNet International on February 23 2021. “Good morning, good afternoon, good evening,” she said in one breath; puzzling to those that didn’t attend and are reading this report, but quite understandable when the Congress was virtual and had to deal with delegates in different time zones across all corners of the globe.

“The Congress is taking place under very difficult circumstances,” she told those keenly perched around the more than 400 devices that had connected into the virtual launch. “We’d planned to launch in Kathmandu in October 2020 on Home-Based Workers’ Day but unfortunately we couldn’t do so. We had to find another way of getting things going because we

couldn’t allow Covid-19 to hold us back; we have to keep going.”

She spelt out the limitations of a virtual Congress: limited access to the internet, especially for home-based workers (HBWs), high data costs, power outages, connection problems and 14 hours time difference between delegates across the world. It meant that the virtual Congress could only take place for two and a half hours each day. It was extremely challenging for the Nicaraguan HBWs who had to be at the computer screen at 6.30 a.m. while those in the Philippines needed to connect from 8.30 p.m. when they would normally be preparing for bed.

She outlined the three objectives that the Congress hoped to achieve:

- To launch HNI as a formal body and adopt its first Constitution
- To build solidarity between affiliates and other HBWs and with other allies and supporters
- To raise the profile of HBWs and make them more visible.

The virtual nature of the Congress also impacted on the adoption of the Constitution. Instead of debating the differences in the Congress, regions had met virtually beforehand, thrashed out their differences and agreed on a common constitution that would be presented to those present.

The holding of elections was another area that couldn't take place virtually. "We tried to think of how we could do it, but it just is not possible to hold a proper election." Instead "we're going to have a transitional leadership in place until such time as we can have a physical Congress and do the elections properly," Chris told the muted delegates.

Equally complex was the issue of languages. Interpretation was provided in 17 languages, some through the Zoom feature and others via WhatsApp.

But, despite the challenges, enthusiasm was high

and at the end of just over five hours, HomeNet International became a reality with 36 affiliates representing more than 600,000 HBWs around the globe, a constitution, a transitional leadership team, an international coordinator and a broad plan for the next two years.

Many allies, approximately 500, were able to join the Congress as observers.<sup>1</sup> These included representatives from the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ITUC) and other trade unions, sister informal worker organizations, such as International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) and StreetNet International, supportive NGOs, especially Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), and funders, amongst others. Just as importantly, the founders and long-time supporters of the HBW movement were also part of the launch<sup>2</sup>.

## Who could participate in the virtual Congress?

**Affiliates of HNI:** organizations that applied to join HNI and were accepted had between 1 and 3 delegates at the Congress, depending on the size of the organizations. The affiliates took formal decisions such as adopting the Constitution.

**HBW observers:** HBW groups that are still forming their organization; additional members from affiliates and emerging affiliates or members of regional organizations that do not qualify for membership.

**Allies and supporters:** these included WIEGO and other NGOs, trade unions, funders and special guests who have supported HBWs for many years.

**HNI Working Group members:** representing the regional networks and responsible for organizing the virtual Congress.

### Chairing the sessions were:

**Chris Bonner and Patricia Coñoman** (HNI Working Group member and COTRADO-ALAC) on day one.

**Barbro Budin** (former IUF official and current WIEGO board) and **Jane Barrett** (WIEGO Organization and Representation Programme Director) on day two.

**Members of the International Working Group** collectively organized the Congress and facilitated sessions during the event.

## 3 Tracing HNI's past

*The path to the launch of HNI in February 2021 was a long one. Congress participants spent time hearing from members of the HBW movement who have been struggling, some for more than five decades, to make HBWs visible, to get them recognized as workers and to win the rights that formal workers have already won. Mistakes were made but many lessons were learnt in the process.*

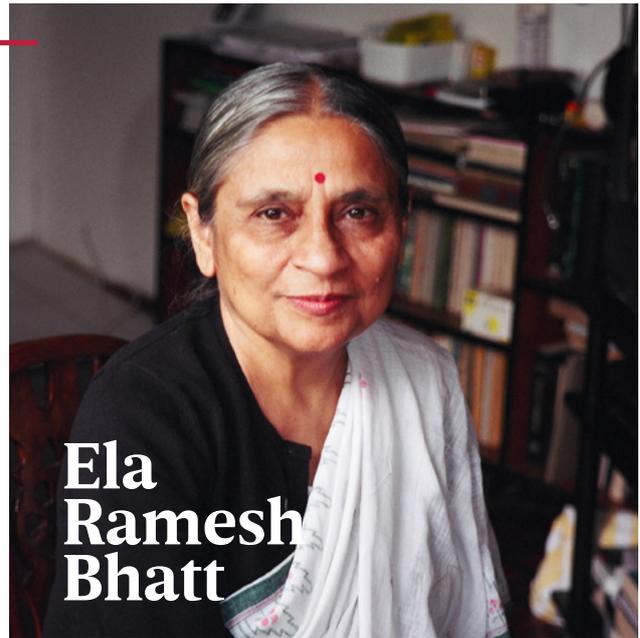
### A. From trade union support to ILO Convention 177

*Stalwart Ela Ramesh Bhatt is known as the founder of the HBW movement. She described to delegates in a pre-recorded video<sup>4</sup> what she and her colleagues did over 50 years to get HBWs recognized.*

Fifty years ago she headed the women's wing in the major textile union in Ahmedabad, India. She had helped organize informal economy workers like street vendors and head loaders. The HBWs, "women who sewed for a piece rate" came to her soon after that and the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) was formed.

She spoke of the continuous and persistent struggle for recognition and visibility of HBWs and for them to be recognized as workers. She noted the environment of support that was building up internationally in the 1980s in favour of HBWs, including acceptance of the membership of SEWA in the IUF in the 1980s. As an affiliate of IUF, SEWA could attend the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Congresses and there she discovered that SEWA wasn't alone; that "across the world there were [trade unions] also organising HBWs".

Getting support from formal workers for informal workers and HBWs drew "a mixed reception", said Ela.



#### Ela Ramesh Bhatt

has dedicated her life to improving the lives of India's poorest and most oppressed women workers, amongst them home-based workers. She founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and the SEWA Cooperative Bank.

See full bio in Appendix <sup>3</sup>

“

*Some [trade unionists] were angry with me. They said that the informal workers would destroy the gains made by the unions so far. One person said employers take work out of the factory and give it to women at low rates; we should ban home-based work totally. But others were supportive and said trade unions should organize HBWs.*

”

Appendix <sup>3</sup>: Speakers biographies

<sup>4</sup> Video of Ela Bhatt's speech: <https://youtu.be/CVzRWprTTJU>

However, the trade unions did not accept that all HBWs were workers, in particular those that were self-employed. They would only accept HBWs who had employers. The struggle of HBWs was synonymous with the struggle of other informal workers and was further compounded by invisibility and ambiguous employer-employee relations.

Once HBWs had won support from trade unions, HBW organizations and supporters advocated for an ILO Convention on home-based work. An International Labour Conference (ILC) followed. Discussions at the International Labour Conference were “quite traumatic”, Ela remembered

“Employers were totally against having a Convention. At that time employers were turning formal workers into informal workers through multinationals; they didn’t want any standards for informal workers and they tried their very best to prevent it. The governments were divided, some wanted to support informal workers but others wanted to side with employers.

At the end of our first discussion in 1995 we voted. Labour said yes [to the Convention], employers no, governments, by a small majority, voted yes. Employers were very angry. They walked out from most of the discussions.”

In 1996 the [Home Work Convention \(C177\)](#)<sup>5</sup> was narrowly adopted with governments casting the deciding vote. Employers didn’t rest. She told delegates how the employers had “tried very hard to influence politically and were successful in many countries”. To this day only 11 countries have ratified C177.

Ela in her closing remarks outlined her vision of the future and the role of HNI:



*Let us look ahead – this first ever international Congress ... is to bring peace at home and on our planet, to do so with honest and meaningful work. Well-being can only be achieved with well-paid, protected HBW... We must change the economy more than it changes us. We need an economy of our own making not one where we struggle in the roles assigned to us... we need an economy of nurturance, I call it, where the full potential of human hands, heads and labour is nourished at home as we work. We need an economy that recognizes women's leadership and promotes cooperation, sharing and trust. We need an economy that is sustainable, often home-based and in balance with the needs of the people and their directions. Our Congress will move to change the world.*



### Responses to Ela Bhatt's speech on the chat box

“Such an inspirational, uplifting speech Elaben!”

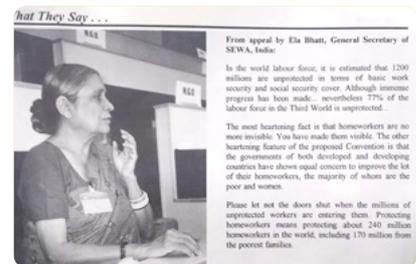
**Indira Gartenberg**

“Thank you respected Sis Ela for your inspiring words. May Almighty keep you in good health.”

**Rom Saki Rezwana**

## Countries that have ratified C177

-  Albania (2002)
-  Argentina (2006)
-  Belgium (2012)
-  Bosnia/Herzegovina (2010)
-  Bulgaria (2009)
-  Finland (1998)
-  Ireland (1999)
-  Macedonia (2012)
-  Netherlands (2002)
-  Slovenia (2021)
-  Tajikistan (2012)



Newsletter article where Ela Bhatt is featured waiting for the result of the vote on the adoption of the Homework Convention in Geneva, June 1996.

<sup>5</sup> Home Work Convention C177

[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C177](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C177)

## B. Building HBW organizations in South East Asia

*Learning from other HBW organizations in other countries, focusing on HBWs and building membership-based organizations were central to the building of HomeNet South East Asia (HNSEA), Rakawin Leechanavanichpan, programme officer of the ILO regional office for Asia/Pacific, told Congress delegates.*

Meeting and exchanging ideas with SEWA in Ahmedabad in 1997 opened her eyes to how to organize HBWs. What was most inspiring for them was discovering SEWA's "ideology, conviction and their position to stand with the poor working women." It also "set a model of good practice and a platform for knowledge exchange."

Rakawin herself came from the trade union movement. There organization arises from issues or problems. But with HBWs, "it's the other way around; we learnt to organize them from the positive energies of themselves, of their leaders, of their fellow workers, of their trust in [their] collective action and power."

The HBWs group looked for other like-minded organizations.

"We identified a community-based organization that was providing a very good support for these workers and we tried to work very closely with them, educate them that they are not just poor women but also workers."

They spread their net wider, trying to work with other vulnerable people like migrant workers, disabled people, minorities, "the People's Movement so-called."



**Rakawin  
Leechanavanichpan**

### Rakawin Leechanavanichpan

became the coordinator for HomeNet Thailand, which was established in 1998 and has been on its board since 2000. She was part of the WIEGO ORP Advisory Committee from 2000 – 2004. In 2004 she joined the ILO and is currently a programme officer of the ILO regional office for Asia/Pacific.

See full bio in Appendix <sup>3</sup>



*Thai home-based worker weaving baskets.  
Photo credit: HNSEA*

"We were focusing on vulnerable people just like us because they have the same needs and the same issues: they are not protected, not covered by any social scheme and have to fight for their rights, fight for their visibility. We shared with them who we are as home-based workers or as informal economy workers"

A big challenge for them all, and an issue that is still top of the launching Congress agenda, was what kind of membership-based organization (MBO) would be acceptable as equal to that of a trade union.

### C. The first HNI

*Renana Jhabvala, president of SEWA Bharat and chair of HomeNet South Asia, traced the more than 20 year history of HNI, why it was formed and outlined the four main reasons that led to it crumbling: its aims and membership were too broad, the handling of money was not transparent, there was tension between the big and small organizations and most importantly, they did not have good strong HBW organizations on the ground at the centre of the organization.*

When a team from South Asia visited countries in South East Asia and Latin America in the 1990s, they realized that there are HBWs across the world. A wider network was needed; HBWs needed the protection of an ILO Convention.

“So in 1994, we registered HomeNet International in the Netherlands. There were eight of us from different countries and we were a small NGO. We asked for and got the status of an observer in the ILO and so all through 1994-96, we kept working towards the ILO Convention. We lobbied with our governments, we had meetings, and we had a print magazine called HomeNet which was disseminated widely.

So we were very active, we had this HomeNet, we were all so excited that now ILO Convention is passed and now we can all go out and start organising the HBWs.

So, [as] Rakawin just told you, we had this meeting in Ahmedabad with SEWA, in 1997 and we all decided that we must form a proper international network.”

Members of the international network were diverse. They ranged from researchers, NGOs, to small women's groups. Funds were sourced in 1997 and Jane Tate from UK was appointed as coordinator and tasked to continue interacting with all the different homemaker groups as well as to help form a network.

But over time the differences between the different types of members in the network started to cause disagreements.

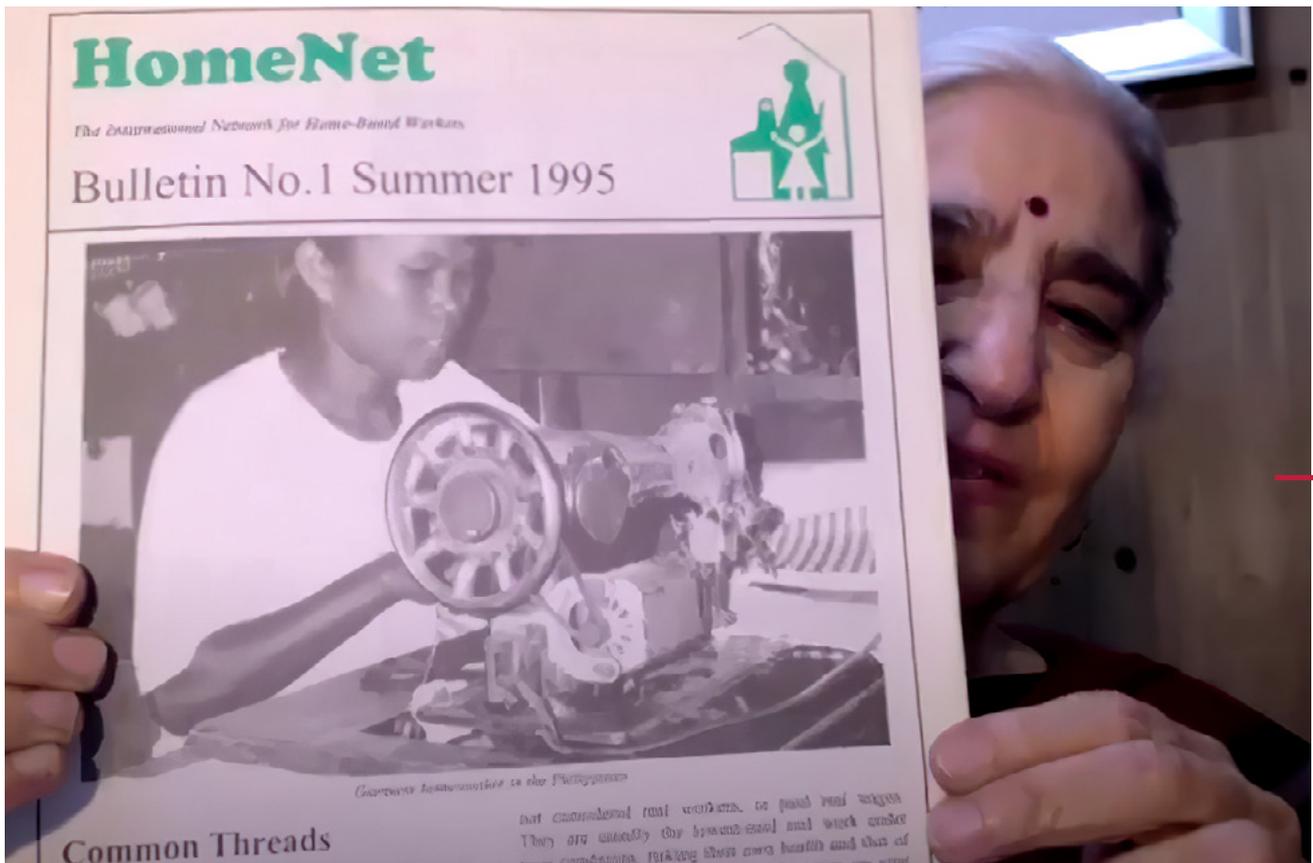
“We didn't realize how different we were. There was no real agreement on what HNI network should look like. Should it be home-based workers, should it be home-based worker organisations, should it be membership-based organizations, should it be NGOs or should it be so broad like we had earlier so that everybody could come in?



#### Renana Jhabvala

joined SEWA in 1978 as an organizer and was instrumental in forming the first cooperative of SEWA. She has been a chair of the SEWA Bank and of Mahila Housing. Together with Elaben she participated in the ILO discussions on C177 in 1995-96 and after that was one of the co-founders of WIEGO.

See full bio in Appendix <sup>3</sup>



Renana Jhabvala shows HNI Congress participants the first edition of the HomeNet newsletter

Some of us like SEWA, HomeNet Thailand and SEWU from South Africa, we all felt we should have membership-based organizations because that would keep the home-based worker at the centre, and her issues would come into the network.

Some of the others who were researchers felt that we must have a much looser network, we should not confine to membership-based organizations... other reasons were that there were hardly any actual organizations, it's not like now where there are many organizations."

These disagreements continued and "slowly created a lot of distrust among us because some people were pulling one way and some people were pulling another way."

"A draft constitution was formed and we had a physical Congress, it was not a launch, it was to discuss the draft constitution. That was in Thailand and I can't remember the year, I think it was 2001 or 2000.

Anyway, whenever it was, all the distrust that had been

building over two years came out in the Congress and we could not come to an agreement and two groups were formed. And so at that point we realized that we did not have solidarity. And I remember I started crying at the end of it, just cried and cried, all these years we have tried and it was not worth it.

Another issue was money. The international networks were getting funds, the national networks were also getting funds, but there was a desire for some people to control the money and finally I'm sad to tell you that whatever grant came to HNI was taken away and a new network called HomeWorkers Worldwide was formed and was just NGOs, researchers and like that, no membership-based organizations.

Another reason of course which built the distrust was that some were very big and some were small so it was how were the big people going to work with the small people.

When we went to form HNI, we did not have on the ground, good strong home-based worker organizations. It was not there. So we realized that what we have to do is build up these organizations."

And that's exactly what HBWs did. "Each country formed its own network and started helping to build up their organizations." Eastern Europe built up its own regional network, WIEGO stepped in to first identify and then helped build organizations both in Africa and Latin America.

She urged delegates to always ask themselves "why are we international?"



Home-based workers from Uganda.

“

*We are international because capital has become international, finance is international, production is international, markets are international so that's why in order to deal with all these huge forces, workers have to be international too.*

*But workers cannot become international, workers are only effective if they are organized... build trust, build transparency, especially in finances, be tolerant and fair to each other, appreciate each others' differences, focus on the common, focus on the home-based workers and the home-based workers need to meet each other, keep the home-based workers at the centre, that will build our strength, keep our common values...And finally, I have a saying – be strong, be together and you will definitely succeed.*

”

## Messages from Congress participants in response to Rakawin and Renana's speeches

### **ElizabethTang, IDWF**

"Organizing from the positives – great lesson to learn Rakawin!"

### **Lucia Fernandez, WIEGO Montevideo Uruguay**

"This is so important to hear Renanaben, especially for those who are trying as well to build international solidarity among other sectors."

### **Mirai Chatterjee, SEWA**

"Adding my sincere thanks to Renanaben and Rakawin for this extremely valuable sharing--on how to build up a movement and the ups and downs...and yet we must keep on keeping on, organizing and building with strong strategies, persistence, perseverance and patience. Fantastic lessons!"

### **Arjan de Haan, IDRC Ottawa**

"Thank you so much to Renana and Rakawin for these inspiring presentations, indeed such important lessons and sharing!"

### **Marty Chen, WIEGO**

"So important to know the history of – and lessons from – the first HNI. Thanks, Renana, for your powerful lessons and guidance on the secrets."

### **Sristi Malla, SABAH Nepal**

"Thank you Renanaben for walking us through the ups and downs of HomeNet International. All the lessons learned will be extremely valuable for this HNI to take off properly!"

### **Phuntshok Chhoden, SABAH Bhutan**

Thank you Renana Ben for the clear presentation on the journey of HNI from Chapter One to Chapter Two ...covering the key highlights of the process, progress and challenges ....so many lessons learned will help our Chapter Two to overcome and overlook petty issues so that the Network can be much more strategic now! HNI 2 is lucky to have some of you – our lucky stars onboard from each region who had shared a common vision long ago! Thank you ladies!"

## D. Winning the adoption of C177 – numbers

*In the mid 1990s when C177 was adopted, there were few if any statistics that quantified the contribution that HBWs made to the economy and thus made them visible. Marty Chen, senior advisor of WIEGO, told the delegates that it was Ela Bhatt that persuaded her that statistics were an important weapon to convince more governments to vote for the adoption of C177.*

“At that time, only seven countries collected statistics on HBWs,” she said. She and two colleagues in the United States compiled data from 20 studies for 15 countries. They found that “one third to three quarters of all enterprises in seven countries were home-based, that homeworkers produce a range of export goods and that women are more likely to be HBWs than men.”

Their report was distributed at the 1996 International Labour Conference (ILC) outside the chamber where the tripartite discussion on the Convention was held. After the Convention was passed, she received a postcard from Ela Bhatt and Renana Jhabvala mailed from Geneva which read:

“The employers had their ideology; the workers had their statistics, the convention passed.”

In June 1996 C177 was adopted. 25 years later, in February 2021, on the eve of the launching Congress of HomeNet International, WIEGO and the ILO published the first-ever global statistics of HBWs.<sup>6</sup>



### Marty Chen

is senior advisor of WIEGO. She has worked all of her career with informal workers: organizing and supporting rural home-based workers in Bangladesh in the 1970s, supporting NGOs working with rural and urban informal workers in India in the 1980s and co-founding WIEGO in 1997.

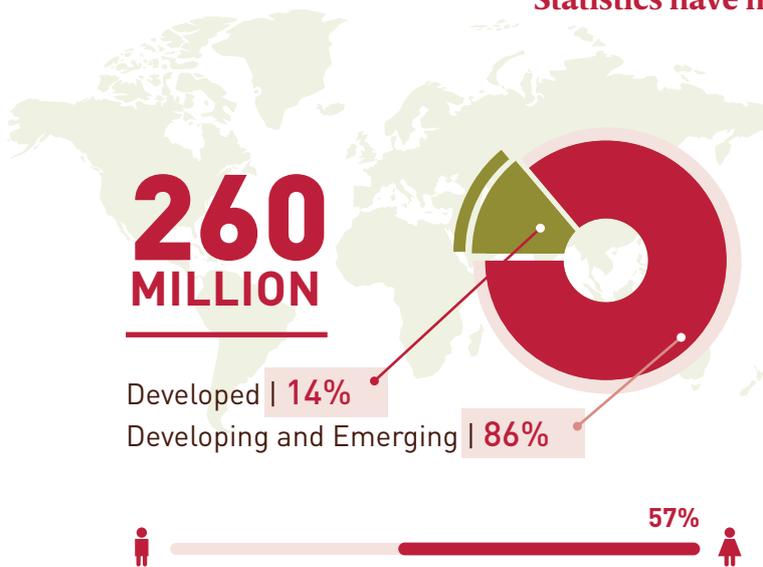
See full bio in Appendix <sup>3</sup>

Appendix <sup>3</sup>: Speakers biographies

<sup>6</sup> WIEGO and ILO global statistics of HBWs:

<https://www.wiego.org/publications/home-based-workers-world-statistical-profile>

### Statistics have made HBWs visible



#### We now know...

260 million women and men around the world produce goods or provide services from, in or around their homes: 86 percent (>224 million) in developing and emerging countries and 14 percent (>35 million) in developed countries.

Almost two-thirds (62 percent) of the world's HBWs are in Asia & the Pacific; 15 percent in Africa and 6 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A majority of HBWs – 57 percent (147 million) are women.

### The different types of HBWs

There are also different types of HBWs and certain types predominate in specific geographic regions and country income groups.

Self-employed professionals and teleworkers (white-collar and pink-collar) and digital platform workers are more common in developed and emerging countries.

Traditional self-employed, industrial outworkers and contributing family workers are more common in developing countries.

Digital platform workers who perform "crowd work" from their homes are dispersed across all country income groups.



#### Example: India, an emerging economy

One third of all women workers are home-based

One third of all manufacturing enterprises are home-based

Around 2.7 million HBWs in India roll hand-made cigarettes and around 870,000 home-based workers embroider garments and other items.

### Types of HBWs that predominate in different regions:



Asia – manufacturing homeworkers



Africa – craft producers and food processors



Latin America – former factory workers



Eastern Europe – garment homeworkers and craft producers



Europe and North America – ICT-based homework (teleworkers + now digital platform workers) + professionals (lawyers and accountants with home offices)



## E. Winning the ratification of C177 – lobbying governments

*It was not enough to win C177. Individual governments needed to ratify it as well. Most governments “were not in favour of C177”, Chandni Joshi, founder of HNSA, told delegates. Using her position in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), she wrote to officials in the Ministries of Labour in 15 South Asian Pacific countries that stood against the ILO Convention. She brought them together in a meeting in Bangkok to raise awareness on women HBWs. She outlined the strategy that was used in this meeting to bring government officials round to their view.*

“We had a small corner of home-based workers to showcase [them] because we didn’t have any firm decisions or definitions of who a home-based worker was. We got a shoemaker from Thailand. We asked her to bring her pots and pans, her cooking tools, to bring her breast-feeding child, all her equipment of shoe making and be there in the corner and just do what she does at home.

So she literally did that, showing the ministers what she did all day – she’s breastfeeding, she’s cooking, she’s cleaning, she’s also making her shoes – the triple burden that she’s doing at the same time, the caring burden, nursing job that she does all the time.



*A basket weaver working while watching over her sleeping baby in the wicker cradle*

So whenever the discussion would go astray, as it happens in meetings, we would say, “just a minute, let’s get this together. You are talking about these people, we are not talking about factory workers, these are informal workers, another category.”

That’s how we got all the ministers together and we



**Chandni Joshi**

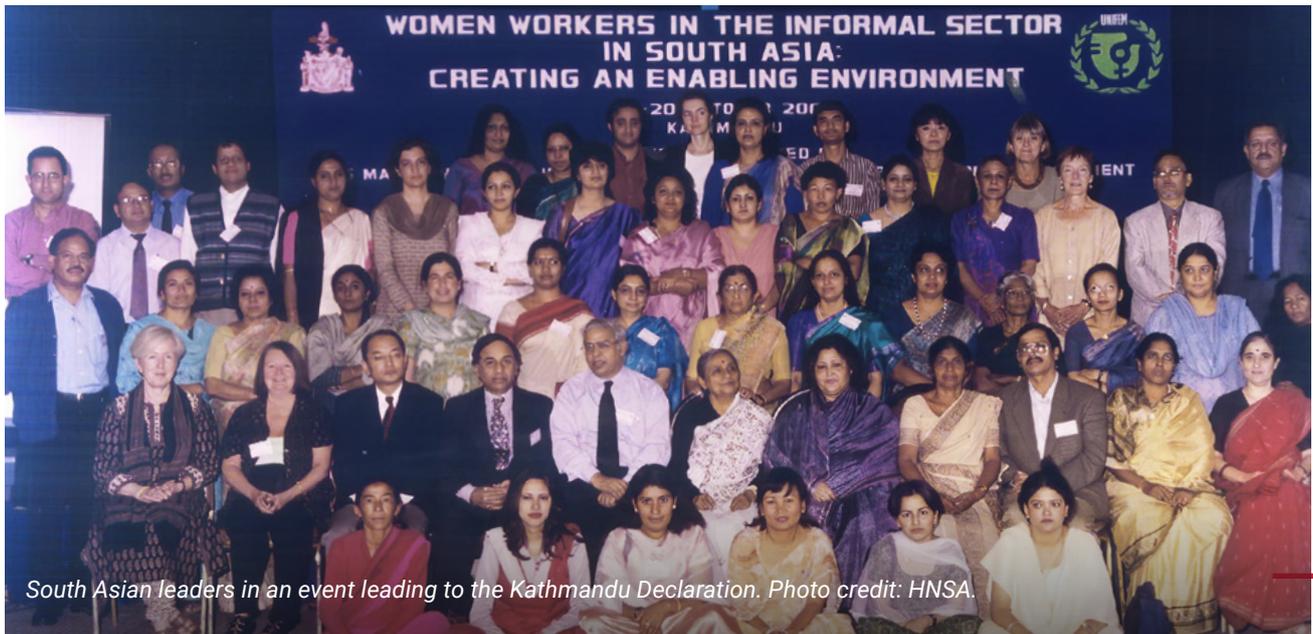
### Chandni Joshi

is the founder and enforcer of HomeNet South Asia. She has for over 56 years championed gender rights and has worked to put excluded women, including, home-based workers at the centre of development programmes and policies across South Asia.

See full bio in Appendix <sup>3</sup>

got Elaben to come and sit with them and introduce the Convention, read through every clause. It was more like convincing the governments and clearing the doubts and the results showed. Among the 15 ministers that we lobbied for in that ministerial conference that we had organized, there was only one person who abstained. That was our role.”

## F. Taking forward C177



*The Kathmandu Declaration was adopted in 2000 by representatives of five governments (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) in South Asia as well as NGOs and trade unions from the region. It sought to implement C177. This Declaration in turn led to the formation of HNSA. Chandni Joshi described to the Congress what was done behind the scenes to achieve both these milestones and the lessons that were learnt.*

Chandni Joshi as a representative of UNIFEM worked hard to get the government representatives on board, secure media attention and encouraged women from other South Asian countries to attend the joint meeting.

Marty Chen focused on the research, while SEWA mobilized women from India to attend.

A diverse group attended the meeting: researchers, women's movements, women's groups, senior secretaries of the Ministry of Labour, amongst others.

Chandni explained the importance of putting together the documentation collectively:

"If UNIFEM did it, it became the UN people, if SEWA did it, it became the NGO people...we got all the pioneer women, the home-based workers, and we came out with the declaration. It was strategically important to get the South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation (SAARC) involved and they did get involved."

The declaration was a victory, but the challenge was that a structure was needed to ensure that the declaration was implemented. "How to do it in South Asia: [it's] very diverse, each country, no-one is like another. It's very difficult to just put oranges and apples in the same basket – what kind of institution do we need at regional level, at country level?"

### **And that's how HNSA was born.**

"It started as a small unit but has now grown into a huge silent movement. We all know that one lone voice doesn't mean anything. It's very important for the home-based worker voice to be recognized, heard and her dignity really counted. We have to unite and have one voice and show the strength of the movement itself."

*"I would like to thank Ela Bhatt, Chandni Joshi and Marty Chen, for not only being our founders, but also our elder sisters who have walked beside us during this long journey, until today."*

**Suntaree H. Saeng-ging**  
HomeNet South East Asia and Working Group member

## G. HNI – key dates and moments

*Janhavi Dave, HNSA International Coordinator and HNI International Coordinator designate, pulled together all the historical speeches that delegates had heard by outlining key dates and moments in HNI's history.*

The first HomeNet International formed in 1994 did not survive (as Renana described above). However at regional level, HBW organizations continued to organize. In 2000 South Asian HBW organizations and South Asian governments adopted the Kathmandu Declaration. Between 2000 to 2011 there was a strong focus on organizing and strengthening the regional networks in South Asia and South East Asia. Organizing and network-building later expanded to Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as in Latin America and Africa. Throughout this period discussions took place on the feasibility of forming a new international network.

In 2018, representatives of HBWs from five regions met in Stockholm, Sweden along with WIEGO. They unanimously decided to take concrete steps to set up a global network of HBWs. They formed an Interim International Working Group (IIWG) with one representative and an alternate from each region to lead the process towards the formation of HomeNet International.



Photo Credit: STrevino – Stockholm, May, 2018,



## 4 HNI on the ground

### A. Global Highlights

#### Providing relief during the Covid-19 pandemic

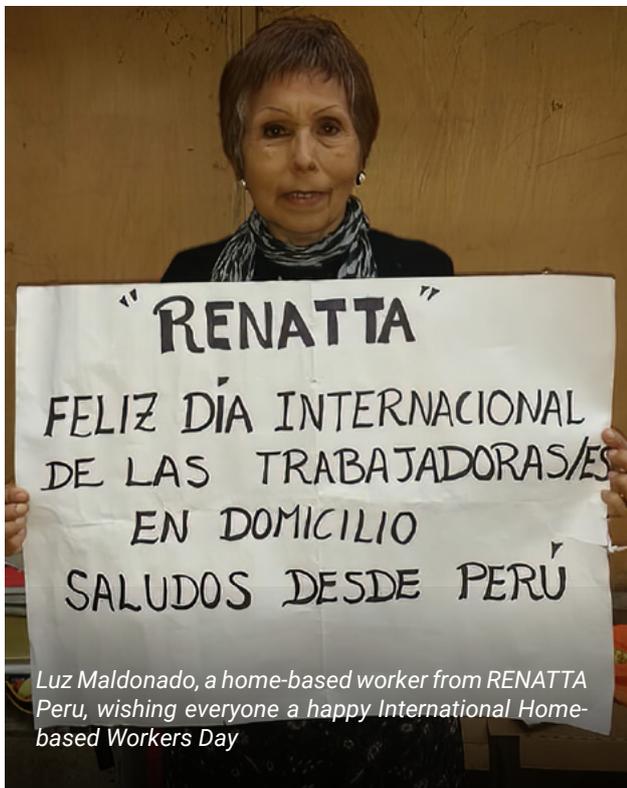
"During the Covid-19 pandemic home-based workers were one of the worst affected categories of workers," Janhavi Dave told Congress delegates. "Workers not only lost livelihoods and income but had little access to food or support programmes."

HNI assisted by providing relief to HBWs with food and essential packs for women. Some regions made efforts to create a database of HBWs so that they could be recognized and connected to government social assistance programmes.

However, there was a plus to the pandemic, Janhavi reported. Although many of the HBWs had worked harder in the previous year to cope with Covid-19 than in any other year, "everybody had reported an increase in membership of their organizations."



SUKA Women's group in Kampala, Uganda



Luz Maldonado, a home-based worker from RENATTA Peru, wishing everyone a happy International Home-based Workers Day

#### Other global highlights

The International Home-based Workers Day was celebrated virtually in October 2020 and it was attended by 200 people from around the world.

- 

The Working Group met regularly up to the launch. Joint programmes were set up and toolkits made, training programmes were conducted with HBWs and advocacy campaigns planned.
- 

The OSF and Ford Foundation, along with others, came forward to support the HNI launching Congress and also provided core funding.
- 

WIEGO also created statistical briefs of four Asian countries and more recently the global statistical brief.

### B. Regional Highlights

Regional representatives gave reports of their regions' activities over the past year highlighting their successes and demonstrating their commitment to building organization.

## Africa

Jemimah Awuor Nyakong, representative of the African Regional Platform (HomeNet Africa), shared the highlights from her region.

HomeNet Africa has been working on:

- **Mobilizing** and actively engaging in local organizing
- **Organizing** to form national networks in Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda
- **Building capacity** on the use of cell phones as organising tools due to restricted movement
- **Building solidarity, lobbying and advocacy**
- **Providing humanitarian support** through accessing the Open Society Foundation (OSF) Emergency COVID-19 grant through HNI. This provided humanitarian support to 465 HBWs households in the five countries
- **Advocating** against gender-based violence as members were experiencing increased incidents of domestic violence during the period of hard lockdown.

HomeNet Kenya was launched in December 2020.



The African Regional Working Group with representatives from all 5 countries at a meeting in Nairobi in March 2019.

## African Regional Platform – HomeNet Africa

**An informal platform:** Representatives from 5 countries, plus HNI Working Group representatives and WIEGO.

**Delegates of 8 affiliates of HNI**, representing **10,375** members, participated in the HNI launch (6059 when overlapping membership is considered).

**Background:** The HBW movement grew from the WIEGO Global Trade Programme on Developing Women's Leadership and Business Skills with the fair trade networks in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda from 2012-2015.

## Latin America

Edileuza Guimaraes, representative of Coordinadora Regional de Organizaciones de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras en Domicilio en América Latina y el Caribe (COTRADO-ALAC), from Brazil highlighted some of the activities from Latin America.

- In 2020, the Interim Committee of COTRADO – ALAC prepared the 2021-2022 Work Plan which elaborated the statutes of the organizations and prepared their Membership Protocol.
- **CTCP Nicaragua<sup>8</sup>** along with the Ministry of Health and other State Institutions (Intranma and Connema) visited more than 70 unions in the seven districts of Managua and the regions for 'Prevention against Covid-19 Training processes'.



Representatives and members of COTRADO-ALAC and WIEGO

<sup>8</sup> Confederación de Trabajadores por Cuenta Propia Nicaragua (CTCP Nicaragua)



Representatives and members of COTRADO-ALAC and WIEGO

## COTRADO-ALAC



**COTRADO-ALAC** is a regional coordination of HBW organizations in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Four of **COTRADO-ALAC's** member organizations are affiliated to HNI with total membership of **1,392**.

- **CONATRADO Chile<sup>9</sup>** held training courses so that despite the pandemic, HBWs have learned to work with new methods. Social network pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were created, which allowed them to reach a greater number of people. The Covid-19 campaign, financed by HNI and OSF, was carried out. The new SIRETEX union was created and began its work through social networks such as Facebook. Luis Gauthier Union conducted a Labour Situation Survey of LGBTIQA+ people in Chile under the auspices of the ILO.
- **RENATTA Peru<sup>10</sup>** held their National Meeting (January 2020), training courses and virtual meetings; Chachi popular kitchen was formed in the Comas District with HBWs and trade workers; HNI and OSF sent Emergency funds that allowed the delivery of food to 100 members of HBWs of RENATTA; support for the development of masks was organized for some networks with lower resources.
- **ATEMDO Brazil<sup>11</sup>** mapped organizations that organize or support HBWs and held face-to-face or virtual meetings with networks of organizations within the solidarity economy.

## South Asia

Asiya Sheikh, representative from LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (member of HNI and HNSA), shared the highlights of HNSA's activities.

- Built databases of HBWs and linked them to government assistance programmes.
- Provided solidarity support to Cooperatives of HBWs.
- Provided access to Online Marketing for HBWs products.
- Conducted a study on the Impact of Covid-19 on HBWs in South Asia. This covered 7 countries and 502 women HBWs in partnership with WIEGO, IDRC<sup>12</sup> and OSF. The key findings were disseminated.
- Released Joint Statement of Demands of HBWs.



HNSA representatives and staff.

<sup>9</sup> Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores en Domicilio (CONATRADO Chile)

<sup>10</sup> Red Nacional de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras Autoempleadas (RENATTA Peru)

<sup>11</sup> Associação de Trabalhadores em Domicílio da Economia Solidária Brazil

<sup>12</sup> International Development Research Centre

- Conducted 12 webinars and online campaigns including 16 Days of Activism-Violence Against HBWs.
- Published 14 blogs/ opinion pieces/ news reports and conducted 4 research studies.
- Celebrated International HBWs Day and built solidarity with HBWs across the world.
- Created communication and training materials to fight violence against women HBWs (in 8 languages) and online training which included a toolkit on women HBWs in garment supply chains and violence against women HBWs.

## HomeNet South Asia HNSA



**HNSA** is a regional network with 60 affiliates (MBOs and NGOs) representing 900,000 HBWs from eight countries.

There are **17 affiliates of HNI** with **930,473** members (566,705 when overlapping membership is considered).

## South East Asia

Lourdes Gula, national president of PATAMABA<sup>13</sup> from the Philippines shared the highlights from HomeNet South East Asia (HNSEA).

HNSEA focused on:

- **Organizing** HBWs as MBOs for visibility and recognition
- **Economic empowerment** of HBWs
- **Building capacity/empowering** leaders and members
- **Improving** occupational safety and health of HBWs
- **Advocating** for the right of HBWs according to the international labour standards: ILO Convention 177, ILO Recommendations 184 and 204
- **Winning access** of HBWs to social protection: the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and social insurance
- **Fighting against invisibility of HBWs** and for recognition and advocacy on social protection of informal workers at a regional level. HNSEA actively participates in the ASEAN<sup>14</sup> Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People Forum (ACSC/APF), the parallel platform of the ASEAN SUMMIT. HNSEA, together with allies, has organized workshops and other activities every year, since 2010.



Representatives of HomeNet South East Asia.

## HomeNet South East Asia HNSEA



**HNSEA** has 6 country members: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and 72,975 individual HBW members.

There are **seven affiliates of HNI** with a total membership of **88,343** (71,972 when overlapping membership is considered).

- **Responding to the pandemic** by providing relief to members; shifting production under COVID to PPEs; demanding relief measures and assistance from governments and supporting members to access the same.

<sup>13</sup> PATAMABA is the National Network of Informal Workers in the Philippines

<sup>14</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

## C. Regional Cultural Activities

The launch did not give all its time to speeches and constitutional matters. It also allowed regions to express their challenges, their solidarity, their strength and their commitment to building HNI and the HBW movement. With messages, poems, dance and videos, HBWs from Africa, Latin America, South Asia and South East Asia reached out across the virtual world to each other.



### Africa

The African Regional Platform showcased a cultural video by Ugandan home-based workers.

“

We greet and welcome you, our dear members.  
Let's all clap and dance!

”

### Latin America

Affiliates provided a moving video with poems composed by HBWs from different countries in the region.

We are from towns, we work from sunrise to sunset  
Sewing, weaving  
As a home-based worker  
Without a profession, we move on  
They never gave us a choice  
With laws that mutilate us  
That have condemned us to live in misery  
And now that we organize  
To get ahead, they ignore us  
And the wealth is shared  
That my town has generated  
We will carry on  
Looking for peace in this storm  
Submitting development proposals  
Despite having shattered our dreams  
Always looking for a better world  
With equity and a lot of solidarity  
To get ahead, despite the global pandemic

**RENATTA, Perú**



We are self-employed workers  
Our constitution is to live freely  
We are solidarity  
Working teaches us to live better  
Our battles know no frontiers  
We will triumph over any adversity

**Confederación de Trabajadores por Cuenta Propia (CTCP-FNT – Nicaragua)**

<sup>15</sup> Cultural video by Ugandan home-based workers: <https://youtu.be/JlezTpXZ67g>

<sup>16</sup> Latin American home-based workers video: <https://youtu.be/R0aQZ8BKoMI>

## South Asia



Over 61 million HBWs in South Asia and countless others from across the globe, make our daily lives possible," HNSA's video to the Congress cried out. "It is their hands that make the food that we eat. And the clothes that we wear. They ensure our health. And our harvest. It is their handiwork that adorn our homes. And that add a breath of fresh air to them.



## South East Asia

Each country network gave a strong message to HomeNet International.



"I am very happy and congratulate the organization, HomeNet International, as the global network for HBWs. I hope my well-being and livelihood are protected."

**Sreymach Nop,**  
**HomeNet Cambodia**

"We are glad that HomeNet International will be organized. We believe that power will be collected. To unite will make all of us strong enough to handle all challenges especially at the global level."

**Manop Kaewphaka,**  
**President of HomeNet Thailand**



It was left to Patricia Coñoman to send virtual hugs and rounds of applause to all those that had created videos "under such difficult circumstances".

<sup>17</sup> HomeNet South Asia takes us on a journey through the history of the HBW movement: <https://youtu.be/78Dpw18e1hl>

<sup>18</sup> Messages from South East Asian home-based workers video: <https://youtu.be/etdfGLq2uGQ>

# 5 Key decisions

## A. Confirmation of Affiliates

Edwin Bett, from Kenya, representative of the African Regional Platform and member of the Working Group, chaired the session in which affiliates were confirmed. He outlined who was eligible, the criteria that HBWs needed to comply with to affiliate and the step-by-step process that the committee had followed to confirm affiliates.



Afri Youth Support Organisation – HNI Affiliate

### Membership-based Affiliates: Who is eligible?

- Local or national, democratic, accountable, membership-based organizations
- Federations, networks or alliances
- Multi-sector based organizations in which HBWs are a part



Conatrado Chile – HNI Affiliate

### Criteria for Affiliation

- Either be registered as a membership-based organization or function as such
- Have a written constitution / rules
- Have evidence of a governing body elected by the members
- Have regular financial reports
- Be independent of political and / or religious bodies as well as employers
- Have a minimum number of fifty (50) HBW members or follow regional norms



Home-based Women Workers Federation from Pakistan – HNI Affiliate

### Process followed

1. Applications were invited from the eligible organizations, through regional bodies who commented on or recommended the application.
2. The Working Group set up a Sub Committee comprising 2 to 3 members to review the applications.
3. The Sub Committee held 7 meetings to review 37 cases, based on criteria laid out in the constitution.
4. The Sub Committee presented its recommendations to the Working Group.
5. The Working Group approved affiliation of 36 applications; 1 application was withdrawn.

Once the Constitution is approved, the Executive Committee will in the future have the authority to decide such applications for affiliation.

## Affiliates to HomeNet International

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	NUMBER OF HBW MEMBERS
<b>AFRICA PLATFORM</b>		
Kenya	HomeNet Kenya	5499
Kenya	Machakos Cooperative Society	4316
Kenya	Smolart	130
Tanzania	UWAKE	50
Uganda	Afri – Youth Support Organisation (AYSO)	72
Uganda	Envirojewels	55
Uganda	Patience Pays Initiative	58
Uganda	Tukolerewamu	195
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>		
Brazil	Associação de Trabalhadores em Domicílio da Economia Solidária (ATEMDO)	53
Chile	Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadoras en Domicilio Chile (CONATRADO CHILE)	170
Nicaragua	Confederación de Trabajadores por Cuenta Propia (CTCP)	900
Peru	Red Nacional de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras Autoempleados (RENATTA)	269
<b>SOUTH ASIA</b>		
Bangladesh	Coalition of the Urban Poor	500
Bangladesh	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)	1660
Bhutan	SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH Bhutan)	1585
India	Indian Academy for Self Employed Women (IASEW)	3530
India	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LMKS)	4000
India	Mahila Housing Trust	53200
India	Sadhna	600
India	SAVE	38162
India	SEWA Bharat	404669
India	SEWA Union	357261
Maldives	Maldives Authentic Craft Cooperative Society (MACCS)	260
Nepal	Home-based workers Concern Society Nepal (HBWCSN)	3240
Nepal	SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH Nepal)	3939
Pakistan	Home-based Women Workers Federation	3500
Pakistan	HomeNet Pakistan	50191
Pakistan	SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH) Pakistan	3007
Sri Lanka	SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH Sri Lanka)	1169
<b>SOUTH EAST ASIA</b>		
Cambodia	HomeNet Cambodia	305
Indonesia	HomeNet Indonesia	7434
Laos	Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA)	552
Laos	Informal Worker Advancement Association (IWAA Laos)	511
Philippines	HomeNet Philippines	58730
Philippines	Patamaba	16371
Thailand	HomeNet Thailand	4440
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1,030,583</b>

However, after accounting for double counting of HBWs in more than one organisation, the total is **646,118**.

“

We salute you, all our pioneers!

”

**Observer,  
AYSO CENTRAL REGION**

“

It is deeply moving to know that 36 affiliates from so many countries with a total of 646,118 HBW members have been confirmed. **Bravo!!** This represents a lot of work and effort from organizing to mapping to networking to building trust, solidarity.

”

**MARTY CHEN**

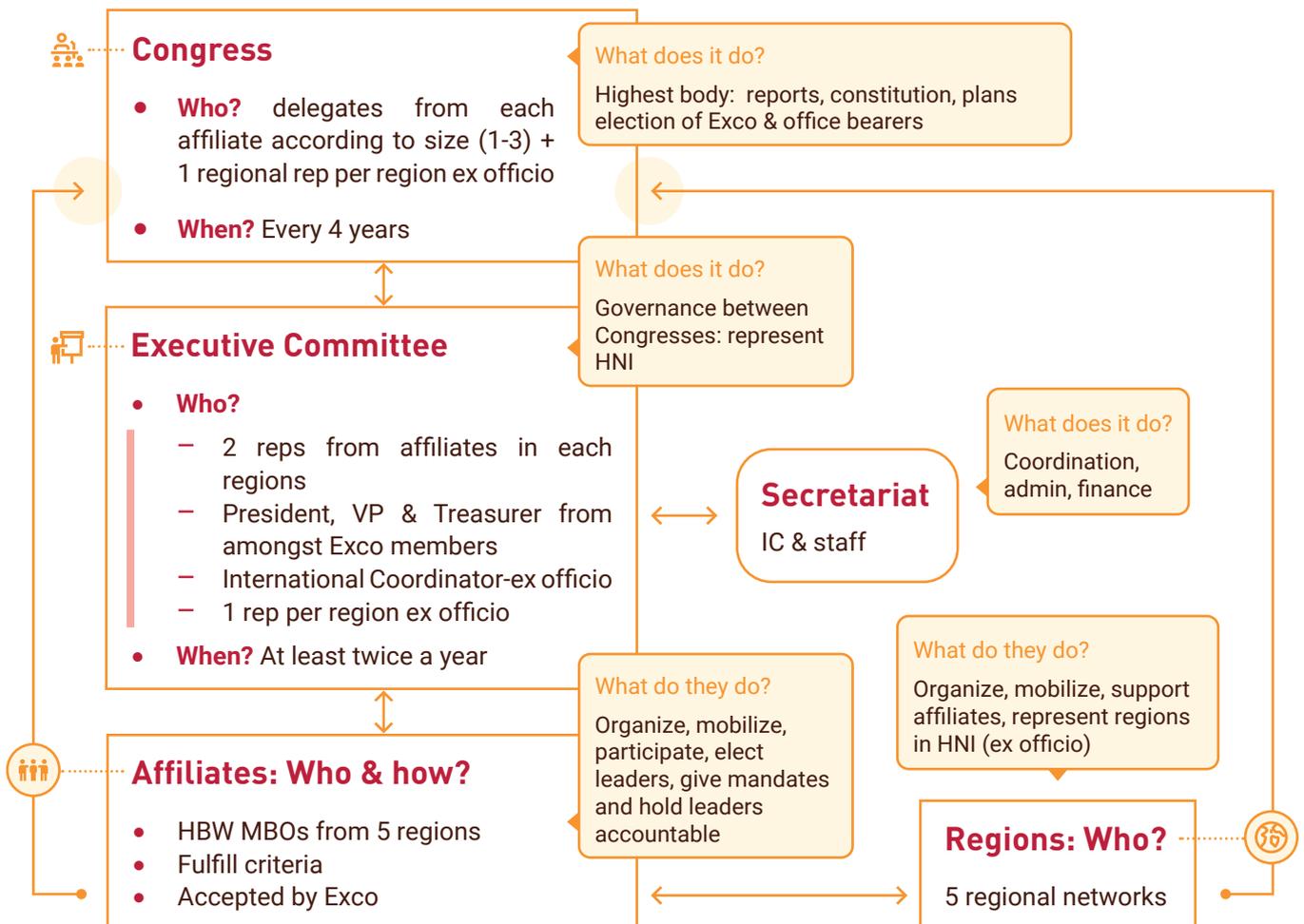
## B. Adoption of HNI Constitution

*Drawing up a Constitution is a difficult task. Firoza Mehotra, HNSA and HNI Working Group member, outlined the process that had been undertaken since May 2018. The draft Constitution before delegates at the launching Congress was a fourth draft.*



The structures and their functions as per the fourth draft are represented in the diagram below.

### HNI – Structure & Functions



Firoza took delegates through the structures and their functions. She was happy that Renana Jhabvala had described the lessons that had been learnt during the earlier part of HNI and said that “many of these [lessons] we have already taken into account while drafting and redrafting this constitution for HNI.”

Principles such as:

Only MBOs can become affiliates of HNI; “they will be the heart and soul of the HNI”

Regional networks should have a strong role but they are not members of HNI, they are not affiliates; “they will be in the Congress and the executive committee but they will not have voting rights”

were included to ensure that HNI remained HBW-focused.

Chris Bonner presented the suggestions that were proposed by the affiliates, and the changes made to the constitution. Example:

**14.1 Interpretation of the Constitution:** The responsibility for the interpretation of the clauses of this Constitution will be vested in the Congress. In between Congresses, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to make an interim ruling subject to a final decision by the Congress **shall be empowered to propose an interpretation of the Constitution, to be circulated electronically to affiliates for a decision, which will require 75% of those affiliates who respond to agree to the interpretation, and which will be endorsed by the next Congress.**

...The Congress will decide on the manner of disposal of funds and assets of HomeNet International.

15.2 A resolution for dissolution requires approval from at least 75% of voting delegates.

**16. POWER TO MAKE RULES**

**In order to further the objectives of HomeNet International and operationalize the same, the Executive Committee will have the power to form sub-committees and make rules, within the framework of the constitution.**

**Congress adopted the Constitution<sup>19</sup> unanimously.**

Chris also laid out some of the big issues that need to be debated in or before the next Congress and some of the issues raised by affiliates that should be incorporated in rules or policies developed by the International Working Committee. These are:

**1. Affiliate suggestions to be included in the operational rules/policies**

- Signatories to the bank account
- Appointment of worker auditors to accompany the Treasurer
- Standing orders for running Congress
- Setting up of a youth council and committee

**2. Affiliate suggestions for policy resolutions or constitutional amendment**

- Will we recognize new types of workers working from home, such as teleworkers or professionals, as homeworkers?
- Should affiliates/regions commit to forming national networks where they do not exist? (The constitution does commit us to support the formation of regional networks)
- Should representatives on the Executive Committee be HBWs, and not technical people?
- Should we extend the number of office bearers? If so, what and how many office bearers' positions should there be?

<sup>19</sup> HNI Constitution can be downloaded here:

English: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HNI-Constitution-EN.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HNI-Constitution-SP.pdf>

Portuguese: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HNI-Constitution-PT.pdf>

Russian: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HNI-Constitution-RU.pdf>

## C. Appointment of HNI International Coordinator

*Isabel Agol, African Regional Platform and HNI Working Group member, introduced HNI's new international coordinator, Janhavi Dave, outlined her proposed role and the process that had been followed to nominate her.*

### Role of the International Coordinator (IC)

Over the next few months, the role of the IC will be to:

- Set up HomeNet International along with the International Working Committee of HNI
- Work closely with the International Working Committee of HNI to ensure good governance and accountability
- Manage the membership
- Ensure implementation of the activities and plans agreed upon by the Congress
- Ensure representation of HNI on important global forums along with the affiliates
- Raise funds and resources for HNI

### Process of Nomination

1. The Working Group of HNI was requested to nominate a person for the position of the International Coordinator.
2. HomeNet South Asia nominated Janhavi Dave.
3. The nomination was presented at the virtual Working Group Meeting in February 2020.
4. The nomination was unanimously accepted by all regions at the Regional Meetings.

Congress unanimously appointed **Janhavi Dave** as the International Coordinator of HomeNet International.



### Who is Janhavi Dave?

Janhavi Dave has worked with women workers in the informal economy for over 14 years. Her expertise lies in organizing and building sustainable membership-based organizations of these workers. She started her career with SEWA Bharat recruiting members for the union and initiated thrift and credit cooperatives for HBWs.

She went on to work with SEWA and headed a project that worked in 12 cities of India making the urban spaces inclusive for women workers in the informal economy. She also briefly worked with WIEGO before starting her work with HomeNet South Asia.

She has been the International Coordinator of HomeNet South Asia for over five years, where she played a key role in expanding its membership, ensuring governance and increasing accountability. She has been a part of the Working Group for HomeNet International. Janhavi also holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

## D. Appointment of HNI International Working Committee

*Suntaree Saeng-ging, HNSEA & HNI Working Group member, introduced the HNI International Working Committee. She noted that because it was not possible to carry out elections at this virtual Congress, a transitional leadership was being proposed and had been agreed by all regions.*

The International Working Committee of HomeNet International was unanimously approved by the Congress delegates.



### Betty Lunkuse

is the founder of Envirojewels and the Ugandan representative on the Africa Regional Platform. She received the award for most women-led innovative solution for food sustainability in Africa 2021.



### Isabel Agol

is the founder of NAROHO a HBW and leather goods producer. She is also a Ugandan Working Group Member and HNI Regional Alternate Representative.



### Edwin Bett

has experience working with women in economic empowerment and advocacy. He's been working as the Coordinator of Kenya Federation for Alternative Trade, affiliated to the World Fair Trade Organization and has served as Board Director of the World Fair Trade Organization.



### Patricia Coñoman

is the coordinator of Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores en Domicilio Chile (CONATRADO) and member of the Interim Committee of COTRADO ALAC. She was president of the union, CONTEXTIL (1975-2015) and was part of the leadership of Central Unitaria de los Trabajadores (CUT) in Chile (1988-2017).



### Edileuza Guimarães

president of Associação de Trabalhadores em Domicílio da Economia Solidária (ATEMDO) Brazil and member of the Interim Committee of COTRADO ALAC. She is militant in movements to fight for rights and social justice, feminist causes, and human and labour rights.



### Veronica Lopez

secretary of youth and representative responsible to support the organization of HBWs in Confederacion de Trabajadores por Cuenta Propia Nicaragua (CTCP). She is also member of the Interim Committee of COTRADO ALAC and member of the Committee of Youth of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of the Americas (TUCA).



### Firoza Mehrotra

is an advisor for HNSA, a network of HBWs' organizations collectively representing over 900,000 HBWs. She retired from the Indian Administrative Service and has over 45 years of experience of working both at the policy and field levels.



### Manali Shah

is the national secretary of SEWA, a trade union representing 1.7 million informal economy women workers of India. She has worked with SEWA for over 31 years.



### Saira Feroze

is the finance secretary of HBWWF<sup>20</sup>, a union of women HBWs in Pakistan. She is a HBW herself and has worked with HBWWF for over 15 years.



### Poonsap S. Tulaphan

is board member of HomeNet Thailand Association and director of the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (FLEP).



### Lourdes A. Gula

is the national president of PATAMABA, National Network of Informal Workers in the Philippines, executive committee member of HNSEA and has 46 years experience in community organizing.



### Suntaree Saeng-ging

started working with informal workers, including HBWs, 30 years ago during the establishment of HomeNet Thailand, where she is currently a board member. She is also the regional coordinator of HomeNet South East Asia.

## E. Adoption of Affiliation Fees

*“It is our responsibility to pay affiliation fees to show our commitment and ownership to HNI,” Poonsap Tulaphan, HNSEA and HNI Working Group member, told delegates as she outlined the proposed affiliation fees.*



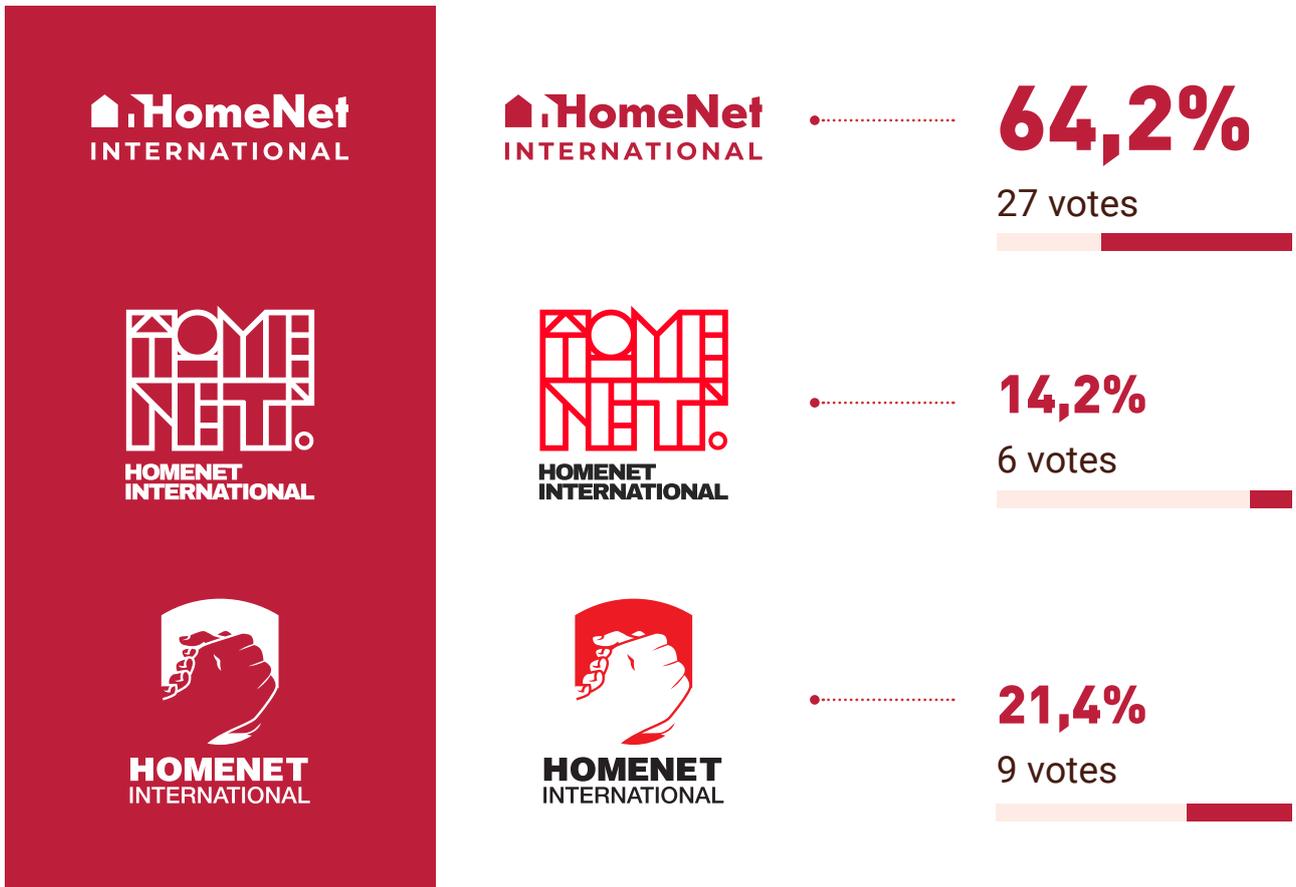
*However, some affiliates put forward the proposal that due to Covid – 19, the joining fees and annual membership fees be postponed. The Working Group recommended that the joining fee be paid prior to the physical Congress.*

The joining fee and annual affiliation fees were unanimously approved by the Congress delegates. It was agreed that the International Working Committee would review the implementation dates for the joining fee and the annual fees.

<sup>20</sup> Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)

### E. Adoption of HNI Logo

Vanessa Pillay, WIEGO and HNI Working Group member, presented the three logo options. These had been circulated to affiliates who had indicated their preferences by remote voting. **Most affiliates supported the interim logo which had been used to date.**



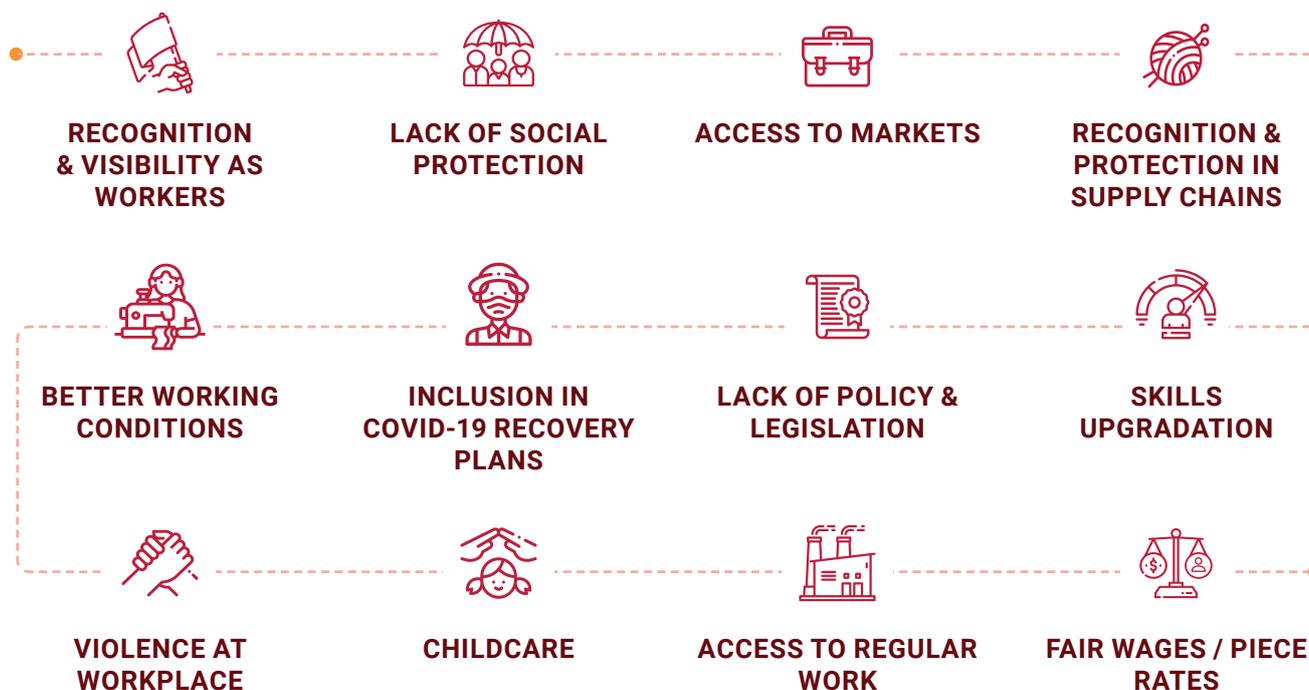
**Edileuza Guimaraes** from ATEMDO Brazil and HNI Working Group member commented that they preferred the third option because of the pictorial description of the interlocking of hands.

**Veronica Lopez** from CTCP Nicaragua and HNI International Working Committee member also voted for the third logo as in CTCP they believe that it is important to strengthen organizations and this logo depicts the strength of the HBWs. It also represented the recognition that HBWs wanted to achieve as well as the unity required. The interlocking of hands represents the strength that HBWs wanted to achieve.

Congress agreed to continue using the interim logo and allow for further discussion and agreement on a final logo to be adopted at the physical Congress.

# 6 Going Forward: Priorities and Plans

Janhavi Dave, HNI International Coordinator, presented the activity plans that had come forward from the affiliates/regions, and began by introducing the issues that HBWs are facing.



Some of the major priority areas for HNI activities are:

### Strengthening organizations of HBWs and building solidarity:

- support affiliates and regional organizations in their organizing efforts
- hold joint celebrations on International HBWs Day and International Labour Day
- build capacity on organizing HBWs
- organize exchange visits between affiliates from different regions
- build alliances with international trade unions and networks.

### Recognition and visibility of HBWs:

- produce statistics briefs for HBWs, in partnership with WIEGO's Statistics Programme
- campaign for recognition of HBWs and C177
- lobby for representation on key global platforms
- engage actively on social media – Website, Facebook, Twitter

### Improving livelihoods and working conditions:

- fight for recognition and protection for HBWs in supply chains
- promote exchanges and partnerships for access to market
- produce documentation of "Good Practice" on access to market for HBWs
- produce policy advocacy on social protection
- mobilize for inclusion of HBWs in economic recovery programmes.

### Developing HNI governance and operational structures:

- develop HNI governance and operational structures
- organize International Working Committee meetings
- work on policies and rules for HNI
- fund-raise

Despite limitations imposed by a virtual Congress, delegates still took time to voice their concerns and priorities around these crucial plans:

#### **Namrata Bhali**

from the Indian Academy of Self-employed Women spoke of organizing and governance saying that these should be given a priority as the need for networking and building capacity becomes important. She spoke of the importance of strategizing issues around HBWs, discussing the issues of MBOs, and how these should become an important activity for HNI.

#### **Betty Lunkuse**

from Envirojewels in Uganda brought up the question of access to Covid-19 vaccines. She requested that HNI prioritize the issue that HBWs should not be left behind by formal workers when it came to access to vaccines. HNI should also promote policies that give HBWs access to finance so that they do not fall back into poverty.

#### **Sonia George**

from SEWA commented on how building solidarity between HBWs was particularly important and pointed to the IDWF model.

#### **Ume Laila Azhar**

from HomeNet Pakistan commented that ensuring HBWs are included in periodic labour surveys was essential as it would give the much-needed data.

#### **Marty Chen and Joan Vanek**

from WIEGO thanked the HomeNets for partnering with WIEGO to obtain statistics.

#### **Dinusha Rajarathna**

from Sabah Sri Lanka proposed an award ceremony for recognizing the performance and efforts of HBWs in the region.

#### **Jackson Reis**

from ATEMDO, Brazil, thanked HNI for the marvellous work and was happy that so much focus was on making HBWs visible, and congratulated the Congress and thanked everyone for building the organization.

#### **Quazi Baby**

of Coalition of Urban Poor from Bangladesh, asked what the plans were for HNI in 2021, particularly with regard to Covid-19.

#### **Tatiana Rojas**

from CONATRADO Chile, spoke of the importance of knowing how to calculate the minimum wage that is required for HBWs so that they can survive. After Covid-19 this should be raised as the minimum universal wage (or basic income) for each region. This should be guaranteed by the government.

#### **Manali Shah**

from SEWA spoke of how in the next two or three years solidarity should be built across regions and countries and there should be more interaction between affiliates including exchange visits to provide more learning opportunities.

While these delegates were voicing their ideas, others were equally active in the chat box spelling out what should be prioritized. These issues were raised:

- Raise awareness around unpaid care work
- Convention 190
- Minimum wages
- The impact of Covid-19 on HBWs
- Capacity building around digital marketing

Janhavi clarified that HNI would not replicate the work of regional networks, but would take up some of the global issues.



*UWAKE members from Tanzania watching the Congress together in a group*

# 7 Building solidarity for change

## A. Closing Remarks

Sally Roever, WIEGO International Coordinator, gave the closing remarks, applauding the virtual Congress and the Working Group for their hard work in making the Congress a success in such difficult circumstances and urged delegates to continue building organization and solidarity to change the conditions of HBWs for the better.

"I first want to recognize all the home-based worker delegates and the organizations, the affiliates that you represent at this Congress. You are the heart of this new organization and you've shown how committed you are to it and your commitment to carrying it forward.

I also want to recognize the many, many extraordinary people and extraordinary organizations who have taken part in building the path that has led to this day. I also want to recognize the experiences that have led us to this moment. We also heard earlier that not every experience is smooth, not everything happens according to the way we hope. But the point is we learn from all those experiences and we take that learning and we go forward and you all will be doing that and continuing a very long and historic process.

We've reached an incredible moment that will be remembered and honoured. Remember Elaben said 50 years ago is when it all started and this is really a turning point for greater justice for home-based workers all over the world. By adopting the Constitution and holding the Congress you are officially a part of a growing movement in joining these sister organisations in IDWF and StreetNet and all the others.

We all know that it's only by globalizing that we can influence and change the global norms that workers all around the world feel the effect of every single day, and it's only by globalizing that we can take on global capital as Renanaben told us this morning.

It's only through this effort of coming together and really building this solidarity that you all have spoken about as the priority for this year, that we can fully realize the power that we have."



### Sally Roever

has been WIEGO's International Coordinator since 2018. She has also served as both the Director of WIEGO's Urban Policies Programme and the Street Vendor Specialist.

## B. Vote of thanks



Edileuza Guimaraes, COTRADO-ALAC and HNI Working Group member gave thanks to all those that had helped make the Congress a success:

- The HBW delegates from new affiliates from many different countries and cultures for their hard work in preparing for the Congress;
- The observers from the wider HBW movement who had been present;
- The speakers who had supported HBWs and the HBW movement for many, many years;
- The founder of the HBW movement who had spoken to the Congress;
- The HNI Working Group and the regional organizations for working tirelessly for more than two years to achieve the launch of the HNI;
- WIEGO for its extensive support of HBWs over many years and for the technical support to make the virtual Congress happen;
- Guests and other supporters for their support;
- Trade union and worker related organizations that had been present eg. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Netherlands trade union organization (FNV), The International Labour Organization (ILO), StreetNet International, International Domestic Workers' Federation, Global Alliance of Waste pickers, HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- Organizations who had provided funds for HBWs and HNI: OSF, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – WOW Project, Ford Foundation, Comic Relief, and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA);
- The behind the scenes team who had all worked so hard before and during the Congress: the interpreters, the Zoom administrators, the communications teams in WIEGO and HNI; and
- All the other allies, guests, supporters who had joined the virtual Congress but who hadn't been mentioned. She thanked them for their support and said HNI hoped to build its relationship with them all in the days ahead

## 8 Song: We shall overcome

A video of home-based workers singing **"We Shall Overcome"**<sup>21</sup> was developed and shown at the end of both days of the Congress. Home-based workers from all of the regions sang in their own languages, sending out a message of hope, where everybody will have equal rights and opportunities no matter what social or economic background they come from.



### We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.  
We'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.  
We shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.  
We are not afraid,  
We are not afraid,  
We are not afraid, TODAY



<sup>21</sup> "We Shall Overcome" video: <https://youtu.be/K90XIJ2Hw3o>

# 9 Messages of Solidarity

## Messages from Congress Participants



*"This event will go down in the books of history. So blessed to be part of it. We shall overcome!"*

**Observer, Jinja home based workers-  
Uganda**

*"Hello dear Sisters and Brothers! Our best greetings from StreetNet International! What a historical momentum we are witnessing now!!! CONGRATULATIONS with a Launching Congress of HomeNet International!"*

**Oksana Abboud, StreetNet International**

*"I am here as an observer representing from Asian Solidarity Economy Council. Congratulations for HomeNet International for the first Congress. I hope that HNI can strengthen the members group in the countries and gain effective advocacy to develop better enabling policy framework and learn from each other within the country with solidarity. Congratulations to all members and I am proud of you."*

**Eri Trinurini, Asian Solidarity Economy  
Council, Indonesia**

*"Congratulations to everyone! More power to the home-based workers of the world! Mabuhay!"*

**Rosalinda Ofreneo, HNSEA**

*"Congrats on your growing membership throughout the regions. Warm solidarity greetings from the AFL-CIO in the US."*

**Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO**

*"Woohoo! Celebrate!! Congratulations to the HNI WG for the amazing outreach and to all founding members of HomeNet International!! A Luta Continua!"*

**Katia – WIEGO**

*"Wow, such festivity feels so good to be a part of, after the year that has gone by!"*

**Katia – WIEGO**

*"I love all the singing and dancing! A reminder of what keeps our movement nourished and motivated!!"*

**Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO**

*"A powerful conference with such strong speakers, it was great to hear about the formation and where it all started, together we can do so much more."*

**Myrtle Witbooi, SADSAWU in SA and the  
IDWF**





## Messages of Solidarity from Allies

*The ITUC sends a message of congratulations and solidarity for your Congress. The rights, health and safety, living incomes and social protection are vital elements for all workers and central to the fight for the ITUC for a New Social Contract. And the struggle for the promise of C190 for the elimination of violence along with the C177 for Home-based Workers are priorities for Decent Work so we share your aspirations and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with HomeNet.*

**Sharan Burrow**  
ITUC General Secretary



*It is so good that finally the day has come that the launch of HomeNet International can be realized. Although not in a physical way, but at least many of us can share the experience of this important event online. Especially in these difficult times, where the pandemic is not leaving us, inequality is increasing and social power is neglected, an organisation such as HomeNet International is so essential. Home-based workers world-wide are greatly suffering from what is happening and international solidarity is a way to fight together for a decent life. We wish you a very constructive and valuable launch Congress that will motivate all of us to continue this struggle.*

**Wilma Roos**  
Mondiaal FNV



*Today we rejoice and celebrate the birth of a global organization of homebased workers – the HomeNet International. We feel proud as part of the informal workers movement to be at this moment of change. On behalf of the Executive Committee and its 580,000 members all over the world, we congratulate you on the milestone you have reached and reaffirm our commitment to struggle alongside with members of the HomeNet International for respect, dignity and freedom of all workers by unifying all informal workers as one.*

*As informal workers, we share many common challenges – poverty and lack of security throughout our lives. As we organize, we see that we also share many dreams and strengths. The launch today is a beginning of our new future. Long Live International Solidarity! Together we shall overcome!*

*In Solidarity,*

**Myrtle Witbooi, IDWF President**  
**Elizabeth Tang, IDWF General Secretary**



*As even more clear from the pandemic, there is a need to build back better, fairer and greener as well as to assure that no one is left behind. Therefore, it is essential to recognize and hear the voices of the many. HomeNet International will unite the voices of membership-based organizations in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and South East Asia, raise visibility, gain recognition and provide a global voice of the home-based workers.*

**Anders Gerdin**  
Programme Manager, SIDA





*On behalf of WIEGO's board and the entire WIEGO team, I am delighted to extend my congratulations to HomeNet International on this very special and historic occasion--the launch and Congress of HNI. I know it has been a long journey to organize, unite and build the solidarity of thousands of home-based workers across the globe. I have no doubt that HNI will take forward the work of organising and ensuring voice and representation of home-based workers, bringing much-needed visibility and collective strength to each worker wherever she is located and wherever she struggles for justice and her rightful place in the economy of her country and globally. This will importantly include the struggle for identity cards and social protection which HNI already identified as a major gap during the current pandemic.*

*WIEGO stands in solidarity with HNI and all the member organisations and home-based workers who have contributed to the formation of HNI. We wish you all the very best for this important step forward for home-based workers.*

*In Solidarity,*

**Mirai Chatterjee, on behalf of WIEGO Board**



*Greetings to all the HomeNet sisters and brothers from ILO's Cooperatives Unit in Geneva. We congratulate you all on this auspicious occasion launching your global network through an international Congress. What an exciting and memorable day! It is 25 years after the adoption of ILO's Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177). A quarter century of organizing across five regions finally culminates in the establishment of this important global network to raise visibility and gain recognition of home-based workers as workers today.*

*We note that this network comes at a critical time when informal economy workers are hard hit with the social and economic impact of the global pandemic. There is much need for solidarity, mutualism and self-help during this time. At ILO COOP we wish you the best in building and providing solidarity among your members around common and pressing issues. We are confident that this global network will influence governments and employers globally just like the other global informal economy worker networks /federations, IDWF, StreetNet International and Global Waste Pickers Alliance. We look forward to working with HomeNet International in advancing their cooperatives and wider social and solidarity economy organizations around the world.*

*In Solidarity,*

**Simel Esim**  
**WIEGO member (development constituency) and ILO COOP Unit Manager**



*Open Society Foundation congratulates HomeNet International on your first Congress. We stand in solidarity with your collective efforts and demands seeking economic justice for Home-Based Workers around the world. Your important work aligns with our shared interest to build worker power to address labour rights and income concerns. As a legitimate and democratic worker organization, you do vital work building solidarity among workers, ensuring the visibility of Home-Based Workers, advocating for policy change to ensure workers' rights and protections and in increasing economic opportunities for workers. We applaud you on the achievement of your Congress and stand in solidarity with you all.*

**Roxanne Nazir, OSF**

**OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS**





*The founding of Homenet International is a momentous step in advancing the rights of homeworkers worldwide. Living wages, social protection and decent work for home-based workers and other informal economy workers continues to be a major challenge. Home-based work is often poorly regulated with home-based workers mostly excluded from the scope of labour legislation and collective bargaining agreements, leading to disparities in the treatment of home-based workers and other wage earners. Home-based work is also a highly gendered form of production, with most homeworkers being women.*

*In this context, the creation of a global network of home-based organizations through the launch of HomeNet International paves the way for an effective international campaign for regional standards and policies to protect and promote the rights of home-based workers. We wish HomeNet International success at their launching Congress and hope it serves as an international space for collective organizing for the rights and representation of home-based workers.*

**Asia Floor Wage Alliance**



*On behalf of StreetNet International, which unites street/market vendors and informal traders from 54 countries, representing more than 650,000 workers worldwide, I would like to express our full international solidarity with all the home-based workers around the globe and congratulate all of you with a Launching Congress of HomeNet International!*

*It's been an honour for StreetNet International to be invited to the virtual Launching Congress as we need to continue our permanent struggle for recognition, inclusion and social justice!*

*It is a real historical moment which brings up all the home-based workers to highlight their incredible and invisible work they do in their homes at the same time – contributing into their national economies as any other informal economy workers, who try to work honestly and with dignity.*

*It's a crucial time for all of us to unite and push with a strong front of informal economy workers and to push on promotion of our rights and interests, our demands and needs to be implemented.*

*We wish you a great and successful Launching Congress as such a global structure like HomeNet International will significantly amplify the voice of all the home-based workers at national, regional and international levels.*

*Viva HomeNet International!*

*In solidarity*

**Blondie  
Lorraine Sibanda, StreetNet International President**



# 10 Appendixes

## Appendix 1

### HNI Virtual Congress – List of Participants 23–24 February 2021

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
1	A.R. Chowdhury Repon	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)
2	Adrian Martinez	CTCP
3	Aisha	HomeNet Pakistan
4	Aisha	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LMKS)
5	Alana Dave	ITF
6	Alcira	Independant Consultant
7	Alexandre Martins	ATEMDO
8	Aloysius Arockiam	SAVE
9	Aminath Abdulla	Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)
10	Anders Gerdin	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
11	Anshu	SEWA Bharat
12	Ansra bano	
13	Anuj Arora	HomeNet South Asia
14	Anup Pokhrel	CARE
15	Arjan	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
16	Arjina Bibi	SEWA West Bengal
17	Armeilia Handayani	Trade Union Rights Centre (TURC)
18	Arya Mishra	
19	Aura Sevilla	
20	Avi Majithia	WIEGO
21	Aya Matsuura	International Labour Organisation, Asia
22	Ayesha Louw	New Hope Cooperative
23	Babirye Agnes Kaliro	Uganda Working Group
24	Barbro Budin	IUF
25	Benjamin Quinones Jr.	Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)
26	Betty Lunkuse	Envirojewels/HNI-Working Group
27	Bijal Bhatt	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)
28	Brem Nathan	World Bank
29	Brenda	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
30	Brisa Zufiiga	Sindicato SIRETEX Chile
31	Carmen del Pilar	RENATTA Peru
32	Carmen Espimoza	AGAL Asociación Abogados Laboralistas
33	Carmen Wilson-Grau	WIEGO
34	Carol Clayman	
35	Carolina Palacio	WIEGO
36	Caroline Skinner	WIEGO
37	Cathy Feingold	AFL-CIO
38	Chaitali Bhatia	HomeNet International
39	Chandni Joshi	HomeNet South Asia
40	Chevon	
41	Chidchanok Samantrakul	HomeNet Thailand
42	Choki	SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH) Bhutan
43	Chris Bonner	WIEGO/ HNI-Working Group

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
44	Clair Siobhan Ruppert	Central Única dos Trabalhadores – CUT Brazil
45	Claudia Pascual	Former Minister of Women and Gender Equity, Chile
46	Cyrus Afshar	WIEGO
47	Dali Karmakar	
48	Daljit kaur	
49	Dave spooner	Global Labour Institute (GLI Network Ltd)
50	Deepani Mendis	
51	Deepshikha	
52	Demetria Tsoutsouras	WIEGO
53	Dinusha Rajarathna	SABAH Sri Lanka
54	Dobriła Aškračić	Dvije Ruke
55	Edileuza Guimarães	ATEMDO/HNI-Working Group
56	Edith Anampa	WIEGO
57	Edna Tendarte	Atemdo Brazil
58	Edwin Bett	KEFAT/ HNI-Working Group
59	Ela Bhatt	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
60	Elin	WOW programme, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
61	Elizabeth Nzilani	Machakos Coop Union
62	Elizabeth Tang	International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)
63	Emily Milanzi	Empire Coop
64	Enda Doherty	WOW programme, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
65	Epiphanie Mukasano	Umojawamama Crafters
66	Eri Trinurini	Asian Solidarity Economy Council
67	Farida Khanam	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)
68	Felix Mochama	Smolart
69	Ferron	Independant Consultant
70	Ferron Pedro	WIEGO
71	Firoza Mehrotra	HomeNet South Asia/ HNI-Working Group
72	Fozia Akram	
73	Francoise Carre	WIEGO
74	Fredrick Masinde	HomeNet Kenya
75	Gerhard Reinecke	International Labour Organization, Chile
76	Gillian Dowie	International Domestic Research Centre (IDRC)
77	Gladys María Torres Guillermo	RENATTA Peru
78	Gloria Solorzano Espinoza	RENATTA Peru
79	Gohar Sajid	SABAH Pakistan
80	Hamera Aslam	HomeNet Pakistan
81	Haseena Ali	
82	Ilija Boevski	Dora Dom
83	Indira	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LMKS)
84	Indrani Mazumdar	Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)
85	Indu Rathore	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
86	Isabel Agol	NAROHO/HNI-Working Group
87	Jackson	ATEMDO
88	Jagrari	
89	Jagrati Agarwal	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
90	James Senkumba	Afriyouth
91	Jane Barrett	WIEGO
92	Jane Naluwairo	Patience Pays Uganda
93	Janhavi Dave	HomeNet International
94	Janine Berg	International Labour Organisation, Geneva
95	Jarina Shikha	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LMKS)

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
96	Jaspreet Kaur	
97	Jemimah Awuor Nyakongo	HomeNet Kenya
98	Jennyline Canta	
99	Jessica Dalton	Ford Foundation
100	Jim Kenyana	Smolart
101	Joann Vanek	WIEGO
102	Josie Abrahams	WIEGO
103	Julie	IUF
104	Julieta Mendez	WIEGO
105	Justina Pena Pan	WIEGO
106	Karim Saagbul	WIEGO
107	Karin Pape	WIEGO
108	Karina	
109	Karma Dema	SABAH Bhutan
110	Kate Mocheki	People Opposing Women Abuse
111	Katia Araujo	WIEGO
112	Kavita Kalsi	Social Development Direct
113	Kendra	WIEGO
114	Kezang Dolkar Dorji	SABAH Bhutan
115	Khanthone Phamuang	Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA)
116	Kiana London	WIEGO
117	Kiran Bhardwaj	
118	Konica Udhani	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)
119	Krithika	WIEGO
120	Lamphan NANTHAPHANYA	Informal Worker Advancement Association (IWAA)
121	Lata	SEWA Bharat
122	Laura Alfors	WIEGO
123	Laura Lafuente	
124	Laura Morillo	WIEGO
125	Laura Revelo	HomeNet International
126	Le Van Son	
127	Leela	SEWA Bharat
128	Lesther Morales	Consultant, HomeNet International
129	Lijo E B.Com	
130	Linah	
131	Litha Coop SA	SA Cooperative
132	Ljiljana Čepić	NVU Sarenica
133	Lorraine Sibanda	StreetNet International
134	Lourdes Gula	PATAMABA
135	Lucia Fernandez	WIEGO
136	Luciana Itikawa	WIEGO
137	Luz Maldonado Velasquez	RENATTA Peru
138	Lydia Nabakka	Tukolerewamu
139	Madhuri Sinha	
140	Mahlane Andrew	
141	Malavika	WIEGO
142	Manali Shah	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)/HNI-Working Group
143	Manju	
144	Manop Kaewphaka	HomeNet Thailand
145	Margarida Teixeira	Streetnet International
146	Mariana Anton	Oxfam Social Protection Regional Program
147	Marieke Koning	ITUC

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
148	Marina mery	
149	Marion Mukasi	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
150	Marlese von Broembsen	WIEGO
151	Martin Kyalo Malila	Machakos Coop Union
152	Marty Chen	WIEGO
153	Mary Viyakula	SAVE (Social Awareness and Voluntary Education)
154	Maya Das	SEWA Bharat
155	Megan Landeros	WIEGO
156	Mehnaz Raffi	
157	Mehrunisha	SEWA Bharat
158	Melisa Abrapalabra	
159	Mike Bird	WIEGO
160	Mirai Chatterjee	WIEGO
161	Mmanoko Masehela	
162	Monceba Hlophe	
163	Monica Garcia	RENATTA Peru
164	Moumita	SEWA Bharat
165	Mukarrama Kayumova	
166	Muskan	SEWA Bharat
167	Mylene Hega	
168	Myrtle Witbooi	International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)
169	Nabbosa Robinah	Tukolerewamu
170	Nalini Nayak	
171	Namita	SEWA Bharat
172	Namrata Bhali	India Academy For Self Employed Women (IASEW)
173	Navya D'Souza	HomeNet South Asia
174	Neide Van-Dunem	Open Society Foundations
175	Nelien Haspels	
176	Nellie	
177	Nina Trige Andersen	
178	Niteesha Muthoor-Mokram	HomeNet South Asia
179	Noel Colina	Asian Monitoring Resource Center (AMRC), Hong Kong
180	Nolasco	
181	Noluntu	
182	Nonceba	
183	Obadiah	Machakos Coop Union
184	Oksana Abboud	StreetNet International
185	Oteba	
186	Pablo	WIEGO
187	Pamela Otieno	HomeNet Kenya
188	Panchali Ray	HomeNet South Asia
189	Pat Horn	WIEGO
190	Patricia Coñomán	CONATRADO Chile/ HNI-Working Group
191	Patricia Roa	International Labour Organisation, Chile
192	Phetvilay Phommessay	Oxfam, Laos
193	Phuntshok Chhoden	SABAH Bhutan
194	Poonsap Tulaphan	HomeNet Thailand/ HNI-Working Group
195	Poponi	
196	Prabha Pokhrel	Home Based Worker Concern Society Nepal (HBWCSN)
197	Prabhu Rajendran	FNV
198	Pushpa Tiwari	
199	Quazi Baby	Coalition of Urban Poor

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
200	Rachel Moussie	WIEGO
201	Radha	SEWA Bharat
202	Rahel	WISE
203	Raisa Liparteliani	Georgia TUC
204	Rakawin Lee	HomeNet Thailand
205	Rebeka Sunyat	Coalition of Urban Poor
206	Rebecca van Bergen	NEST
207	Reema Nanavaty	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
208	Rekha Sharma	HomeNet South Asia
209	Renana Jhabvala	HomeNet South Asia
210	Renata Farias	WIEGO
211	Renu Gulani	HomeNet South Asia
212	Rhiana	WIEGO
213	Rhonda Douglas	WIEGO
214	Rishita Dutt	SEWA Bharat
215	Rita Maguifia	Renatta Peru
216	Rithanyaa	SAVE
217	Robin Amatya	SABAH Nepal
218	Rosalia Sciortino	SEA Junction
219	Rosalinda Ofreneo	HomeNet Philippines
220	Roxanne Nazir	Open Society Foundations
221	Ruchi	SEWA Bharat
222	Rupali Mondal	SEWA West Bengal
223	Ruth Amaro	Conatrado Chile
224	Ruth Diaz	
225	Saira Feroz	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)/HNI-Working Group
226	Saki Rezwana	SEWA Bharat
227	Sally Roever	WIEGO
228	Samar Verma	Ford Foundation
229	Sanchita Mitra	SEWA Bharat
230	Saniya Shaikh Batul	
231	Sarah Bunker	World Bank
232	Sarah Pilkins	DFID
233	Sarah Reed	WIEGO
234	Sarbani Kattel	HomeNet South Asia
235	Sarita Gupta	Ford Foundation
236	Seema Thiroda	
237	Sergio Silva	Instituto redes para o Desenvolvimento
238	Shalini Sinha	WIEGO
239	Sharan Burrow	ITUC GS
240	Shawna Blader-Blau	Solidarity Center
241	Shubham Dhiman	
242	Silke Neunsinger	ARB, Sweden
243	Simel Esim	International Labour Organisation
244	Sinoeun Men	HomeNet Cambodia
245	Smriti Kedia	Sadhna
246	Sofia Trevino	WIEGO
247	Sonakshi Agarwal	HomeNet South Asia
248	Sonia George	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
249	SotineaBun	
250	Sreevally	SEWA Bharat
251	Sristi Joshi Malla	SABAH Nepal

S.NO.	NAME OF PERSON	ORGANIZATION
252	Subhadra	Sewa Delhi
253	Sue Longley	IUF
254	Sumaiya Nelson	
255	Suntaree Saeng-ging	HomeNet Thailand/ HNI-Working Group
256	Surekha Ahire	
257	Svetlana Balalaeva	Aidemi, Kyrgyzstan
258	Swati Singh	SEWA Bharat
259	Sweta Prasad	
260	Taluah Girard	WIEGO
261	Tarunaben Muljibhai Chavada	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)
262	Tatiana Rojas	CONATRADO CHILE
263	Taylor Cass Talbott	WIEGO
264	Temjenlemla	
265	Thandiwe	People Opposing Women Abuse
266	ThearithSoun	
267	Thes Molino	HomeNet Philippines
268	Thu Giang Nguyen	LIGHT M-Net Vietnam
269	TITAN	
270	Topi	
271	Treazer Mware	
272	Trinidad Domingo	HomeNet Philippines
273	Ume Laila Azhar	Homenet Pakistan
274	Van Thi Thu Ha	Asian Monitoring Resource Center (AMRC), Hong Kong
275	Vanessa Pillay	WIEGO
276	Verónica Lopez	CTCP Nicaragua/HNI-Working Group
277	Veronica Temba	UWAKE
278	Vicky Kanyoka	UWAKE
279	Violeta Zlateva	HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia
280	Visal Ttan	Oxfam, Cambodia
281	Wanida Kotchasarn	
282	Wilma	FNV
283	Wuwun Astin	HomeNet Indonesia
284	Yen Nguyen Hoang	LIGHT M-Net Vietnam
285	Zainab Naaz Jamali	
286	Zareen	SEWA Bharat
287	Zein Ahmed	
288	Zerha Khan	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)
289	Zone Narito	HomeNet Philippines
290	Zora Kajtez	Zlante Ruke, Serbia

ORGANISATIONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN GROUPS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
Envirojewels	51
Machakos	30
Smolart	24
HomeNet Kenya	10
UWAKE	56
SEWA Bharat	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>

\*Not all delegates or participants were recorded as present on the Zoom platform for various technical reasons

## Appendix 2

## HNI Virtual Congress - Agenda 23rd and 24th February 2021

Duration	Day 1	Facilitator
15 min	Log-in 15 minutes prior to starting time for affiliate delegates	Sofia Trevino-WIEGO Sarbani Kettle-HNSA
10 min	Opening remarks, introductions, objectives & programme	Chris Bonner- Co-Chair for Day 1 HNI Working Group (WG) support
15 min	Keynote Speech:  Ela Bhatt: founder of the HBW Movement (SEWA)	
30 min	About Home-based Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table # 1 with long-time supporters of HBWs: Marty Chen (WIEGO founder member), Chandni Joshi (UNIFEM, HNSA)</li> <li>• Q &amp; A- HBWs</li> </ul>	
35 min	Global & Regional Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations by Janhavi Dave (HNSA, HNI Coordinator designate and WG member) &amp; regional HBW representatives.</li> <li>• Q &amp; A- HBWs</li> </ul>	Patricia Coñoman, Co-Chair for Day 1 COTRADO-ALAC & HNI WG member
20 min	Regional Cultural Activities: by video	
15 min	Confirmation of Affiliates	Firoza Mehrotra, HNSA & HNI WG member; Edwin Bett, Africa Platform & HNI WG member
10 min	Confirmation of International Coordinator	Isabel Agol, Africa Platform & HNI WG member
10 min	Closing Remarks and Song	Suntaree Saeng-ging HNSEA & HNI WG member

*2 hours 30 minutes per day by Zoom*

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Duration	<b>Day 2</b>	Facilitator
<b>15 min</b>	Log-in 15 minutes prior to starting time for affiliate delegates	Sofia Trevino-WIEGO Sarbani Kettle-HNSA
<b>5 min</b>	Opening Remarks	Barbro Budin Co-chair for Day 2, former IUF official & WIEGO Board member
<b>20 min</b>	History & Relevance of HomeNet International <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table #2: with long time supporters of HBWs, Renana Jhabvala (HNSA &amp; SEWA Bharat) &amp; Rakawin Leechanavanichpan (Home-Net Thailand &amp; ILO)</li> </ul>	
<b>40 min</b>	Presentation, discussion & Adoption of HNI Constitution	Chris Bonner
<b>10 min</b>	Appointment of HNI Working Committee	Suntaree Saeng-ging
<b>10 min</b>	Adoption of Affiliation Fees	Poonsap Tulaphan, HNSEA & HNI WG member
<b>25 min</b>	Priorities and Activity Plan for HNI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Janhavi Dave</li> <li>• Q &amp; A-HBWs</li> </ul>	Jane Barrett Co-chair Day 2 WIEGO ORP
<b>15 min</b>	Adoption of HNI Logo	Vanessa Pillay, WIEGO & HNI WG member
<b>10 min</b>	Closing Remarks by Sally Roever, WIEGO International Coordinator	
<b>5 min</b>	Vote of Thanks	Edileuza Guimaraes, COTRADO-ALAC & HNI WG member
<b>10 min</b>	Closing Song	Vanessa Pillay

*2 hours 30 minutes per day by Zoom*

## Appendix 3

**HNI Virtual Congress - Speakers****Ela Ramesh Bhatt**

Ela Ramesh Bhatt has dedicated her life to improving the lives of India's poorest and most oppressed women workers, amongst them home-based workers. In 1972, she founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and in 1974 the SEWA Cooperative Bank. She is known as the founder of the HBW movement and was involved in setting up the first HomeNet International in the 1990s, as well as other networks of workers in the informal economy.

She has had numerous roles in her long life-time including being a member of the Indian Parliament, Chair for Womens' World Banking and Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

She is the author of many books, and has received several awards and honorary doctorates.

Elaben is still active and is currently working on the idea of Building an Economy of Nurturance.



**Ela  
Ramesh  
Bhatt**

**Rakawin Leechanavanichpan**

Rakawin Leechanavanichpan was early involved in Thai student activism and community organizations as well as the trade union movement.

She made a study on the working conditions of women row-house subcontracted garment workers in Thailand and helped to organize non-formal education opportunities for the young women garment workers through negotiations with employers and local government officials.

She became the coordinator for HomeNet Thailand which was established in 1998 and has been on its board since 2000 till date.

She was part of the WIEGO ORP advisory committee 2000 – 2004.

In 2004 she joined the ILO and is currently a programme officer of the ILO regional office for Asia/Pacific. Her work at the ILO has amongst others focused on the informal economy and labour migration and her knowledge and insight in informal workers' rights and conditions has influenced her for moving the ILO work forward in this field.



**Rakawin  
Leechanavanichpan**

## Renana Jhabvala

Renana Jhabvala joined SEWA in 1978 as an organizer and was instrumental in forming the first cooperative of SEWA.

In 1981 she was elected secretary of SEWA under the leadership of Elaben and in 1995 she became the national coordinator.

She has been a chair of the SEWA Bank and of Mahila Housing. Together with Elaben she participated in the ILO discussions on C177 in 1995-96 and after that was one of the co-founders of WIEGO whose chair she has been until recently.

She was a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's economic empowerment 2016-2017.

Renana has played a crucial role in the founding of HomeNet South Asia, and is a chair of HNSA and she continues to play a crucial role within SEWA as president of SEWA Bharat, the national federation of SEWA.



## Marty Chen

Marty Chen is Senior Advisor of WIEGO. She has worked all of her career with informal workers: organizing and supporting rural home-based workers in Bangladesh in the 1970s, supporting NGOs working with rural and urban informal workers in India in the 1980s and co-founding WIEGO in 1997.

As International Coordinator for WIEGO from 1997-2017, Marty was involved in the formation of HomeNet South Asia and worked closely with HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet South East Asia; and took part in many discussions about the formation of regional HomeNets and HomeNet International.

As WIEGO Senior Advisor, Marty continues to play an active role in research on home-based workers and in the production of a number of statistical briefs on home-based workers. She is currently overseeing a strand of work for WIEGO on home-as-workplace.



## Chandni Joshi

Chandni Joshi is a founder of HomeNet South Asia. She has for over 56 years fought for gender rights and has worked to put excluded women, including home-based workers at the centre of development programmes and policies across South Asia.

During her 18 year tenure at UNIFEM, she was instrumental in establishing the rights of women home-based workers and in giving them visibility. She has contributed immensely to the realising of Convention 177 on Homework, the Kathmandu Declaration and the Delhi Declaration.

Currently, Ms. Joshi is the Coordinator of the Think Tank in the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens in Nepal. She is an advisor and on the Board of many institutions with home-based worker.

She has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the President of Nepal.



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