

# SEWA

## suggestions and representations in ILC and NAC



**PRESENTATION BY**

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# Global Economic Crisis



According to the global agenda council report 2010:

- More than 34 million unemployed worldwide and many more likely to lose their jobs
- 200 million workers are likely to join the rank of people living on less than \$2 per day
- Women hit most in the crisis

# SEWA



- A Registered Trade Union of 1.2 million self employed women workers
- Membership: hawkers and vendors, homebased producers, manual labourers and service providers, and producers
- Goal: Full Employment & Self Reliance
- Full employment: work security, income security, food security and social security
- Self Reliance: autonomous and self reliant, individually and collectively, both economically and in terms of their decision making ability

# SEWA's Member Based Organizations



## **SEWA Membership- Based Organizations and their Membership, Gujarat, State**

<b>SEWA MBOs</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
SEWA Bank	Shareholders	64,756 shareholders
SEWA Union	All India SEWA members	12,57,504 women workers (2009)
Gujarat Mahila SEWA Cooperative Federation	Members are SEWA cooperatives: producer, marketing, and service (child care providers, health care providers, office cleaners)	103 SEWA Cooperatives 3,00,000 total number of members
Rural membership based organizations	Savings and credit groups	4504 savings and credit groups (50,192 members)
SEWA Marketing Institution a.Gram Mahila Haat b.SEWA Trade Facilitation	Producer Groups Shareholders	3200 groups (52000 members) in 11 Districts of Gujarat 3500 shareholders in Gujarat

# SEWA's Representation at National Level



- *SEWA participated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Indian Labour Conference (ILC)*
- *SEWA one of the member of National Advisory Council (NAC)*

# SEWA suggestions in ILC



In the ILC conference three committees were formed: current global crisis committee, contract labour committee, and skill enhancement and employment generation committee that suggested the following:

## **Global Crisis Committee's:**

### *Short term suggestions*

- Implementing strategies for of the Urban Labour Employment Security Scheme
- Providing vocational training- *labourers as worst affected*
- Distribution of essential commodities to people from unorganized sector

# SEWA's suggestions in ILC



## **Global Crisis Committee's (Contd)**

### *Long term suggestions*

- To extend the number of days of employment under 'employment guarantee scheme' from 100 to 180-200 days
- Government to invest more in the schemes raising internal demand like agriculture and alternate energy
- Investing more in labour intensive enterprises
- To ensure that investment done must lead to generation of more employment
- To increase the budgetary allocation for the implementation of Social Security Bill meant for the unorganized sector

# SEWA suggestions in ILC



## **Contract Labour Committee's :**

- To appoint capable and eligible employees for the implementation of 'The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970'. And to form a Tripartite Advisory Board at national level should be formed right away.

## **Skill Enhancement and Employment Generation committee's:**

- 'Employment generation' should be the central agenda of the Government
- Other governmental schemes should be based 'Employment Generation'
- Government should focus more on agriculture and trade based on production of food articles
- Employment Security Scheme- 100 days of employment should be increased to 200 days. Followed by training and awareness building
- To increase employability of women (esp vendors, cobblers and hawkers)



# SEWA suggestions in ILC



## **Skill Enhancement and Employment Generation committee's**

- Trainings on awareness building should also be given at state level
- To provide training on monitoring and evaluation
- The training should be on maintaining good quality products in the market
- The training should be given in the local language
- To pay special attention in forming groups of artisans, and seeing that linkages are done with the market

# SEWA's Memorandum in ILC



- *The Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008 is in existence; therefore each state should formulate laws accordingly. Also policies made under the law should not only be restricted to the below poverty line card holders, but extend to the whole unorganized sector*
- *In the parliament discussion on women's violence is expected. In which domestic workers are not included, we propose to include domestic workers*

# SEWA's suggestions in NAC



- The title of the Bill was proposed to be changed to **National Food Entitlements Act. Now 13 entitlements-** Food security depends on other factors like livelihood, health, water and sanitation etc. which are not included.
- **Inclusion of all “SC and ST” in rural areas**
- **National and State-level Food Commissions on the RTI model was proposed**, with a grievance redressal officer and redressal mechanisms at the district level
- A working group to focus also on **ICDS reform and child nutrition**

# SEWA's suggestions in NAC



- The PMO has appointed an Expert Committee to examine NAC's recommendations on food security and also the government's BPL and caste surveys. The Expert Committee would comprise of the Chief Economic Advisor, Secretaries of the Planning Commission, Agriculture, Food and Expenditure
- The **Communal Violence Bill** was also outlined. It is in the final stages and the Solicitor-General of India is in the Drafting Committee. There is a suggestion that an anti-discrimination law be developed and more action of a preventive nature, promoting social harmony, should be undertaken
- **National Domestic Workers Movement** had requested the immediate issue of their exclusion from the proposed Bill on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. All NAC members endorsed the view that domestic workers should not be excluded and should have full rights as workers

# Synthesis of NAC's recommendations



- Adopting a universal approach to anti-poverty programmes and not targeting or APL-BPL etc
- A social democracy in India is possible; need to create a balance between capital and labour
- Full employment has to be the goal of any society (in the same sense in which we use these words)
- Social protection is an important part of the social democracy approach.
- Building social solidarity across groups in society is a must and is possible (Norway, Brazil, Sweden etc are examples)
- Laws and rights are important but not enough. People must be organized for collective action to implement these

# Synthesis of NAC recommendations



- No/little implementation of Pro poor policies
- Workable models from civil society, especially cooperatives and other models of collectives which are democratic and involve sharing of surpluses must be re-examined, highlighted
- Private sector/corporate sector must be more responsible/held more accountable
- Fiscal prudence, sustainable models must be developed. Western and Chinese models of social protection are expensive; costs are rising and are not sustainable
- India must develop its own, tailor-made model of social democracy while learning from others
- A global platform of various actors should be created to promote the idea of social democracy world-wide (suggestion of Pascal Lamy, Director-General of WTO)



**Thank You**