

-Name of Speaker: Betty Lunkuse

-Name of the delegation: HomeNet

Thank you Chair for providing the opportunity for me to speak at this plenary.

I am Betty Lunkuse. I am a home-based worker, representing 1.2 million home-based workers from 33 countries represented by my organisation, HomeNet International. I am from Uganda. I work from my home and make jewellery and weave baskets with natural material. With my work I have a lower carbon footprint than most of you here. However, I am impacted by the climate change more than many of you. In my country, the temperature has increased, there are flash floods and sudden showers, and the wetlands have been taken over by large corporates. This has led to reduced access to raw material or increase in the price of the raw material, low work orders, thereby low income. There has also been an increase in health issues, leading to increased health expense. Covid-19 has also left it's trail behind and our supply chains have been disrupted and even today, we don't have the same quantum of work as before. While the world is moving on and talking about different economic models, we are still struggling to recover.

If we are serious about just recovery we need two key things-

- 1) Recognition, and
- 2) Protection

What we need is first and foremost ratify ILO Convention 177, The Home Work Convention by the members states of ILO. In my country, I don't have policy which recognises me as a worker or protects me as a worker, which is the essence of ILO Convention 177.

An ILO study in the year 2019 mentions that there are 260 million home-based workers, and another study mentions that this number almost doubled. It is high time for us to have a policy for home-based workers.

And, while we are talking about recognising home-based workers, we also need to understand that home-based workers have two categories- the homeworkers, who work in the supply chains, but also the own account home-based workers. The own account home-based workers, like the street vendors and waste-pickers are also workers, and need protection.

There are some common labour protection needs that we have like the maternity protection for all women workers, violence free workplace, where workplaces include homes as well as public spaces. There is an urgent need to ratify ILO Convention 190.

I also want to add that homeworkers in specific labour protection that includes piece rates that match the minimum wage, and grievance mechanism, which is accessible to them without any adverse repercussions and violence free work place.

This year at ILC, there is a General Discussion on Just Transition. This issue is very close to my heart. Just transition and this shift to green economies, needs to recognise our models of work as green jobs. Additionally our models of work are the social and solidarity economic models, which needs support in the form of policy support, investments and skills training.

Also, the just transition needs to be accompanied by universal social protection as adaptation mechanism, and enable them to face the disruption and transition in the labour market.

And we insist that all this needs to be done with inclusion of Organizations of Workers in informal employment, through implementation of Recommendation 204, in social dialogue, collective negotiations and have a seat at the table in planning and decision-making processes on the issues that impact them.

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