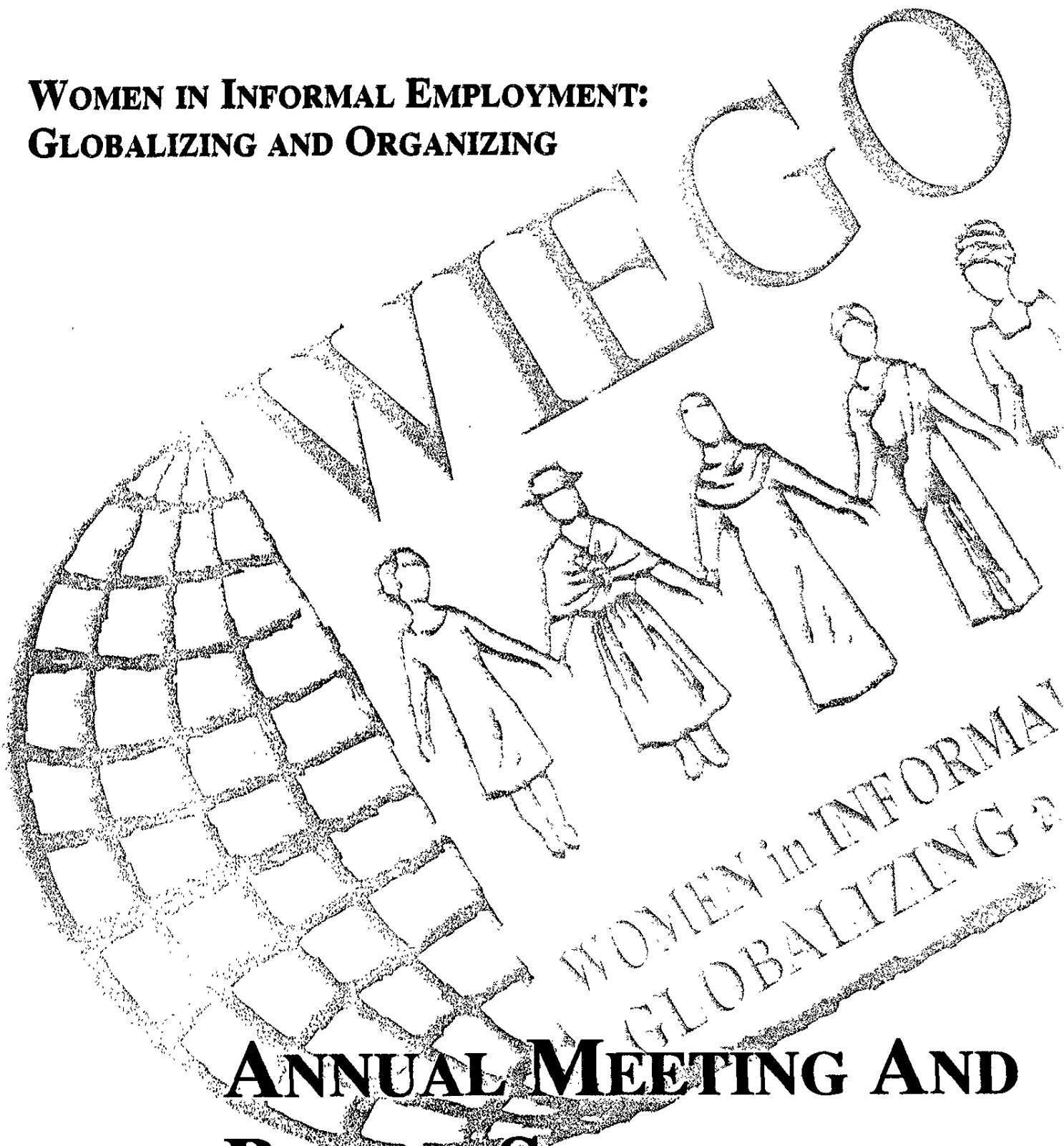
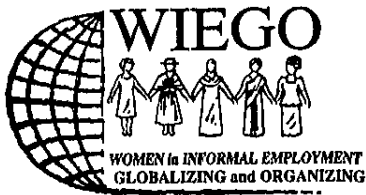


**WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT:
GLOBALIZING AND ORGANIZING**



**ANNUAL MEETING AND
PUBLIC SEMINAR**

APRIL 12 - 14, 1999



Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 U.S.A.
Tel: 617-495-0797 Fax: 617-496-9466

E-mail: martha_chen@harvard.edu
Website: www.wiego.org

EDITORS

Marty Chen
Marilyn Carr









PRODUCTION EDITOR

Michael Kerry

RAPPORTEURS

Rina Agarwal
Anneli Alba
Simel Esim
Pamela Golah
Paula Kantor

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THE BELLAGIO INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF STREET VENDORS

Having regard to the fact —

- that in the fast growing urban sector there is a proliferation of poor hawkers and vendors including those who are children;
- that because of poverty, unemployment and forced migration and immigration, despite the useful service they render to society, they are looked upon as an hindrance to the planned development of cities both by the elite urbanites and the town planners alike;
- that hawkers and vendors are subjected to constant mental and physical torture by the local officials and are harassed in many other ways which at times leads to riotous situations, loss of property rights, or monetary loss;
- that there is hardly any public policy consistent with the needs of street vendor throughout the world.

We urge upon Governments to form a National Policy for hawkers and vendors by making them a part of the broader structural policies aimed at improving their standards of living, by having regard to the following:

- give vendors legal status by issuing licenses, enacting laws and providing appropriate hawking zones in urban plans,
- provide legal access to the use of appropriate and available space in urban areas,
- protect and expand vendors' existing livelihood,
- make street vendors a special component of the plans for urban development by treating them as an integral part of the urban distribution system,
- issue guidelines for supportive services at local levels,
- enforce regulations and promote self governance,
- set up appropriate, participatory, non-formal mechanisms with representation by street vendors and hawkers, NGOs, local authorities, the police and others,
- provide street vendors with meaningful access to credit and financial services,
- provide street vendors with relief measures in situations of disasters and natural calamities,
- take measures for promoting a better future for child vendors and persons with disabilities.

We further urge follow-up action by City Governments —

- to recognize that vendors are an integral part of the urban environment and are not to be treated as criminals
- to increase focus on the situation of special groups of vendors, such as children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and others;
- to promote tripartite mechanisms, with a mandate to resolve disputes, at the city level to include representatives of consumers, municipal authorities, and vendors;
- to recognize the impact of natural disasters, civil conflicts, and wars on vendors and to appropriate relief measures within the national framework; and
- to engage in urban planning which takes into account the need of street vendors as producers and distributors of goods and services.