

OpenSpace Report on

Title/Topic of the Session:

Should we / we not apply the same international labour instruments in the informal economy / Do some BERs conflict with international labour standards

2) Person suggesting Topic & Group Participants

Jealous Chirove, Jonathan Brooks, Awaise Parry, Tom Fox, Shaida Semi, Susanne Dorasil, Gaia Segola, Anna Rahm, Jonas Paurell, Graham Buckley

3) Summary of Discussion

- (a) Informal economy operators, especially those who are small or are near the base of the pyramid have differing abilities to comply
- (b) Some BER recommendations may seem to be contradictory to some international labour standards
- (c) Some relationships between multinational companies to not encourage observation or enforcement of international labour standards with small enterprises in their supply chain.
- (d) Social dialogue and the media can be used to promote or raise awareness on the international labour standards and instruments, even in the IE.

4) Conclusions

- (a) Core labour standards should be observed by everyone, all operators. Why should they not? Most of them relate to the human rights.
- (b) Mechanisms should be developed to encourage compliance by the informal economy operators with other international labour standards.
- (c) Labour standards should be developed in such a way that they are affordable and enforceable to encourage compliance.
- (d) Macro-economic reforms should not negate labour issues as they are important. Institutions advocating for business environment reforms should also promote international labour standards.

Cape Town, 15 April 2010