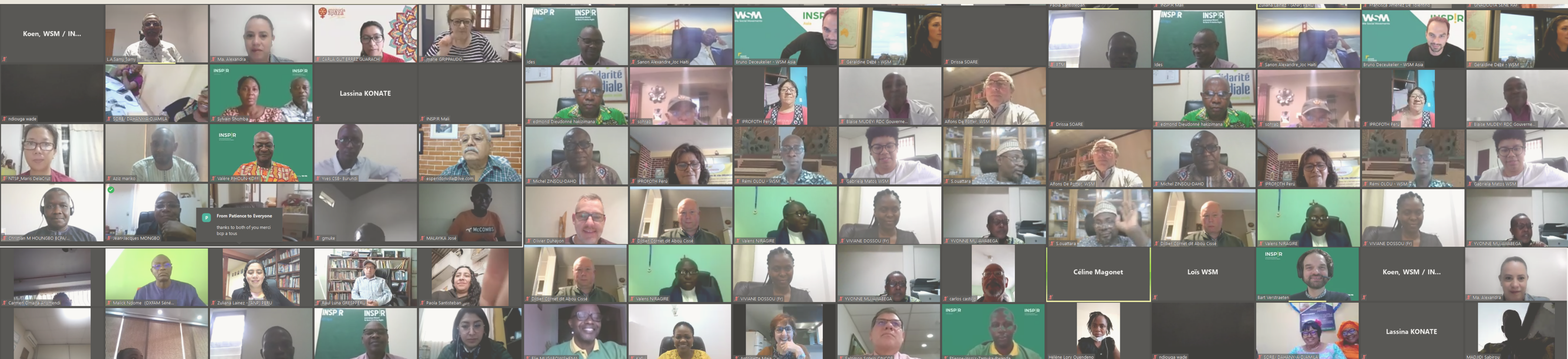
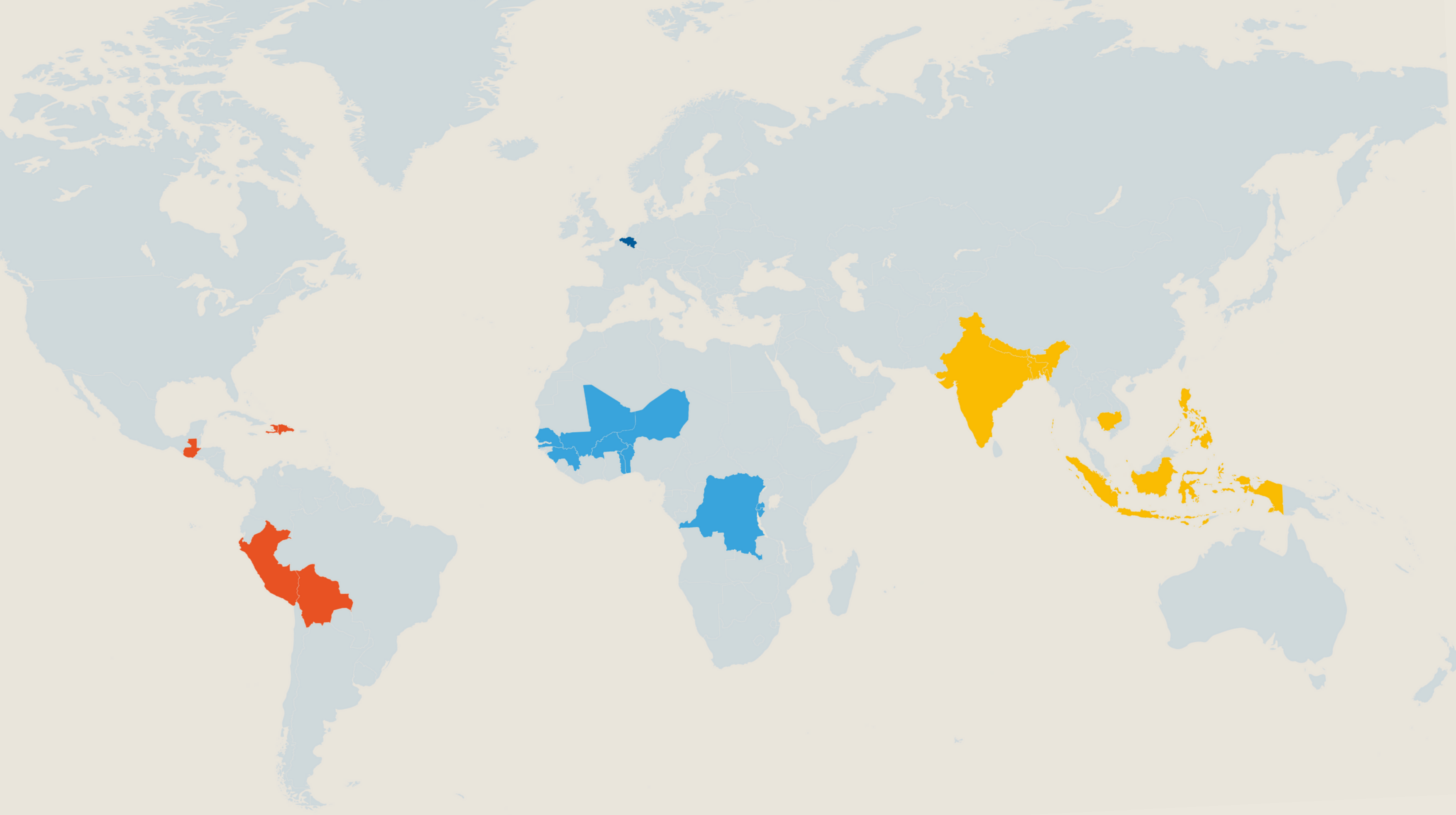


FEEL LIKE DISCOVERING INSP!R?

Report of the network launch webinar – February 3 2022



Together for the right to social protection for all!



On 3 February 2022, three hundred people from four continents met online to celebrate the official launch of INSP!R, the International Network for Social Protection Rights. During the seminar, participants from various backgrounds (international cooperation, social movements, continental political bodies, trade unions, mutual health organisations, etc.) were able to discover and discuss the vision and goals shared by about a hundred members of the network: fighting together to make universal social protection a reality while insisting, for this mission, on the key role of civil society.

Bart Verstraeten, WSM Director General, reaffirmed this goal in his opening speech: 'We are a unique human community that stands out due to its diversity, creativity and capacity to transform the world. We are part of humanity, where all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. However, as 71% of the world's population has no or inadequate access to social protection, we know that there is still a lot to do. We are on a mission to restore dignity to all.'

First, the speakers delved into

the origins of this network, which is made up of almost a hundred social movements rooted in their communities, in four continents, where they organise and work to fight, in particular, informality. Organisations such as Gregoria Apaza (Bolivia), Mufede (Mutualité Femmeset développement in Burkina Faso), and 'ZAMUKA', the national INSP!R network in Rwanda, shared their local innovative strategies to help workers break out of precariousness. As a member of the network since 2014, **Lydie Dab** described the positive impact of Mufede's

missions in providing financial and non-financial services adapted to the needs of small and medium-scale economic activities, predominantly of women, but also of men and young people. With INSP!R, Mufede participated in advocacy for the mainstreaming of decentralised financial systems by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which allowed the organisation to obtain funding to support its members impacted by Covid. **Séraphine Basore**, a member of ZAMUKA, the national INSP!R network in Rwanda, reported on their strategies

for interventions and the development of an advocacy brief on youth as well as the elderly, labour rights and socio-economic development. The results achieved include the adoption of the National Policy for the Elderly in May 2021. **Carla Gutierrez** (Gregoria Apaza), an association of Bolivian women, outlined how, together with the INSP!R network, they are building knowledge, capacity and technical skills to improve the productive capacity and personal development of women entrepreneurs, with a view to strengthening their

rights. These experiences demonstrate that access to social protection is crucial to escape poverty. INSP!R's narrative is rooted in the complex reality of the different countries where the network is present. 'We are credible because we are talking about our own experiences', explains **Mamadou Diallo** (International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC).

'We are not asking for charity. We demand respect for fundamental human rights'

Mamadou Diallo

'Our demand for more social protection is rooted in the needs and, above all, in the (human) rights of the populations/beneficiaries... We are not asking for charity. We demand respect for fundamental human rights. It is time to understand this, and INSP!R is here to remind us of this!' Finally, the conclusions stressed that

'social protection is an investment, and affordable! We need to push our policymakers into mobilising resources.'

Koen Detavernier, advocacy officer and social protection expert at WSM, presented social protection as a driver for sustainable development. It is also a tool for reducing inequality and ensuring a just and inclusive transition. However, it cannot be achieved without genuine political will, which requires the implementation of bold and integrated national policies, as well as funding to develop sustainable protection systems to deal with future insecurities in the post-covid era. Professor **Rachel Sabates-Wheeler** (Institute for Development Studies) concluded that the transformational approach to social protection is more relevant than ever, and must take into account the fulfilment of each and every person: 'social protection is not a matter of survival. It is about people's fulfilment. It

not only protects people's lives; it is a positive lever for families, and for members of a society in an economy that provides opportunities and respects dignity.'

INSP!R representatives in West Africa, Europe and Asia also enthusiastically shared successful continental political advocacy experiences. For example, in Mali, UTM (Union Technique de la Mutualité) discussed the progress made within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) to recognise mutual health organisations as key social actors in the region. Thanks to its ability to analyse the factors that make it possible to achieve universal access to health care services in Mali, UTM has become a valuable discussion partner for the Malian authorities as regards health policy. In Asia, health and safety at work is becoming a major challenge. In particular, INSP!R Asia reported on its mobilisation and advocacy activities, from its meeting with the ILO in

March 2020 to the publication of papers highlighting the precarious conditions in the workplace and the urgency of having these recognised as a fundamental right. Finally, **Karin Debroey** (ACV-CSC) elaborated on the status of independent platform workers as a growing concern in the EU, which has as many as 500 digital labour platforms and 28 million self-employed workers, of which 5.5 million are 'misclassified' (i.e. false self-employed).

'To make sure that these transitions are just and inclusive, a number of policies are important'

Shahra Razavi

This section ended with an intervention by **Shahra Razavi** (ILO, Social Protection Department). Recalling ILO main conventions and recommendations, she emphasised the importance of the collaboration with social movements, civil

society, and economic and public stakeholders in achieving universal social protection, in particular to prevent and address the transformational changes induced by Covid. 'To make these transitions, and to make

sure that they are just and inclusive, a number of policies are important: to have international labour standards that provide really important guidelines, to create fiscal space for countries to invest in their own systems and strengthen their social protection progressive tax systems). We really need all voices to be heard and everyone to be at the table.'

Participants came out of this event with the conviction that they must work together as civil society organisations, across borders and continents. Networking offers an added value: globalising our struggles. The demand for more social protection and

respect for labour rights and the environment is more relevant when made globally. INSP!R makes the most of its diversity to address its demands to the different political actors that each member can reach.



Watch the INSP!R presentation video:
youtu.be/XzSpfUXuMe8

As early as 2008, and as part of their efforts to achieve the ILO's "Decent Work Agenda", WSM (the NGO of the Belgian Christian Labour Movement) and its partner organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America started to implement a real networking strategy around a shared vision of the right to social protection. With the active support of the rest of the Christian Labour Movement in Belgium, and in particular the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV-CSC) and the Christian Mutualities (CM-MC), this network has developed over time into a real thematic, multi-actor network, bringing together more than 100 social movements across 4 continents. In 2020, this network was renamed INSP!R.

INSP!R is made up of a broad group of social movements, including trade unions, mutual health organisations, cooperatives, women's organisations, youth movements, organisations for

the elderly and farmers' movements, which mobilise on a daily basis. Its locally rooted pioneering work, which provides social protection services to its members, gives it the credibility and legitimacy to advocate more strongly for universal social protection. Its demand for more social protection is rooted in the needs but above all the human rights of people... This requires massive investment and the mobilisation of financial resources, including those provided by the fight against fraud and tax evasion. Rather than a burden, social protection is affordable.

In 2021, INSP!R issued a Vision and Strategy Paper, which showcases the diverse experiences of its members as well as the pillars of the network's advocacy to political bodies at the national level (in more than 25 countries), as well as in continents and globally: bit.ly/3KGAOMv