



To

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2010

The Secretary -General  
Commonwealth Secretariat,  
Marlborough House, Pall Mall,  
London SW1Y 5HX, UK  
Via Email: [secretary-general@commonwealth.int](mailto:secretary-general@commonwealth.int)

**Dear Mr. Kamalesh Sharma,**

Global sporting events through their social impacts have the potential to either support or damage the livelihood of the urban poor. National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) is currently running a campaign call World Class Cities for All supported and guided by StreetNet International. This campaign was launched in 2007, to develop a constructive approach to urban trading that could be transformative and provide a catalyst for sustainable development, a focus of which is the broader socio-economic implications of international sporting events.

Delhi is all set for the Commonwealth Games but the moving wheels are gradually disappearing from the streets of Delhi on the pretext of the Games. Commonwealth Games for street vendors has come to them as a nightmare although it's a matter of pride for the whole nation. The fear of eviction and harassment has been escalated to the peak level after Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi stated in the media that all street vendors will be evicted from the city before the Commonwealth Games. In fact the process of eviction of vendors has been started and complaints are coming on daily basis.

We understand the Government's full effort to make this occasion a grand success and its concern for the beautification and cleanliness. Delhi has been projected as a world class city but excluding a vast majority and the poorest section of the urban population it will have a devastating socio-economic repercussion on the future health of the city. StreetNet International is currently trying to ensure that the objectives of FIFA benefit the most vulnerable through the celebration of the 2010 World Cup. FIFA's one goal campaign is an example to dispense maximum benefit to the poor through mega extravaganza.

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We seek a just and right approach to be adopted by the Commonwealth Secretariat for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi. Street vendors are integral part of any city. Government's effort to make the whole city a restricted zone for street vendors will take away livelihood of around 300000 people whose family is solely depends on the daily meager earnings of vendors.

We are proposing that the government of India set up a social dialogue forum through which some of these concerns could be immediately addressed. Also we propose that Commonwealth Games organizers set up a monitoring body to separately look after the social implication of the Games and to ensure that evictions and harassment of the street dwellers do not take place.

**Sincerely,**

**Mukut Sarma**

Program Manager

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