



In Paris, on the 4th of March 2022

Manifesto for a global alliance aimed at the international recognition and enhancement of the contribution of Social and Solidarity Economy to sustainable and inclusive development


We, States, international institutions, regional and local authorities, organizations and networks committed to the transformation of our economies towards more social and environmentally friendly models, signatories of this Manifesto, all share the following vision:

1. Preamble

1.1. Agenda 2030 and achievement of Sustainable development goals (SDGs) is not on track despite commitments made in 2015. Progress has been made in poverty reduction, maternal and child health, access to electricity, and gender equality, but not enough to achieve the Goals by 2030. In other vital areas, including reducing inequality, lowering carbon emissions and tackling hunger, progress had either stalled or reversed;

1.2. The cross-cutting nature of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has highlighted to global challenges that all societies face (pandemics, climate change, biodiversity loss, increasing inequality, poverty and food insecurity, and forced migration). It threatens several decades of progress in the sustainable development agenda, exposing, first and foremost, the most vulnerable, such as women, youth not in employment or training (NEETs), migrants, forcibly displaced people, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, marginalized communities, workers in the informal economy, or those on precarious employment contracts. This crisis has highlighted many fragilities in our economies and deepened existing inequalities, while highlighting the need for resilience, innovation and international cooperation and solidarity;

1.3. This is a stark reminder of the need for a collective and coordinated response to re-commit to fairer, more sustainable and resilient trajectories on a global scale. It makes it necessary to address the root causes of exclusion and unsustainable development and to rethink the way we produce and deliver basic services, through organizational and production models that are human-centred, focused on proximity to strengthen the social contract, democracy and human rights, and that respect our environment. Through its local approach, the social and solidarity economy is a response.



2. The social and solidarity economy is an effective response in the current context

2.1. The social and solidarity economy (SSE), in all its diversity of forms and statuses, carries economically viable projects all over the world, and developed for social, societal and environmental purposes. We refer to SSE as any form of “production and exchange of goods and services by a wide range of organizations and enterprises with explicitly social and/or environmental aims. Principles and practices of cooperation, solidarity and ethical and democratic self-management are the driving forces.” (United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy, 2014). SSE organizations and enterprises are increasingly recognized as sustainable forms of enterprise, pursuing specific social and environmental objectives and promoting solidarity. SSE is also an important sector for job creation, and is playing an increasingly valuable role in the implementation of the SDGs, leading to its growing recognition in international development forums;

2.2. In 2014, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on SSE identified eight core areas where the social and solidarity economy can make a major contribution to socially sustainable development, including the transition from the informal economy to decent jobs, a greener economy and society, local economic development, sustainable cities and human settlements, women’s well-being and empowerment, food security and smallholder empowerment, universal health coverage and transformative finance. The financial sector of the social and solidarity economy, as well as the production of services to help people out of poverty, has developed considerably outside the mainstream banking system, through different structures such as community savings and credit cooperatives, ethical funds, or investment funds for cooperatives;

2.3. Many organizations in the social and solidarity economy are making significant contributions to achieving SDGs and tackling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These initiatives cover several aspects: social and health protection, provision of food and prevention equipment, organization of community aid, financial inclusion, education and vocational training, conversion of their production to cope with the emergency, relocation of supply chains, etc. Although significantly affected by the context of the pandemic, most social and solidarity economy organizations have managed to adapt and show resilience in the face of crises;

2.4. However, as we try to build back better, we can tap the full potential of the actors of the social and solidarity economy only to the extent that multilateral institutions, national, regional and local authorities individually and jointly design and implement specific public policies and create an environment conducive to the development of social and solidarity economy structures;

2.5. The social and solidarity economy is therefore a key player for shaping a recovery that is people and planet centered. SSE and social innovations are essential to contribute to a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery of economies and to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Indeed, it responds to the demands and concerns expressed by citizens around the world, whether it is for decent work, promotion of sustainable growth and provision of innovative solutions in response to climate change, both locally and globally.

3. Our common conviction

3.1. Faced with the ecological, economic, social and demographic challenges confronting humanity and the planet, we must move towards a more partnership approach and enhance the recognition and promotion of the social and solidarity economy. In particular, we acknowledge the contribution it can make for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3.2. We argue that the social and solidarity economy, by privileging people and the planet over the quest for profit maximization, constitutes an already proven model of development and is capable to respond to long-term global challenges, be they social, environmental or human. Through its flexibility, the commitment generated by its values and the role of local communities, SSE provides innovative solutions to the structural problems of exclusion and unsustainability that persist in our economies;

3.3. Our alliance therefore aims to inspire and support international, regional, national and local public institutions in leveraging the potential of the social and solidarity economy as a lever for achieving the SGDs;

3.4. We call for the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution recognizing the important role and contribution of the social and solidarity economy to inclusive and sustainable development and its potential for achieving the SDGs. Such a resolution would provide guidance to fully integrating the social and solidarity economy into the initiatives of United Nations agencies, to the establishment of targeted mechanisms and to documenting its contribution to the SDGs. In addition, it would provide an opportunity for targeted exchanges and learning for all UN Member States wishing to support the social and solidarity economy to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its stated ambition to “leave no one behind”;

3.5. Our approach is consistent with the work undertaken by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) since its creation in 2013, the Centenary Declaration of the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted in June 2019, which calls for the promotion of an enabling environment, including for SSE as a whole, the Abidjan Declaration, adopted at the 14th ILO African Regional Meeting in December 2019, which calls for the promotion of cooperatives and SSE in general, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), or the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission, whose new action plan for the social economy was made public on the 8th of December 2021, as well as global networks and forums in support of the social and solidarity economy (RIPESS, GSEF, Catalyst 2030, ESSFI, etc.). This approach is thus based on the growing institutional recognition of the social and solidarity economy on the international scene, and is part of a dynamic and favorable context with the inclusion of the definition of SSE on the agenda of the ILO international conference in 2022.




4. Our commitments and priorities

4.1. We, the signatories of this Manifesto, consider the social and solidarity economy as a major player in sustainable development and wish to bring its recognition as such at the international level;

4.2. We commit to adopting an approach and a constructive role within the existing institutions, networks and ecosystems of existing actors supporting the social and solidarity economy by carrying a great richness and diversity of vision. Our alliance, supported by a state impulse and through its permanent secretariat, acts as a link between institutional actors at the international, national, regional and local levels on the one hand and the ecosystem of private actors and networks of the social economy on the other hand, with the aim of strengthening the transformational role of the social and solidarity economy;

4.3. Our priorities for the coming years are to:

- Work together to obtain recognition of the social and solidarity economy by international institutions, national, regional and local governments, while respecting our cultural, economic and historical diversity;
 - Work with the structures of the social and solidarity economy to identify the levers and obstacles they face in order to engage in reflections with public authorities, the private sector and civil society;
 - Generate formal spaces for participation between social and solidarity economy stakeholders to improve relevant public decision-making through appropriate means: legislation, economic policy programs or measures, sustainable public procurement - and experience sharing;
 - Generate more statistical data on the SSE to allow for evidence-based policy making;
 - Work on documenting the contributions of social and solidarity economy structures to the implementation of the SDGs;
 - Work with education providers to inform future generations about the SSE;
 - Raise awareness and understanding about the SSE amongst finance providers to encourage them to invest in the SSE and foster collaboration between SSE organisations and capitalist businesses, in order to inspire the latter to rethink their business models;
 - More generally, foster international dialogue around good practices and innovations in order to better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
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5. Commitment of the signatories

5.1. The Alliance is open to all actors who have the same attachment to the values of the social and solidarity economy while being of a different nature, namely:

- States, regional authorities, local authorities and public organisations engaged in social and environmental issues;
- Private structures of the social and solidarity economy;
- Civil society actors (including researchers and academics);
- Institutions, organizations or networks of the social and solidarity economy with an international dimension.

5.2. The signatories of this Charter undertake to:

- Participate and actively engage in the reflections of the alliance, implement concerted actions and provide adequate resources, in connection with its permanent secretariat;
- Communicate widely on the actions carried out jointly;
- Promote the development of joint projects by organizing collaborations between the members of the coalition.

First and last name :

Organization :

Location and date :