

DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEADING GROUP ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Social and solidarity economy (SSE): strategic means of implementing the New Urban Agenda

High-level Event, September 20, 2016, New-York

We, **members of the International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy, States¹, United Nations inter-agency Task Force on SSE (UNTFSSSE)² and civil society organizations³,**

Gathered in New-York on September 20, 2016, for the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, are convinced that social and solidarity economy should be a goal of the Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda which will be adopted at the **HABITAT III Conference** in Quito, Ecuador, taking place from 17 to 20 October 2016. As the first international summit of the United Nations after the adoption of Addis Ababa action agenda on financing the development, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate, the HABITAT III conference will focus on urban development and will offer a unique opportunity to **design and implement a New Urban Agenda**,

We claim that SSE, as a means of economic and social inclusion, contributes to transformative changes of cities and urban settlements, and offers many solutions to achieve a sustainable and inclusive urban development by providing:

- alliances and partnerships between SSE and public actors to create infrastructures and services of general interest,
- integration of solidarity in economic and financial systems and mechanisms,
- access to equal and equitable employment to the most vulnerable groups of urban population,
- gathering and sharing of local resources to facilitate redistribution of economy and finance in order to invest in real economy,
- development of local services such as healthcare, personal support, education and training,
- fight against exclusion by creating relevant insertion structures,
- rehabilitation of local cultures and architectural know-how,
- improvement of the participatory democracy of cities through collective and people-centered decision-making processes.

With reference to our joint Declaration adopted during the 70th United Nations General Assembly "*Towards Public Policies Supporting SSE for Sustainable Development*", **we want for SSE to be recognized as a strategic means of implementing the New Urban Agenda. SSE must also be supported with appropriate policies** that we ask to be voluntarily set up by States and cities. It is of equal importance to work towards the **gathering of resources** to ensure that UN agencies, united within the Task Force, and all stakeholders can support SSE's scaling up to a sustainable urban development, in order to:

- **improve urban planning** by creating regulatory frameworks promoting SSE and developing common areas to ensure social cohesion, equity, inclusion and living together,
- **set up consultation frameworks** with SSE actors for the safeguarding and development of common goods in cities: water, air, earth, forests, cultivated space, energy, etc.,

¹ Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Luxembourg, Morocco; Quebec and Senegal (as observers)

² UNRISD, UN-NGLS, ILO, UNEP, UN-DESA, UNCTAD, ECLAC, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNECE, ESCWA, UN-Habitat, UN Women, WFP, TDR, UNAIDS, OECD. Observers: EESC, EMES, GSEF, ICA, MedESS, MBM, RIPESS

³ Association The Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM), International Association of Francophone Mayors (IAFM), Global fund for cities development (FMDV), Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)

- **promote territorial poles** to facilitate the scaling-up, intercommunal development potential, dialogue and articulation between the actors and the gathering of local resources,
- **support local economic development** through the creation of SSE business incubators, the financial and technical support to strategic local industries, and access to public procurement,
- **ensure access to habitat to the greatest number of people**, particularly by promoting housing cooperatives and associations that have proven their efficiency in terms of pooling of resources,
- **preserve social cohesion** by providing access to basic services for all local inhabitants,
- **support the development of sustainable production and consumption patterns** established by SSE, in terms of food systems, alternative energy, waste treatment,
- **promote rural-urban relations** in order to develop synergies and improve the governance of territories, promote short channels and urban agriculture,
- **reinforce the social and solidarity finance institutions** which develop financial products and services tailored to the needs of SSE actors, and allow the gathering of additional resources.

We, **members of the International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy**, States, United Nations inter-agency Task Force on SSE and civil society organizations, call for convergence of actors, coalitions and initiatives, and we continue the mobilization in order to make SSE a strategic means for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.