



**The adoption on 18 April 2023 of
UN Resolution A/RES/77/281
"The promotion of the social and solidarity economy
for sustainable development"**

**The RIPESS contribution
A detailed account**



**Yvon Poirier
December 2024**

Intercontinental network for the promotion of social solidarity economy

Réseau intercontinental de promotion de l'économie sociale solidaire

Red intercontinental de promoción de la economía social solidaria

www.ripess.org

info@ripess.org

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Written by Yvon Poirier

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Preamble

The adoption on 18 April 2023 of resolution A/RES/77/281 "The promotion of the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development" is the culmination of a long process in which the author has been personally involved as a representative of RIPESS.

This exercise has been a long learning process. Thus, it is relevant to write in detail the process to document it and share it with all the people and organizations who have not had the opportunity to be so deeply involved in this long march towards the adoption of the resolution.

In addition, this story could be useful for all those who would like to deepen their knowledge on the subject, whether for academics or researchers, civil servants, employees of international organizations, as well as all those who would like to continue on this path, because in due course there will be other resolutions that will be necessary in order to strengthen the SSE at the global level.

Many different approaches for this paper could have used. Having been personally involved for over twenty years in RIPESS, this paper could be assimilated to an observer/participant research approach.

Thus, the paper combines four aspects, which are inseparable:

- A personal account of my contributions, experiences etc., as well as my thoughts and what I have learned.
- An institutional narrative about RIPESS.
- An archiving effort (different versions of texts).
- An institutional and political narrative concerning actors more generally, in particular UN member states .

Most of the paper is based on information which cannot be disputed. However, the way they are presented, is in itself the result of my personal involvement. There is a lot more information that could be provided. Choices needed to be made. Summarising twenty years of work is necessarily choices which are my own. In that sense, these are also opinions on my part for what I felt was more important to share. an opinion on my part. The analyses and opinions are my own and not necessarily shared by RIPESS.

Lastly, I will add that I felt a duty to write this paper. The learning experience of the last twenty years is so important that I had to write it. And, as for all social movements, there is a fairly important rollover of people in movements and in institutions. I hope that, even if not a historian, this paper might be a small contribution to explain part of the history.

I also wish to express thanks to different people that provided information and opinions. They helped improve this paper. At least this is my opinion.

Yvon Poirier

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The hypothesis to explain the adoption of resolution A/RES/77/281 is that this came about because of an SSE ecosystem that has been in construction over the last quarter of a century. Gradually, since 1997 a movement has been built with at its core the concept of solidarity economy, inclusive of large sectors of the social economy (cooperatives, mutuals and non-profits) as an alternative to our corporate led economy. The Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity (RIPESS), formally created in 2002 has been at the core of this movement building. A very important step was made with the creation in 2013 of the United Nations Inter-Agency Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE). Together with SSE observers, including RIPESS since its foundation, the promotion of SSE for Sustainable Development became a priority. Even if it was not possible to have SSE included in the 2015-2030 SDG's, the strategic involvement of SSE stayed the main priority for all the movement. Starting in 2016, the idea of a UN Resolution made its way. After RIPESS introduced the idea, the UNTFSSSE adopted this as a priority. After a few years of effort, a group of countries formally decided in April 2022 to bring a SSE resolution to the United Nations General Assembly.

Introduction

Although the adoption of the resolution was on April 18, 2023, it is impossible to understand how we did it without mentioning the international SSE movement since its beginnings in 1997. The concepts of solidarity economy, social economy or SSE had appeared in the middle of the 1980s and 1990s here and there. However, it is probably likely that the "Globalization of Solidarity" meeting held in Lima, Peru, from July 1 to 4 1997, is the first truly international meeting with researchers/academics and social movements meeting. And this from 35 countries, from Latin and North America, Europe and Africa. There were no participants from Asia in this emerging movement yet.

For the sake of history, it is important to specify that the very idea of a UN resolution did not come from us. And this, even though we had always wanted to have an impact at the UN, especially with many efforts after RIO+20 in June 2012, which failed, to have the SSE included in the resolution of 25 September 2015 *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, commonly known as the SDGs 2015-2030.

The idea was first suggested by Marc-André Dorel, a Frenchman who at the time held the position of senior economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Indeed, on September 9, 2016, during the opening of the GSEF 2016 in Montréal, Pascale Delille came to see us, Hamish Jenkins and me and told us, "Yesterday I was in New York and Marc-André Dorel suggested that the situation would be ripe for an SSE General Assembly resolution". At the time, Hamish Jenkins was in the Geneva office of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service for Civil Society (UN-NGLS), an agency that ceased its activities in 2017 on major substantive issues due to budgetary constraints. We both knew Pascale Delille, involved in the French network RIUESS (Interuniversity Network of the SSE).

A-Evaluation of this suggestion - was it a plausible idea?

Knowing the enormous challenge of getting the countries of the world to adopt a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, it was necessary to assess whether we had made enough progress in the recognition of the SSE for this project to be plausible, or if it was a mere chimera.

After analyzing and reviewing the situation, I quickly concluded that it was plausible and of strategic importance to take such a step.

Here are the elements that made the project plausible:

1. The first international meeting of *the Globalization of Solidarity* held in Lima in July 1997 inaugurated the international movement of the SSE. Subsequently, with a

second meeting held in the City of Quebec in October 2001, it was decided to make the process permanent by deciding to organize a 3rd meeting of *Globalization of Solidarity* in Dakar in November 2005.

2. At a preparatory meeting for this 3rd Meeting held in Dakar in December 2002, the participants took the decision to create the *Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)*. It is important to note that the choice of the word intercontinental instead of international was a deliberate decision to assert that this network is decentralized, with north-south and east-west parity. This was a very different approach from the usual because the majority of development NGOs, including organizations are more centralized.
3. It is also relevant to mention that for RIPESS, there is no "and" between social and solidarity. This means that for RIPESS, it is not an alliance between the social economy and the solidarity economy. On the contrary, it means that the economy we pursue is both social and solidarity-based, which are inseparable. Nevertheless, with evolution, we can use both formulations, but with the same principles and values agreed upon.
4. During all these years, RIPESS has made it its mission to support the creation of networks or organizations at the country level, which is considered essential for the creation of an organization that is truly representative of the field. Often, such organizations already existed and joined the SSE movement.
5. While the consolidation of RIPESS in all continents continued through meetings in Luxembourg in 2009 and in Manila in 2013, the SSE attracted the attention of various international bodies.
6. The first relations were established with the ILO. The economic crisis of 2008-2009, with its millions of additional unemployed, created an interest in different approaches that create jobs. Thus, RIPESS people, including Nancy Neamtan of the *Chantier de l'Economie sociale du Québec* (one of the founding organizations of RIPESS), were invited to a first meeting in Geneva at the occasion of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2009. And then at a meeting of the ILO in Africa in Johannesburg from 19 to 21 October 2009. Nancy Neamtan was accompanied by other RIPESS people, including Madani Koumaré from Mali, then President of RENAPESS (Mali's national SSE network) and now President of the African SSE Network (RAESS) and Political Co-Coordinator of RIPESS International.
7. With the *Declaration Action Plan for the Promotion of Social Economy Enterprises and Organizations in Africa*, the social economy (a version close to the SSE) was formally recognized.
8. The first concrete result of the meeting was the decision to create the SSE Academy at the International Labour Office (ILO), the first meeting of which was held in Turin in October 2010. A total of 12 Academy meetings were organized between October 2010 and December 2020 by Roberto Di Meglio, from the ILO's Cooperatives Unit (which in January 2024 was renamed Cooperatives and SSE Unit). Since these Academy meetings were held under the auspices of the ministries of labour of the various countries or states of federations (as in Quebec in 2011), the promotion of the SSE was making its way into the political bodies of different countries.
9. The International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy (FIESS), held in Montreal from October 17 to 30, 2011, was probably the largest international conference (1,400 participants) to date for all the stakeholders in the global SSE ecosystem under construction. Together, there were SSE actors, UN agencies (ILO) and governments. The Quebec minister announced that his government would move forward with a law on the social economy in Quebec. France did the same shortly after. It is pertinent to recall that during the Forum, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) demonstrated an openness to create financial tools for the SSE. See the [report](#) of the FIESS meeting (page 13).
10. The RIO+20 meeting in June 2012, which launched the process for the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015-2030, was a major opportunity to commit to the UN. Already for this occasion, RIPESS had prepared specific proposals for the future SDGs. As Member States had decided to include civil

society in the consultation process (which had not been the case for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)), the RIPESS Board decided to make it a priority for the next stage.

11. The first international meeting organized by international institutions dedicated to the SSE was held in Geneva in May 2013. The meeting, co-organized by UNRISD, ILO and UN-NGLS, brought together for the occasion most of the key people of the SSE, ranging from Paul Singer, the Secretary of State for the Solidarity Economy of Brazil, one of the precursors of the solidarity economy, Jean-Louis Laville from France, several people from RIPESS, a range of other UN agencies and many other participants. During the closing session, Simel Esim proposed creating a UN Inter-Agency Taskforce on SSE including the ILO, UNRISD, UN-NGLS, UNDP, the OECD and others. Here is her [speech \(1:12:30 to 1:16:00\)](#)



12. The success of the conference prompted the organisers, from various Geneva-based UN organisations, to create the Inter-Agency Working Group on the SSE (UNTFSSSE), which was formally established on 30 September 2013. Apart from the member agencies, three SSE organisations became observers: RIPESS, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the Rencontres du Mont-Blanc (which became the SSE International Forum in 2016).
13. As decided at RIO+20, RIPESS organized itself to contribute to the consultations organized by the UN, including by participating in meetings during or just prior to the High-Level Political Forums (HLPF) in September 2013 and July 2014 at UN Headquarters.
14. Thus, on September 22, 2013, during a meeting at the UN headquarters, Daniel Tygel was one of 45 speakers from civil society in front of the 1000 participants from states, officials of the UN system, civil society and other social movements. It is useful to read an excerpt from his speech reported by the UN-NGLS:

A second area of change, Mr. Tygel said, is to move from a for-profit, market-oriented and competitive economy to an equitable social and solidarity economy (SSE). Mr. Tygel defined SSE as being based on inclusive and community-rooted collective work; generating active citizenship among its members; and promoting women's economic empowerment and gender equality, the diversity and preservation of indigenous and traditional cultures. These characteristics define the economic engagement of the SSE, which includes the production of goods and services; local value aggregation circuits; consumer organizations; financial services; and natural resource management, among others, he continued. Mr. Tygel made recommendations for the transition to SSE, including through clear objectives and indicators to positively value the creation of an

enabling environment for the development of SSE, agroecology and smallholder agriculture; local functioning international and domestic funds for economic development; and a clear statement that "universal access to the commons and basic services means public goods for all citizens who can therefore in no way be 'commodified' or privatized." Mr. Tygel concluded by citing the importance of changing mindsets towards the analysis and integration of practical community-generated solutions to the economic crisis, as does the SSE movement, in global discussions.

15. On July 3, 2014, RIPESS participated in the 2nd meeting of the United Nations *High-Level Political Forum* in New York, to present the network's recommendations on the social and solidarity economy. The recommendations were formally transmitted to UN Member States and their delegates, as well as to UN agencies. The document, available in 3 languages (French, English, Spanish), was distributed to delegations from more than 120 countries. It is important to note that the development of this document, which began in Manila in October 2013, has been endorsed by 500 organizations from all over the world. [Here is the document.](#)
16. In addition to distributing the RIPESS recommendations, Daniel Tygel was invited to speak to the country delegates. His speech, in English, can be found [here.](#)



17. Later in 2014, at the invitation of UN-NGLS, I participated as a representative of RIPESS in the annual dialogue meeting between international organizations, including the World Bank and regional development banks, to suggest approaches for them to include SSE in their programming. The banks had indicated openness to establish terms and conditions. An attempt to do so has been made in Africa. However, as the countries must agree, the country concerned (Mali) did not come forward to sign the agreement with the AfDB (see details in a [Working Paper](#) that I co-authored with Hamish Jenkins).
18. However, despite all the efforts invested by our networks, the text [*Transforming our world : the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*](#), as adopted on 25 September 2015 by the UN General Assembly, did not contain any reference to the SSE. Nevertheless, we decided to continue to promote it at the United Nations. Thus, I was selected to be part of the selection committee for civil society spokespersons at this important UN summit. Madani Koumaré, the president of the National Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (RENAPESS) of Mali, a member of RIPESS, was selected among the 19 participants from civil society, among the 435 applications. His speech on September 27 focused on the role of the SSE for inclusive development. Here is the [text of his speech.](#)
19. At the occasion of this summit in New York, the International Leading Group of the SSE, chaired by France, with a secretariat entrusted by the French presidency to what was then called the Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM), organized a parallel meeting (i.e., outside the formal programme of the UN Summit) on September 28. President Hollande spoke, as well as representatives of other countries, UN agencies and the

UNTFSSSE. RIPESS also intervened at this meeting and signed a Declaration that was proposed to be signed by the participants. The Declaration began with "*We, the Member States of the International Leading Group on the Social and Solidarity Economy...*" ». The content of the declaration, to which we had previously contributed, seemed relevant to us. **However, it would appear that the Declaration was never published** for reasons that remain unexplained.

20. Apart from RIPESS, other organizations have promoted SSE. Among others, the association *Rencontres du Mont-Blanc (RMB)* mentioned above, created in 2004, promoted it through meetings held every two years in Chamonix in France, neighbouring Switzerland, where the World Economic Forum meetings were held in Davos, with the aim of bringing together the leaders of social economy organizations as an alternative to the meeting of leaders of the capitalist economy at the Davos Forum. Although not very representative compared to RIPESS, the MBM, which changed its name to SSE International Forum in 2016, has a Board of directors comprised of 74% of the Board of directors from France, Belgium and Quebec, nevertheless promoted the notion of SSE, mainly in French-speaking Africa and to a lesser extent, in Latin America. From 2013, the *Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)* initiated by the municipality of Seoul, promoted it to local authorities.

Considering all the progress made by the SSE movement, including RIPESS, which remains at its core, the idea of taking the SSE to the next level of promotion, namely a UN resolution recognising the SSE, seemed plausible. Despite the enormous challenge, we decided to take it up, because it seemed to us that the global SSE ecosystem had made enough progress to dare try to achieve this goal.

B- The detailed account, step by step

A-Initiating the process.

After being informed of Marc-André Dorel's suggestion, I reached out to him, and we met very briefly in New York a few days later. I was there for a parallel meeting of the International Leading Group as a representative of RIPESS.

Before going any further in the story, it is necessary to talk about the September 20, 2015, meeting of the International Leading group or SSE. Unlike the meeting of September 28, 2015, there were very few participants at this meeting. Only 3-4 countries were present. There was, however, Secretary-General Kituyi of UNCTAD, accompanied by Chantal Line Carpentier, whom I had met in Montreal in May at the annual meeting of INAISE (International Association of Investors in the Social Economy). There was a Canadian minister at that meeting, even though Canada was not a member of the Leading Group. He was Jean-Yves Duclos, then Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. I knew the minister because it was with that department for social development that the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET) had a relationship. He had also spoken at the GSEF meeting in Montreal as a representative of the Canadian government. On this occasion, he announced a social innovation and social finance program with a budget of 750 million Canadian dollars over a period of 10 years.

Even if it is a very fortuitous coincidence, it turns out that he was, and still is, the Member of Parliament for the electoral district of Quebec located in the Lower Town of Quebec City (the capital of the Canadian province of Quebec) where I live. But I had not met him personally until September 20 in New York.



2-Communication of the project to the UNTFSSSE (2016)

It went without saying that in order to move forward, it was necessary to have the support of the UNTFSSSE in order to convince countries to sponsor such a project. While this is self-evident, it must be remembered that the UN General Assembly is made up of countries. Therefore, only one or more countries can put such a proposal on the agenda. The intuition that the UNTFSSSE had to support such an approach, before "recruiting" countries, proved to be correct.

Already on September 30, 2016, Hamish Jenkins of the UN-NGLS (the agency was still active) sent a message to this effect to Sandra Aviles, then president of the UNTFSSSE. Subsequently, we discussed it a little at the 1st UNTFSSSE symposium held in Rome on December 3 and 4, 2016. In the report of the event, Sandra Aviles and Vic Van Vuuren, the co-chairs, called on States to adopt a resolution recognizing the importance of the SSE for sustainable development, for example through a resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). (After various internal debates, it was finally decided to directly target the goal of a resolution at the higher level of the UN General Assembly.)

3-Activities to promote the SSE in 2016 and 2017

From October 17 to 20, 2016, **Habitat III** was a success in Quito. These meetings held every 20 years (Vancouver in 1976 and Istanbul in 1996), provide guidance on issues related to housing and the whole issue of human settlements. The UN agency [UN Habitat](#) is responsible for the implementation. Many civil society and SSE organisations had mobilised to include the SSE in the conference texts. Thus, during preparatory meetings in Mexico City, Montreal and Barcelona, during workshops, several SSE organizations demonstrated the importance including SSE. The reports of these meetings mentioned this.

However, the disappointment was great because version 1 of the Quito Declaration did not include SSE.

Thus, RIPESS and ESS IF prepared and coordinated a joint letter by RIPESS, ESS-IF, INAISE, FMDV, GSEF and HIC (Habitat International coalition) asking for the inclusion of the SSE in the New Urban Agenda. Our letter was sent to the conference secretariat on July 17, 2016. To our surprise, in the final version of the *New Urban Agenda*, SSE was included. Thus, other actors and the Conference secretariat (operating independently of UN-Habitat) had already included the SSE. Nevertheless, our joint letter will have illustrated the development of the SSE movement.

We know that the international organization United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) supported the inclusion of the SSE in its development vision. Among others, during their congress held in Bogotá from 12 to 16 October 2016, in the policy statement document [The Role of Local Governments in Local Economic Development](#), the SSE is explicitly recognized as one of the axes for local economic development. I had contributed to the drafting of this part of the document because the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) was responsible for coordinating the drafting of this document. Jacques Carrière, a long-time friend, consulted me at the time.

Finally, it is very important to note that the UNGA adopted a resolution on 23 December 2016 endorsing the new agenda for cities. For the first time, the UNGA adopted a resolution with the reference to the SSE. That is why I proposed the following statement, which became the 3rd paragraph of resolution A/RES/77/281:

“Further recalling its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 on the New Urban Agenda, the annex to which contains the commitment to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives in value chains, particularly social and solidarity economy enterprises operating in the formal or informal sectors of the economy,”

In 2017, there was further promotion of the SSE in international bodies at the occasion of the **4th World Forum for Local Economic Development held in Praia, Cabo Verde** from 17 to October 20th. Based on previous forums, the role of the SSE was recognized even more explicitly in the forum's [statement](#). Extract from the declaration:

“7. The potential of LED and Social and Solidarity Economy Finance (SSEF) models and strategies and the value of other emerging practices such as collaborative, community and circular economies, to promote more equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic activities, while enabling communities to engage and enhance the value of their assets.”

On the occasion of the Forum, the SSE organisations present signed the [Praia Manifesto](#) which elaborated in great detail the importance of the SSE for the LED (Local Economic Development) agenda. The signatory organizations were *ESS Forum International*, the *Global Fund for Development of Cities -FMDV*, the *Global Social Economy Forum-GSEF*, the *International Association of Investors in the Social Economy-INAISE*, the *Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy-RIPESS*, and its regional interlocutor, *the African Network of Social and Solidarity Economy-RAESS*, and Cabo Verde local, *Citi-Habitat*.

4- The integration of the resolution process into the activities of the UNTFSSSE.

At the UNTFSSSE meeting on 8 February 2017, Fulvia Farinelli, representing UNCTAD, mentioned the importance of following up on the suggestion from Marc-André Dorel of ECOSOC regarding a UN resolution. The new President Vic van Vuuren (Sandra Aviles was no longer at the UNTFSSSE), said that the subject would be included in the agenda of the next meeting. However, for various reasons, including the absence of key people, it was not until April 2018 that the subject was discussed at a meeting.

After Fulvia Farinelli of UNCTAD's Geneva office asked to put the topic on the agenda, I offered her and Chantal Line Carpentier of their New York office my support in preparing a document for discussion.

At the beginning of January 2018, Chantal Line and I discussed how to proceed. As suggested by Chantal Line, on January 18th I contacted Anne-France Piteau of ESS FI, the General Delegate, to ask her if France, as the country chairing the International Leading Group of SSE, could lead the process towards the UN resolution. She told us that before contacting the ministries concerned, it would be preferable to prepare a concept note, with explanations on the why and content of a resolution.

Thus, we prepared such a note for the meeting of February 20, 2018. As it was a last minute, it was asked that it be ready for discussion at the UNTFSSSE meeting on April 24. The following is an excerpt from this note (The full note is an **Appendix #1.**)

Why a resolution?

To fully realize the potential of SSE in achieving the 2030 Agenda, the UN must officially recognize SSE. A resolution on SSE should include a definition of SSE and recognize its contribution to the 17 interrelated goals by contributing to the creation of decent jobs, increased livelihoods, women's empowerment, reduction of the ecological footprint, solving urban problems, protection of land, forests and oceans, at the national and subnational levels. The SSE also resonates with the transformational changes needed to move towards more sustainable production models and more equitable consumption patterns of goods and resources.

5-First Formal Step - April 24, 2018

During this first discussion, the opinions within the Task Force were favourable. Suggestions to enrich the process. Vic van Vuuren, the Chair, invited the three authors of the note to prepare a first draft of the resolution.

6-Discussion of the first version of the draft resolution-Meeting of 26 February 2019

After the meeting of April 24, 2018, as I had an elaborate knowledge of what already existed in SSE, and after having examined resolutions on related subjects, I prepared a preview of the draft resolution that I sent to Fulvia Farinelli and Chantal Line Carpentier on August 26, 2018. As can be seen in **Appendix 2**, most of the elements of the resolution that was finally adopted in 2023 were there.

But as autumn is a very intensive period in New York because the UNGA is in constant meetings, it was only in January 2019 that it was possible to work together on a first draft. In order to carry out this work, Chantal Line Carpentier put me in touch with Raymond Landveld of her team who has a long experience in drafting and negotiating UN resolutions. After an initial exchange in December, starting on January 7, 2019, we worked intensively for the rest of the month to establish this first version based on the elements of the August draft.

I then learned that I had skipped a step because my text was written on the model of the resolutions as adopted. However, before reaching that stage, draft resolutions are divided into two parts. The first part, called "preambular paragraphs", identified as PP, refer to what is called "agreed language." That is to say, other resolutions, official positions taken as well as statements by the Secretary-General. In other words, they are reminders of what already exists. They also have the objective of justifying what we want to be decided. Thus, I provided Raymond with references and supporting documents for all of these paragraphs. The other so-called OP "operational paragraphs" are the ones we want to be decided.

Thus, after this period of intensive work, and after validating with Chantal Line and Fulvia, this project was submitted for discussion at the Task Force meeting of February 26. (**Appendix 3.**)

7-Some elements of the process.

For this meeting on February 26th, we also prepared a short document on the adoption process, including a list of countries that could take on the task of bringing the resolution to the UNGA.

Progress report on the draft ESS resolution

Excerpt

"Resolutions are made by member states and not by UN agencies, funds and programs, so we need to have sponsoring countries taking the lead in developing these elements into an appropriate resolution. We can then support the sponsoring countries with other documents and propose improvements based on our previous work. Given the nature of this resolution on the SSE, we will propose to the sponsoring countries to conduct a broad consultation, to which we can also contribute.

We approached several countries to be sponsors. Cape Verde has shown interest but given that the country's delegation is very small and that they already have important responsibilities at the head of the African Group, they have refused to take on this responsibility. Informal exchanges are currently underway with South Korea and Mexico, and other members of the Taskforce are approaching other countries.

*During this process, we were asked to update the concept note we had prepared in February 2018. We have prepared the note **Towards a UN Resolution on SSE**, which includes a provisional list of countries that sponsors could contact at the request of the contact person in Mexico. It is very encouraging to know that we have a list of about 20 countries that we should be able to rely on from the start. Although some of these countries have not yet heard of this*

draft resolution, we expect them to support the idea given that they have SSE legislation in place or have been involved in the International Leading Group

Prepared by Yvon Poirier in collaboration with Raymond Landveld, Fulvia Farinelli and Chantal Line Carpentier”

8-End of this stage (February to June 2019)

At the meeting on February 26, the UNTFSSSE invited members and observers to suggest amendments to improve the draft resolution. Some suggestions were made for short additions, including from agency representatives and some observers. Some of these suggestions have been incorporated. Valentina Verze of the ILO, working in secretariat support for the UNTFSSSE, organised this work.

At this stage of the process, at Raymond's suggestion, we understood that it was useless to continue the exchanges **as long as one or more countries took charge of the process**. We knew that many of the additions proposed by ESS FI would disappear because they did not respect the resolution model.

Thus, the last version at this time was the text discussed on February 26, with all the proposed amendments, without debating their merits or not.

A very important event was held in Geneva on June 25-26, 2019, that helped promote SSE for the SDGs. Co-organised by the UNTFSSSE and UNRISD the conference [*Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for Social and Solidarity Economy?*](#) Was an important success. In late 2018, a call for proposals was sent to all interested stakeholders. Over 240 contributions were made. Over 140 are in the UNTFSSSE [*Knowledge Hub*](#). Forty were chosen for the conference in Geneva. RIPESS had decided to promote this call for proposals. For the Geneva event, three of us were chosen for presentations: me, Judith Hitchman and Denison Jayasooria. I had the privilege of speaking in the closing session with Ilcheong Yi and Paul Ladd of UNRISD.

9-The Pact for Impact meeting held in Paris on July 11 and 12, 2019

After the legislative elections of June 2017, the *newly* elected President Macron's Republic on the Move party, having obtained a majority of seats, replaced the Socialist Party as government. Instead of appointing a Secretary of State for SSE, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe created the post of High Commissioner for SSE and Social Innovation and appointed Christophe Itier to this position. Instead of continuing with the International Leading Group of the SSE, the High Commissioner decided to take charge of the international component of the SSE in a different way, which had previously been managed by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) and ESS FI, which acted as secretariat of this initiative launched in 2013 by President François Hollande (Socialist Party).

Thus, this meeting of July 2019 was held under the name "*Pact for Impact.*" The aim was to create « *a global alliance for the social and inclusive economy. The participants adopted a manifesto to promote the development of the social economy and committed to working on roadmaps.* »

RIPESS was invited to participate and nominated for this purpose: Eri Trinurini from Indonesia, David Thompson from Australia and Madani Koumaré from Mali. They were accompanied by Laure Jongejans, our executive secretary at the time. The people of RIPESS mainly intervened in the theme of local development. As France and other countries present endorsed the objective of promoting and recognising the SSE internationally, RIPESS found this initiative encouraging, even if the draft resolution at the UN was not specifically identified in the manifesto of the event.

10-Meeting with the High Commissioner in Montreal in October 2019

Sarah Robin, Christophe Itier's Chief of Staff, with whom RIPESS had relations since the preparatory stage of the July meeting, sent me the invitation for a meeting with Christophe

Itier in Montreal on October 25. It had been agreed beforehand that we could discuss the UN draft resolution and the construction of the Alliance proposed in the July Manifesto.



At that meeting, I outlined the draft resolution.

UN resolution recognizing the SSE.

1-Main achievements to justify the resolution

- a) *Resolution 70/1 of September 2015, the 2030 Agenda. Several elements should be remembered, the eradication of poverty, leaving no one behind, etc.*
- b) *Resolution 71/221, Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, stipulates the need for a multi-stakeholder approach, all actors, states, companies in various forms, civil society, etc., must work together to achieve sustainable development.*
- c) *Resolution 71/256 endorsing the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito. The NUA contains a reference to the SSE.*
- d) *Resolution 72/143 Cooperatives and social development*
- e) *The development in the last 50 years of alternative approaches in order to respond to the negative effects of globalization, which has gradually identified itself under the term SSE.*
- f) *The establishment of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on SSE (UNTFSSSE) in 2013, and its activities and publications. In particular, the 2014 document on the Potential of the SSE to face the challenges of sustainable development. Also, the 2016 text demonstrating the relevance of SSE for 65 of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs.*
- g) *Use the Taskforce definition as the ESS definition for resolution.*
- h) *The recognition of the potential of the SSE in the text Local Economic Development adopted at the UCLG Congress in October 2016.*
- i) *Recognition of the SSE in the declarations of the Global LED Forums, including the last one in Praia in October 2017.*
- j) *Recognition of the circular economy and solidarity economy as one of the ten elements of agroecology adopted by FAO in 2018.*
- k) *A reminder that several countries have SSE legislation and policies.*

- l) *Recognition of the SSE in the ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work in June 2019.*

2-Main elements of the proposal towards Member States and the UN itself

- a) *Recognizes the UNTFSSSE established in 2013.*
- b) *Recognition that the potential of the SSE for the realization of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (housing, food, health, etc.)*
- c) *The importance for social protection (ILO campaign)*
- d) *Recognizes that SSE helps to improve the place of women and girls, and their empowerment in society.*
- e) *Call on countries to recognize the sector's contribution and adopt legislation and policies.*
- f) *Call on international development institutions (agencies and other institutions of the UN system) to support States in implementation.*
- g) *Encourages multilateral financial institutions to include the necessary mechanisms to meet the needs of the SSE sector.*
- h) *Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in collaboration with the UNTFSSSE, on the implementation of the present resolution and decides to include in the program of work of the XX General Assembly (two years after adoption), under the agenda item "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item, "Social and solidarity economy for sustainable development".*

Christophe Itier indicated his agreement, but that he did not think it would be possible for the year 2020.

On the other hand, he invited RIPESS to collaborate in the establishment of the "Pact for Impact" Alliance. RIPESS accepted the invitation and decided to join the development of this project with a letter of acceptance sent on November 11, 2019.

11-Attempts to maintain the International SSE Leading Group in place of the Alliance

It is first worth remembering that as soon as it was set up in 2013, France indicated its willingness to transfer the presidency of the Leading Group to other countries. The idea is that other countries take turns in the presidency each year. Without knowing what steps had been taken in this regard, we learned that after the meeting at the UN on September 20, 2016, with the presence of Minister Duclos of Canada, France, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invited Canada to take over the chairmanship of the Leading Group. We learned this from Mr. Duclos's office, which sent us the letter of refusal that said that "at this time, Canada is not in a position to assume this function."

We also know that ESS FI had high hopes for Canada's acceptance. To the point where ESS FI had even considered transferring its secretariat to Canada. This information was entrusted to me by a Quebec member of the Board of Directors of ESS FI. The other country considered was Argentina. Without success, because we didn't hear about it afterwards.

After our meeting on October 25, Christophe Itier met with Gérald Larose, the Vice-President of ESS IF, who asked to maintain the Leading Group. This approach did not yield results because it would not have been possible for France to create the Alliance while maintaining the Leading Group, namely two structures running in parallel on similar issues and partly composed of the same countries. On the face of it, the maintenance of the Leading Group made the Alliance project impossible. Without a central core of countries, the Alliance would not have been able to exist.

We have learned that ESS IF, during a meeting with the French High Commission for SSE and Social Innovation (early 2020) tried a final step to maintain the Leading Group by asking that

the member countries of the Leading Group take a vote on whether to maintain the Leading Group. The High Commissioner did not accept this request, and the Alliance project went forward.

12-Update of the UNTFSSSE strategy on the draft resolution

At the UNTFSSSE meeting on 21 and 22 November 2019 in Trento mentioned above, Raymond Landveld was present on behalf of UNCTAD, a member of the UNTFSSSE.

With his long experience in the UN resolution process, he helped all participants to better understand the steps and modalities for adopting a resolution at the UNGA. Some elements had already been explained, but this synthesis was relevant, especially since there are often changes in the representatives of members or observers. He insisted that the draft resolution, which was last drafted in May of the previous year, was not a draft that we are asking countries to bring as such to the UNGA. Any draft resolution must be endorsed by the countries that sponsor it. It becomes **their** project. At most, once the group of lead countries is created, we can offer them our support if they are willing. Including any draft resolution that we would have prepared. That at the present stage, the most important thing was to convince a country, or a group of countries, to take charge of the project. A few countries had shown interest in 2017 and 2018, but without result. Thus, he proposed to the UNTFSSSE to prepare a document explaining why a resolution, a justification.



Photo taken in Trento.

Thus, the UNTFSSSE gave itself as a priority for the next period to produce a document justifying the adoption of a resolution in order to convince countries to take charge of this process. Thus, a first version of a supporting document was adopted at the UNTFSSSE meeting on March 3, 2020.

In addition, the President of the UNTFSSSE, Vic Van Vuuren sent a letter to High Commissioner Itier on 30 November indicating the UNTFSSSE's acceptance to participate in the working groups for the development of the Alliance project. This topic was discussed on 21 and November 22 in Trento and it was agreed that the Pact for Impact offered an opportunity to move forward towards the UN resolution.

13-Some important steps in 2020

With the announcement of the pandemic by the WHO on March 11, 2020, many plans were turned upside down. For example, the UNGA was in planetary emergency mode and the situation was not conducive to dealing with other issues. In addition, the work for setting up the Alliance was delayed.

Nevertheless, the High Commissioner organized a meeting, virtually, during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on July 15, 2020. Entitled *Social Economy and Women's Empowerment, Levers for the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action*, the following speakers spoke at the first part of the meeting:

- Mr. Christophe Itier Pact for Impact - France
- Mr. Marvin Rodríguez Cordero, Vice-President of Costa Rica
- Mr. Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Labour and Social Rights
- Mr. Yvon Poirier, Vice-Coordinator of RIPESS
- Ms. Jeroo Billimoria, One Family Foundation, Founder of Catalyst 2030
- Ms. Augusta Denise Deza, Deputy Chief of Staff, Member of the International Network of Women Leaders
- Mr. Vic Van Vuuren, President of the UNTFSSSE
- Ms. Yolanda Diaz, Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain

The second part of the meeting was *Women and Climate Action*. Here is the list of participants.

- Ms. Alexandra Palt, Executive Vice President, Head of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, L'Oréal (moderator)
- Ms. Grethel Aguilar, Acting Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Ms. Aditi Maheshwari, Director of Climate Action of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.
- H.E. Mr. Jan Wahlberg, Ambassador for Climate Action of Finland
- Ms. Delphine O, Secretary General of the Generation Equality Forum
- Ms. Seemin Qayum, Acting Chief, Economic Empowerment and Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development, UN Women

Conclusion by Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Part of this meeting was relevant for the SSE, including the presentations by Vic Van Vuuren and myself. The promotion of the objective of a resolution was the central theme of my speech (**Appendix 4**).

An important change occurred during the ministerial reshuffle that took place in France after the appointment of Jean Castex as Prime Minister on July 3, 2020. On July 22, **Olivia Grégoire was appointed Secretary of State for the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy**. Thus, by the same token, it was the abolition of the High Commission.

Nevertheless, the Alliance project was maintained and a call for tenders to select a bidder to act as the permanent secretariat was launched. This secretariat contract for a period of 12 months, renewable once, was to accompany the three working groups, communications and other related tasks.

RIPESS decided not to submit a proposal because it would not have been compatible with a "political" role as a participating organization in the building of the Alliance. Nevertheless, RIPESS Europe, which is legally autonomous from RIPESS, had joined a European consortium for this purpose. We learned at the beginning of 2021 that the winning bid was that of Groupe SOS, a French association.

On November 23, we contacted Maxime Baduel from Ms. Grégoire's cabinet and Salvatore Serravalle from the "Financing of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Impact Investment" (PESSII)-DG Treasury Unit of the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery. Thus, we held a videoconference on December 18 to get to know each other and to take stock of the progress of the preparations for the implementation of the Alliance project. Similarly, on this occasion, we learned that they were aware of previous exchanges with the High Commissioner, including the note on the importance of a UN resolution that I had given to Christophe Itier on October 25, 2019.

In December, a high-level meeting organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of Spain in Toledo on December 4, an important Declaration was signed by 19 countries. The title of the of the Toledo [Declaration](#) can be translated as follows: *The Social and Solidarity Economy as a Key Driver of an Inclusive and Sustainable Future*.

In the section on the commitments of the signatories, inviting other European countries to do the same, paragraph 6 is of crucial importance for the draft resolution:

“6. To contribute to the international expansion of the Social and Solidarity Economy. In particular, by supporting the internationalization of Social and Solidarity Economy entities according to endogenous development models, by strengthening their visibility in the official multilateral and bilateral institutional spheres, and by promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences between the agents of this ecosystem and other fields and sectors. It is also a priority to establish a UN resolution on the social and solidarity economy that recognizes and promotes these companies and entities in their contribution to inclusive and sustainable economies with positive effects for people and the planet.”

Also in December, on the 8th, at a UNTFSSSE meeting on the 8th, an update of the supporting document produced by Raymond Landveld, Chantal Line Carpentier was presented. The updated Rationale paper took into account recent developments, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. And for the first time, the document was now available in four languages, English, French, Spanish and Italian. In addition,

Thus, we can say that the year 2020 ended on a very good note with this commitment of 19 countries in favor of the goal of a UN resolution.

Finally, at the meeting in Toledo, Secretary of State Olivia Grégoire reiterated the commitment to move forward with the Pact for Impact initiative for the international recognition of the SSE.

14-Acceleration of preparations in 2021.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

As a first step, a decision was taken on **March 27 at the 341st meeting** of the ILO Governing Body.

At a meeting of the UNTFSSSE held December 8th 2020, Vic Van Vuuren Chair of the UNTFSSSE, also Director of the Enterprise Department (including the Cooperatives and SSE Unit) at the time, indicated that at the March Governing Body meeting, there would be a decision on the topic of the General Discussion of the 110th International Labour Conference in June 2022 and that the theme of "Decent Work and the social and solidarity economy" would be proposed again. Again, because a first attempt had been made in 2019. The Workers' group (mainly the trade unions) had been in favour and the Employers' group proposed another topic. However, even though a number of countries, including the African Group had supported the idea, the proposed resolution was not adopted. It was explained to us that no such decision can be taken without the explicit agreement of the group of industrialized countries (IMEC). In 2019, this group did not support this theme, which was therefore not retained. As in 2019, the Employers' Group supported another theme, namely " *a just transition of the world of work towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.*" Thus, we understood the importance of reaching out and convincing countries to support the proposal, especially in IMEC countries.

I do not know whether other members or observers acted on Vic Van Vuuren's appeal. However, I can report on what RPESS undertook to do in this regard. On the one hand, as a Canadian, after obtaining the list of Canadian representatives on the ILO Governing Body, I contacted the delegation's representative of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Canada's main labour federation, and asked her to raise awareness with Canada's representatives. Which she has committed to doing. On the other hand, Judith Hitchman contacted a representative from Ireland. Finally, I contacted Ombeline Siraudeau, Coordinator for the International Aspects of SSE at *D.G. Trésor* in France. I was also put in touch with Maxime Baduel from the office of the French Secretary of State. At my request, as France was a member of the ILO Governing Body (GB), Ms Siraudeau undertook to contact the French delegate at the GB. In addition, she

undertook to contact the Ambassador of France to the ILO and Mrs. Manon Post of the Netherlands, who was then chairing the Western European group, which has a majority at IMEC.

It cannot be said that these steps have had a direct impact. However, I was informed that the representative of Canada now supported the proposal. Other country representatives spoke favourably about it. Thus, the ILO Governing Body adopted *Decent Work and the social and solidarity economy* for the General Discussion instead of the proposal supported by the employers.

This decision was of paramount importance. Because it meant that at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2022, bringing together almost all the countries of the world, there **would be a resolution on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy**. All that remained was to ensure that the content would be as close as possible to SSE principles and values that RIPESS, most of SSE organizations and the UNTFSSSE had agreed upon.

The [Office document](#) prepared for the 341st Governing Body explains the rationale for the proposal. The minutes of the meeting are [here](#). At the 346th Governing Body decision held in September 2022, the Office adopted a follow up [resolution](#) outlining a 7 year strategy and action plan.

Parallel developments within the Pact for Impact process

After a few months of preparations, the Pact for Impact initiative to create a Global Alliance was launched on April 15, 2021, under the chairmanship of Secretary of State Olivia Grégoire, in an online meeting (we were still in the midst of the pandemic). It was announced that the secretariat would be taken over by the SOS Group. As already announced at the end of 2019, three working groups were announced. But that as a first step, the work would begin with the working group on governance. On this occasion, the invitation was extended to join the various working groups. RIPESS offered to participate.

Maxime Baduel, who was in charge of the Working Group on the governance of the future alliance, invited RIPESS to co-lead this working group. A kick-off meeting of this working group was held on June 15, 2021. Subsequently, two other meetings were held, with the participation of about forty participants. At the last meeting, we deepened our knowledge by examining various existing models involving states and civil society organizations (CSOs). However, for various reasons this approach examining the possibility of creating a more or less complex international entity ceased and took a different direction. First of all, Maxime Baduel left his position in the cabinet to work in the civil society sector. And on the other hand, I personally had the impression that it was much more complex than expected, especially considering the fact that apart from France, there were no other countries directly involved in this working group.

Changes at the Ministry of the Economy in France

With the departure of Maxime Baduel, the responsibility of Pact for Impact and its Alliance project was transferred to **Arnaud Boulanger** from the *"Financing of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Impact Investment" (PESSII) Cluster - DG Treasury, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery*. For those less familiar with the different roles, it is important to note that Secretaries of State are not full ministers and depend on the authority of a titular minister. Thus, Ms. Grégoire's secretary of state was under the authority of the Minister of the Economy. As a secretary of state, she had a cabinet to support her mandate. However, a team from the department, in this case the PESSII, is responsible for administrative and financial matters. For example, the budget for the Pact for Impact secretariat is under the authority of PESSII.

We spoke with Arnaud Boulanger for the first time on September 20, 2021, by inviting him to speak at a [webinar](#) organized jointly by RIPESS and UNTFSSSE on October 6 at that year's edition of the Global Social Economy Forum held in Mexico.

Gsef MEXICO CITY 2021 GLOBAL SOCIAL ECONOMY FORUM

Members & Partners Session
Develop territorial and international alliances to promote the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as a people-centred and planet-sensitive economy

Wednesday 6 October at 13:00 - 14:30 Mexico time - 20:00-21:30 CET

Speakers:

- Mr. Vic Van Vuuren, Chair, UNTFSSSE, Director, Enterprises Department at ILO
- Ms. Laurence KWARAK, Secretary General, GSEF
- Mr. Juan Antonio Pedreño, President, Social Economy Europe
- Mr. Juan Manuel Louvier, Director General, INAES Mexico
- Mr. Mahamane Toure, Director of international relations, Municipality of Bamako
- Ms. Béatrice Alain, Executive Director, Chaire de l'économie sociale in Québec
- Mr. Arnaud Boulanger, Senior Officer, French Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Mr. Roberto di Meglio, Senior Officer, ILO
- Mr. Yvon Poirier, Special Advisor, RIPESS
- Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Director, UNCTAD NY Office
- Ms. Judith Hitchman, Co-president Urgenci, Joint coordinator RIPESS

Session co-organised by:

- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy
- ripeSS

Logos: gsef2021.org, sparkassenstiftung alemania, #GSEF2021

After the event, which was a success, Arnaud Boulanger, for whom SSE was a new theme, asked me to describe the history of the Pact for Impact Alliance project. As RIPESS had participated in the launch of Pact for Impact in 2019 and we had joined this Alliance project, and I had participated in the Working Group on Governance, it was possible for me to give it a summary of the approach, which had to be situated within the broader perspective of the UN draft resolution, the activities of the UNTFSSSE, etc.

At the same time, it was possible to analyze the issues and mission of Pact for Impact in greater depth, including ambiguities in the very nature of Pact for Impact. It should be recalled that when the manifesto was launched in July 2019, it proposed a *GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR A SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY*. As the text of the manifesto referred at length to the SSE, it was easy to agree that "solidarity" should be added, which had been omitted. However, it was more complicated to understand the meaning of the word "inclusive" that appeared in the name of the future Alliance.

Somewhat by chance, I discovered a document published in early 2016 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France (before the name change to Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs - MAEE) entitled *Innovover ensemble-Stratégie de promotion des nouveaux modèles de l'économie sociale et inclusive à l'international*.¹ In this document, there is a direct reference to the meaning of the word "inclusive" which refers to the G20 decision taken in 2008 in favor of what they called "inclusive business" which has nothing to do with the SSE. The aim is to promote the inclusion of local businesses in their procurement processes in order to, among other things, create local jobs.

The Pact for Impact finally acquired the very name of the project. Thus, instead of *a Manifesto for a Global Alliance for a Social and Inclusive Economy*, it became *a Manifesto for a Global Alliance aimed at the international recognition of the Social and Solidarity Economy for sustainable and inclusive development*. Although the word "inclusive" was retained, the meaning corresponded to the values of the SSE.

Also in 2021, on the occasion of the HLPF, RIPESS co-organized a webinar, on July 8, with [Urgenci](#) (RIPESS member) and the [World Platform for the Right to the City](#), of which RIPESS is a member.

¹ Could be translated to «Innovation together: Strategy for the promotion of new models of social and inclusive economy internationally.»





SIDE EVENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
Overcoming inequalities through the COVID-19 recovery:
 Proposals from the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Right to the City

- André Luzzi, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism of the UN Committee on World Food Security
- Nelson Saule Jr., Global Platform for the Right to the City
- Norliza Hashim, Urbanise Malaysia
- Simel Esim, International Labour Organization (ILO), Cooperatives Unit
- Sonia Dias, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
- Vic Van Vuuren, ILO / UN Inter Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy

MODERATION
 • Judith Hitchman, Urgenci, Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy

#RightToTheCity #HLPF2021

Thursday, July 8th, 7:30h-9h AM (NYC Time)

During the webinar, in addition to the spokespersons of the organizers, Simel Esim from the ILO, Vic Van Vuuren also from the ILO and the UNTFSSSE spoke at the webinar. There was also Sonia Dias from [WIEGO \(Women in the Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing\)](#). It should be noted that RIPESS has always been committed to developing relationships and partnerships with movements and organizations that share similar visions for a better world, even if for these organizations, SSE is not the main mission. For us, it is essential to develop solidarity with as many organizations as possible that want to have a world centered on the needs of humans and the protection of the planet. By developing relationships with organisations such as WIEGO, we broaden support for SSE, including for the ILO and UN resolutions.

2022: Decisive year for the international recognition of the SSE.

On March 4, Olivia Grégoire hosted a meeting that Pact for Impact organized with international participants. This event, entitled **“For an international recognition of the social and solidarity economy (SSE)”**, gave an important impetus to the process of internationalization of the SSE. In particular through the intervention of Vic Van Vuuren of the [UNTFSSSE](#), Antonella Noya of the OECD and Anoushah Karvar, the French representative to the ILO. Subsequently, representatives of 8 countries spoke: Senegal, Italy, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico and Argentina. In another round table, SSE organizations, including RIPESS and the International Cooperative Alliance took the floor. See the full program in Annex 6. There is also this [article](#) from the UNTFSSSE that provides a summary of the meeting.

Shortly after, Arnaud Boulanger asked Vic Van Vuuren if it was possible to update the draft resolution, almost three years after the May 2019 version, because he planned to organize a meeting of countries in Paris on April 20 and 21. The aim was that on this occasion, the decision would be made to form a group of countries that would commit to moving forward to include the subject at the UN General Assembly during its 77th session (September 2022 to September 2023)..

So, on **March 28th**, Vic asked Raymond to work with Valentina Verze for this purpose. We obviously answered yes. After three days of intensive work, on 4-5-6 April, we prepared a draft with some updates, taking into account the changing context. This new version offered several paragraphs of alternative wording to help the countries that were responsible for resolving the choices. In addition, as requested, we updated the document on the rationale for the

resolution. Before sending the revised documents, an extraordinary meeting of the UNTFSSSE was held on April 8. During the meeting, several suggestions to improve the text were made and accepted.

Subsequently, at the **meeting on 20 and 21 April**, one day in English and the other in French, Vic Van Vuuren for the session in English and Chantal Line Carpentier from UNCTAD for the one in French. **The immediate next step was to decide to move forward with the UN General Assembly.** The 7-8 countries present have entrusted Spain and Senegal, with the support of France, with the task of organising the follow-up. It is important to mention that France, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, taking into account an informal rule, cannot itself propose resolutions of this type to the UNGA. However, it can be part of a group of countries and France undertook to make available to the co-sponsoring countries the services of its permanent mission to the UN in New York.

This was followed by a side meeting at the occasion of the Conference for the future of Europe in Strasbourg on May 5th to May 8th. As the occasion of this conference, on the 5th and the 6th, a stream of activities were organized on the theme [Social Economy and the Future of Europe](#). France organized this thematic stream since they were assuming the European Presidency (January to July). This was an occasion to promote the international recognition of SSE, including the goal of an UN Resolution on SSE.

Before reporting on the steps taken at the UN, it is necessary to mention a very important event, the **110th International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2022**. As mentioned earlier, the general theme of discussion was ***Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy***. Considering the subject, RIPESS postulated to be a speaker. ESS FI did the same. Other observer colleagues, such as Gianluca Salvatori of EURICSE, were members of the Italian delegation, in the framework of common positions of the European Union presented by France in this assembly, as described below. Thus, we agreed to establish an informal exchange network during the meeting in order to react to the amendments, contact key people in the drafting committee and react with other countries, if possible. In the case of RIPESS, we have also established contacts beforehand with friendly organisations such as [WSM](#), a Belgian NGO with which we have common affinities, including the improvement of social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. In my personal case, as a Canadian, I had previously managed to get in touch with the representatives of the Canadian delegation to the ILC.

Thanks to a very fortunate combination of circumstances, it turns out that France held the presidency of the European Union from January 1 to June 30, 2022. Thus, as the countries act as a group at the ILC meetings, the representative of France said "on behalf of the 27 EU member countries" we propose this amendment, or we support another, or we do not agree with this other amendment. **Fortunately, the representative of France was Arnaud Boulanger!**

During the two weeks of the Conference, which brought together almost all the countries of the world, we were able to participate in a large number of informal exchanges. Almost everything was done by email or text, because with the pandemic, the physical presence in Geneva was very limited. Even though we had accreditation for the event, RIPESS's right to speak, as for other organizations in our category, was limited to one minute! It is Judith Hitchman who made the RIPESS intervention.

As a participant, we had all the documents, including the compilation of the 231 amendments from members of the three constituents, Member States, employers or workers. Therefore, if we had an amendment to submit, we had to ask one or more members of one of the groups to do so. For example, it was possible to have a reference to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* added to the annex. Since this is an important issue for Canada, at my request, it was Canada that submitted this amendment. A large number of amendments in favour of the SSE were proposed by the workers' group.

It was not possible in the context of this account to report on all the discussions and exchanges that took place during the 10 days of the ILC. Nevertheless, as far as we are concerned, and we believe that this is the case for the other SSE organisations, including the UNFSSE, the result found in the Resolution document [on decent work and the social and solidarity economy](#) is very satisfactory.

For us, this is the first official recognition of the SSE by almost all countries in the world (universal recognition would be made the following year by the UNGA). Without a doubt, this is a first official and formal result at global level of the SSE ecosystem that has been patiently built over a quarter of a century.

For RIPESS participants, and we believe this is the case for many others, we agree that two key individuals, group spokespersons, played a key role in this success. There is obviously Arnaud Boulanger who had the mandate to represent the group of countries of the European Union. But also from Toni Moore, the spokesperson for the workers' group (mainly made up of trade unions). They were very effective in defending the SSE against the group of employers who tried to dilute the very essence of the SSE through their amendments. At least, that's our opinion.

We should also emphasize the leadership role of the ILO Office, not only in supporting key governments and the workers group in gaining a Governing Body decision to hold an ILC General Discussion on SSE, but in particular the pivotal part played by ILO's Cooperatives Unit headed by Simel Esim in preparing the substantive terrain for a successful General Discussion. In an [UNRISD Working Paper](#) analysing the breakthrough achieved at this Conference, Hamish Jenkins, describes this role in the following terms: *"The pedagogical quality of the Office report - explaining in great detail key aspects such as: the specific attributes of SSE (compared to the conventional profit-maximizing private sector); its contribution to achieving decent work for all and the 2030 Agenda; responding to multiple crises (including the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic) and new challenges such as the digital revolution; as well as pointing to the growing number SSE-related laws and policies adopted North and South around the world - played no doubt a significant part in helping many delegations gain confidence in the solid foundations of SSE and prepare them to navigate through what may have appeared to them a new and difficult terrain to understand."*

UNGA process: July 16 to December 2022 in New York

Once one or more countries commit to the project of having a resolution adopted by the UNGA, the work is transferred to the UN inter-governmental machinery because it is the countries, through their permanent missions, that the work is done.

As a first step, Spain organised a meeting at the UN headquarters on 22 July to present the approach to as many countries as possible. Initially, RIPESS was invited to be present, but without speaking. In this context, we did not think that our presence would be relevant.

It is helpful to add additional information first. On 5 July, on the occasion of the HLPF 2022, we organised a webinar under the theme Building *back better and promoting sustainable development through the social and solidarity economy*.



Top row, left to right.

- Judith Hitchman - RIPESS - Moderator
- Valentina Verze - ILO and UNTFSSSE Secretariat
- Chantal Line Carpentier - Head of UNCTAD's NY Office and VP of UNTFSSSE
- Toni Moore - General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and spokesperson for the Workers' Group at the ILC

2nd row

- Antonella Noya - Head of the OECD's Social Economy and Innovation Unit
- Arnaud Boulanger - Deputy Head of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Impact Investment Unit - French Treasury
- Maravillas Espín Saez, Ministry of Labour - Spain
- Dato' Mohammad Radhi bin Abdul- Assistant Secretary-General for Policy and Monitoring Sector at the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development (MEDAC) of Malaysia

3rd row

- Denison Jayasooria - Former President of the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC), the Asia member of RIPESS
- Fulvia Farinelli - UN Resident Coordinator in Argentina
- André Luzzi - Habitat International Coalition (HIC)

An [article](#) on the RIPESS website sums up the activity well.

On 7 July, Judith Hitchman shared with Ms. Maravillas from Spain, who was responsible for the organisation of 22 July, the history of the central role of RIPESS's participation in the process of promoting SSE internationally since RIO+20 and in the initiative of the draft resolutions.

That same day, one of Ms. Marravillas' deputies, Jaime Iglesias Sanchez Cervera, asked if I would be available to act as moderator for the July 22 meeting. This proposal had been validated with Chantal Line Carpentier who could not take on this role for scheduling reasons. I was also informed that the UNTFSSSE secretariat supported this proposal.

The next day, I told Jaime that I accepted and in the following days, we prepared together the course of the meeting.

Here is the course of the meeting.

Opening:

- *Yvon Poirier, Special Advisor (RIPESS), moderator.*
- *Yolanda Díaz Pérez, Second Vice-President of the Government and Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain;*
- *Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the UN Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN*

Round table - Partnerships for the promotion of SSE in the 2030 Agenda

- *Mrs. Beate Andrees, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, United Nations Office, International Labour Organizations (ILO);*
- *Mr. Raymond Landveld, Chief of Economic Affairs, New York Office, UNCTAD;*
- *Mr. Joseph Njuguna, Policy Coordinator of the International Co-operative Alliance and member of the SSE International Coalition.*
- *Mr. Pierre Hurmic, President of the Global Social Economy Forum, GSEF and Mayor of Bordeaux, France.*
-

Roundtable of Central Core Ministers on "The Relevance of a General Assembly Resolution on SSE for Sustainable Development: Content and Technical Aspects."

- *Marlene Schiappa, Secretary of State for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Associative Life, France (video);*
- *Luis Miguel de Campos, Minister of Labour, Dominican Republic;*
- *Zahra Iyane Thiam Diop, Minister of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy, Senegal;*
- *Mr. Luka Mesec, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia*

Interventions by Member States from the Floor.

About fifteen countries intervened, most of them by endorsing the project

Conclusions:

Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD (video);

Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO (video).

Yolanda Díaz Pérez, Second Vice-President of the Government and Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain.

After the meeting, the organizers and participants agreed that the meeting had been a success. Two articles report on the event: [RIPESS](#) and [UNTFSSSE](#).

December 13 meeting at the UN

Subsequently, France, in collaboration with the UNTFSSSE, organized another meeting in New York. It is worth mentioning that Olivia Grégoire had been assigned on May 20 to another position in the French government and that it was only on July 4 that Mrs. Marlène Schiappa was appointed Secretary of State for the SSE. Her appointment in July was too recent and she was unable to attend in person on July 22.

Since the countries sponsoring the draft resolution had continued to prepare the draft resolution, France had found it important to hold another public meeting in order to continue promoting the draft. This meeting was co-organized by France, Spain, Senegal and Chile, in collaboration with the UNTFSSSE. The meeting was co-chaired by Chantale Line Carpentier and Marlène Schiappa.



Chantal Line Carpentier



To my left is Beate Andrees from the ILO's New York office. Aude Saldana from the GSEF also spoke. The text of the RIPESS speech, which I presented, is in Appendix 7. The RIPESS website presents a [report](#) of this meeting.

It is pertinent to mention that unlike the July meeting, this time there were a dozen speeches via the internet, including Madani Koumaré, president of the African SSE Network (RAESS), Béatrice Alain, executive director of the *Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec* (RIPESS member organization) and Marc Parent of the *Caisse d'économie solidaire Desjardins*.

At this meeting, there were several speakers from the social entrepreneur movement who are close to the World Economic Forum in Davos. To this end, Raja Advani of the organization Catalyst 2030, an ally of the Davos Forum, made an unsubstantiated assertion that social entrepreneurship is at the heart of the SSE, while it is part of a very distinct movement, with very different origins. For the purposes of this article, I will not explain why this approach is NOT SSE. This is explained in another [text](#) that I published earlier this year. Text only in English and Thai at this time.

These speeches did not change the process and content of the resolution. Social entrepreneurship is not part of the definition of SSE in the Resolution.

In order for the resolution to go to the UNGA, several possibilities were available to the countries carrying out the project.

The dates of the 77th UN General Assembly were from September 13, 2022, to September 5, 2023. Even though the General Assembly sits intensively in the autumn, it can meet at any time of the year to adopt resolutions.

Normally, the request to put a subject on the agenda of the General Assembly was made to the President 60 days before September 13. Then the project would have been submitted for study in a committee, in this case, the second committee on "economic and financial issues."

Thus, in this case, since the co-sponsoring countries were not sufficiently advanced, among other things, in order to arrive at a version of the resolution agreed upon among them, according to other rules of procedure, it is possible to ask the presidency of the General Assembly by indicating that a group of countries has already prepared the draft resolution and are ready to bring it to the consideration of the member states. This explains why it was only in the first months of 2023, still during the 77th AGM, that the topic was listed, once consensus had been reached on the project.

Three countries, Spain, Senegal and Chile, called Co-Facilitators of the resolution, opted for a procedure adopted in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic known as *tacit consent*. This procedure allows deliberations to be carried out without the physical presence of the permanent missions.

Process for the Adoption of the Resolution March-April 2023

Thus, the Co-facilitators launched **three rounds of consultations** with delegations. During the **first round, on 2 and March 3**, various questions and comments from various member countries made it possible to identify points of convergence and divergence. Having been informed that the person representing Canada in the negotiations, who was speaking on behalf of the CANZ group (Canada, Australia and New Zealand), was wondering whether it was necessary to adopt a new resolution rather than add to an existing resolution, I reached out Minister Duclos, mentioned earlier. It is often the case that permanent missions, which report to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of their respective countries, do not know that their colleagues in other ministries have made decisions internationally. In this case, the members of the mission to the UN were likely unaware that Canada had formally endorsed the ILC resolution on *Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy* in June 2022. Thus, in a letter of March 4, I explained these facts and asked him to intervene. On Monday, March 6, his office forwarded my message to the offices of the Department of *Global Affairs Canada* (which includes Foreign Affairs and International Development) and the Minister of *Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)*. It is not certain whether this intervention was decisive. However, I learned that as early as the second round, on March 8, the representative of CANZ joined the developing consensus and withdrew objections.

Further consultations with all countries took place on 15 and 16 March. There were debates and amendments concerning the four key paragraphs. The Co-facilitators continued informal work by exchanging language with countries with remaining objections. Sometimes a change of 2-3 words was suitable.

As the Co-Facilitators felt there was sufficient consensus, they launched the *tacit consent* process on March 21 and until 5 p.m. (New York time) on **March 23**. As no country indicated opposition, there were no longer any obstacles to the adoption of the resolution. The rest became formalities, translating the text, registering it for a session of the General Assembly, etc. NB. If one or more countries had objected, it would have been possible to try to find a solution in order to resolve the issues and start the proceedings again. However, if the opposition had been insurmountable, even in the first round of consultations, other mechanisms would have been possible. Fortunately, this was not necessary. Then, the Co-

facilitators could request the UNGA Presidency to convene the General Assembly. **Thus, the 66th meeting of the 77th General Assembly was convened on April 18, 2023.** The resolution was then adopted and registered a few months later with the numbering A/RES/77/281. This process explains the note at the beginning of the resolution: *[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.60)]*. This number L.60 was the provisional number that had been given to the document adopted by the no-objection procedure.

During the adoption session, there can be no debate. However, there may be an explanation in front of the large hall of the GA. Yolanda Diaz from Spain intervened in this capacity.

It is also useful to know that during the entire process in NY, countries can indicate that they formally endorse the resolution. Already, the resolution agreed on March 23 contained the names of 15 countries: Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Equatorial Guinea, France, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, Dominican Republic, Senegal and Slovenia. Between the time the project was registered, and the President of the General Assembly declared the resolution adopted, other countries could do so. A total of 43 countries have done so. However, once the resolution is adopted, the names of the countries disappear from the text of the resolution, as it becomes the resolution of all member countries.

However, it is useful to know the full list in order, among other things, to guide action to expand the number of countries that adhere to the implementation of the resolution.

Here is the list of the 43 countries, by continent:

Africa (3): Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Senegal

Asia (3): Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia

Europe (29): Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain,

South America and the Caribbean (7): Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay

North America (1): Canada

Middle East (1): Israel

Analysis of resolution A/RES/77/281

The insertion of the definition in the preambular paragraphs gives a very solid basis on what SSE organisations are.

Recognizing the resolution of the International Labour Organization concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, adopted in June 2022, in which it recognizes that the social and solidarity economy encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits, as well as assets, that social and solidarity economy entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy, that they put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods and that, according to national circumstances, the social and solidarity economy includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the social and solidarity economy,

This definition, first agreed at the ILC in June 2022, is very relevant for us. This is probably a first, if not the first, that talks about the "Primacy of the human and social purpose over capital".

The operational paragraphs (actions to be taken) are also very important to understand, as they indicate the way forward.

- 1. Encourages Member States to promote and implement national, local and regional strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and solidarity economy as a possible model for sustainable economic and social development, taking into account national circumstances, plans and priorities by, inter alia, developing specific legal frameworks, where appropriate, for the social and solidarity economy, making visible, when feasible, the contribution of the social and solidarity economy in the compilation of national statistics and providing fiscal and public procurement incentives, acknowledging the social and solidarity economy in education curricula and capacity-building and research initiatives and reinforcing entrepreneurship and business support, including by facilitating access for social and solidarity economy entities to financial services and funding, and encourages the participation of social and solidarity economy actors in the policymaking process;*
- 2. Encourages relevant entities of the United Nations development system, including United Nations country teams, to give due consideration to the social and solidarity economy as part of their planning and programming instruments, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, so as to provide support to States, upon their request and in accordance with their mandates and to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent and enabling policy measures and frameworks for developing the social and solidarity economy as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard acknowledges the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy;*
- 3. Encourages multilateral, international and regional financial institutions and development banks to support the social and solidarity economy, including through existing and new financial instruments and mechanisms adapted to all stages of development;*
- 4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, within existing resources, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into consideration the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an inclusive, job-rich, resilient and sustainable recovery, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development"*

In short, the way is set for the next steps.

It is interesting, at least for me, to note that already in August 2018, I had identified these same elements for the future resolution (here is an excerpt from the 2018 text).

- **Calls on all countries** to adopt different measures to enact laws, policies and programmes, tailored to each country, to support the SSE.
- **Welcomes** the important contribution of the **United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE)**
- **Calls on UN agencies** to adopt the SSE in its policies and action plans.
- **Calls on the World Bank Group, in particular regional banks,** to put in place financial instruments to support the SSE and not only the traditional private sector.
- Proposes that the network of **UN Country Teams** adopt SSE in its approach, as the holistic approach to SSE fits well with the global approaches applied by UN Country Teams.

- Proposes to the **Secretary-General of the United Nations** to establish a team to coordinate and promote this resolution with all relevant stakeholders.

In fact, in 2018, I had only added some pretty obvious elements, which were self-evident. A reading of various previous resolutions passed by the General Assembly indicated how to proceed.

Subsequently, between 2019 and 2023, as mentioned earlier, several versions were prepared, including in April 2022, which had many more elements.

But, as Raymond Landveld has often repeated, there is in fact only one draft resolution, the one that will be drawn up by the countries that propose it. The version that the UNTFSSSE made available to the facilitating countries in April 2022, included many paragraphs from which countries could draw for the drafting of the resolution.

The August 2018 version was strictly internal (with Chantal Line, Fulvia and Raymond) and the facilitating countries never saw it. **Nevertheless, I am glad that I was right, for the most part, from the start.**

How did we get the resolution adopted?

In my opinion, there is no doubt that it is **the SSE ecosystem**, built in the last quarter of a century, which made the adoption of this resolution possible.

- The **SSE movement**, of which RIPESS is one of the important stakeholders, has been at the heart in all continents. But without country-level organizations, we don't get far. In other words, it is a bottom-up approach and not the other way around.
- Gradually, from 2009, starting with the ILO, an awareness in UN institutions and the OECD, of the potential of the SSE for a development approach different from the one that leaves too many people behind. This explains the appearance of the **UNTFSSSE in 2013**.
- **Academics and researchers** as pioneers of the solidarity economy such as Jean-Louis Laville in France and Luis Razzeto in Chile who around 1985 paved the way. Later, international networks such as CIRIEC and EMES integrated the SSE into their themes. But also, many academics, in the various continents, integrated the SSE and related notions such as the solidarity economy, into their training.
- In several countries, the development of SSE organisations has led to the recognition of SSE by their national or subnational states.
- Thus, about twenty countries have adopted national legislation or policies, especially since 2010. By the same token, the states gave official recognition to the SSE. Most of the countries with such recognition are in the list of 43 countries that have endorsed the resolution.

If the ecosystem hadn't existed, we wouldn't have a resolution!

The key role of Pact for Impact

For reasons that are related to internal dynamics in France, Pact for Impact, an initiative of the High Commissioner for the SSE Christophe Itier, has driven the process of international recognition of the SSE. The initiative supported by the previous government (before Macron's election in 2017), the International SSE Leading Group, under the SSE FI secretariat, was *de facto* replaced.

As indicated above, RIPESS agreed to participate in the founding meeting of July 2019. As the manifesto adopted at the event launched the idea of a Global Alliance for the International Recognition of SSE, we were very encouraged by this prospect. In particular, because the Leading Group project had been at a standstill since the UN meeting in September 2015.

That is the main reason why we accepted the High Commissioner's invitation to participate in the project to build the Alliance. We then responded to support the project managers, after

the responsibilities of the High Commissioner were transferred to the consecutive Secretaries of State, Olivia Grégoire and Marlène Schiappa. We did not do it naively. Knowing the vagaries of politics, including French politics, we agreed to contribute to it as long as the main objective remained international recognition of the SSE.

Without going into all the details explained above, we recognize that we were right on target and that **Pact for Impact was a central initiative for both the ILO and UN resolutions.**

Now that the UN resolution is adopted, the mission Pact for Impact had been accomplished. For us, it does not exist anymore as an initiative promoted and funded by France. The former secretariat, the SOS Group, is now operating the website, without any support from the State.

Challenges for the future

Like many other UN resolutions, these are good texts, beautiful objectives, but they often remain a dead letter or miss their objectives. For example, the UN recognises that only [17% of the Goals](#) are on track to be met. of the targets of the 2015-2030 SDGs will be achieved and even that for just over 30% of the targets; there will be a setback compared to 2015.

The question of resources to drive the realization of the resolution is a crucial one. As indicated above, article 4 begins with the words, "Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, **within existing resources.**" Thus, this means that in the annual budget of the United Nations, no budget is provided. It is important to mention that without this reference, the resolution would undoubtedly not have passed! Similarly, there is no budget for the UNTFSSSE itself. Without a substantial contribution from the countries that have endorsed the resolution, the task will be difficult.

We will continue to provide our support, within our means, to the activities of strengthening the ecosystem. For example, we contributed to the SSE Encyclopedia published on April 25, 2023. This project, led by Ilcheong Yi of UNRISD, the 57 chapters cover most of the field of SSE. Together with Hamish Jenkins, we wrote [Chapter 1 under the title Activism and Social Movements](#).

The SSE is not a panacea!

It is important to understand that the SSE has immense potential to achieve the SDGs, the fight against climate change, etc. This is a powerful lever.

However, it is important to have a holistic view of development. We cannot imagine a truly better world with the ever-increasing monopolization of the planet's wealth by 1% of the world's population. Thus, we need actions at all levels such as progressive taxation, including on wealth itself, tax justice, fairer rules of trade, addressing macro-systemic issues, such as much needed reforms of the international financial architecture, the recognition that we must build the future on fundamental human rights such as housing, food, health, education and an adequate standard of living, the fight against all forms of extremism, racism, sexism and xenophobia. Otherwise, the potential of the SSE will not be realized, although its role of mobilization and political advocacy can contribute (in alliance with many others) to these broader transformations.

It is for these reasons that RIPESS allies itself with social movements that fight on these fronts, such as the right to social protection, tax justice, food sovereignty, and women's empowerment.

The RIPESS methodology.

As mentioned throughout this document, RIPESS was created, and still exists, as a spokesperson for the people on the ground, those who daily devote themselves to organizing themselves in

communities and territories around the world to take charge of their development to improve their lot.

For RIPESS, we are not asking to be judged for what we say, but for what we do!

Thus, I dare to say, as described in this document, that we have played a major role over the past two decades in arriving at the resolutions of the ILO, the UN and, to a certain extent, the position of the OECD (not discussed in this paper).

To conclude

We are happy with the work of the last two decades. We would have liked to have done more, but as our resources are limited, it was not possible.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people named in the text for the teamwork, respect and camaraderie that allowed us, together, to achieve the objectives, with patience and perseverance. Without this teamwork, we would not have been able to do it.

It is also important to mention that without the support of the Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH) since 2011 and the Catalan International Development Agency (ACCD), we would not have achieved these results. Finally, I would like to thank RIPESS for the trust they have placed in me for 20 years. I acted for and through RIPESS and not as an individual!

About the author

- Active since 2004 in the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). Various tasks and functions were performed during these years.
- Participant in RIPESS global meetings since 2005 and in many regional meetings in Asia.
- Participant in World Social Forums in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2016.
- Member of the Board of Directors since 2012 of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET) and RIPESS representative.
- Since 2014, a RIPESS representative in the United Nations Inter-Agency Taskforce Working on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE). Has participated in all meetings and symposiums since then.
- Between 2003 and 2013, co-editor of a monthly International Newsletter on Sustainable Local Development.
- Founding President of the Quebec City Community Economic Development Corporation (CDEC) in 1993-94. Individual member since then.
- Political science teacher and trade union activist from 1968 to 1997.

Other publications (as author or co-author)

- [“Visions related to building the solidarity economy and related alternatives in North America”](#), in *A Non-Patriarchal Economy is Possible*, published by ALOE, August 2009, pages 142-213. Co-authored with Emily Kawano
- [“Labor unions and the solidarity economy: the Quebec experience”](#), in *Building Alternatives for the People and the Planet*, 2010, pages 93-113
- [“Solidarity Social Economy and Related Concepts - Origins and Definitions: An International Perspective”](#), July 2015, 27 pages
- [Legal and Political Recognition of Solidarity Social Economy \(SSE\) - An overview of SSE public policies and guidelines](#), January 2016, 12 pages
- [“Legislation and Public Policies in support of Social Solidarity Economy \(SSE\)”](#). 2018. 8 pages, co-authored with Béatrice Alain and Françoise Wautiez
- [“Association for Sarva Seva Farms \(ASSEFA\) India - 50 years of Sustainable Development”](#), Poirier and Kumar, June 2019, 15 pages
- [“Elements for a Social and Solidarity Economy Financing \(ESSF\) Ecosystem”](#), Working Paper, October 2023, 73 pages, co-authored with Hamish Jenkins.
- [“Activism and Social Movements”](#) (Chapter 1), Hamish Jenkins and Yvon Poirier, in: *Encyclopedia of the Social and Solidarity Economy: A Collective Work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE (UNTFSSSE)*; Edited by Ilcheong Yi. Cheltenham and Northampton, MA. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited). April 2023.
- [Decoding the differences between social and solidarity economy \(SSE\), social entrepreneurship and related initiatives](#), April 2024. 37 pages

In memory



Paul Singer 1932-2018 Secretary of State for Solidarity Economy-Brazil



David Thompson Deceased September 2020 - Australia
Member of RPESS Board of directors 2005 to 2020



Éthel Côté - Deceased October 2024
Involved in RIPESS since 2004 and a member of the RIPESS Board of directors from 2005 to 2009

Appendix 1

Concept note about a UN resolution on SSE

The recognition of SSE

International recognition of SSE has grown since the 2008 socio-economic-financial crises. Interest increased for two reasons. The SSE sector was not affected since it was outside the speculative economy and showed potential for growth in production and services sectors not profitable enough for investors in the financialized economy. At the same time multinational corporations were decreasing their work force to increase profit margins, SSE was creating jobs.

The ILO officially recognized the potential of SSE by creating an SSE Academy in 2010. In May 2013, UNRISD organised a seminar on the potential of SSE, which led to the creation of the UN Inter-Agency Taskforce on SSE in September 2013.

The Taskforce adopted the following definition of SSE in 2014.

SSE is characterized by organizations, enterprises and networks that are diverse in nature but share common features in terms of development objectives, organizational forms and values. These features point to a model of development that contrasts with the profit-maximization and often corporate-led approaches that have prevailed in recent decades. Rather than assuming that the benefits of growth will ‘trickle down’ or rely on safety nets to protect the vulnerable and on technological fixes to protect the environment, SSE seeks proactively to mobilize and redistribute resources and surplus in inclusive ways that cater to people’s essential needs. Furthermore, SSE promotes environmental protection and the economic and political empowerment of the disadvantaged and others concerned with social and environmental justice. While profitability is a feature of many types of SSE enterprise, profits tend to be reinvested locally and for social purposes. And in areas such as eco-tourism and fair trade, they are often compatible with the preservation and reconstruction of natural capital.

At the same time as UN Agencies recognized the importance of SSE, more and more countries adopted legislation on SSE. Over 15 countries have adopted or are in the process of adopting national laws. Many subnational states and provinces have adopted such laws, as well as many municipalities.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted at the Habitat III conference held in Quito in October 2016 and later endorsed by UN GA through [Resolution A/res/71/256](#), is the first time a UN resolution includes social and solidarity economy (Paragraph 58), albeit in an Annex.

The 4th World Forum on LED (Local Economic Development) held in Cabo Verde in October 2017 recognizes in the [Final Declaration](#) that SSE as an important factor for localizing the SDG’s.

The 2014 [UN SSE Taskforce Position paper](#) identifies the important potential of SSE for sustainable development in 8 areas: *Transitioning from Informal Economy to Decent Work, Greening the 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.*

In the 2016 [Position Statement Realizing the Agenda Through Social and Solidarity Economy](#), the potential of SSE for 65 of the 169 targets of the SDG’s.

Why a resolution?

To fully realise the potential of SSE for realising Agenda 2030, the UN needs to formally recognize SSE. An SSE Resolution would need to include a definition of SSE and recognize its

contribution to the 17 interrelated goals by contributing to the creation of decent work, increasing livelihoods, empowering women, reducing ecological footprint, solving urban issues, protection land, forest, and oceans, at national and subnational levels. SSE also resonates with the transformational changes needed to move towards more sustainable production models and more equitable patterns of consumption of goods and resources.

The absence of such recognition hinders the capacity of UN Agencies to fully integrate the SSE approach in their work.

Such a resolution would also be helpful for the 131 UN Country Teams (UNCT). Since SSE is relevant to most development programs, this could contribute to creating strong cohesion in the UN presence in different countries, even more so in countries with legislation on SSE.

A resolution would encourage countries to adopt legislation on SSE.

Leave no one behind is at the top of Agenda 2030. SSE can be of strategic importance to achieve this overarching principle of the SDG's.

Practical steps to move forward

A-Recruit 3-4 countries to sponsor the resolution [e.g. Ecuador, Cabo Verde, France, Korea]

B-Draft a formal resolution

C-Sponsor countries gain support from other countries

D-Bring the proposal to the ECOSOC ²Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee).
Deadline July 15

E-If the Second Committee adopts the resolution, it then will be endorsed by the UNGA

F-If not possible to have such a resolution adopted this year, the preparatory work will be useful for next year. It could also lead to the inclusion of SSE in other economic and financial resolutions.

Prepared by Fulvia Farinelli and Chantal Line Carpentier- UNCTAD

In collaboration with Yvon Poirier- RIPESS

Appendix 2- A first preliminary draft: August 2018

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on D/M/2019

73/### Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions –

² This was an error. It should read the *The Second Committee of the General Assembly*.

economic, social and environmental –in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling its resolution 71/221 in Recognizing that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in order to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of government and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries.

Recognizing that in the last half century, in response to different economic crises, globalisation of the economy, high unemployment, displacement of production, etc., people have initiated economic activities to improve their living conditions. People created cooperatives, producer's associations, non-profit business, fair trade organisations. These people led economic activities gradually build networks and other types of organisations and in more recent times gathered in networks. Sometimes called social economy, sometimes solidarity economy, sometimes local development or community development, linked to historic or cultural context, a common reference evolved at the global level to become Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). This terminology is now worldwide.

Realising that the 2008-2009 economic and financial crises had very little negative impact on SSE organisations, governments at all levels, as well as development organisations, recognized more and more the capacity of this other approach to the economy for job creation, increasing income for the poorest, and developing resilient communities. In fact, in that period, many of the voids of the global economy was an important opportunity for SSE.

Welcomes the creating of the [Inter-Agency taskforce on social and solidarity economy in 2013](#). The members are eighteen United Nations Agencies and OCDE. In 2014, the Taskforce on SSE adopted the following definition of SSE:

SSE is characterized by organizations, enterprises and networks that are diverse in nature but share common features in terms of development objectives, organizational forms and values. These features point to a model of development that contrasts with the profit-maximization and often corporate-led approaches that have prevailed in recent decades. Rather than assuming that the benefits of growth will 'trickle down' or rely on safety nets to protect the vulnerable and on technological fixes to protect the environment, SSE seeks proactively to mobilize and redistribute resources and surplus in inclusive ways that cater to people's essential needs. Furthermore, SSE promotes environmental protection and the economic and political empowerment of the disadvantaged and others concerned with social and environmental justice. While profitability is a feature of many types of SSE enterprise, profits tend to be reinvested locally and for social purposes. And in areas such as eco-tourism and fair trade, they are often compatible with the preservation and reconstruction of natural capital.

Welcomes the important contribution made by the Taskforce on SSE in the 2014 position paper [Social and Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development](#). In this paper, the potential of SSE is identified in eight areas :

- i. *The transition of informal economy to decent jobs*
- ii. *Greening the economy and society*
- iii. *Local economic development*
- iv. *Sustainable cities and human settlements*
- v. *Women's well being and empowerment*

- vi. *Food security and smallholder empowerment*
- vii. *Universal health coverage*
- viii. *Transformative finance*

Recalling resolution 71/256 entitled *New Urban Agenda that Endorses the New Urban Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)*, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Excerpt from the annex.

58. We commit ourselves to promoting an enabling, fair and responsible business environment based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive prosperity, promoting investments, innovations and entrepreneurship. We also commit ourselves to addressing the challenges faced by local business communities by supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies.

Recognizes the potential of SSE for localising the SDG's. The Final Declaration of the 4th World Forum held in Cabo Verde in October 2017 affirms - 7. *The potential of integrated LED and Social and Solidarity Economy and Finance (SSEF) models and strategies and the value of other emerging practices such as collaborative, community and circular economies, in promoting more fair, sustainable and inclusive economic activities whilst empowering communities to engage and enhance the value of their assets.*

Welcomes the Position Paper [Realizing the 2030 Agenda through Social and Solidarity Economy](#) published by the Taskforce on SSE in 2016. The potential of SSE is identified in 65 of the 169 Targets of the 17 Goals.

Recognizes that the *International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) statement submitted to the 56th Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development* in February 2018 is an important contribution for supporting the work on the Commission for Social Development in its quest for comprehensive and integrated approaches to achieve sustainable poverty eradication. In the statement ICSW states that *Poverty eradication requires innovative thinking and careful analysis of new approaches. We are living in an era that seems to be crying out for new models of development, particularly in the face of climate change. Not only do we have to deal with multiple and recurring crises in the areas of finance, energy and food, to name just a few, but also there is growing recognition that today's normative agenda has to be much more encompassing, not solely relying on the state's ability to deliver welfare and development outcomes. We should not overlook the power of various collective units in achieving sustainable growth with equity. In this context a social and solidarity economy (SSE) approach should be emphasized. This approach is increasingly being used to refer to a broad range of organizations that are distinguished from conventional for-profit enterprises, entrepreneurship and informal economies by two core features. First, they have not only explicit economic but also social (and often environmental) objectives. Second, they involve varying forms of cooperative, associative and solidarity relations. They include, for example, cooperatives, mutual associations, NGOs engaged in income generating activities, women's self-help groups, community forestry and other organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprise and fair-trade organizations and networks.*

Recognizes that SSE is based on human rights as established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. SSE is key to addressing Article 25: *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social service.*

Recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment is at the center of SSE activities. In many countries, women create decent jobs and increase income with producer's cooperatives. Women are at the core of best practices in micro-finance, in community health clinics, in housing, etc. Women are the majority of workers in SSE and are gradually managing the SSE economic activity units. Working in a collaborative and collective manner, which is at the core of democratic governance in SSE, helps struggle against patriarchy.

Recognizes that United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) adopted at the Bogota Congress in October 2016 the Policy Paper, *The Role of Local Governments in Territorial Economic Development*, presents SSE as one of the enabling policies for Local Economic Development.

Recognizes that many national and regional governments have adopted legislation and/or policies supporting SSE, or related approaches such as France, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Mali, Ecuador, Belgium, Luxemburg, Greece, Portugal and France. Others are in the process of doing so.

Acknowledges that in countries where statistics offices measure SSE activities, they account from 5 to 10% of total GDP. SSE enterprises such as cooperatives and non-profit businesses are more resilient than traditional privately-owned businesses. After 10 years, the rate of survival is approximately twice as much, 40% compared to 20%.

Recognizes that SSE is inspired by the vision and practices of Indigenous peoples for the protection of Mother Earth and that development must be seen in a holistic manner for a true sustainable development for future generations.

Recognizes the important development of SSE Finance all over the world. This sector of finance has developed alongside the development of production and services of SSE. From community-based savings and loans cooperatives, to traditional community finance such as Roscas and Tontines in Africa, to large scale financial cooperatives, billions and even trillions are managed outside the privately-owned banking system. Ethical funds, investment funds for cooperatives, patient capital funds, have grown since there is a growing sector that prefers to invest in an approach to the economy (SSE) to help people to move out of poverty than profit-maximisation. This also explains why the 2008 financial crises did not affect SSE Finance.

Recognizes that the SSE approach is most appropriate in areas such as food. Local food systems, linking farmers to producers is the most efficient manner to avoid waste. Research shows that waste in the approach is less than 8% while industrial agro-business and market driven supply chains, the waste is up to 50%. Practices such as agroecology, with little or no chemical products is much safer for land, and for people.

1. *Reiterates* the importance of Leaving no One Behind and that lifting people out of poverty and exclusion, providing good and safe food for all, social security for all, as well as other sustainable development initiatives, require mobilization of all sectors of society, including people's centered and democratically managed economic activities such as Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)
2. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the United Nations Inter-Agency Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy for defining SSE and for demonstrating the potential of SSE for Sustainable development and for achieving the Goals established in Agenda 2030
3. *Recognizes* the important contribution of countless people in communities to organize for developing economic activity to provide for their own lives. Similarly, the UN recognizes that achieving Agenda 2030 is impossible without the mobilization of citizens in all the countries of the world.

4. *Calls* on all countries to adopt different measures to enact legislation, policies and programs, adapted to each country, for supporting SSE.

5. *Calls UN Agencies to adopt SSE within its policies and action plans*

6. *Asks the World Bank Group, in particular the regional banks, to set up financial instruments to support SSE and not only the traditional private sector.*

7. *Proposes that the network of UN Country Teams (UHCT) embraces SSE in its approach since the holistic approach of SSE fits well in the global approaches that the UNCTs apply.*

8. *Proposes that the UN Secretary General create a team to coordinate and promote this resolution with all concerned stakeholders.*

NB. This last section, paragraphs 5 to 8, might need a specific introduction. They are proposals addressed to the UN System. I supposed they need to be worked out with different organisations within the UN, including the office of the SG. They might be too specific? Should the TFSSE be given a mandate from the UNGA? Should this be a collaborative effort within between the office of the SG and the Taskforce. We could also propose a multi-stakeholder approach to implement the resolution which also includes SSE organisations. If we propose a mandate to the Taskforce, should we include the Observers? The resolution must not only have countries and Agencies in the proposals.

Appendix 3 - First draft adopted by the UNTFSSSE

Draft: Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on D/M/xxxx

74/### Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

PP1. *Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions –economic, social and environmental –in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

PP2. *Recalling* its resolution 71/221, in which it recognizes that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in order to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of government and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries,

PP3. *Recognizing* that in the last half century, in response to different economic crises, such as globalisation of the economy, high unemployment, and displacement of production people have initiated alternative economic activities to improve their living conditions through cooperatives, producer’s associations, non-profit business, fair trade organisations and that these people-led economic activities gradually build networks and other types of organisations commonly referenced at the global level as Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE),

PP4 *Recognizing* the capacity of Social and Solidarity Economy to the economy for job creation, increasing income for the poorest, and developing resilient communities, in particular during times of crises, such as the world financial and economic crisis of 2008,

PP5 *Recalling* resolution 71/256 entitled New Urban Agenda that ~~Endorses~~ in which it endorses the *New Urban Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)*, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution, (Move here from previous 7)

PP6 *Recalling* Recommendation 193³ of the International Labour Organization on the tripartite promotion of democratic and collaborative cooperatives in all sectors and in all countries

PP7 *Recalling* the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization⁴ which states that “in a world of growing interdependence and complexity and the internationalization of production [...] a strong social economy and a viable public sector, are critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities”.

PP8 *Reaffirming* the Final Declaration of the 4th World Forum held in Cabo Verde in October 2017,

1. *Welcomes* the creation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) in 2013⁵, which consists of eighteen United Nations Agencies and the OECD as members and diverse set of supranational SSE networks as observers, and the presentation of an information note to the Chief Executives Board High Level Committee on Programs in 2016 and its adoption in 2014 of the following characteristics of SSE:

SSE is characterized by organizations, enterprises and networks that are diverse in nature but share common features in terms of development objectives, organizational forms and values. These features point to a model of development that contrasts with the profit-maximization and often corporate-led approaches that have prevailed in recent decades. Rather than assuming that the benefits of growth will ‘trickle down’ or rely on safety nets to protect the vulnerable and on technological fixes to protect the environment, SSE seeks proactively to mobilize and redistribute resources and surplus in inclusive ways that cater to people’s essential needs. Furthermore, SSE promotes environmental protection and the economic and political empowerment of the disadvantaged and others concerned with social and environmental justice. While profitability is a feature of many types of SSE enterprise, profits tend to be reinvested locally and for social purposes. And in areas such as eco-tourism and fair trade, they are often compatible with the preservation and reconstruction of natural capital;

2. *Welcomes* the 2014 position paper Social and Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development⁶ in which the UNTFSSSE identified the potential of SSE in the following eight areas:
 - *The transition of informal economy to decent jobs*
 - *Greening the economy and society*

³ https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R193

⁴ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/genericdocument/wcms_371208.pdf

⁵ http://unsse.org/?page_id=5

⁶ http://unsse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Position-Paper_TFSSE_Eng1.pdf

- *Local economic development*
 - *Sustainable cities and human settlements*
 - *Women's well being and empowerment*
 - *Food security and smallholder empowerment*
 - *Universal health coverage*
 - *Transformative finance*
3. *Recalls* the commitment made in the New Urban Agenda to promoting an enabling, fair and responsible business environment based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive prosperity, promoting investments, innovations and entrepreneurship and to addressing the challenges faced by local business communities by supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies;
 4. *Reaffirms the* potential of integrated LED and Social and Solidarity Economy and Finance (SSEF) models and strategies and the value of other emerging practices such as collaborative, community and circular economies, in promoting more fair, sustainable and inclusive economic activities whilst empowering communities to engage and enhance the value of their assets, which is also identified in 65 of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda;
 5. *Welcomes* the Position Statement⁷ published by the Taskforce on SSE in 2016;
 6. *Recognizes* that the contribution of SSE should be emphasized in the work of the United Nations Commission for Social Development;
 7. *Recognizes* that SSE is based on human rights and recalls Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social service;
 8. *Recognizes* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is at the center of SSE activities, that in many countries, women create decent jobs and increase income with producer's cooperatives, that women are at the core of best practices in micro-finance, in community health clinics and in housing, and that women are the majority of workers in SSE and are gradually managing the SSE economic activity units, working in a collaborative and collective manner, which is at the core of democratic governance in SSE and helps against patriarchy;
 9. *Recognizes* that SSE has been adopted as an enabling policy for Local Economic Development by United Cities and Local Governments at the Bogota Congress in October 2016;
 10. *Recognizes* that many national and regional governments have adopted legislation and/or policies supporting SSE, or related approaches; and that others are in the process of doing so;
 11. *Acknowledges* the findings that in countries where statistics offices measure SSE activities, they account from 5 to 10% of total GDP and that SSE enterprises such as cooperatives and non-profit businesses are more resilient than traditional privately-owned businesses as the

⁷ http://unsse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Final_Position-Paper-SSE-and-SDGs_UNTFSSSE.pdf

rate of survival is approximately twice as much, 40% compared to 20% after 10 years of operation;

12. *Recognizes* that SSE is inspired by the vision and practices of Indigenous peoples for the protection of Mother Earth and that development must be seen in a holistic manner for a true sustainable development for future generations;
13. *Recognizes* the important global development of SSE Financial sector alongside the development of production and services of SSE, which grew from community-based savings and loans cooperatives, Ethical funds, investment funds for cooperatives and patient capital funds, to traditional community finance such as Roscas and Tontines in Africa and large scale financial cooperatives managing billions and even trillions outside the privately-owned banking system that prefers to invest in the SSE approach to help people to move out of poverty;
14. *Recognizes* further that practices such as agroecology, with little or no chemical products is much safer for land, and for people and that Circular and Solidarity Economy has been recognized by FAO within *The 10 Elements of Agroecology Guiding the Transition to Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems*⁸;
15. *Recognizes* that the SSE approach is most appropriate in areas such as food, particularly sustainable local food systems, linking farmers to producers, which is the most efficient manner to avoid waste. The FAO affirms *Re-designing food systems based on the principles of circular economy can help address the global food waste challenge by making food value chains shorter and more resource-efficient. Currently, one third of all food produced is lost or wasted, failing to contribute to food security and nutrition, while exacerbating pressure on natural resources.*
16. *Reiterates* the importance of Leaving No One Behind and that lifting people out of poverty and exclusion, providing good and safe food for all, social security for all and other sustainable development initiatives, require mobilization of all sectors of society, including people's centered and democratically managed economic activities such as Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE);
17. *Recognizes* that achieving Agenda 2030 is impossible without the mobilization of citizens in all the countries of the world;
18. *Calls* on all countries to adopt different measures to enact legislation, policies and programs, adapted to each country, for supporting SSE;
19. *Calls on* UN agencies, particularly those in the United Nations Development System, to give due consideration to SSE within their policies and action plans;
20. *Encourages* international financial institutions, including multilateral and regional development banks to set up financial instruments in support of SSE;

Appendix 4

Text of the intervention made at the French Side-Event at the HLFP, July 2020. The intervention was in French. Here is translation to English.

Why the United Nations needs Social and Solidarity Economy to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/3/I9037EN/i9037en.pdf>

The *Intercontinental network for the promotion of social solidarity economy* (RIPESS) and many sister organizations, urge immediate action in these current crises time.

We are here to offer and promote an approach that addresses the key question of this year's HLPF - *Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*.

This theme is the result of last year's HLPF that recognized that the world was *not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030*.

COVID-19 has aggravated the situation and the challenges for the next decade are even greater.

This renders even more imperative that the countries of the world fully integrate existing *transformative pathways* that have been neglected or ignored by the business as usual development paradigms. Otherwise, we will continue to see rising inequality a concentration of wealth of indecent proportions, lack or access to quality education, health and social protection, extreme poverty for hundreds of millions, exclusion of women and youth to a prosperous life, etc. And of course, climate change will continue.

This approach, which dates to the 19th century, has undergone a strong renewal in recent decades. SSE organisations have emerged all over the world, largely thanks to those who have been left behind by today's globalisation. People have created these organizations to meet their basic needs, whether for food, shelter, or income-generating activities. Often, these organizations are at the heart of local economic systems and are less carbon intensive, and in many cases even carbon neutral.

The SSE approach has grown by leaps and bounds in many countries. In some countries, employment in this sector is from 7 to 10% of all jobs. Over 20 countries have enacted legislation or policies for support to SSE.

We must say that we are not surprised by last year's conclusion that the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs. Just as the world did not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Recent decades have seen many innovations with laudable intentions such as CSR, micro-credit, impact financing, PPPs, and many others. However, these innovations have not had a significant impact on inequality, women's empowerment, improvement of living conditions, climate change, etc.

SSE already exists and has a track record. The United Taskforce on SSE has published papers that document this well.

Solidarity and cooperation, fundamental human traits, are at the heart of these activities. They also explain why these organizations are resilient, which was the case during the 2008-2009 financial crises as well as growing evidence of a similar resiliency during the current crises.

The world has 2 billion people who work in the informal economy. A majority are women. Their situation has worsened in the last months.

To meet all these challenges, people are ready and willing to organize economic activities, but they need favourable public policies, access to capital, access to markets, appropriate support mechanisms, measures that are often reserved for traditional businesses.

In his appeal last March, Secretary General Guterres insisted that the world must recover better, with a more inclusive approach *more sustainable, gender-equal, and carbon-neutral path—better than the “old normal”*.

SSE can make a significant contribution to implement that appeal.

To fully achieve its potential, the United Nations General Assembly needs to adopt a resolution recognizing SSE to achieve the SDGs from the local to the global.

We have the firm conviction that humanity will not overcome inequality and poverty, empowerment of women and Universal Social Protection without SSE.

**PACT
FOR
IMPACT**
A GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL
AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



PACT FOR IMPACT

FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (SSE)

Friday, March the 4th 2022
9.15AM - 12.20AM

Centre Pierre Mendès-France
139 Rue de Bercy, 75012 Paris

*Live video conference broadcast
(in French, English and Spanish)*

FROM 8.30AM Welcome coffee for participants

FROM 9.15AM Start of the Zoom session

9.30AM-10.30AM

OPENING SESSION

Presentation of the results and new objectives of the PACT FOR IMPACT Alliance Adoption of the Coalition Manifesto and the Charter of Commitment

This plenary session will present the first achievements of Pact for Impact and outline the alliance's roadmap for 2022 and beyond.

First, the session will review the alliance's achievements and its flagship projects for 2021. On this occasion, the four thematic guides developed by the alliance and its members will be presented by ambassadors of the alliance.

In a second time, the perspectives of 2022 will be put forward with the presentation of the Coalition Manifesto and the Charter of Commitment, the draft resolution of the United Nations on the social economy, the International Labour Conference with the social economy on the agenda and the existing international cooperation on SSE.

Welcoming speech and introduction

Olivia GRÉGOIRE – Secretary of State in charge of the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy, FRANCE

Review of 2021

- Presentation of the Alliance's 2021 main achievements
Frédéric BAILLY – Member of the Executive Board, Groupe SDS & Secretariat of PACT FOR IMPACT, FRANCE
- Presentation of the 4 thematic guides
 - Financing of the social and solidarity economy (SSE)
Xavier PLOQUIN – Senior Associate and Director of Cabinet, Meridiam France, FRANCE
 - Ecological transition & social and solidarity economy (SSE)
Anita AHUJA – Social Entrepreneur, Conserve India, INDIA
 - Gender equality
Pauline EFFA – Director, Partenariat France-Afrique pour le Co-développement, CAMEROUN
 - Support for social entrepreneurship
Jeroo BILLIMORIA – Founder of the One Family Foundation & Co-founder and Chief Facilitator of Catalyst 2030, Childline India Foundation, INDIA

Outlook for 2022 and beyond

- Presentation of the Coalition Manifesto
Frédéric BAILLY – Member of the Executive Board, Groupe SDS & Secretariat of PACT FOR IMPACT, FRANCE
- Towards a United Nations resolution on the social economy
Vic VAN VUUREN – Director of the Business Department, ILO & President, UNTFSEE
- The social economy on the agenda of the International Labour Conference
Anousheh KARVAR – French Government Delegate to the ILO, ILO
- International cooperation in SSE
Antonella NOYA – Head of the Social Economy and Innovation Unit & Senior Policy Analyst, OECD

Questions & Answers

Closing and electronic signature of the Coalition Manifesto

10.35 AM-11.25 AM

ROUND TABLE

From regional cooperation to global recognition of the SSE

This round table will be the opportunity to establish an inventory of the States mobilized around the recognition of the SSE and the frameworks (legal or other) by which it is recognized and promoted within each State. This will make it possible to highlight the usefulness and necessity of the recognition of SSE for various actors (States, SSE actors, International organizations, etc.) by putting forward the contributions for each one. The States will then be able to come back on the benefits brought by the SSE.

The round table will also aim to raise the question of how to mobilize States around SSE and a draft resolution at the UN level.

Finally, the next steps and deadlines will be discussed in order to concretize the development and recognition of SSE.

Moderator : François GAVE – *Special Representative for Corporate Social Responsibility and the Social Dimension of Globalization, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, FRANCE*

Participants

Zahra Iyane THIAM DIOP – *Minister of Microfinance and SSE, SENEGAL*

Andrea ORLANDO – *Minister of Labor and Social policies, ITALY*

Myss Belmonde DOGO – *Minister of Solidarity and the Fight against poverty, IVORY COAST*

Achille BASSILEKIN III – *Minister of Small and medium enterprises, Social economy and Handicraft, CAMEROON*

Marvin RODRÍGUEZ CORDERO – *Vice-President, COSTA RICA*

Maravillas ESPÍN – *Director General for Social economy and Corporate Social Responsibility, SPAIN*

Juan Manuel MARTINEZ LOUVIER – *Director General, National Institute of Social Economy, MEXICO*

Alexandre ROIG – *President, National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy, ARGENTINA*

11.30 AM-12.20 PM

ROUND TABLE

International SSE networks: a key role in providing technical support to governments?

This round table aims to present the global ecosystem of the social economy mobilized to support the recognition and promotion of the SSE and its specificities. It will be an opportunity to recall the need for this recognition as well as the various existing modes of action in this sense for more visibility. The benefits brought to each SSE actor will be highlighted in order to illustrate the need to develop SSE. Finally, the round table will address the next steps and deadlines of the recognition processes with a view to greater mobilization and visibility of SSE and its actors.

Moderator : Alexandre Lourié, *Director General, Groupe SOS Action Internationale, FRANCE*

Participants

Yvon POIRIER – *Special Advisory - Advocacy and Governance, RIPESS*

Patrizia BUSSI – *Vice-President, Social Economy Europe*

Stéphane PFEIFFER – *Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of SSE, BSEF Forum*

Bruno ROELANTS – *Director General, International Cooperative Alliance*

Neven MANOVIC – *President, Euclid Network*

Annex 6 RIPESS Intervention at the UN-December 13-2022

What do you expect from a UN resolution on Social and Solidarity Economy for sustainable development? Why is it important and what aspects should we highlighted there?

The importance of Leaving no one behind.

Our organization, the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS), was created 20 years ago to promote an approach to development based on the needs of the communities at the grassroots level, all around the world. Our experience is based on decades of experience. At grassroots and community level, SSE was and continues to be seen as a necessity for improving their lives by organizing in collective/democratic ways such as in cooperatives, non-profit organizations, women's self-help groups, community development organizations, community forestry, SSE financial institutions and more.

Over the last twenty years, we have built a full-fledged global organization based on continental networks that have members in over seventy-five countries. From the beginning, we promoted organizational approaches such as networks or coalitions at national or subnational levels. This is key since legislation, policies or programs are adopted by the nation States.

Our organization thus decided in June 2012 at RIO+20 to prioritize engagement in the active implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the 2015-2030 period. We participated in the preparatory process by intervening in the first two High-Level Political Forums (HLPF) in 2013 and 2015. Unfortunately, we failed in having SSE including SSE in *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted in September 2015.

We thus wish to express our gratitude to France for organizing the Pact for Impact event in Paris in July 2019. We accepted the following invitation to work on [the Global Alliance for a Social and Solidarity Economy](#) including launching the process with other States last April that has given impetus to the SSE Resolution proposed by the co-facilitators.

We were not surprised that after the HLPF in 2019, the UN stated that the world was NOT on track to achieve the 17 SDGs. And this was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Things have worsened since then. We badly need an alternative economic model that can deliver on all dimensions of the SDGS.

This is one of the reasons why we support the proposal that the UN General Assembly adopt a resolution on SSE. Time is of the essence, since hundreds of millions of people live in poverty, inequalities continue to grow, and climate change is endangering all species on our planet. All around the world, grassroots communities have intensified their search for their own sustainable livelihoods focused on their own needs, growing the scale of the SSE movement.

Over the last decade the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Taskforce for SSE - in which we have participated since the beginning - has explored, deepened collective knowledge, and demonstrated the potential of SSE for sustainable development.

We recommend giving a mandate to the UNTFSSSE in the resolution to continue its work and to continue developing SSE ecosystems and to accompany States and other international institutions in implementing SSE at all levels.

The adoption of the [Resolution concerning Decent Work and Social and Solidarity Economy](#) by the International Labor Conference 2022, and the OECD [Recommendation of the Council on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation](#), both on June 10 mark a great step forward.

To fully enable SSE, we support the inclusion in the Resolution of the invitation to all Member States to develop framework legislation to implement SSE programs through appropriate public policies, examples of which can be found in the compendium of the Task Force.

This is especially important if we are to achieve the principle of “Leaving no one behind” as called for in the 2030 Agenda. SSE is applicable to all sectors of production and services. But SSE is a particularly important tool for the less advantaged. It enables bringing informal workers into the formal economy and thus provides social protection to many.

Some relevant examples include:

- Women’s cooperatives in farming (West Africa)
- Waste pickers cooperatives (Colombia and Argentina)
- Community Supported Agriculture, often the only means of survival for small farmers (all over the world)
- Cooperatives in Inuit communities (Northern Canada)
- Community managed health centres (Mali)
- Women’s Self-Help Groups (India)
- Community managed forests (Nepal and Canada)
- Community development organisations (India and Canada)
- SSE training for refugees and immigrants (Germany, Mali, Canada)
- In Afro-American communities in the USA, Solidarity Economy is seen as a tool of liberation, both economic and against racism (Jackson Mississippi, Buffalo, and Saint-Louis)

For the last eight years of Agenda 2030 these examples among thousands of others, indicate that only SSE can mobilize people to improve their lives and achieve the SDGs. Neither States nor the private sector can mobilize local communities to organize economic activities that correspond to their real needs; but given the empowerment they can do so themselves.

Nevertheless, countries need to adopt policies to fully empower and enable SSE organizations, including the support of international organisations and development banks for them to achieve the SDGs.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused even more people to be left behind! Scaling up SSE is thus more urgent than ever.

And the call to **Deliver as one** is also more important than ever. SSE organizations need to be fully included and supported if the world is to have any chance of achieving the SDGs.