



Social and Solidarity Economy

A Grassroots Economic Alternative to Corporate-led Globalization

Nairobi, Thursday 21 July, 11:30-13:00, Civil Society Forum Tent No 2

Social Solidarity Economy has great potential for building sustainable and inclusive economic growth geared towards improving the lives of all, while contributing to the objective of «No one must be left behind».

Corporate-led globalization has increased inequality within and between countries. At the same time, building on ancestral practices of solidarity in communities, people in all continents are increasingly building an alternative grassroots economy. This development approach, led by the people and not the corporations, is a strategic means for achieving the SDGs and its activities are key for inclusive and sustainable development for which UNCTAD strives.

What is SSE? : «SSE refers to the production of goods and services by a broad range of organizations and enterprises that have explicit social and often environmental objectives. They are guided by principles and practices of cooperation, solidarity, ethics and democratic self-management. SSE includes cooperatives and other forms of social enterprise, self-help groups, community-based organizations, associations of informal economy workers, service-provisioning NGOs, solidarity finance schemes, among others. » (Definition adopted by UN Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy, 2014)

In his speech at the Interactive dialogue during the UN General Assembly on September 26 2015 on *Fostering sustainable economic growth, transformation and promoting sustainable consumption and production*, Madani Koumaré affirmed the following: « *The economic and financial crises have clearly shown the limits of the dominant system, while providing opportunities for social and solidarity economy organizations to assert alternatives and to demonstrate that there is another way to think about international economic relations and practices, harmoniously articulating economic rigor and human development.* »

Speakers :

- Mr Madani Koumaré, RIPESS - President of Réseau national d'appui à la promotion de l'économie sociale et solidaire du Mali (RENAPESS) - President of the Africa SSE network ((RAESS)
- Ms Chiyoge B. Sifa, Regional Director International Co-operative Alliance-Africa

Discussants :

- Mr. James Mwai, Director Policy Research and Advocacy, FairTrade Africa
- Ms. Chantal-line Carpentier, Chief of the UNCTAD Office in New York

Moderator:

Mr Hamish Jenkins, Head of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)