



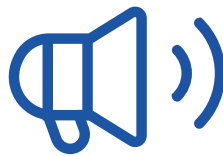
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BORDEAUX 2025

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

29 - 31 October 2025

DECLARATION FOR LASTING PEACE



Gsef

Global organization of local governments
and civil society networks

Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy





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FORUM MONDIAL DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE ET SOLIDAIRE
GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FORUM
FORO GLOBAL DE LA ECONOMÍA SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIA

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Declaration for lasting peace

The transformative role of the SSE in fostering peace, inclusion, and resilience

In a growing number of countries, women, men, children, and Nature are victims of war and acts of genocide. Regardless of their origins (ethnic, political, or economic conflicts), the consequences are the same: destruction, deprivation, poverty, hunger, disease, disability, and death on a massive scale.

These are unacceptable.

In some contexts, these realities are accompanied by grave breaches of international humanitarian law and serious violations of international human rights law, including acts that may constitute crimes under international law, and by denials of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Such conflicts could be avoided—if we firmly moved away from the predatory and destructive economic model promoted by leaders unable to steer our countries toward a peaceful, democratic, and protective path based on cooperation.

A radical shift is necessary.

The weakening or absence of democracy, resulting in the marginalization of citizens in social and economic decision-making, is a sign of the deprivation of people's right to decide. Economic citizenship is a key issue for restoring a full and genuine democracy.

The absence of democracy in a country's economic system weakens the role of citizens and relegates them to the background. They become adjustment variables serving the goals of a wealthy few, far removed from the common good.

The lack of accountability in the structure of capitalist enterprises prevents their owners from feeling the direct impacts of their operations. The abuse of workers and harms committed against communities, and nature result from decision-making structures that place control in the hands of distant owners motivated by profit. Such structures provide no voice for the needs and interests of workers, local communities, or nature itself.

The lack of an international policy aimed at achieving equity, redistributing wealth stolen through exploitation, and guaranteeing access to quality education and opportunity undermines cooperation and solidarity. Instead it fosters competition, division, and a denial of our shared humanity. The dominant economic model turns people into isolated consumers rather than engaged citizens. In turn, in a growing number of countries, more and more people have become susceptible to isolationist and authoritarian agendas that thrive on fear of difference, deny accountability, and deepen inequality.

The lack of international ambition to mitigate the effects of climate change increases the burden of climate hazards on all of humanity—but especially on the poorest. Globally, developing countries—the least responsible for climate change—are paying the price for the selfish political and economic choices made by Western countries. At the national level, it is again the poorest—the least responsible—who are the first victims: pollution, flooding, drought...

The absence of international regulation over the use of natural resources, coupled with the reckless overconsumption by developed countries, leads to resource destruction, competition between peoples for access to the spoils of exploitation, and a general weakening of societies. Water, air, forests—when exploited solely for private profit—generate conflict born of survival and trap developing nations in a state of dependency on wealthier countries.

We, organizations and local governments committed to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), gathered at the 7th Global Forum in Bordeaux 2025, call—out of humanity and solidarity—for an end to ongoing conflicts and the construction of an international collective project based on cooperation, intercultural dialogue, harmony, and the protection of Life.

As reflected in resolutions of the International Labour Conference (2022) and the United Nations General Assembly (2023 and 2024), the SSE can contribute to peace, prevention, recovery and reconciliation by retaining value locally, supporting livelihoods, and rebuilding trust through participation and shared benefit. It strengthens inclusion, decent work and social protection, advances care, education and cultural services, promotes environmental stewardship and just transitions, and helps to organize fair and resilient supply chains. SSE entities can also provide safe and dignified opportunities for people in vulnerable situations, including women, young people, migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities, and support pathways from informality to formality in line with international labour standards.

Building on these recognitions, we assert that the Social and Solidarity Economy—based on cooperation rather than competition, on equitable wealth distribution rather than accumulation by a powerful minority, on respect for natural resources rather than their financial exploitation, on mutual understanding rather than opposition, and on economic democracy rather than mass exploitation—is a major and essential response to preventing conflict, rebuilding, and reconciliation. The SSE carries within it the spirit of social justice that underpins our international institutions—now under strain.

Without social justice, there can be no understanding or cooperation. SSE is, without doubt, an economy of peace. Whether in times of prevention, resistance, reconstruction, or reconciliation, while it may not solve all problems, we affirm that the Social and Solidarity Economy fosters peaceful human relationships and social cohesion both globally and locally.

Convincing examples

- When SSE enables citizens to reclaim their economic citizenship by becoming decisionmakers, it fosters empowerment and cooperation.
- When SSE organizes the governance of commons by proposing tools for the collective management and sharing of resources, it creates the conditions for the sustainable use of those resources, respecting both people and Nature.
- When SSE redistributes and shares the wealth produced—especially with workers, but also with communities—it strengthens solidarity and social justice.
- When SSE fosters cooperation among individuals, regardless of their social or ethnic backgrounds, it nurtures intercultural understanding and respect, both essential for peace and harmonious relations among peoples.
- When the SSE supports the development of fair trade partnerships in local and global value chains, specifically through rural women-led cooperatives, it enables better incomes for producers. When SSE goes even further, by localizing processing close to the source of raw materials through cooperatives, it furthers the aims of decolonization by generating quality work, skill development, and maximizing the retention of community wealth, ending the era of global wealth extraction from the Global South to the Global North.
- When SSE gives people in communities the power to act, it creates the conditions for cooperation and a virtuous social dialogue, allowing for the arbitration of conflicts that promotes social, economic, and environmental justice.

- When SSE ensures that newcomers are welcomed with dignity and promotes the inclusion of the most vulnerable, it contributes to strengthening social bonds and our capacity to live together.
- When SSE entities play a pivotal role in supporting forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities. through inclusive governance, participatory approaches, and community-based service delivery, these entities create access to decent work, social protection, and economic empowerment.
- When technological issues and the use of AI lead to new forms of population control, the SSE offers an ethical response to data processing to shape our digital futures.

We, actors and supporters of the Social and Solidarity Economy, including workers, producers, users, communities and their organizations, together with representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and international and regional institutions, organized collectively and in solidarity to improve living conditions for all, in respect of all Life. It is a vast citizen movement advocating for a society based on solidarity, respect, kindness, sharing, and cooperation.

We, citizens gathered in Bordeaux at this 7th edition of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, therefore call on leaders to act with responsibility, to create conditions conducive to peace, and to urgently engage in a transition toward a resilient, fair, redistributive, and democratic economic model—of which the Social and Solidarity Economy can be the foundation.

We ask the GSEF to convene, following BordeauxGSEF2025, a working group whose purpose will be to explore the topics mentioned above in greater depth and to propose recommendations and operational measures for implementing this declaration.

We call on all networks and organizations to take action on this issue and make it a priority.

Bordeaux, October 31, 2025