

GSEF Global Virtual Forum
Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity
Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation

20 October 2020

Plenary Session 2

**Civil and Public Initiatives to Consolidate SSE:
Convergences among Actors and Sectors**

Moderator: Ms. Simel Esim, Programme Manager (Enterprises Department), International Labour Organization (ILO)

Speakers

- Mr. Kyong Yong Song, President, Social Value and Solidarity Foundation (SVS Fund)
- Ms. Pauline Eyebe Effa, France-Africa Partnership for Co-development (PFAC), Cameroon
- Ms. Bernarda Sarué Pereira, Director, National Association of Council Women of Bolivia (ACOBOL), Bolivia
- Ms. Nancy Neamtam, Chantier de l'économie sociale, Québec, Canada
- Mr. Juan Antonio Pedreño, President, Social Economy Europe

Summary

Strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy model that seeks well-being and inclusion requires a joint impulse and multi-stakeholder and multi-level networking, in an organized manner and with proactive and explicit action that consolidates efforts, for a different, supportive and equitable world.

Building synergies between the actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has been a basic principle of the sector; this plenary invites people from different latitudes of the world to learn about the experiences of governments and civil society actors in implementing local initiatives based on citizens' demands and knowledge of the realities of the territories, by forming alliances.

Concept Note

The world gives us lessons on how cooperation, mutual help and solidarity are key elements that allow the existence and evolution of numerous species, including the human one. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) understands these

components and incorporates them into its practices and actions that pursue collective well-being.

The crisis over COVID-19 has made people more aware of the negative consequences of the hegemonic economic model, focused on profit maximization and excessive accumulation, at the expense of the environment and people, where capital is the end and not the means.

Although for some time now, in different regions of the planet, it has shown its advantages and potential with local policies oriented towards the promotion of transforming economies to achieve an integral local development, it is still necessary to promote, consolidate and scale up actions, initiatives and public-social programs that strengthen the productive fabric of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The Social Economy has been a reality for over two centuries, and the Solidarity Economy, a millenarian heritage of the indigenous peoples, which today more than ever is in force, with a marked route towards good living, in a sustainable manner. However, the SSE is not accidental, it requires collaboration and collective action among strategic actors, the sum of wills from different fronts: academia, civil society, governments, organizations involved, companies and stakeholders in the SSE, politicians and development partners.

In other words, there is still a way to go to increase its presence, although currently it has considerable strength in the world economy. According to the World Cooperative Monitor (2019), the 300 most important cooperative and mutual companies in the world have a turnover of 2,035 billion dollars; provide employment to 280 million people globally, representing 10% of the global population employed; and are in several fields: industry and public services; banking and financial services; wholesale and retail trade; health, education and social assistance; mutual and cooperative insurance; agriculture and food industries.

The new normality we are living today, and which we can transform into a positive one, must be based on mutual aid, justice and democracy. In order to achieve a better present and future, it is essential to create and strengthen spaces that promote the SSE on the basis of national, regional and global platforms that encourage dialogue.

Certainly, the key is the cooperation and strengthening of social ecosystems, the exchange of experiences and practices between SSE actors from the North and the South, as well as South-South partnerships, contributing to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, specifically the 17th: "Partnerships to achieve the ODS".

An ecosystem can either enhance or weaken the consolidation of the Social and Solidarity Economy, which is why the GSEF Global Virtual Forum opens a platform

for dialogue that seeks to reflect on how to trigger sustainable development based on multi-actor convergence, in a cross-cutting and coordinated manner with the public, private and social sectors; cooperation between actors, and the exchange of North-South and South-South experiences.

It is vital to open the dialogue in order to share lessons, good practices and obstacles that have faced the alliances to promote and consolidate the SSE, and to reflect on how they have made networking possible.

Objectives:

- To reflect on the actors and sectors that promote inter-sectoral initiatives, policies and strategies to design and implement environments suitable for the development of the SSE; multi-stakeholder convergence; and ecosystems that promote good living, well-being understood beyond capital, from people, from the collective, from solidarity.
- To present and analyze actions, public policies and strategies that have made it possible to create environments propitious for the development of the SSE and to build solid ecosystems for the SSE.

Questions that will be addressed during the session

Round 1

- How to effectively collaborate between actors and sectors to promote the SSE?
- What have been and are the challenges to promote and consolidate the SSE in an articulated manner?

Round 2

- What actions have been implemented to consolidate the SSE from multi-stakeholder partnerships? What strategies do your organizations propose?
- In times of crisis, how do we advance and face challenges through collaboration and cooperation?