

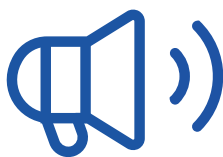


BORDEAUX 2025

GLOBAL SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY FORUM

29 - 31 October 2025

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DECLARATION FOR SSE



Global organization of local governments
and civil society networks

Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy



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International Youth declaration for SSE

Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum Bordeaux GSEF 2025

Preamble

Shaped through intercultural dialogue and collective work, this International Youth Declaration for the SSE expresses not only the proposals to achieve the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, but also conveys the conviction that the SSE is a structuring path for social, environmental, political, economic and inner transitions.

Presented on 31 October during the closing ceremony of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, Bordeaux GSEF 2025, this Declaration is addressed to political decision-makers and international networks, so that it may be heard, recognised, and integrated into public policies and organizations to build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable world.

Building on the internationally recognised frameworks for the SSE and the 2030 Agenda, it draws its strength from the lived realities of young people across every continent.

Grounded in reports, studies, and field experiences, the **recommendations it contains offer concrete and applicable solutions for national and local governments, continental and regional bodies, as well as SSE organisations and networks**. The references and publications used are presented in the annexes, in a spirit of transparency, coherence, and collective credibility.

Introduction

We, young people from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, are gathered in Bordeaux, united by our diversity and guided by a shared aspiration. We affirm our **determination to build a future founded on social justice, sustainability and cooperation**.

Facing ecological, economic and democratic crises that threaten our societies, we reject inertia and resignation. We choose the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as our common horizon, an economy that serves life, dignity and collective well-being.

Our voice is part of a broader history: that of young people who, from Seoul to Montréal, from Bilbao to Mexico, from Dakar to Bordeaux, have made their convictions heard at the Global SSE Forums. This Declaration builds on these mobilisations and brings together the continental youth advocacies developed in 2024 and 2025, through the contributions of young people, networks and partner organisations gathered within the GSEF SSE Youth Hub.

Through six advocacy areas, we present our priorities and recommendations: to live with dignity, to work differently, to learn and act together, to protect the living world, to participate in decision-making, and to build peace and solidarity among peoples.

All over the world, we are already taking action. Together, we want our ideas to shape public policies and our actions to help build societies rooted in justice and resilience.

Our 6 advocacy priorities

1. Living with dignity, fundamental rights and social justice

[SDG 1] End poverty in all its forms everywhere

[SDG 5] Achieve gender equality

[SDG 10] Reduce inequality within and among countries

We, young people of the world, believe in a society where human dignity is not a privilege but a fundamental right. Everywhere, economic, social, gender and territorial inequalities deepen divides and fuel mistrust. We reject precarity, discrimination and systems that leave the most vulnerable behind. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) proves that it is possible to place social justice at the heart of public policies by recognising the value of care, solidarity and sharing. To live with dignity is to be able to participate fully in community life, to be recognised, protected and free to contribute to a common future.

Our recommendations :

- Strengthen **legislative and policy frameworks** that guarantee universal social protection, equality of rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination.
- Develop **mechanisms for fair wealth redistribution** through just, transparent and solidarity-based taxation.
- Support **local and community initiatives** that promote social inclusion and access to education, health and housing.
- Promote genuine **equality between women and men**, particularly in employment, governance and access to economic resources.
- Ensure the **participation of young people from marginalised groups** in the design and implementation of public policies.

To live with dignity is to build societies that recognise every voice, protect every life and give everyone the opportunity to act and contribute.

2. Working differently, healthy lives and economic empowerment

[SDG 3] Promote health, well-being and life balance

[SDG 8] Promote decent work and inclusive, sustainable economies

We refuse to accept that work is synonymous with precarity and dependence. We aspire to jobs that empower us, strengthen our communities and contribute to social justice. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) opens this path, one built on shared wealth, cooperation and collective responsibility. Through cooperatives, associations and social enterprises that we create, we experiment with other ways of doing : more humane, more democratic and more sustainable. Work is not an end in itself, it is a means of emancipation, of transforming territories and creating a living environment.

Our recommendations :

- Create **national and regional SSE Youth Funds** to support initiatives led by young people, prioritising collective, local and sustainable employment.
- Support **youth-led cooperatives and social enterprises** through mentoring schemes, capacity building and simplified access to public procurement.
- Recognise the **value of voluntary** and non-market work as an essential social and environmental contribution.
- Integrate into employment policies : **mental health, quality of life** at work, work-life balance and **civic engagement**.
- Promote **training in social and cooperative entrepreneurship** to equip young people with the skills to create meaningful and sustainable jobs.

Working differently means redefining the economy to serve people, communities and the planet.

3. Learning, sharing and acting together

[SDG 4] Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education

[SDG 11] Make cities and human settlements resilient and sustainable

[SDG 17] Strengthening partnerships for achieving the SDGs

We believe in an education that emancipates, connects and transforms. In every school, every neighbourhood and every territory, learning must be a lever for equality and creativity. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) teaches us that knowledge is meant to be shared, that cooperation can be learned, and that culture can be a driver of transformation. We want spaces where young people can experiment, create, debate and take action. Learning is not limited to accumulating knowledge: it means building a critical mindset, developing civic skills and imagining together the solutions of tomorrow.

Our recommendations :

- Integrate the **values and practices of SSE** into educational programmes, from primary school to higher education.
- Support **non-formal education and popular education initiatives** that promote youth participation and creativity.
- Develop **youth incubators** and social innovation spaces open to all profiles.
- Strengthen **cooperation between schools, local authorities and SSE organisations** to connect education with local realities.
- Value **culture, art and heritage** as tools for transmission, intercultural dialogue and civic engagement.

To educate is to give everyone the power to understand and to act, in order to build a society of free and conscious citizens.

4. Protecting life : ecology, territories, climate and biodiversity

[SDG 2] End hunger and promote sustainable agriculture

[SDG 6] Ensure sustainable management and access for all to water resources

[SDG 12] Ensure responsible consumption and production patterns

[SDG 13] Tackle climate change

[SDG 14] Conserve and protect marine life

[SDG 15] Preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems and their biodiversity

We are part of the living world, and its protection is inseparable from our future. Everywhere, ecological crises, biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate injustices threaten our communities. Faced with these emergencies, we affirm that responses must be social as well as environmental: protecting nature also means protecting people. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) opens the way towards models based on sobriety, cooperation and respect for life. Preserving our territories means recognising the value of local knowledge, community initiatives and the solidarities that connect people to their environment.

Our recommendations :

- Support **sustainable and solidarity-based agricultural models**, in particular agroecology, food sovereignty and short supply chains.
- Preserve **marine and river ecosystems** through sustainable fishing, resilient coastlines and the collective management of water as a common good.
- Involve **young people in climate policies** and environmental governance at all levels.

- Develop **funding and support programmes** for local ecological transition initiatives led by young people.
- Encourage **cooperation between territories** to share solutions to environmental crises.
- Promote a **circular and solidarity-based economy** founded on reuse, sobriety and the preservation of natural resources.

To protect life is to make the Earth our common good and to view territories as interdependent ecosystems, where sustainable models are built upon the knowledge, cultures and communities that inhabit them.

5. Participating fully, governing differently

[SDG 4] Ensure citizen education that empowers people and strengthens democracy.

[SDG 16] Promote democracy, justice, and effective institutions.

We no longer want to be merely consulted but to be fully involved in the decisions that shape our future. Too often, young people are excluded from the spaces where public policies are decided, even though they are directly affected by their consequences. Deciding our future means claiming a legitimate place in the governance of territories, institutions and organisations. Democracy cannot be alive without real participation, transparency and collective responsibility. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) teaches us that everyone can be an actor of change and that shared governance is the key to fairer and more inclusive societies.

Our recommendations :

- Create **permanent institutional mechanisms** for youth participation in public bodies and SSE organisations.
- Guarantee **transparency and access to information** as essential conditions for active citizenship.
- Support **shared governance initiatives**, both local and international, that involve young people in the design and evaluation of policies.
- Integrate **education for citizenship, democracy and cooperation** into school curricula and civic training.
- Recognise and value **youth organisations and networks** as full political actors within decision-making spaces.

Moving from consultation to co-decision means empowering everyone to take part in governance transformation and to make democracy truly alive.

6. Building peace and solidarity among peoples

[SDG 16] Promote peaceful and inclusive societies

[SDG 17] Develop international partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs

Peace cannot be decreed, it is built every day through solidarity, culture and cooperation. In a world marked by crises, forced migrations and cultural tensions, we affirm that peace begins when everyone can live, engage and flourish within their community. The lack of opportunities, insecurity and inequality fuel division and human tragedy. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), by promoting local employment, inclusion and cooperation, creates the conditions for lasting stability and dialogue among peoples. It offers tools to transform territories into spaces of encounter, justice and shared hope.

Our recommendations :

- Develop **local opportunities for employment, training and civic engagement** in order to prevent forced migration and strengthen community ties.
- Support **cooperation and solidarity mobility initiatives** led by young people, promoting mutual understanding and fair exchanges.
- Promote **youth as actors of citizen diplomacy** and intercultural mediation.
- Develop **cooperation programmes** between young people and SSE actors from different territories to promote solidarity, dialogue and joint solutions that foster peace.
- Value **culture, art and intercultural dialogue** as levers for peace, coexistence and social cohesion.

Building peace means enabling everyone to live and act with dignity within their community, so that solidarity and cooperation become the common language among peoples.

Mobility must be a right, not a privilege. For peace and cooperation to take their full meaning, every young person must be able to move freely, be received with respect, and take part in the exchanges that weave bonds between peoples.

We call for mobility policies that are more accessible, transparent, and equitable; guaranteeing freedom of movement without discrimination, based on trust, mutual respect, and the recognition of cultural diversity.

Promoting solidarity-based mobility means enabling every global citizen to share, learn, and build together a future grounded in reciprocity and dignity.

Final call

This Declaration is a milestone : it carries the voice of a generation united by shared values and ready to lead the necessary changes.

Partout dans le monde, les jeunes construisent déjà des solutions concrètes, à la croisée du local et du global, pour que l'économie serve la vie, la justice et le bien commun.

Across the world, young people are already shaping concrete solutions that bridge local action with global impact, ensuring that the economy serves life, justice and the common good.

We call upon governments, institutions, local authorities and SSE actors to fully recognise youth as a force for transformation, capable of prioritising cooperation and solidarity to address the major social, economic and environmental challenges of our time.

If the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is the means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, then youth is its driving force.

Together, let us turn our commitments into bridges between territories, where shared values meet the richness of local diversity to build a common future.

Annexe

References

The advocacy papers that make up the *International Youth Declaration for the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)* draw on a wide range of institutional, scientific, and citizen-based sources.

They result from a collective effort led within the **GSEF SSE Youth Hub**, bringing together youth organisations, SSE networks, and GSEF members committed to youth issues.

The content is based on :

- **international reports and policy frameworks** addressing the SSE, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and youth ;
- **contributions and testimonies** collected from young people around the world during the advocacy campaigns and consultations held between 2024 and 2025 ;
- **experiences and initiatives** shared by GSEF members and continental partner networks, including youth organisations that work with and for young people and have in-depth knowledge of their needs and aspirations;
- and finally, the [five continental youth advocacy papers](#) (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America), collectively developed within each continental branch of the GSEF SSE Youth Hub.

This Declaration also builds on the **four previous International Youth Declarations for the SSE**, adopted during earlier GSEF events and Global Forums :

- ★ Declaration of the 1st Global Youth Campus for the SSE, Seoul (2017),
- ★ Bilbao GSEF 2018 Youth Declaration,
- ★ Mexico GSEF 2020/21 Youth Declaration,
- ★ Dakar GSEF 2023 Youth Call to Action.

[These founding texts](#) laid the foundations for a global mobilisation of young people around the SSE, which this Declaration continues and renews.

1. International Recognition of the SSE & Global Reference Frameworks

This Declaration builds upon the political and institutional frameworks that recognise the contribution of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the construction of fairer and more sustainable societies.

Among the key international references:

- **United Nations** - [*General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/281 on Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development \(2023\)*](#), and [*General Assembly Draft Resolution A/C.2/79/L.22/Rev.1 on Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2024\)*](#).
- **International Labour Organization (ILO)** - [*Resolution and Conclusions on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy*](#), adopted at the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (2022).
- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** - [*OECD Council Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation \(2022\)*](#).

2. International Reports and Studies on Youth, the SSE and the SDGs

The youth advocacy papers also draw on international studies and strategic frameworks dedicated to youth participation, employment, and empowerment :

- **United Nations** - [*Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2019\)*](#) and its updated report, [*World Youth Report \(2025\)*](#).
- **UNESCO** - [*Education for Sustainable Development Framework: ESD for 2030*](#).
- **ILO** - [*Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in Transforming the Future*](#).
- **OCDE** - [*Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises \(2022\)*](#).

3. Continental References

Africa

- **African Union** - [*Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want \(2015\)*](#).
- **African Union** - [*Decennial Strategy for the SSE Economy and Implementation Plan 2023–2033*](#).
- Forum of Young Leaders of SSE - [*Yamoussoukro Final call \(2024\)*](#).
- *African Youth Advocacy for the SSE (2025)*, GSEF SSE Youth Hub - Africa.

Asia

- **YOUTH CO:LAB** - [*Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship in the Asia-Pacific Region \(2025\)*](#).
- **United Nations** - [*Meaningful Youth Engagement in Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific \(2023\)*](#).

- **ASEAN** - [Youth Development Index \(2022\)](#).
- *Asian Youth Advocacy for the SSE (2025)*, GSEF SSE Youth Hub - Asia.

Europe

- **European Union** - [Social Economy Action Plan \(2021\)](#) and [Youth Action Plan in EU External Action \(2022–2027\)](#).
- **Council of Europe** - [European Youth Strategy \(2020–2030\)](#).
- Social Economy, the Future of Europe – [Youth Report \(2022\)](#).
- **European Observatory for the Social Economy** - [Social Economy and Youth: Shared Values – Exploring the Links between the SSE and the Aspirations of Young People in Europe \(2017\)](#).
- *European Youth Advocacy for the SSE (2025)*, GSEF SSE Youth Hub - Europe.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

- *Youth Advocacy for the SSE in Latin America & the Caribbean (2025)*, GSEF SSE Youth Hub - LAC.

North America

- Aile jeunesse du Chantier de l'Économie Sociale - [Youth Manifesto](#) at the Quebec Social Economy Summit (2025).



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Continental Advocacies
Former GSEF SSE Youth Declarations