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

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Plenary Session 5

Social Economy as a Mechanism to solve the Great Global Challenges from the Local and Territorial Perspective

Moderator: Laurence Kwark, Secretary-General, GSEF Secretariat

Speakers

- **Madani Koumaré, President of the RENAPESS Mali; President of the African Network of Social and Solidarity Economy (RAESS), Mali**
- **Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy, European Commission**
- **Antonella Noya, Senior Policy Analyst and Manager, OECD**
- **Vic van Vuuren, Chair, UNTFSSSE; Director of Enterprises Department, ILO**
- **Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, Mayor , Gatineau City**

Summary

Collective power is transformative and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is and can be promoted from education, public space, culture, technology and the financial sector, among other areas. It contributes, beyond the economic, to reducing violence, building peace, internalizing democracy, generating employment and providing access to health systems, all of which are included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). In other words, the SSE enables the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, so that "no one is left behind".

The strengthening of the contributions of the SSE, beyond the local and the territorial level, requires a "partnership management" between communities, governments, civil society and global and regional actors interested in the social and economic transformation of society and, in this way, to overcome the challenges together.

This last plenary session of the Global Virtual Forum will share the reflections and debates of the previous sessions, in order to highlight some conclusions and shape a new vision towards an inclusive and sustainable world for everyone.

Concept Note

The consolidation of the SSE as an alternative global economic model will be achieved through the exchange of good practices on its implementation, cooperation through networks of all actors, public-private partnerships to shape and strengthen its ecosystems, as well as the creation of partnerships for the financing of initiatives that multiply, replicate and expand the benefits of these experiences.

The session is a space for the exchange of reflections on how, from the local level, it is possible to face global challenges, showing that the local and the global are not antagonistic, but complementary; and that the SSE is an engine to achieve the 2030 Agenda, to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and to deal with future crises.

The relationship between the global and the local has been at the center of the discussion for years. The tension around the dynamics in territorial spaces and with cross-border exchanges calls for passionate debates on development, well-being, identity and people.

The initial work of the 2030 Agenda was based on the idea of ensuring that "globalization would become a positive force for all the people of the world in this generation and in future generations". It recognized an expansive, immersive, and accelerating force in the globalization process.

Since the 1990s, the phenomenon of globalization has been deepening. It has been linked to the reduction of the agricultural sector, the growth of corporations, the emergence of global cities, the stigmatization of rural areas and the weakening of the Nation-State; and it was blamed for the effects on markets, culture, territoriality, national sovereignty, "technification", production models and, without a doubt, of the human condition.



Apocalyptic and integrated visions about the global, placed it in an antagonistic way to the local. Today, the coronavirus has shown us the scope of interconnection, there is no globalization without concrete territories, it is not about separate spaces or processes, the global and the local are components of the same system.

The unprecedented crisis that we are living at a global level, urges us to rethink the familiar and the macro. Our actions as individuals within society and the effects they have both locally and on other scales, including the regional as a space not only of geography, but of historical, cultural, linguistic, cooperation and network work.

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) provides lessons as a key element for generating well-being and inclusive and sustainable development at the territorial level and with global impact. It articulates initiatives, practices and viable projects based on the territorial reality, for a better world; and it fosters resilience in complex times under a guiding principle: solidarity.

The solidarity-based production relations allow for the generation of a well-being where the individual in collectivity, from a community, develops in an integral and positive way; as well as achieving a good life that incorporates components of the physical, social, material, emotional and subjective spheres.

Moreover, the good effects of the social economy have been proven in difficult times of planetary dimensions. In the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 this resilience had already been manifested, this is the case of the German financial system, whose social banking had almost no solvency problems unlike commercial banking, demonstrating the value of cooperation models over competition models.

In this sense, it is necessary for the SSE to position itself and be seen as the ideal strategy; and to remove the stigma that the SSE is for territories with low rates of growth,

development and quality of life: it is present in large, small, developed and developing territories.

It is also essential that local governments look more towards the SSE, promote it and practice it; incorporate the principles and values into local administration and open up a path that will enable them to address the issues. An understanding of the close links between the SSE, development and local governments is a *sine qua non* condition for its consolidation as an alternative social and economic model more suitable for facing the current challenges on a larger scale.

Objectives:

- To highlight how the SSE, from the local perspective, constitutes an alternative and a key strategy for facing multilateral challenges and achieving the fulfillment of the global development agendas.
- To show the importance and potential of the multilevel link between the SSE and local development in order to build inclusive and sustainable cities worldwide.
- To analyze how it is possible to promote and strengthen SSE ecosystems at the local level through international cooperation and funding schemes.
- To share reflections and debates from previous sessions, in order to illustrate a new vision towards an inclusive and sustainable world for all.

Questions that will be addressed during the session

Round 1.

- What is the contribution of the SSE to local economic development and, at the same time, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?



- How do we scale up the SSE model from the local level to the global level?

Round 2

- What are the strategic sectors and actors, the synergies and alliances required, in order to consolidate ecosystems, globally detonate the SSE and promote sustainable local development?
- What is the vision of the SSE, from the local to the global level, to face a global crisis such as that of COVID-19?