



CHARTER

for an international coalition
of intercontinental networks
of the social and solidarity economy

PREAMBLE

Considering that the social and solidarity economy concerns people in every part of the world,

Considering that our initiative takes its full place among the answers to be provided to the questions raised in particular at the 2020 High Level Political Forum of the United Nations on “Accelerated Action and Transformative Solutions, a decade of action and results for sustainable development”,

Considering that the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the heavy consequences already suffered, is a crisis whose social, economic, health and ecological repercussions will continue for years to come and will be unprecedented,

We, International Coalition of Social and Solidarity Economy (ICSSE), inter-continental networks of associations, cooperatives, foundations, social enterprises, mutuals and local and territorial authorities, are committed to joining forces in order to deploy a common voice and actions to make our achievements and resources visible and recognized. Those of the women and men who keep this resilient economy alive, a people-centered economy in an approach that reconciles ecological, social, civic, economic and financial solutions.



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (SSE)

The Social and Solidarity Economy is a mode of development engaged in all sectors of activity that places the person before maximizing profits while aiming for profitability to serve social missions.

SSE organizations and enterprises (SSEOs) produce, sell and/or exchange goods and services that contribute to improving the well-being of its members and/or the community, and to the creation of sustainable and quality jobs by contributing to social inclusion and equity.

SSE exists in all sectors of the economy and economic activities. The SSE provides a response to many contemporary societal challenges through social innovations in the field of environmental protection, the fight against exclusion, health, or equal opportunities, generating decent work.

The signatories of this Charter intend to build an essential link in the action for the promotion and development of SSE. To do so, they recognize themselves through the SSE's founding values of solidarity, social mission, autonomy, democracy and participation, and through the following SSE characteristics:

- Primacy of the person and the social mission over capital;
- Voluntary and open membership;
- Democratic control by members;
- Protection of common or joint ownership;
- Conjunction of the interests of members, the common interest of communities and the general interest;
- Defense and implementation of the values of solidarity and responsibility;
- Autonomy of management and independence from public authorities;
- Limited distribution of surpluses by the reinvestment of the surplus: surpluses are intended primarily to strengthen the sustainability and development of the business project (strengthening of common capital, investments, discounts for members, experimentation, social innovation, sustainable development, etc.) and not for the remuneration of shareholders.



OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARTER

By this Charter, we seek to:

✔ **Bring together, strengthen and raise the profile of a community of SSE actors**

- **Build** a network of international organizations & enterprises with a wealth of experience, expertise and know-how of women and men in the SSE;
- **Strengthen** the UNTFSSSE observer block and support the work of the UNTFSSSE;
- **Consolidate** this block of SSE networks and organizations within the relevant and existing broader international initiatives and will be working towards establishing synergies whenever possible.

✔ **Deepen advocacy efforts for the recognition of SSE.**

- **Lobby** national and local governments on legal frameworks, public policies, and financial support measures;
- **Work** together with national governments and relevant bodies, to promote SSE in the UN system and other inter-governmental institutions, including the adoption of a resolution on SSE at the UN GA;
- **Influence and advocate** with international bodies that bring about reforms and action measures.
- **Highlight**, disseminate and make use of the tools and research outcomes developed by the coalition member organizations.

✔ **Promote the Social and Solidarity Economy as a field of economic activity that must be recognized and is useful for the implementation of SDGs.**

→ **Convince** UN agencies, funds and programs to promote and support the inclusion and recognition of SSE;

→ **Promote** SSE as a tool for achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs;

→ **Promote** the social and solidarity economy and its constituents at the world economic summits, such as G20, COP Climate, COP Biodiversity, United Nations General Assembly, which must take stock of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Davos Forum, Local Economic Development (LED) and other conferences at global and regional level.



COMMITMENTS OF THE SIGNATORY ACTORS

The approach, initiated by the GSEF, ICA, SSE International Forum and their partners is open to all economic actors of the same community of interest and who are of the same nature, namely being:

Member-based organizations whose members are partly or totally SSE organizations

Action- and advocacy-based organizations

Networks or organizations of SSE with international dimensions

The signatories of this charter commit themselves to:

- ✔ Carry out joint events and implement concerted actions;
- ✔ Communicate and inform as widely as possible about the actions carried out together;
- ✔ Share the desired initiatives and organize occasional collaborations - advocacy, forums etc. in order to promote the development of joint projects.



AIM Healthcare and social benefits for all



CONTACT

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