



# UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (UNTFSSSE)

SECOND TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM: TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN 2020-2022  
BRIEF REPORT, JANUARY 2020

**UN**

Inter-Agency Task Force on  
**Social and Solidarity Economy**

*“This Task Force brings together different expertise, experiences and perspectives. Since 2013, it has been growing considerably. Its work has been enriched by new UN agencies and civil society organization networks joining along the way.*

*We are excited about what has been achieved, what still needs to be done and how we can make it happen together. The world is facing major challenges in the form of a huge social deficit and climate change. We need to focus on how we can increase the impact of the social and solidarity economy in tackling these challenges whilst promoting it as viable alternative to achieving and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

*We need to ensure that a people-centred approach will drive our economies. We have to work on the creation of enabling environments - at all levels – to let SSE ecosystems flourish as part of plural economies and more inclusive and sustainable societies. We need to reach out to - through education systems - the new generations who are the ones who can push for a change and head towards a better future”.*

Victor van Vuuren Chair UNTFSSSE

# **ACTION PLAN 2020-2022**

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

- ▶ **UN Resolution on SSE**
- ▶ **Knowledge Hub for SDGs**
- ▶ **SSE Operational Program**

## **CONTENT PRIORITIES**

- ▶ **Education**
- ▶ **Local Dimension**

## **SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

- ▶ **Survey on SSE**
- ▶ **Position Paper of UNTFSSSE**
- ▶ **Communication**
- ▶ **ILC - International Labour Conference**
- ▶ **Pact for Impact**

## INTRODUCTION

The second technical symposium of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy ([UNTFSSSE](#)) took place in Trento (Italy) on 21 and 22 November 2019. It was organized by the International Labour Organization and facilitated by the ILO International Training Centre, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social and Solidarity Economy of the Luxembourg Government and hosted by EURICSE.

Thirty-six participants took part in the event which included resource persons and representatives of 6 members ([ILO](#), [OECD](#), [UNCTAD](#), [UNDESA](#), [UNDP](#), [UNRISD](#)) and 9 observers ([CSEND](#), [CIRIEC](#), [Euclid Network](#), [EURICSE](#), [FMDV](#), [GSEF](#), [ICA](#), [SSE International Forum](#), [RIPESS](#)).

The event was an opportunity to reflect on achievements since its establishment in 2013, challenges ahead and strategies for the future.

As main result, the Task Force agreed upon key actions to be jointly undertaken by its members and observers in the next biennium.

## PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

### United Nations General Assembly Resolution on SSE

Achieving a General Assembly (GA) resolution that defines SSE as a priority within UN and national policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is one of the main ambitions of the UNTFSSSE.

However tabling resolutions is Member States' prerogative and a country-driven process, which require one or more champion countries. It is advisable to work with a core group of countries from all regions, through initial rounds of informal discussions to produce a text to submit to the UNGA for its consideration.

The role of the task force will be to support interested countries to navigate the UN system and with technical expertise on SSE. In terms of timing, it was recommended that sponsors should strive to table the draft for negotiations during the main session (September-December), which is the most appropriate period since the UNGA's attention at that time is on considering resolutions.

In order to aim for the 75th UNGA main session (September-December 2020), it is important as the first option to have the item scheduled in the agenda by June 2020. This depends on Member States' action.

### The SSE Knowledge Hub for the SDGs

Enhancing the potential of the SSE Knowledge Hub for SDGs was agreed to be essential in order to fulfil the mandate of the task force. The SSE Knowledge Hub for SDGs is an initiative of the UNTFSSSE implemented by UNRISD. It "aims to enhance awareness of and contribute to the body of knowledge on social and solidarity economy (SSE) as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

The two main pillars include content production & research and content gathering of already existing material on the subject of SSE and SDGs. A dedicated [webpage of the knowledge hub](#) has been created.

The initiative was supported so far by the Governments of Luxembourg and Republic of Korea; but its potential needs to be further explored and strengthen and new funds are necessary especially for:

- replicating the success of previously organized call for papers and conference on period basis (every three years) under the management of a specific UNTFSSSE organizing committee;
- developing SSE statistics component;
- ensuring that the Knowledge Hub website

functions as a catalyst for other sources of information, notably already existing platforms such as the [SSE Collective Brain](#) and [Socioeco.org](#).

- reinforcing the “translation purpose” of academic knowledge into policy insights and vice versa, by promoting it as the main dissemination channel from UNTFSSSE to other parties in terms of SSE research and policy initiatives.

### **The SSE operational project**

Crafting a SSE operational project has been identified as next necessary step to in order to assist countries in their efforts to introduce enabling (eco)-systems for SSE.

Inspired by the [PAGE project](#) (Partnership for Action on Green Economy), the operational project on SSE is to become a bold and actionable proposal with a

multi-agency and multi-donor architecture.

It shall intervene simultaneously at the global and at the country levels; and it shall have an initial duration of five years, and an initial financial envelope of 3 to 5 million USD.

In terms of governance, it is likely that this Program will be directed by a Board composed by UNTFSSSE members and observers.

SSE represents a mechanism to overcome development problems and achieve development objectives, including the SDGs. An ambitious SSE program will have far-reaching concrete impacts, especially in developing countries that are demanding tools and capacity building, and thus must be implemented in parallel to the SSE resolution efforts.

## **CONTENT PRIORITIES**

Rather than listing second-order priorities, some topics were deemed essential to the UNTFSSSE’s approach to mainstreaming SSE, its principles and practices.

### **Local dimension**

Continue to explore the key role of SSE in localizing SDGs, with a focus on meso and micro-level policy, thus at the local level, mindful of the grass root nature of SSE, and mindful of its potential for realizing South-South cooperation.

Given the copious amount of expertise brought in by the observers on this topic particularly, it is essential that all effort in this direction remains coordinated and participatory. Recommendations on these areas might constitute a major component of the toolkit of the SSE operation program. In particular, these would include issues such as multi-level and multi-actor governance frameworks, integrated planning processes, territorial strategies and resources and services to implement them.

Such multi-level focus would also enhance the relevance of a proposal from SDGs implementation/ localization perspective and allow to explore and strengthen a relation between SSE and Local Economic Development (LED) through common

‘territorial system’ approaches that constitute a recognized driver for SDGs localization.

### **Education**

Education is seen as an important content aspect of the UNTFSSSE’s work, as it is a way to change perceptions on the economy, social relations, business, production, etc. from a very young age, providing an alternative to capitalistic individualism and hyper-competitiveness. The idea must be defined and explored further in a fully collaborative way, especially since as of now there is limited in-house expertise on the topic of education.

## KEY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

As part of essential support activities to sustain the UNTFSSSE's objectives, participants agreed on the following list.

### Survey

Design, execution and publishing of a comprehensive survey to characterize UNTFSSSE's members and observers.

The survey will be composed by a mix of qualitative and quantitative data collection in order to identify information such as: their structures; their actions, activities and programmes in the SSE; the beneficiaries of their activities; their investments; etc.

This effort of profile activities will be important in order to know how they can be leveraged by the Task Force. This survey will also serve to reach out the silent/not so active members of the task force.

### Position paper

Update the [UNTFSSSE Position Paper](#) "Social and Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development" (UNTFSSSE, 2014), which is a key document in presenting the UNTFSSSE's objectives given its extensive evidence on the transformative development potential of SSE.

This document was prepared before the finalization of the 2030 Agenda, therefore it is essential to reconsider SSE and its implications under the lens of the SDGs.

### Communication

A communication strategy is needed both for the knowledge hub managed by UNRISD and the webpage of the UNTFSSSE managed by the Secretariat of the Task Force.

A strategy should be put in place aiming at reshaping the UNTFSSSE [website](#) and turning it into a modernized, dynamic and interactive portal that harmonizes and gives visibility to the most relevant content, initiatives and projects produced and carried out by the Task Force and its members and observers.

### International Labour Conference Discussion

The 337th session of ILO's Governing Body (GB, November 2019) examined possible items on the agenda of the 109th and the 110th International Labour Conference (ILC, 2020 and 2021), which convenes in June every year in Geneva.

The items proposed for these two sessions included a General Discussion on the SSE. While this proposal received strong support from the Workers' Group as well as several regional GB groupings the SSE general discussion was not retained for the agenda of the 109th ILC.

The final decision regarding the agenda of the 110th ILC will be taken by the next ILO GB in March 2020. It is essential to mobilize as many governments as possible in support of SSE proposal. UNTFSSSE members and observers could play an important role in this regard.

### Pact for impact

Another point discussed was the UNTFSSSE's position with respect to the Pact For Impact, an initiative launched by the French High Commissioner for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation.

The Pact for Impact Alliance was presented in July 2019 in Paris and has been discussed at several high-level meetings, including in New York, Madrid, and soon also Strasbourg.

The UNTFSSSE opted to express interest in joining the three proposed working groups (Governance, structuration and financing of the Alliance; Roadmap and commitments; Mobilization) and to closely follow the Pact For Impact's evolution and assess whether it provides interesting opportunities in terms of partnerships and/or States' support.



### About the UNTFSSSE

The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE) aims to raise the visibility of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) within the UN system and beyond. The members and observers of the Task Force have committed to undertake collaborative activities to:

- enhance the recognition of the role of SSE enterprises and organizations in sustainable development;
- promote knowledge of SSE and consolidate SSE networks;
- support the establishment of an enabling institutional and policy environment for SSE;
- ensure coordination of international efforts, and create and strengthen partnerships.

For the full list of members and observers of the UNTFSSSE, please visit: <http://unsse.org/>

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