

▶ ILC 2022 General Discussion on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy

Presentation of the Office Report

May 30, 2022



Background

Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation (No. 193) (June 2002)

"establish and expand a viable and dynamic distinctive sector of the economy, which includes cooperatives, that responds to the social and economic needs of the community."

"A balanced society necessitates the existence of strong public and private sectors, as well as a strong cooperative, mutual and the other social and non-governmental sector."

Social Justice Declaration (June 2008)

"productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises, together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector, are critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities."

Centenary Declaration (June 2019)

"promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy, in order to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all."

Global Call to Action (June 2021)

"recognizing the important role of the private and the public sector and the social and solidarity economy."

GB 341st Session (March 2021)

Placed on the Agenda of the 110th Session of the ILC: Decent work and the social and solidarity economy (general discussion).

▶ The Office report on decent work and the social and solidarity economy is already available in more than a dozen languages

It is organized into five chapters:

- ▶ Chapter 1. The SSE around the world
- ▶ Chapter 2. Contributions to decent work and sustainable development
- ▶ Chapter 3. Relationship with ILO constituents
- ▶ Chapter 4. Office action on the SSE
- ▶ Chapter 5. Decent work and the SSE: Challenges, opportunities and future directions



▶ Report VI

▶ Decent work and the social and solidarity economy

International Labour Conference
110th Session, 2022



▶ The Office report proposes a universal definition of the SSE for discussion

The proposed definition is:

- ▶ Derived from the **values**, **principles** and **organizational forms** of the SSE based on a review of SSE legislation and policy around the world.
- ▶ Informed by the most recent conceptual work on SSE statistics and thus readily operationalizable.
- ▶ Intended to be flexible and to accommodate diverse situations in different national contexts.

A separate legal compendium presents and synthesizes the specific articles in the SSE legal texts on the values, principles, organizational forms, definition and policy measures.



▶ The Office Report identifies the set of values and principles characterizing the SSE

The SSE puts into practice a set of **values** embracing:

- ▶ Care for people and the planet
- ▶ Egalitarianism
- ▶ Interdependence
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Self-governance

A set of SSE **principles** operationalizes the set of SSE values:

- ▶ Social or public purpose
- ▶ Prohibition or limitation of profit distribution
- ▶ Democratic and participatory governance
- ▶ Voluntary cooperation
- ▶ Autonomy and independence



▶ The proposed definition builds on SSE values, principles and organizational types

- ▶ The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) encompasses institutional units with a social or public purpose, engaged in economic activities based on voluntary cooperation, democratic and participatory governance, autonomy and independence, whose rules prohibit or limit the distribution of profit.
- ▶ SSE units may include **cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups** and other units operating in accordance with **SSE values and principles** in the formal and the informal economies.

The report presents the situation of the SSE in different regions and highlights laws, policies and measurement issues

Policy and legislation

- ▶ Existing and forthcoming policies and laws related to the SSE, including those concerning specific SSE organizational forms

Statistics

- ▶ Lack of internationally agreed guidelines on SSE statistics
- ▶ Statistical initiatives in some countries and regions, including by SSE vertical structures
- ▶ Statistical reports on specific SSE organizational forms by their international organizations
- ▶ Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives adopted at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2018
- ▶ Conceptual work emerging from the UNTFSSSE to inform future efforts on SSE statistics

▶ The SSE contributes to decent work and sustainable development

Decent Work Agenda in general

- ▶ Employment and income generation
- ▶ Social protection and the provision of social services
- ▶ Rights at work
- ▶ Social dialogue

Selected topics of particular relevance

- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Transition to the formal economy
- ▶ Crisis prevention and recovery, and promotion of peace and resilience
- ▶ Just digital transition
- ▶ Just transition to environmental sustainability



The Office has supported constituents in SSE-related areas of work for more than a century

- ▶ ILO's Cooperatives Unit (ILO COOP) was established in 1920 by a decision of its Third Governing Body.
- ▶ It has worked on advancing cooperatives for over a century in responding to Constituents' requests in partnership with cooperative organizations.
- ▶ In the past decade the ILO has been developing a work portfolio on the wider SSE.
- ▶ The Office uses a "one ILO" approach in incorporating SSE units into its programmes.



▶ Decent work and the SSE: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

- ▶ Despite the growing momentum around the SSE, **significant challenges** remain, including with respect to policy, legislation and regulations, financial and support institutions and services, as well as governance, capacity and knowledge-base issues.
- ▶ A **conducive environment** for the SSE should be developed through inclusive and equitable social dialogue.
- ▶ Based on the conclusions of the general discussion, the Office is expected to strengthen its services promoting **decent work and the SSE for a human-centred future of work** in response to Members' realities and needs and in partnership with SSE stakeholders.



► Suggested points for discussion (1/2)

- In line with international labour standards, what should be a universal definition of the social and solidarity economy, taking into account its values, principles, and organizational forms?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities for the social and solidarity economy to advance decent work and sustainable development, to contribute to sustainable economic growth and to achieve more inclusive and sustainable economies and societies? How can the social and solidarity economy further contribute to decent work, full, productive and freely chosen employment and improved living standards for all?

► Suggested points for discussion (2/2)

- Taking into account the history and nature of the social and solidarity economy, what is the role of the governments and social partners in promoting its contribution to a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient?
- Building on the century-long experience of the Office in supporting the ILO Constituents, in partnership with the social and solidarity economy actors, what priority actions and measures should the Office take to promote the social and solidarity economy for a human-centred future of work?