

Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity  
Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation

GSEF Global Virtual Forum  
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Report format

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<b>Title of the session:</b>	Why does SSE matter for the Agenda 2030 and the recovery post Covid-19?
<b>Type of session</b>	Special Session
<b>Language:</b>	English and Spanish
<b>Date:</b>	21/10/2020
<b>Time:</b>	5.30-7.00 pm (CEST time)
<b>Participants</b>	Approx. 300

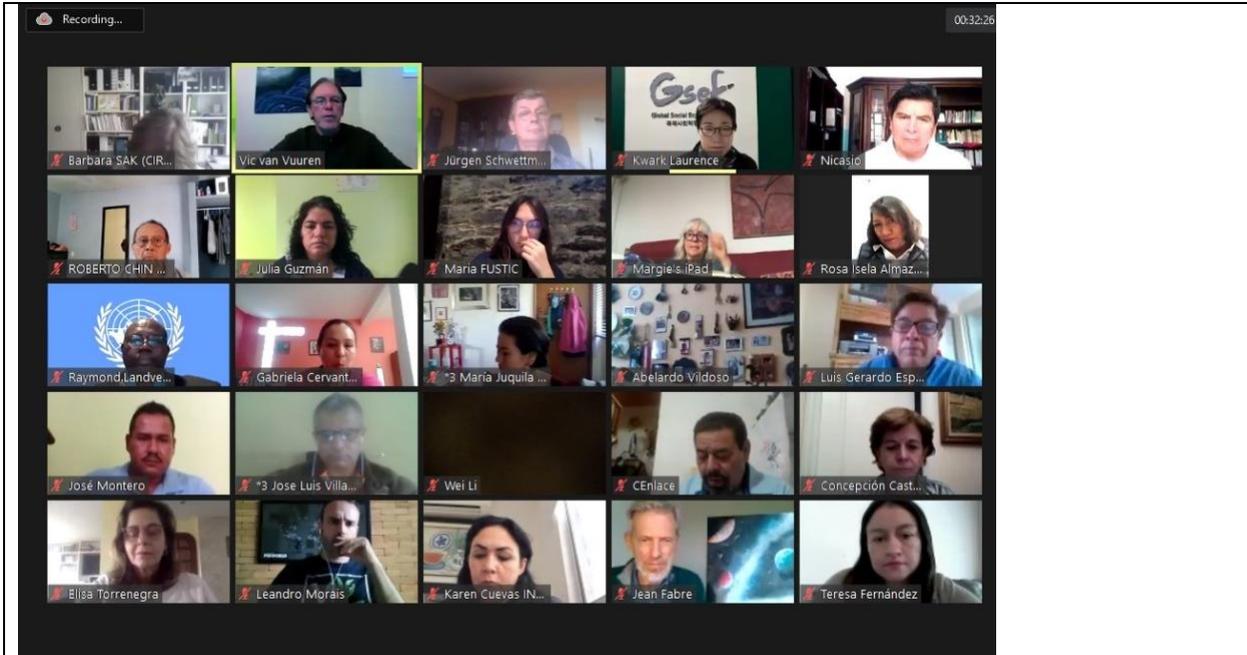
**Name of moderator**

Vic van Vuuren, Chair, UNTFSSSE / Director of Enterprises Department, ILO

**Speakers**

Laurence Kwark, Secretary General, GSEF (host)  
Raymond Landveld, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD  
Yvon Poirier, Special Advisor – Advocacy and Governance, RIPSS  
Jürgen Schwettmann, International consultant and ex-officio at ILO  
Elisa Torrenegra, Co-President, SSE International Forum  
Ilcheong Yi, Senior Research Coordinator, UNRISD  
Barbara Sak, Managing Director, CIRIEC International

Screenshots of the zoom session



## Summary of presentations:

1. **Ms. Laurence Kwark, Secretary General at GSEF** opened the event reflecting on the importance of promoting national and international recognition and global visibility of SSE as a key strategy to localize SDGs. She added that it is important to create spaces where it is possible to discuss strategies and visions on how to build together a global SSE movement as path for transformation to face “Great Challenges, with Greater Solidarity”.
2. **Mr. Vic van Vuuren, Chair of UNTFSSSE and Director of Enterprises Department at ILO** moderated the session. The moderator gave an overview on the impact of covid-19 on the world of work and emphasized why and how a better recovery should focus on tackling the pre-existing factors that worsen the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of including SSE in devising reconstruction measures. Moreover, he introduced the work of the UNTFSSSE in raising visibility on SSE and creating partnerships at the global level. He mentioned that the different speakers would present ongoing joint action plan 2020-2022 of the UNTFSSSE and its main priority objectives, identified jointly by the different members and observers of the task force.
3. **Mr. Raymond Landveld, Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD and Mr. Yvon Poirier, Special Advisor on Advocacy and Governance at RIPESS** highlighted that at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Summit in September 2020 the conclusion was that we were not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Heads of State and Government endorsed the “Decade of Action and delivery of the SDGs” launched by UN Secretary General. The existing problems signify business opportunities, which can be taken by entrepreneurs, MSMEs and SSE operating entities. As a people-centred and environmental sensitive economic model, SSE has enormous potential to help accelerate and localize the achievement of the SDGs across all goals. It is observed a need for policy guidance through the intergovernmental processes and increased support from member states. Intergovernmental outcomes, such as UNGA resolutions, can help Member states to share experience among each other on SSE, leading to increased benefits to their societies and economies. In this regard, SSEOs can be excellent vehicle to help in the implementation of the UN SG socio-economic response to Covid-19. Moreover, a UN resolution on SSE would fill a significant gap left in the 2030 Agenda, since the role of SSE has not been sufficiently recognized.
4. **Mr. Jürgen Schwettmann, International consultant and ex-officio at ILO and Ms. Elisa Torrenegra, Co-President at the SSE International Forum** underlined the urgency to have development cooperation programs unlocking - especially in developing economies – the potential of SSE institutions in playing a transformative role in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and be a powerful tool to mitigate the impact of crises. In particular, the UNTFSSSE designed the joint project “SSE-for-SDGs”, which aims at raising awareness about, and enhance the visibility of, the SSE within the UN system and beyond especially in its contributions to SDGs. Moreover, it focuses on supporting a conducive environment for SSE and the formulation of national SSE policies and laws in the three pilot countries and strengthening the capacity of SSE support institutions in three pilot countries. It also will initiate concrete SSE projects and

structures at the local level in some countries and contribute significantly to the “Delivering as One” approach of the United Nations by generating programme outcomes through multi-agency arrangements.

5. **Mr. Ilcheong Yi, Senior Research Coordinator at UNRISD and Ms. Barbara Sak, Managing Director at CIRIEC International** reflected on the importance to promote the systematic processing, synthesizing and analyzing of contents related to SSE for the SDGs, along with the production of knowledge on the same subject. Through the Knowledge Hub for SDGs, as joint project of the UNTFSE, it has been possible to create a global platform of SSE knowledge and experience with a focus on the SSE for the SDGs and to invest in the communication and network among policymakers, practitioners and scholars. In the future, it will be crucial to keep strengthening the network and partnership with SSE players within and outside UN system and securing financial stability for long-term plans for research and communication in this area.

#### Answers to the GUIDING QUESTION:

##### How to transform the present and build a better future from the SSE?

- Promote national and international recognition and global visibility of SSE as a key strategy to localize SDGs;
- Work with governments and local governments in order to co-build public policies in strategic socio-economic sectors for better recovering from the crisis;
- Advocate for reconstruction measures focusing on the causes of this crisis and with long term perspectives allowing the government to align them with the broader vision of Agenda 2030;
- Overcome fragmentation in the sector and promote production on knowledge and sharing of produced knowledge around SSE as tool to achieve SDGs (e.g. Knowledge Hub);
- Implement TC projects unlocking the potential of SSEOs as tool of achieving decent work, by reinforcing national enabling environment, legal and policy frameworks and SSE ecosystems – especially in developing economies (e.g. SSE-for-SDGs project);
- Support the process around the recognition of the SSE as one of the actor to play a role in the achievement of an inclusive and sustainable development (e.g. through a UN resolution on SSE);
- The priority should be on education and how to engage youth in be part of the solution.

### Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:

#### **Vic Van Vuuren:**

- How to transform the present and build a better future from the SSE (to all)?
- What will be the focus in terms of work for your organizations in the coming months (to SSE umbrella organizations' representatives)?
- What can UN do better (to UN agencies' representatives)?

#### **Judith Hitchman - RIPESS**

- I am concerned by one aspect of Covid and the general UN response and would really like the speakers to react please: UN Member States operate on a donor /recipient basis. Yet the 148 million job losses mentioned and the domino effect of job loss (especially by daily waged workers in the agribusiness sector and many others concerns the 'developed' countries as much or even more than the developing ones. Food banks are unable to cope with to 40% increase in demand for support for people. So how can we break the donor/recipient UN paradigm to address this through SSE?

-The FAO has introduced a new partnership initiative called Hand in Hand. It will be country led-, and country owned and evidence based. How can we use this in a bottom up SSE approach? Given that the objective is to improve and move forward on SDG 1 and 2 as well as 13, based on the 3 key pillars of social, environmental and economic aspects... Any ideas? Possible for a programmatic approach?

#### **Margie Mendell**

How to continue to work beyond boundaries? Barbara mentioned the unions and large mutuals. We are in crisis now but the future requires alliances between « old » and new movements; between large and established and small and fragile. .Any comments?

#### **Javier Blázquez :**

Could a platform be created where public policies (municipalities or local governors) that have been successful in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic would be shared?

#### **Marco Vinicio:**

How does the social and solidarity economy impact on consumption towards large companies and items whose economic price generates inflationary problems?

**Add summary or conclusion of the moderator at the end of the session in case there was no closing remarks per presenter/speaker**

The moderator and the Host concluded that it is necessary to build a dialogue at different levels (local, national, regional, international), with all the different actors in the society (individuals, policy makers, etc.) in order to ensure that more and more people, institutions and policy makers are aware that another economy is possible. This will allow increasing the visibility of the role of SSE in achieving and localizing the SDGs and including it in the different recovery measures in this time of crises and in the development plans.

From a UN perspective, it is important to work and act as one UN, trying together to find solutions to the very complex and multi-layers problems the world is facing. Moreover, it is important to dialogue constantly with the civil society organizations.

It is vital to invest in education and on the youth. It is crucial to engage in dialogue with youngsters: *“as young student myself, we learn so much about issues/problems, but not about SOLUTIONS. Educating about SSE can fill that gap”*.

It will be crucial to keep jointly working on strategies to promote and mainstream SSE into the national and global agendas, considering that SSE is often not sufficiently recognized by national and international decision makers. The UNTFSSE will keep doing it through the implementation of the different priority objectives, as well explained by the different speakers.

The UNTFSSE will keep going with its work and activities but it would like to be as much as inclusive as possible. So, spaces of dialogues - as the ones created by GSEF - are key and need to be continued.