

**MEXICO CITY 2021**  
GLOBAL SOCIAL  
ECONOMY FORUM

## GSEF Global Virtual Forum

### Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity

Power of Community and SSE as a  
Path for Transformation

**110 countries, 35 sessions, three languages**  
**Be part of the most important Forum**

**Everyone for good living**

### Plenary 5 Session report

Título de la sesión:	Social Economy as a Mechanism to solve the Great Global Challenges from the Local and Territorial Perspective
Tipo de sesión:	Plenary
Fecha:	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2020
Hora:	8:30 a.m.
Idioma(s):	Spanish - English - French
Participantes (número de personas conectadas):	494 (Zoom, 10:29 hrs)

#### Name of the moderator:

**Laurence Kwark**, Secretary General of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), Korea.

#### Name of the panelists:

- 1. Ariel Guarco**, President of the International Cooperative Alliance, Argentina.
- 2. Madani Koumare**, President RIPESS Africa - RAESS, Mali.
- 3. Ulla Engelmann**, Head of Unit for Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy at the European Commission, Brussels.
- 4. Antonella Noya**, Senior Policy Analyst; Head of Unit, Social Economy, OECD, France.
- 5. Vic van Vuuren**, Director of the Enterprise Department, ILO; UNTFSSSE, Switzerland.
- 6. Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin**, Gatineau Alkaline, Canada.

**Introduction: Mariana Flores Mayén, Executive Director of Institutional Representation, General Coordination of Advisors and International Affairs,**

With the cooperation of:

## Mexico City.

**Moderator: Laurence Kwark**

• **“Collective power can lead us towards a transformative experience within the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)”**.

- SSE can be promoted in all sectors and in all corners of the world to reduce violence, to strengthen resilience and peace in our societies, to embrace democracy, to promote employment and access to health; all these elements are part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDA).
- "The SSE allows the scope of 2030 Agenda so that no one is left behind."
- The consolidation of the SSE as an alternative development model can be achieved through the exchange of good practices through cooperation and networking among different actors, public-private partnerships, much stronger ecosystems and by achieving better funding for initiatives that can be replicated to extend the positive aspects of these experiences.
- Strengthening the SSE experience beyond the local and territorial level requires better management and collaboration between civil society, regional and international actors interested in economic and social transformation in order to overcome obstacles together.

With the cooperation of:

 **Finanzgruppe**  
Sparkassenstiftung für  
internationale Kooperation

 **cooperación  
alemana**  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

- "The global and local levels are not in opposition, but complementary and the SSE can be an engine to achieve the 2030 Agenda and overcome the COVID-19 crisis and future ones".

### Round 1

- From your organization's perspective, how do you see the SSE as a mechanism for solving global challenges? How does your organization work towards that?

### Round 2

- Which is the contribution of the SSE to local economic development in order to achieve the ODS?

### • Ariel Guarco

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- The International Cooperative Alliance is composed of 315 organizations with presence in more than 110 countries. In the world there are approximately 3 million cooperatives with more than 1.2 billion associated members.
- These cooperatives have been born from the needs and aspirations of the people in the communities and their territories and are the result of local efforts.
- The cooperatives know that the possibilities for their local development are conditioned by the rules of the game at the national and global level. The task of the International Cooperative Alliance has been to contribute from a global network to improve the conditions of local cooperatives.
- If the SSE is to be the way to face global challenges, an effort must be made to raise awareness of the need for rules of the game that favour models of economic organization.
- Local initiative is not enough if we really want to build a new real economy, built from local aspirations.
- We must improve access to financing. If the world wants a Social and Solidarity Economy, it must invest in it.
- We must promote and propose that funds aimed at financing care projects, rural development, and essential public services, among other areas, be directed primarily to companies whose governance guarantees their adjustment to sustainable development.
- The rules of the game of the global financial system must be discussed. If we do

With the cooperation of:



not recompose the relationship of the financial system to the needs of local development and, in particular, if we do not subordinate it to the SDGs, it will be very difficult for the SSE to contribute significantly to global challenges.

- We need standards that facilitate our development; we need to generate standards that guarantee the development of the sector, which requires technical capacity to identify the problems and solutions, and political capacity to build social alliances to accompany the proposed work.
- Let us transform this crisis into an opportunity to build consensus on the need to construct rules that do not discriminate against us.
- In this way, we will be making fundamental contributions so that all the intercooperation efforts that we make on a global scale have a positive impact on each location, each country and each region.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

• **“When the SDGs were approved, the concept of development changed. The goal is not only to bring development to everyone but to change the way we develop.”**

- Otherwise the planet is not enough.
- The SSE must be a way to change the development model from the local level, not only to include the weakest.
- The debate must be taken to the local level, especially within the SSE.
- The SSE must be a way to change the development model from the local level not only to include the weakest.
- That's why you have to ask yourself the right questions. Some might be: Where are we putting our savings? In institutions that finance local development in speculative funds; where do we buy? In organizations where consumers can prioritize environmental and health care or in chains managed by oligopolies; Who will be in charge of changing the energy matrix? The one who is thinking about the business or the user who is in each territory and has a logic of service; Will the circular economy be the result of competition or collaboration? Who do we work for? For a stranger who only seeks profit or to meet the needs of our community.
- These questions concern all citizens, not just the most vulnerable.
- We must show that SSE is a necessity for everyone.
- “It is not only a matter of promoting solidarity with the weakest, but of promoting cooperation as a paradigm of economic organization indispensable for

With the cooperation of:



achieving sustainable development”.

- The challenge is to bring the SDGs to the local level and demonstrate that the way to achieve it is the SSE.
- "The SSE is the best model for all of us to take care of ourselves and the planet."
- The idea is to promote cooperation as a paradigm of economic organization that is indispensable for achieving sustainable development.
- Take the SDGs to the local level and demonstrate that the way to do it is the SSE.
- The SSE is not just an ambulance that picks up the injured and leaves other models behind, but it is the most appropriate model for us to take care of ourselves and the planet.

### • **Madani Koumare**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Round**

- According to the World Bank, the SSE will fall from 1.5 to 2%, the largest economic contraction in recent years.
- This situation will affect the world, but mainly the countries of Africa and Asia, mainly in terms of food security, in the growth of violence rates and even warlike conflicts.
- There will be security crises, wars and cross-border criminality. They threaten production, education and increase unemployment and forced displacement.
- The SSE brings equitable growth through its power to empower populations to participate in the economy. Social entrepreneurship, inclusive social finance, support for cooperatives, mutual health insurance companies and associations of displaced persons have contributed to the reduction of inequalities and economic growth.
- The SSE contributes to sustainable development, an example of which are the African countries that have not been so affected by the current crisis. Africa has benefited from the actions of transport and food distribution cooperatives, among others, as support to governments to ensure social protection of the population.
- The SSE is a priority approach for taking up the challenges imposed on humanity at the global level.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

- **“SSE organizations contribute to a more humane, inclusive and sustainable**

With the cooperation of:



## development”.

- SSE organizations can propose models for transformations for the advancement of low-income populations.
- The common element is that we need a holistic approach and participatory functioning so that real problems are planted and analyzed, and that we can arrive at consensual and lasting responses.
- The means and resources exist to implement SSE practices and to achieve economic, social and cultural development in the territories where the SSE operates.
- Governments need to integrate these values into their programs and collaborate with these actors.
- When we work on SSE, we can solve these problems because every inhabitant will be able to participate in a local community and generate income.
- The SSE in the territories is synonymous with social peace, job creation, so that young people stay in their regions and prevent clandestine migration which is a danger to their future.
- We have learned a lot and are developing strategic alliances with communities so that planning takes into account the SSE and goes beyond, so that public policies integrate the SSE.
- Countries need to put pressure on governments to act in ways that are conducive to SSE.

## • Ulla Engelmann

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- The European Commission is working on a Program for the next seven years, as well as on the presentation of a comprehensive recovery package in which there is a significant participation of the 27 member countries of the European Union. This package will be analyzing the alternatives to get out of the current crisis in both the short and long term, as well as future impacts.
- Many member states are trying to include SSE as part of their national recovery plans. So, we already see that the SSE and its actors have contributed to the recovery from the crisis by offering innovative solutions.
- The SSE can help address crises because it promotes sustainable and inclusive economic models.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, we have tried to collect the best practices with

With the cooperation of:



in the SSE to see how they are combating COVID-19.

- By sharing success stories, we can go beyond the local level to the global arena.
- Also, the so-called European alliance industrial clusters have been created to face the pandemic, to which the actors of the SSE have been invited to share their ideas and to be able to join forces.
- If we want to have more visibility, more influence from the SSE and that can go beyond our local economy, this has to be done.
- We have to approach traditional companies, try to learn from their examples.
- The circular economy is being promoted a lot and local companies have a lot to say about it.
- The SSE can help bring about the ecological, digital transformation, and that we can arrive at an SSE action plan that is part of what we are developing in a co-creation process that we will publish in the second half of 2021.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- The SSE is very important, which must be implemented at the local level, but it is a type of participation that is unique at the local level, citizens must participate and help.
- **We create SSE regions, where we unite local and regional authorities, actors of the SSE. Trust is the first step to good cooperation, we provide funds, resources for SSE missions.**
- We have a renovation phase, what is proposed is to create accessible housing and we will count on the SSE to participate in these initiatives to change the situation at the local level.

## • Antonella Noya

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- The OECD launched the Global Action Project for the SSE.
- The SSE has always been a mechanism to face great challenges, no matter if it is at the local or global level, this has existed and will continue to exist beyond the crisis.
- The crisis has made the role of the SSE in facing the challenges more visible, but this is not new; it has demonstrated that it has solid and innovative global alternatives for solutions, framed by solidarity, cooperation and responsibility.
- With the work that has been done and taking into account the current economic

With the cooperation of:



and social reality and the crisis, the SSE has become more than ever a crucial actor. Because the crisis demands a solid global response and new solutions that take advantage of solidarity, cooperation and responsibility, these are the values that inspire the SSE.

- The SSE and its organizations are in a privileged position to contribute to solutions and to respond to crises.
- How SSE organizations and models can lead us to rethink and confront our economic and social problems.
- **Since the beginning of the crisis, the SSE has played two fundamental roles: a) The path of correction of the errors of the past. b) The role of the SSE to inspire and transform is based on the capacity of SSE organizations to innovate, to experiment, to create more sustainable and incisive models with much more responsible practices that can lead to the transformation of the economic system. This is how they can inspire other actors.**
- At the local and territorial level SSE organizations have shown a lot of resilience because their strength is their understanding of the localities, they work locally with other actors.
- The focus should be on strengthening social coalitions to create more economic opportunities and empower citizens to become architects of their own future.
- The path to recovery.
- For years, the OECD has helped policy makers strengthen their ecosystem to have more SSE organizations. We are working with the European Commission to explore its regulatory framework, to enable greater participation of SSE actors and to ensure that their contributions help to overcome global challenges.
- The global action launched by the OECD supports policy makers to strengthen their ecosystem and to join a larger number of organizations.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- Before the adoption of the ODS, the SSE already contributed to the development of the local economy in many dimensions that now correspond to different SDGs.
- Poverty reduction, hunger reduction, health improvement, quality of education, promotion of more inclusion, sustainable economy, all these objectives are related to SSE, which shows that before the establishment of the ODS the principles of SSE were already pioneering in different areas.
- Possibly one of the most visible impacts of SSE and its organizations for the SDGs

With the cooperation of:

 **Finanzgruppe**  
Sparkassenstiftung für  
internationale Kooperation

 **cooperación  
alemana**  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



could be on decent work and economic development.

- We need to create the conditions for SSE to be available to all.
- The contributions of the SSE to economic and inclusive development can go far beyond the generation of decent jobs.
- There are many contributions in different areas of sustainable development and for SDGs.
- It is important to better monitor the contributions of the SSE and how they are contributing to the SDGs.

## • Vic Van Vuuren

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- The world has been affected by the pandemic, one of its effects has been the loss of jobs in the face of many business closures. It is estimated that this phenomenon reaches 490 million jobs lost worldwide.
- It is time to reflect and rethink the need to put people at the center of our priorities, that is what the SSE is all about.
- We cannot work in isolation, we all have to collaborate creating the necessary environment and community, we must have a holistic approach.
- Governments and their partners within society need to better understand the SSE and how it can benefit people, the economy, the environment.
- By better understanding the SSE, governments will be better positioned to create an enabling environment that strengthens the developing world.
- **“It is time for the SSE to be part of the national strategies and not to be relegated, it has to be a central part of the national strategy.”**
- It is time for regional bodies to adopt SSE and make it visible, only when that happens, we will see an increase in SSE activities to achieve the impact that the SDGs seeks. Social enterprises must be included in all recovery processes, as well as in the respective packages for their growth, development and consolidation.
- It is time to learn lessons and seek sustainable development in the post-pandemic period.
- The SSE must be key to putting human beings as a priority, above any other interest.
- The SSE has many solutions to share, it has many valuable proposals that the world needs to hear.

With the cooperation of:



- The only thing that is missing is that governments adopt this challenge and make this discussion visible, we depend on everyone.
- Make it our challenge to keep sharing information, keep trying to get our issues on national agendas.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- The UN Working Group has identified 5 areas, one of which is local and economic development.
- To better promote solidarity requires a better discourse to communicate how the SSE works, better training and educational resources are required at all levels so that people understand the dynamics of the SSE and its benefits.
- There are some fundamental principles that have not been implemented at the local level.
- If we are going to promote the concept of solidarity, we need a better branding, a better brand, to understand how the SSE works.
- Better training and educational resources are needed at all levels so that people understand the dynamics of this type of economy and what the benefits are for having it.
- The participation process becomes crucial.
- Another priority of our UN working group has been the development of knowledge platforms. In each platform we will have best practices for a better understanding of the SSE, easily accessible to anyone locally who wants more information.
- This SSE proposal for SDGs projects is oriented to the local level so that there will be local and economic development processes, so that these plans will be updated and there will be a much wider success than they have had so far.

## • Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- He has just developed a series of public policies to promote and make the SSE part of his city's strategy.
- To us **"The SSE is a tool for transforming institutions"**.
- In fact, this week is when the Gatineau City Council will approve a public SE policy to transform the institution.
- We wanted to create alliances between the administration and citizen initiatives.

With the cooperation of:



To get citizens into the city. The idea was to support citizen action within the economy.

- We did not want to create new programs, we thought we would change our way of governing, of managing the city.
- The idea was to create another culture of partnership, of collaboration with citizens.
- We then began to examine each of the leverages we had to favor collective action: investments, infrastructure, the way we had suppliers, etc.
- We were inspired by what they were doing in Europe, in the management of public policies by external citizens' organizations.
- Citizens were accompanied to encourage work between the government and citizens' organizations.
- The most powerful thing is to transform the government so that it understands and connects to citizens' needs.
- “In our city we are going to put the social economy at the center of the economy”.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- The main contribution of the SSE is that it gives citizens confidence and economic power. This is what makes the SSE one of the most powerful responses to the mistakes of capitalism and one of the best tools for achieving the SDGs.
- It creates stronger communities, provides essential services, and empowers citizens so that action makes sense to citizens.
- “Thanks to the presence of citizens, economic action becomes a search for the common good.”
- The SSE totally changes the situation, citizens become actors, partners, and this is the fundamental contribution of the SSE.
- The fact of making the whole political and economic system evolve in favor of the citizens.

## Conclusions, the guiding question was read:

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

### Laurence Kwark

- Some rules must be changed, especially the international financial systems

With the cooperation of:



must change to make the SSE a solution to the great challenges, but strength must be maintained at the local level.

- We are living through an unprecedented crisis that has put humanity at risk without yet having a universal response or solution, so the SSE must contribute to this collective response to solve problems.
- It is important to have greater visibility and reach out to other actors at other levels such as the national and regional levels.
- It is important to use innovative methodologies to create a type of communication that allows the sharing of local practices.
- It highlights the role of the SSE in mitigating the failures of the current system.
- It is important to build more efficient strategies, for which it is necessary that governments and legislators are part of the planning that considers the SSE.
- Visibility, awareness, and education are especially important to consolidate the SSE and have sustainable ecosystems.
- It is essential to return power to the citizens since economic and democratic evolution must come from the citizens.
- Likewise, economic power must be returned to citizens.
- **“We must not preach to those who are already convinced, we must continue to talk to people outside our sphere.”**

### Ariel Guarco

#### • **The SSE must act locally and globally.**

- At the global level, we must try to influence changes in some of the rules of the game; we must discuss the orientation of financing, modify the architecture of the global financial system, and change the rules in each country so that they effectively favor the SSE models.
- At the local level, where we carry out our main task and where the SSE was born and is present, we must advance on those spaces of the economy that are indispensable in terms of care for people and the environment, the Circular Economy, the Green Economy, the Care Economy, the digital economy, agro-ecology, that is where hope must be placed. And that is where we must move the SSE models, but for that we must innovate.
- At the global level, this type of meeting, a greater linkage between organizations interested in sustainable development.
- At the local level, networks of cooperative municipalities are being developed

With the cooperation of:



in Argentina.

- If we work hard at uniting and creating these alliances for sustainable development with a local base, but with a global view, we will be very prepared to face the present and future challenges.

### **Madani Koumare**

- The failure to achieve the development goals is due to the failure to consider the inclusive development approach such as SSE.
- COVID-19 showed that no country and no government - however powerful - can face humanity's existential challenges alone, and there is not yet a global plan of response.
- To adopt an international scientific position that encourages them to be visible, to be humanitarian.
- **We need our main pillar to be ethics, solidarity, and transparency in international politics; this should lead to the adoption of a new human and universal order based on SSE principles to take on global challenges.**
- For SSE organizations it is important that we become true actors who propose a radical change to take on global challenges with holistic responses.
- "Our fate is linked, and we have to come together to collectively create conditions for human existence."

### **Ulla Engelmann**

- It highlights the need to make the SSE visible not only in the conventional circle but also at the local, regional, and national levels for the development of policies.
- Also, the need for visibility of this sector.
- More innovative approaches and methodologies are needed.
- **They need to work together; the entire ecosystem must be involved for the strategic process to really work.**
- Proximity and the social economy are important for the European recovery plan.
- It is important that this process be a process of co-creation used for the elaboration of new policies, considering new visions and really promoting discussions or talks with all the actors so that these policies can be implemented and lead to a change and a better transition.

With the cooperation of:



## Antonella Noya

- Roles and responsibilities that the SSE is fulfilling and can continue to expand further:
- Prevention. Creating prevention approaches that can reduce the negative external effects of economic entities.
- Mitigation. To compensate for the failures of the current system. For better reconstruction, it is essential that SSE be part of recovery strategies and planning.
- Transformation, as it can influence different dimensions to act differently and do business differently.
- Inspiration. It can have an influence on different dimensions and can help us to act differently.
- **What SSE organizations need to fulfill these important roles: more visibility, more awareness, and an educational and cultural change so that SE can be a natural choice for consumers, but at the same time for entrepreneurs.**
- The SSE must be at the center of this great panorama.
- There is also a need for evaluation and recognition of the added value of the SSE and its positive contributions to society.
- It is also indispensable that legislators contribute to improving the ecosystem at all levels and create alliances among all actors.

## Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin

- Economic and democratic renewal is going to come from the cities, it is where citizens feel they have the capacity to change their city.
- **The strength of the SSE is that it gives economic power to citizens, but it also humanizes local governments to be more powerful and influence what happens in the rest of the world.**
- Local governments are becoming more powerful and approaching national and global bodies, which are having a hard time finding the right answers in the current context.
- “Renewal will come from the local level and from the SSE as it is a tool for politicians to change institutions from within.”

With the cooperation of:

 **Finanzgruppe**  
Sparkassenstiftung für  
internationale Kooperation

 **cooperación  
alemana**  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



GOBIERNO DE MEXICO

BIENESTAR

INAES



MEANS DIFFERENT GLOBAL SOCIAL ECONOMY FORUM

Final event: GSEF Global Virtual Forum

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



With the cooperation of:



With the cooperation of:

