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GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM



PATHWAYS AND CHALLENGES TO ENHANCE THE SSE

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GSEF2021 GLOBAL FORUM

**Local governments and Social Economy:
co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy**

Mexico City

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TO ENHANCE THE SSE**

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Local governments and Social Economy:
co-creation of paths for a green and
inclusive economy

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This is a public program which is not connected to any
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other than social development.

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Welcome

We have reached a crossroads. Humankind is facing significant challenges that require special attention to overcome. The social and climate crises are forcing us to rethink the current dynamics of our economies, and as a result, develop strategies at the heart of which we place nature and life, based, indeed, on solidarity and cooperation.

It is necessary to implement a new conception of “development” that contextualizes relationships and social interactions. An idea in which human beings and the environment are deemed more important than the aggravated accumulation of wealth, and in which the strength of communities prevails. It is time to revalue the strength of collectives, of groups based on circuits of cooperation able to respond differently to crises. These responses must be based on justice and solidarity. In other words, creating a different type of economy.

This document is a recap of the mosaic of ideas which arose during the dialogues which, full of passion and endeavor, were heard in the different sessions of the fifth edition of the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF2021) held in Mexico City in a hybrid format under the title **“Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy.”**

With a desire to share experiences, develop strategies, increase the visibility of challenges, and build pathways, GSEF2021 was a space for dialogue which allowed for multistakeholder and multisectoral interactions. Each of the panelists and attendees’ interventions interweaved a firm and resounding call to work actively to enhance the Social and Solidarity Economy at the international level.

In what way can different sectors and actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) co-create solutions at the local level to tackle global challenges? This is a question that definitively challenges us to develop strategies in our fields of action to promote the Social and Solidarity Economy as a viable option that responds to the current social, environmental, and economic challenges.

To showcase the talent and knowledge generated during the GSEF2021, you will find the recordings of each of the thematic sessions available on our website www.gsef2021.com. This document gathers

a selection of the interventions by the more than 300 panelists on the pathways and challenges of the SSE in the world.

We have specially prepared for you the inputs from Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa, and we encourage you to discover them over the next few lines. We have sought at all times to comprehensively reflect the tone and form of the remarks delivered, except for some simple editorial adjustments to produce a document providing a pleasant and fluent read.

This is how we have made this document available for you, and we hope that reading it will be a trigger for action, implementation and resolution of the issues at hand based on a different vision. A vision which contributes to the creation of new realities and, thus, new societies.

Mexico City, November 2021



Introduction by the GSEF Secretariat

Laurence Kwark

Secretary General of the Global Social Economy Forum

Warm greetings from the GSEF Secretariat.

I would like to welcome everyone to the 5th edition of the GSEF2021 Forum, Mexico City. There were round table discussions and learning sessions, discussions and debates at this forum hosted for the first time in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. GSEF2021 was a space to link visions from all around the world on important topical issues for co-creation and co-operation between governments and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors on the ground. These synergies will allow us to together take steps toward a future in which no one is left behind.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the distance, GSEF2021 is a celebration of our lives of struggle, work and hope based on the values of the Social and Solidarity Economy. We are far away from each other but united by the same spirit, the same hope, and the same determination to make tomorrow a better day. At a time of great changes, we gather to share best practices, experiences, and innovation.

As part of the preparatory activities for the Forum over the past year, a number of events and meetings toward GSEF2021 were held. This was only possible thanks to the tremendous dedication and collaboration of the National Institute of Social Economy in Mexico (INAES) and the Government of Mexico City. This allowed GSEF2021 to provide opportunities for all actors, including governments of all levels, civil society organizations, cooperatives and all types of SSE organizations, as well as for individual stakeholders, academia and international organizations and policy-makers to meet for the first time in the history of the GSEF in a hybrid format and share experiences, challenges, solutions and visions for a future based on the principles and values of the SSE.

We might be quicker on our own, but together we can go further and become stronger. GSEF2021 is proof of this and becomes the dream of many. With so many new challenges to face on the way, we experienced these five days as daily gifts to discover the passions, peaceful coexistence, and wisdom of the SSE actors, and together we are building the path for a better future.

The spirit of solidarity is here, and each and every one of you is a testament to that. We will continue down our path and beyond GSEF2021. We hope that everyone remains in good health and spirit. We will see you at GSEF2023 in Dakar.

Sincerely, Laurence Kwark.



Presentation by the National Institute of Social Economy

Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier
*Director General of INAES and President of the
GSEF2021 Organizing Committee*

In the joint efforts of the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), the Government of Mexico City and the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the GSEF2021 Forum was held. From Mexico, this forum provided a space to increase visibility and to promote strategies which seek out good living in societies.

Today more than ever it is necessary to rethink the current dynamics of our economies. The Social and Solidarity Economy drives community development with productive inclusion and an ecological perspective. The articulation of this must emerge from communities and their members though, hence the importance of engaging local governments. The Global Social Economy Forum was due to be held in Autumn 2020. However, just when we thought everything was ready to go, the COVID-19 health crisis forced us to consider new scenarios. Thus, in 2020, foraying into the universe of digital platforms, we held what would become the prelude to this prestigious event.

We met this year in a hybrid event, and it is extraordinary that Mexico City became the global hub of the Social Economy for five days. A space of interaction to learn about the approaches and experiences on different continents which showcase the certainty that this economic model provides in achieving a better future.

It is with great happiness then that I must say that we have reached large audiences, both in person and virtually, as, contrary to what is thought, the Social Economy is a significant part of the international economy. Globally, there is substantial engagement - something to which I was able to bear witness from October 4 to 8 as I observed people's growing interest and the passion involved in the work of every participant.

This document focuses on the most powerful ideas of the more than 300 panelists who were articulators of the GSEF2021 global message, and who expressed these ideas throughout the sessions.

The document has respected the spaces in which the ideas were conveyed and aims to be a synthetic record in document form of the great intellectual, critical and reflective talents behind the statements and remarks delivered based on the practices and passions of each of our alliances.

In summary, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the features of our time. Our world has become full of questions in the face of massive uncertainty. This publication intends to be a glimmer of hope in finding those tiny pieces that, once assembled, may contribute to providing the great responses that are needed.



It is my greatest desire that this be a tool that serves all of us who work day in day out in the construction of a new and renewed world. Those of us who long to grow the implementation of an economy at the service of all people, of a Social Economy in all and for all, trusting in the certainty that our common work will be able to transform our realities.

It is also intended to serve as encouragement and hope in fostering the desire to meet again to fervently share the positive fruits of this great transformation in the great city of Dakar in 2023.





Prologue by the Government of Mexico City

Diana Alarcón González
*General Coordination of Advisors and International
Affairs Government of Mexico City*

This publication intends to look back on this process which began in 2018 when Mexico City was chosen to be the host of the GSEF after being handed the baton by the city of Bilbao. Since then, we enthusiastically took on the commitment to hold the fifth edition of the Forum - and the first in the region of Latin America - fully convinced that the Social and Solidarity Economy should be increasingly promoted and recognized at local, national and international level.

In spite of the context resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impossibility of continuing our daily activities and working plans, our commitment did not waiver, nor did our enthusiasm. On the contrary, we became even more convinced that our countries and cities needed alternative development models which place people at the heart of their public policies and programs.

Therefore, we adapted to the virtual environment in order to keep the Forum alive until it would be possible to meet again in the hybrid event that we organized from October 4 to 8 this year under the theme “Local governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy.”

Together from Mexico City we sent out the message that other paths are possible and that in order to move forward, we must rethink ourselves as human beings, as collectives and as cities. Our project for the city is to make it inclusive and economically and environmentally sustainable. A more humane and equitable city in which every man and woman has opportunities and can freely enjoy their economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

The Government of Mexico City hopes to have played its part in achieving the main goals we set for this edition: opening the door for the GSEF to the region of Latin America from the largest Spanish speaking city in the world, as well as enhancing the visibility of the good practices that have developed in Latin American cities over years, decades and even centuries in the most important Social Economy forum in the world.

It has been a privilege for us as co-presidents in Mexico City to give direction to this important project hand in hand with the GSEF General Secretariat, the National Institute of Social Economy in Mexico and such a broad and distinguished Organizing Committee. To all of you, thank you so much!

PhD. Diana Alarcón González

PATHWAYS AND CHALLENGES TO ENHANCE THE SSE



From disruptive proposals, a pathway which allows for a better transition toward a state of collective well-being is the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). A model based on the principles of cooperation, solidarity, equality and democratic self-management in the implementation of strategies, methodologies, actions and practices carried out by collectively owned enterprises, non-governmental organizations, collectives, governments, academia and civil society.

The articulation of policies and strategies which respond to global challenges by acting locally must seek to create a system based on a greener, fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable economy through the implementation of a socio-economic model which allows us to provide a collective response as communities to the current crises, ensuring that life is preserved in all its expressions through reducing inequalities and protecting the environment.

The basic premises of the international duty should be to consider access to dignified work, foster collective business practices, encourage economies based on local products, promote natural preservation strategies, consider ethical financial practices based on solidarity, as well as to work for a more inclusive world. Synergies in multisectoral relations are more important than ever. Therefore, in this



edition an appeal was made for people to join the quest for alternative pathways to build a better world, as through its principles and practices, the SSE helps make sure no one is left behind.

Reviewing the answers to the guiding question provides a mosaic of visions from different latitudes and realities about **what the actions or strategies of people, governments, groups, societies and countries should be in order to achieve a better and more inclusive world, and what key actions should be launched from the local level.**

Below you will find the reflections that arose on the basis of this question in each of the themes of the GSEF2021 Forum.





On inclusive community

The difference between the Social and Solidarity model and the Capitalist model focused on profit for companies (including the new start up models) stems from the fact that it was born in response to the needs of people and communities. Therefore, the products and services developed cover people's needs, and inclusion goes further than technical or technological capacity. In the SSE the people who make up communities are taken into account regardless of academic training, socio-economic situation, race, belief, disability, sex, age, and so on.

Inclusion in the SSE means **creating community from the local level up**. This act leads to positive consequences in terms of inclusion, business, community and territorial sustainability, and promotion of respect for local customs and cultures.

The current crises must be tackled at all levels, but particularly at the local level by local actors and capacities. Food sovereignty is a good example of cooperation between governments and local actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy. Placing education in the center to **promote cooperative movements over individualism** is an excellent alternative to help build a more inclusive society. There is so much knowledge and experience at the local level, especially in indigenous communities.



In addition, it is deemed fundamental that a large social pact must emerge in which majorities and minorities are recognized as equals and in which **the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural are also part of the SSE.**

In order to be inclusive, it is also necessary to **listen to local knowledge** to be able to generate differentiated public policies in line with the characteristics of each region.

In these times of crisis, advancing the SSE is an effective way of promoting justice and social inclusion in all regions in the world. The SSE could play a significant role in rebuilding the social and economic system, **by paying special attention to the most vulnerable.**

“In order for strategic actions to be more successful they must be global because the challenges are global too”
Laurence Kwark.

“The economy or what we call development must be conceived differently and focused on human rights”.
Albert Maurilio Chan.

“The SSE would allow the reigning socio-economic inequalities in the world to be balanced out” Honoré Quantchi

“Implementing SSE practices at the state level would be advisable in order to break the current market logic and allow women to have better working conditions and access to equal conditions”. Mercedes Carrizo

“We must educate and Foster cooperation ahead of competition between individuals”. Alexandra Veland






On education and research

The challenge is to guarantee that the Social and Solidarity Economy in learning and research institutions is not limited to one single issue, but rather that **it be cross-cutting to all disciplines**, as the aim is to bring about a paradigm shift in order to transform society. It is not only a matter relating to social disciplines, but rather to every subject area.

The Social and Solidarity Economy has the **chance to make the most of digitalization**, discover new ways of working and put different communities in contact with each other. Its implications also include seeing business models from an educational and skills-acquisition perspective.

Improvement of support programs for students that contain **financial literacy strategies** must also be envisaged, but not only from an institutional perspective, it must also be from a broad public policy focus.

Projects must be inclusive and **participatory, including youth, and where education is the driving force**. People must be at the forefront with fair wages. Furthermore, **dissemination of the SSE must be promoted**, to showcase how it **improves people's quality of life**.



Schools and universities must be in contact with the local community, inviting it to participate in the teaching-learning processes by diagnosing and putting forward responses to daily economic concerns. This must be done in an upward spiral from the region to the country and the world. **Students and teachers must learn to carry out research in their community.**

“We must try to support those people who already do. We must support communities. We must promote their activities and, in this way, the Social and Solidarity Economy will be able to grow” Maria Fustic.

“By generating a comprehensive discussion with sectoral and environmental policies and with different educational bodies at local and global level we can create linkages between the SSE and environmental education actions in the first environmental education plan”. Fernanda Luchiari de Lima.

“We must promote and implement actions and strategies that defend life in general under the good living approach” Alfonso Cotera.

“Education is necessary, but it is not enough in order to have a more solidarity-based society”. Irving Rosales



On the ecological transformation

It is necessary to broaden the knowledge of the SSE in order to talk about an economy of life which implements solutions guided by rationality and human rights, and **in which people and their relationship with the planet are at its heart.** The urgent ecological transformation of our planet appears to be linked to the SSE as, if there is one thing that characterizes it, it is its being an associative economy that lasts a lifetime.

Working toward a transformation into a green economy will require **engagement and actions from all sectors:** government, private companies and civil society organizations. There must be a full restructuring of energy production and consumption on the planet on the basis of clean energy sources.

It is necessary to **always seek environmental compensation.** This means that it should not only be sought in the event of a company generating employment, but rather that it should be profoundly analyzed to see how its impact will spread and in what way will it positively or negatively impact the whole planet.

At the individual level, **education is key in the transition toward a more ecological society.** Governments have a macro responsibility to incentivize companies to be environmentally responsible. We must now consider full cycles and avoid transferring the responsibility to a single actor, i.e., there must be an analysis of all the steps involved in the creation of a product right up to its consumption, but in a comprehensive way.



“For the economies of today, human beings and their relationship with ecosystems are not at the heart of development”. Marvin Rodríguez Cordero

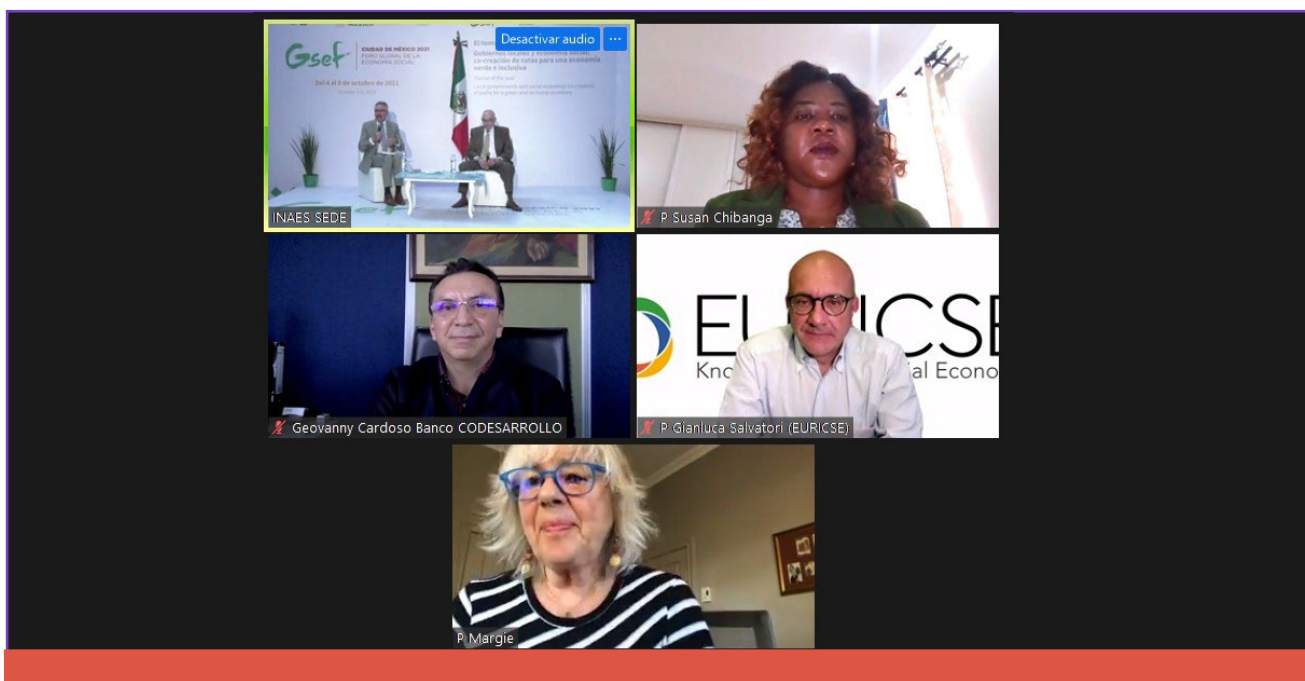
“In this context, we recognize the importance of having different relationships between individuals and ecosystems which allow for a balance to be struck between productive activities and environmental conservation”. Claudia Yadira Caballero

“At the local level, farmers and especially women and youth are losing the battle against climate change. That is why it is urgent to generate plans and strategies that have an economic, social and environmental impact”. Kevin Ossah

“The circular economy aims to reduce consumption and use what is already in circulation to reduce the impact on the environment through recycling, reselling, extending the life of articles or repairing them. These actions are contrary to the linear economy in which we produce, consume and throw away. We must unequivocally take steps toward a functional economy”. G aelle G en ereux

“For the economies of today, human beings and their relationship with ecosystems are not at the heart of development”.

Marvin Rodr iguez Cordero




On social and solidarity finance

Inclusion and diversity encompassing local culture must be promoted. The key is to intervene in the territories to achieve inclusion of all people and for no one to be left behind. **People in all constituencies require financial services.** All sectors must be involved in the creation of policies, and we must guarantee that they are carefully implemented and that they seek to benefit all people throughout the world.

The issue surrounding the construction of a new economy is not whether production should have earnings, profit or surpluses, but rather the **need to distribute income and redistribute accumulated capital.** A mixed economy in transition toward a Social and Solidarity Economy should be created in the territories with engagement from the State, social organizations, ethical and social banks and the popular solidarity financial sector.

Financial tools are required to tackle climate change and provide workers in precarious conditions and the self-employed with support. We have the chance to **rethink the structure and funding of the economy and social systems,** Together we can create a resilient, sustainable and solidarity-based society with the engagement of all Social and Solidarity Economy actors.

Finance must be part of a whole, with the local level being the first level of governance and not the third. When it comes to the objectives of the Social and Solidarity Economy, **policy and financing must be at the local level** and there should be an opening for actors to participate in designing appropriate policies and tools for the local level.



“We must transform the culture of individualism in society into one of self-development, self-management and solidarity. Public policy must be a means by which the people can be in control of their resources, and the result will be economic sovereignty and true democracy”. Gonzalo Alejandro Sicilia Sicilia

“The great dilemma of the financial systems and the development model in the world is clarifying at whom innovation should be aimed: to serve the people or exclusively and necessarily to serve big business”. Luis Proaño Guillén

“It is necessary to move away from financial solidarity mechanisms focused on supply, both on the part of microfinancing institutions and on that of governments, toward a process of co-creation to design pathways of financial inclusion”. Anabella Cristina Zamora Albornoz

“I would like to emphasize the real importance of the human substrate to social and solidarity finance. The substrate of solidarity, the need to promote cooperation between people within the community and to empower the community as fully-fledged entities for rebuilding a social and productive fabric, not so much for the purposes of promoting consumption but rather for that of promoting well-being”. David Barkin



On alliances

In order to create effective alliances, it is necessary to **co-produce public policies together**, that is to say, there must not be a single direction by which the administration supports and the sector receives, but rather it should be a two-way street in which each and every one within their respective remits contributes and works based on shared objectives and challenges.

Among the challenges to building international alliances, which prevent widespread dissemination of SSE principles and values, exchange of experiences between actors and swifter integration of the sector are **languages, time zone differences and a lack of information**.

The current challenges faced by society in the world **require the engagement of all**, and the SSE is a path by which this can be achieved thanks to the fact that it involves people, organizations and governments.

SSE companies must be drivers of redistribution through two main tracks: 1) going to markets that are suspended due to the interests of profit-seeking intermediaries who do not add any value; and 2) **weaving international networks**.

It is very important to **change the alliances which exist**. An urgent intervention by the authorities must be encouraged. A link of trust must be fostered with entrepreneurs so that their dream of growing as a business does not fall by the wayside.



This (SSE) economy engenders **different community bonds**; it is not an economy of competition, nor is it one of profit maximization, of speculation or of liberalism. It is exactly the opposite of that, it gives rise to different human relationships that do not expel, disintegrate, exclude or kill, which is what the economy of concentrated wealth does.

“Public policy must be drawn up by citizens and not by institutions. Thus, the SSE creates public policy from the cooperative, the community and the associative”. Xavier Rubio

“We recognize the importance of engagement of international organizations to provide legitimacy and visibility of the SSE before governments”. Beatrice Alain

“Economic structures must be created so that people only migrate because they want to, and not as a result of the current economic model”. Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier

“It is necessary to share knowledge and generate cooperation to find the best solutions to the current issues”. Antonella Noya

“We must decolonize our practices; we must focus on a different intergenerational and intergender economy”. Cecilia Matonte

“It is necessary to share knowledge and generate cooperation to find the best solutions to the current issues”.

Antonella Noya

We will work for the world that we want. The choice is clear: we can go backward and fall adrift, or move forward toward the common good. The time for change is now, the pathway is the SSE.



GSEF2021 Mexico City Declaration

GSEF has played a key role in mobilizing Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors and organizations internationally since its creation in Seoul in 2013. GSEF2021 now gathers in Mexico City after travelling to Montreal in 2016 and Bilbao in 2018. It has become a voice for SSE globally, calling upon local, regional and national governments to recognize the vital role played by SSE in meeting socioeconomic and environmental challenges common to countries throughout the world.

The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 made it impossible to convene GSEF2020 in Mexico City. However, a highly successful GSEF Global Virtual Forum was held with 8,500 participants from 19 to 23 October 2020.

Today on the last day of the 5th edition, organized in a hybrid format due to the ongoing crisis, we issue this declaration to express the shared commitment of all participants from across the planet, with significant contributions from Mexico and the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region.

CALL FOR ACTION

GSEF2021 has provided a space for knowledge exchange and synergies amongst SSE actors, who reaffirm their commitment to the following:

We call on **all governments** and **international and regional organizations** to:

- Respect the basic right of equal access to quality social services, especially health Services, and ensure the right to a dignified life for all;
- Foster the fundamental values of humanity and social inclusion in all aspects of life, including gender equity, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, and dignity;
- Increase the participation of young people in positioning SSE as a means to face the current health, socioeconomic and environmental crisis;
- Promote the development and adoption of co-constructed regulatory and legislative frameworks, and enable public policies at the local level in favor of SSE to strengthen its ecosystems;
- Collaborate and coordinate with national, regional and local governments. All stakeholders - citizens, SSE networks and organizations - must participate in this process;
- Support decentralized cooperation in order to enhance the local anchoring of SSE.

We specifically call on **local governments** to:

- Adopt a local development approach embracing the principles and values of SSE;
- Strengthen the development of local and regional ecosystems by promoting innovative partnerships between actors of the traditional and/or informal economy, SSE actors and local governments;
- Implement policies promoting the local emergence of socially innovative solutions and support their capacity to grow.

We call on **SSE actors** to:

- strengthen North-South, South-South and multi-actor collaboration and exchanges to further promote SSE and social innovation;
- Promote new and lasting alliances between SSE enterprises in order to develop socially innovative projects, rooted in local communities;
- Reinforce political advocacy for the adoption of policies and legal frameworks conducive to the development of SSE in partnership with governments, especially local governments;

- Develop research on and expertise in SSE;
- Adopt a long-term approach to the promotion of SSE aligned with the UN SDGs;
- Prioritize gender, race and intersectional perspectives;
- Engage actively in the co-design of tools to measure and evaluate the impact of SSE initiatives

Thanks

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- Olga Vicente
- Elizabeth Luthard
- Claudia de Lisio
- Marcelo Torrano



Argentina:

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- Marina Veleda
- Jorge Ricardo Bragulat
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- Griselda María Gallo
- Héctor Rubén Daza
- Anabella Cristina Zamora Albornoz
- Ricardo Orzi
- Ruth Muñoz
- Oscar Minteguía
- Marcelo Torrano
- Marcela Freytes
- Cecilia Russo



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- Hyungsik Eum
- Gianluca Pastorelli
- Toby Gazely
- Patrick Klein



Bolivia:

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- Javier Gastelu
- Willy Rolando Cori
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- Katherine Eliana Fernández Paz



Brazil:

- Fernando Mello Barreto
- Camila Capacle Paiva
- Leandro Pereira Morais
- Fernanda Luchiari de Lima
- Diego Zeidan
- Luciana Correa do Lago



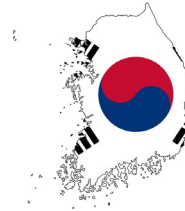
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- Hanna Yoo
- Minjeong Park
- Moo-Kwon Chung
- Ilcheong Yi
- Sohee Eom
- Yeon Lee
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- Yoo Yumi
- Dong-Ryul Kang
- Ji-Eun Kim
- Dain Won
- Chan-Ho Kim
- Eric Lee
- Youn-Seo JEON



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- Marguerite Mendell
- Johanne Lavoie
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