



This document is intended to serve as a summary of points raised during the workshops and working groups in the Global Social Economy Forum – GSEF2016 and that were gathered by GSEF2016 note takers. This document is not claim to be exhaustive or decisive on these points, particularly since any action much take into account the needs, means and aspirations of each territory, which this document cannot do.

OBSERVATIONS

On the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

- The SSE is not marginal: it is a central engine in the development of communities. It is present in the majority of economic sectors and helps democratize the economy. The SSE offers development alternatives that are full of promise and act as a vector for collective wealth.
- Civil society participation is essential to build this economy. That's why the SSE is involved in mobilization and consultations; it is anchored in the local setting and promotes the participation and empowerment of citizens.
- The SSE contributes to retaining the population of a region and revitalizing neighbourhoods and cities: it creates jobs and enables access to local services.
- The development of the SSE must go hand in hand with environmental protection.
- The SSE plays an important role in reconstruction following a natural disaster, among other things, because it reinforces the social fabric and resilience of communities.
- The SSE promotes cultural diversity. It also contributes to reducing inequalities and integrating the disadvantaged, particularly women in Africa or the black population in the United States.
- Indigenous people subscribe to the principles of the SSE and are working to mobilize communities around the SSE.
- Having a clear legal framework to identify SSE enterprises facilitates partnerships, particularly those leading to the adoption of social clauses.
- Sometimes, public policy follows on-the-ground experiences, and serves to confirm the situation in the field. Most of the time, SSE enterprise promoters on the ground have been the ones to push for a legal framework that recognizes their status.
- We must form a critical mass to be able to influence the legal framework. It is important to have the capacity to produce leaders with expertise in negotiations in order to establish specific conventions for the collaboration between local governments and the SSE.

On local governments

- The role of local governments is to bring about change: to adequately develop cities, it is not just a question of deciding to what extent the State should intervene in the economy or not, how public policies are built must be rethought. To do this, there needs to be a shift in our cultural paradigm that leads to a change in governance structures. Public policies must be conceived of in partnership with civil society and with SSE actors.
- Instead of defining the needs of the population and putting out calls for tenders so that SSE enterprises respond to these needs, municipalities can co-construct public services with SSE stakeholders. Actors on the ground should be seen as partners and spaces must be reserved for them in the governance of initiatives for the city.
- Citizens do not just want to be consulted. They want to be a part of the solution as they reinforce territorial intelligence. Cities should facilitate the participation of different stakeholders to take into account cultural, social and economic diversity while being careful not to reproduce the dynamics of exclusion. Participation processes must be built to take this challenge into consideration. In this respect, efforts to fight poverty are essential because they have a direct impact on the development of communities' capacities to contribute to the development of their cities.
- The participation of citizens and SSE enterprises reinforces the power of elected leaders. Their contribution to the definition of more relevant and effective public services and public policies enables these services and policies to better tackle the issues at stake.
- Municipalities can be more than financial backers, they can be facilitators of projects or initiatives led by citizens. Sometimes, the city may not be directly involved in the identified solution, but can help bring together the right people or organisations to ensure its success.
- A local ecosystem of support for the SSE enables the SSE to realize its full potential in all of its dimensions.
- We must break with the logic of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder. Rather, the municipality's needs should be used to stimulate local development. In this sense, the recognition of the local economic, social and environmental impact of the SSE is important.
- Training is essential, in particular to explain the concept of the SSE and what it means in business terms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Development

For social and solidarity economy actors

- Recognize that there can be cultural resistance to the alternatives proposed. Attitudes must be changed so that people accept gender equality and review their patterns of transportation and consumption. We must accept to trust each other, become less individualistic and review our development model.

- Start with realistic objectives and build little by little on successes. Highlight these successes, especially to the public, to help generate support from the community and make the SSE's roles and objectives better known.
- Make a place for young people. A large participatory movement is being born among the young. SSE actors must participate in it. At the same time, it is important to remember to allow young people to participate in and manage existing and future SSE structures.
- Create a platform to define, create awareness, monitor, discuss and raise the profile of SSE enterprises.
- Maximize the networking of actors and promote knowledge exchange between all SSE actors.
- To address certain groups' lack of experience, create tools and methods for the replication of best practices.
- Create consortiums to respond to the call for tenders.
- Create spaces for collaboration and expertise co-construction (community of practice) among SSE enterprises.
- Convince more elected leaders to adopt participatory budgets and encourage municipalities to become active economic development actors.
- Be an initiator of solutions, but also remember that oftentimes local governments must first be encouraged to change their ways of operating in order to be able to collaborate more effectively.

For local governments

- Learn to actively solicit local SSE enterprises to respond to the needs of municipalities.
- Adopt social clauses and have a network of facilitators tasked with supporting public authorities and enterprises to integrate these clauses and ensure that they are respected (audits, statements of satisfactory performance and penalties when they are not respected).
- Develop networks of governmental agencies and SSE organizations to share best practices and stimulate public procurement policies in specific sectors or territories.
- Participate in the creation and financing of an SSE organisation that could serve as an impact assessment reference point and carry out neutral evaluations.
- Favour local currencies.
- Create fair cities.

For international institutions

- Recognize the cross-cutting and diverse nature of the SSE's contributions in order to co-construct an implementation strategy for the UN's 2030 Agenda.

Training and research

For social and solidarity economy actors

- Forge close ties with researchers in order for them to model experiences and give them scientific credibility.
- Train and equip SSE enterprises with regards to impact assessment.
- Make government representatives aware of SSE benefits.
- Follow the participatory movement trend.

For local governments

- Make government bodies and their representatives aware of the realities and benefits of SSE enterprises.

For international institutions

- Identify, through collaboration between practitioners, researchers and municipalities, the ways in which the SSE contributes to the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

For research

- Develop new efficient concepts that are not limited to measuring the production of goods and services, but which also assess social integration and environmental sustainability.
- Continue the work of documenting SSE practices and develop indicators to assess the SSE's contribution in all of its dimensions.

Co-creation

For all

- Working on projects with multiple stakeholders is demanding. We must build a common language and learn how to work within democratic and multiparty structures.
- The SSE should have partners in universities and cities. It must develop relationships with these institutions that develop into permanent consultation spaces and mutual recognition between civil society, universities, cities and the SSE.
- Develop or promote, if they already exist, multiparty legal forms, which facilitate and enshrine collective discussions and collaboration between various stakeholders including local governments and SSE actors.
- Promote the creation of networks of government agencies and SSE organisations to share best practices.
- Be inspired by successful experiences elsewhere.

APPEALS

- Appeal to mobilize for Habitat 3 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Appeal to support SSE actors in Brazil, where policies and structures favourable to the SSE are being dismantled.
- Appeal to support Colombia where the SSE is identified as a possible solution to overcome armed conflict: *peace requires an economy with more solidarity.*