



► **Cooperatives Unit**
Enterprises Department

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**Message of Solidarity with Cooperatives and other Social and Solidarity
Economy Organizations**

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the [ILO's Cooperatives Unit](#) where we are commemorating our [centenary](#). We reach out to extend our best wishes to our cooperative and social and solidarity economy (SSE) partners in these times of uncertainty.

As a [recent brief](#) from ILO's Enterprises Department shows, the world of work is profoundly affected by the global pandemic and its social and economic repercussions. Enterprises around the world had to suspend or scale down operations, resulting in production disruptions, and loss of demand for many goods and services with enormous impacts for workers and employment. Millions of workers around the world are without a job and unable to sustain themselves and their families. Others are endangering their own health while providing health care and ensuring continued provision of goods and services. Some are adapting to working from home and balancing multiple responsibilities.

Commitment to social justice, democracy, solidarity, social responsibility, and caring for others are more needed than ever. Cooperative and wider SSE organizations around the world are demonstrating the relevance of their model in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have highlighted some of these emerging practices on [our website](#). We welcome hearing from you on the challenges you are facing and the measures you are taking in the face of COVID-19 at coop@ilo.org.

During these challenging times, we would like to reaffirm our solidarity with the cooperative and wider SSE movements. We are convinced that cooperatives and other SSE organizations will be instrumental beyond the emergency phase and well into the medium to long term recovery in the affected countries, as we have seen in many other [crises contexts](#) across history. Their values and principles can guide the transition toward not only a new normal but a better normal.

In solidarity,

Cooperatives Unit,
Enterprises Department