



ONLINE

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (UNTFSSSE)

THIRD TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM

06–10 DECEMBER 2021

VIRTUAL

Brief Report

MARCH 2022

UN

Inter-Agency Task Force on
Social and Solidarity Economy

ITC 
International Training Centre

“The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is the world’s best kept secret. Indeed, the SSE is playing a vital role in many economies where there is value-add, but at the same time, we need to recognise that the SSE is punching far below its weight. In this regard we need to take step back and take a long-term view whilst in order to ensure that we have a solid foundation from which to move forward.”

Vic Van Vuuren – Chair of the UNTFSSSE



ACTION PLAN 2022-2024

Mainstreaming and enhancing the SSE international dimension and profile

- ▶ Support the process of the UN Resolution on SSE
- ▶ Support the ILC General Discussion on SSE and Decent work at ILO
- ▶ Support the adoption of OECD guiding principles
- ▶ Identify, participate and engage in key international alliances and events
- ▶ Strengthen synergies and engage with countries and local governments

Boosting the creation and sharing of knowledge on SSE and SDGs

- ▶ Continue the work on the SSE Knowledge Hub for the SDGs in terms of production of knowledge and repository
- ▶ Publish the UNTFSSSE new position paper
- ▶ Strengthen the accessibility of knowledge and launch a UNTFSSSE awareness raising package on the SSE
- ▶ Strengthen the communication and outreach of the UNTFSSSE
- ▶ Keep organizing the UNTFSSSE conferences

Developing strategic areas of interventions on SSE

- ▶ Develop a fund-raising strategy for the global, regional and national programs
- ▶ Strengthen the regional dimension of the UNTFSSSE
- ▶ Explore access to finance and social investment for SSE actors
- ▶ Establish an interactive engagement with youth organizations on the promotion of the SSE
- ▶ Explore formal monitoring, reporting or rating of countries on SSE

Transversal area: strengthening the UNTFSSSE governance

- ▶ Ensure coherence and transparent and collaborative coordination
- ▶ Strengthen membership (existing and new ones)
- ▶ Ensure the sustainability of the UNTFSSSE

INTRODUCTION

The [third technical symposium](#) of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy ([UNTFSSSE](#)) was hosted virtually from 6 to 10 December 2021.

It was organized by the ILO, as current secretariat and chair of the Task force, with the support of the ITCILO.

Fifty participants took part in the event, including resource persons and representatives of eight [members](#) (ILO, OECD, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNRISD) and twelve [observers](#) (CSEND, CIRIEC, DIESIS, EESC, EMES, Euclid Network, EURICSE, GSEF, ICA, RIPESS, Social Economy Europe, SSE International Forum).

The event was an opportunity to bring together members and observers, as well as welcoming new participants. It was the ideal time to reflect on the achievements of the past biennium, as well as to prepare strategies for the future.

As main result, the Task Force agreed upon key actions (presented in this report) that its members and observers should undertake jointly in the next biennium.



ACTION PLAN 2022-2024

As a result of this virtual symposium, members and observers of the task force discussed [achievements](#) of the [2020-2022 action plan](#) and identified three areas of focus and one transversal focus area, which make up the 2022-2024 action plan.

Along the three priority objectives, they also identified concrete actions to pursue. You can find the areas and related actions below.

1) MAINSTREAMING AND ENHANCING THE SSE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION AND PROFILE

SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF THE UN RESOLUTION ON SSE

Achieving a General Assembly (GA) resolution that defines SSE as a priority within UN and national policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda represents a milestone at international level. Tabling resolutions is Member States' prerogative and a country-driven process, which require one or more champion countries.

The role of the Task Force will be to support interested countries to navigate the UN system and provide them with technical expertise on SSE.

SUPPORT THE ILC GENERAL DISCUSSION ON SSE AND DECENT WORK AT ILO

The International Labour Conference (ILC), as annual meeting that brings together the ILO's tripartite constituents, will hold for the first time in history a [General Discussion on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy in June 2022](#).

This presents a unique opportunity, among others, to provide a universal definition of the term "social and solidarity economy", including its associated principles and values; assess the contribution of the SSE to managing and promoting the overall support for people through the transitions they face throughout their working lives; provide policy guidelines for member States wishing to establish a conducive environment for national development of SSE.

The UNTFSSSE will be informed and follow the process. Additionally, observers of the Task Force can apply to be observers of the ILC discussion.

SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF OECD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The OECD is preparing a draft recommendation and guiding principles on the SSE and social innovation, following the procedure leading to the approval of the Recommendation by the OECD Council.

In addition to the work with governments, OECD is organizing consultation sessions open to the other relevant stakeholders in the field of SSE.

The UNTFSSSE will be informed and follow the process.

IDENTIFY, PARTICIPATE AND ENGAGE IN KEY INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES AND EVENTS

The Task Force will identify some key international events, such as the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2022, in order to create awareness and engage in public discussion and dialogues on the link between SSE and SDGs.

The UNTFSSSE will keep actively participating in the Working Groups of the [Pact for Impact Alliance](#) (P4IA) and it will identify other alliances or networks, not specialized in the SSE, by strengthening mutual exchange of knowledge and information.

The Task Force will also strengthen synergies with the [UN Economist Network](#) (UNEN) and support the preparation of policy brief on the SSE.

STRENGTHEN SYNERGIES AND ENGAGE WITH COUNTRIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Task Force will engage with key countries and governments' groups aiming at assisting them in the creation of conducive environments for the SSE ecosystems at national level and at enhancing the recognition of SSE as tool of inclusive and sustainable development at regional and international levels.

The UNTFSSSE will leverage on the observers' expertise in dialoguing with national and local governments to strengthen its outreach.

2) BOOSTING THE CREATION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE ON SSE AND SDGS

CONTINUE THE WORK ON THE SSE KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR THE SDGS IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND REPOSITORY

The [SSE Knowledge Hub for the SDGs](#) is an online platform and resource page gathering research-based outputs on SSE as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. (SDGs).

The Task Force will keep strengthening and developing it.

In particular, the UNTFSSSE will strengthen the [Knowledge Hub's advisory group](#) and keep on working on the in-progress [SSE encyclopedia](#).

Moreover, in terms of production on content, the [submission of papers](#) will be encouraged. New research areas will be explored, such as social innovation and young SSE entrepreneurship; SSE as tool for fighting climate change and fostering a just transition, etc.; along with deepening other areas already explored and well received, such as [SSE statistics](#).

In terms of sharing of content, the repository function will be strengthened (both web platform and exchange among researchers) in order to make contents more agile and accessible, make it a live platform of exchange, etc.

PUBLISH THE UNTFSSSE NEW POSITION PAPER

The UNTFSSSE drafted a position paper on "[Social and Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development](#)" in 2014. The Task force will work on an updated version to clarify the role that the SSE can play in today's world and its roles in achieving the SDGs. The task force will aim at publishing it by September 2022.

STRENGTHEN THE ACCESSIBILITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND LAUNCH A UNTFSSSE AWARENESS RAISING PACKAGE ON THE SSE

The Task Force will develop an awareness raising package on the SSE (e.g MOOC), in order to explore and focus on how to attract a wider audience and adapt content to policy makers' needs. The use of already produced materials will be encourage, while making it more accessible, for instance with "SSE in a nutshell" and more in-depth modules tackling specific relevant issues (e.g. SSE and public policies).

Moreover, the Task Force will team up with academic institutions and strengthen synergies with key resource webpages, e.g. [socioeco.org](#).

STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH OF THE UNTFSSSE

The Task Force will invest in an overall communication and branding strategy, which will create links and increase visibility within the UN.

Along with well-established communication practices of the UNTFSSSE, such as maintaining and strengthening the ongoing work on the UNTFSSSE webpage and social media channels; maintaining and strengthening the communications group; ensuring the sharing of information and improve related e-tools ([events](#), [publications](#), [projects](#), etc.); the Task Force will also pilot new activities, such as making social media content more reusable (by members, observers and partners); linking the communication with the educational and research-component; developing “learning pills”, animated videos, podcasts, and storytelling.

KEEP ORGANIZING THE UNTFSSSE CONFERENCES

A first International Conference was organized by the UNTFSSSE in 2019 on “[Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for Social and Solidarity Economy?](#)”. The UNTFSSSE will keep organizing other international conferences every 2-3 years and work on preparatory materials and raise funds to make it happen.

3) DEVELOPING STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS ON SSE

DEVELOP A FUND-RAISING STRATEGY FOR THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Task Force will develop a fund-raising strategy in order to ensure the sustainability of all its activities, at a global, regional, and national levels.

In particular, the UNTFSSSE will raise money to assist governments in creating an enabling environment and policy framework on SSE, especially in developing countries; and to ensure the sustainability of the international activities, including education, knowledge creation and sharing, enhancing of the SSE international profile.

Moreover, the UNTFSSSE will keep strengthening past and ongoing partnerships with key partners, such as the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Republic of Korea and exploring new ones.

STRENGTHEN THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF THE UNTFSSSE

The Task Force will identify and invite regional members from several regions, such as Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa to participate in the Task Force. In particular, the UNTFSSSE will engage with UN commissions in the different regions and identify appropriate regional players that could become members of the Task Force.

The Task Force will pilot joint initiatives towards developing programs and raising awareness of SSE, by leveraging on the regional bodies.

EXPLORE ACCESS TO FINANCE AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT FOR SSE ACTORS

The Task Force will conduct research projects and draft recommendations on how SSE actors can expand their access to finance and to social investments.

The UNTFSSSE will favor the creation of a Working Group discussing and advancing on access to finance for actors in the SSE and exploring the “SG financing for development in COVID area and beyond”.

ESTABLISH AN INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ON THE PROMOTION OF THE SSE

The UNTFSSSE will identify the most representative youth groups in the UN system and beyond to then engage in a dialogue with them and increase the outreach and knowledge about the SSE. The SSE has the potential to attract young people, and especially young SSE entrepreneurs, because it combines economic, social and environmental goals.

EXPLORE FORMAL MONITORING, REPORTING OR RATING OF COUNTRIES ON SSE

The Task Force will explore and study existing SSE monitoring systems in different countries and regions, and then make recommendations on effective ways of monitoring the progress of SSE at global, regional and national levels.

Transversal focus area: Strengthening the UNTFSSSE governance

Ensure an effective, smooth and transparent governance of the UNTFSSSE has been identified as one of the success factors in achieving joint objectives. To keep it up, the UNTFSSSE will:

- Ensure coherence and transparent and collaborative coordination;
- Strengthen membership (existing and new ones);
- Ensure the sustainability of the UNTFSSSE by transitioning to a new Chair/ Secretariat in 2022.



ABOUT THE UNTFSSSE

The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE) aims to raise the visibility of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) within the UN system and beyond. The members and observers of the Task Force have committed to undertake collaborative activities to:

- enhance the recognition of the role of SSE enterprises and organizations in sustainable development;
- promote knowledge of SSE and consolidate SSE networks;
- support the establishment of an enabling institutional and policy environment for SSE;
- ensure coordination of international efforts, and create and strengthen partnerships.

For the full list of members and observers of the UNTFSSSE, please visit: <http://unsse.org/>

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Report prepared by ILO and ITCILO

