

**Speech of the Reporter of the General Discussion
Committee on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)
Plenary Session, 110th Session of the International
Labour Conference**

Friday 10 June 2022

Mr President;

Vice Presidents;

Secretary-General of the Conference;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour for me and my Government, the Government of Barbados, to present to the Conference for adoption the Report and Conclusions of the General Discussion Committee on Decent work and the social and solidarity economy (SSE). Allow me to thank my group, GRULAC, and my region, the Americas, for nominating me to this role.

The Report of the Committee and the accompanying Conclusions are the result of the Committee's strong commitment to its objectives, the tripartite approach, and some hard work over the past 10 days.

The delegates focused their discussion on four points:

First, what should be a universal definition of the social and solidarity economy?

Second, how can the social and solidarity economy further contribute to decent work and sustainable development?

Third, what can governments, workers' and employers' organizations do to promote the SSE's contribution to human-centred recovery?

Fourth, what actions can the ILO take to promote the social and solidarity economy?

We held 12 plenary sittings. We have had good discussions, sometimes tough, but always working to achieve the best outcome.

In the true spirit of social dialogue, we have deliberated on the issues and arrived upon a set of Conclusions.

The Committee managed to accomplish its work, thanks to the untiring commitment of the Chairperson, **Mr. Adam Lee**, and the two Vice-Chairpersons, **Ms. Aline Valérie Mbono** and **Ms. Toni Moore** and the representatives of the government members, and reached consensus on this important topic.

I thank all members of the Committee for their engagement and constructive inputs, sometimes till late hours of the evening. I also acknowledge the dedication of the Drafting Group members who held four (4) sittings including an extended one. The Drafting Group proposed to the Committee a set of draft conclusions

for discussion that reflected the deliberations of the Committee.

Allow me to acknowledge the enormous efforts made by the office in preparing and providing a comprehensive and forward-looking Report, along with several accompanying documents.

In particular, I wish to thank the Representative of the Secretary-General, **Mr. Vic Van Vuuren**, the Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General, **Ms Simel Esim**, the Coordinator, **Ms Josée Laporte**, and all the other staff of the Secretariat for their outstanding contribution and support, including the experts, translators, interpreters, technicians, and administrative staff.

President, distinguished delegates,

This is the first comprehensive discussion on the social and solidarity economy taking place at the

International Labour Conference. It is also the first high-level debate in the UN system on the subject.

Although the social and solidarity economy is not new, its policy importance and visibility have grown significantly since the turn of the century.

Governments, social partners and other stakeholders have also recognized that a robust social and solidarity economy can contribute to balanced, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies and societies. The social and the solidarity economy has the potential to uplift persons facing vulnerable situations, including women, youth and persons with disabilities.

SSE entities can perform important roles. They can create and preserve jobs, provide social protection as well as a range of services for their members, workers, users and communities.

For these reasons, the work of this Committee has been both timely and important.

President, distinguished delegates,

I now have the honour of submitting to the International Labour Conference for adoption the outcome of the Committee: the Resolution and the proposed Conclusions.

The proposed Conclusions are structured in four parts.

Part I entitled “Introduction” recalls the links between the social and solidarity economy and the ILO by directly referencing the ILO Constitution, including the Declaration of Philadelphia, relevant international labour standards and declarations that explicitly recognize the importance of the social and solidarity economy in its various forms, in promoting sustainable development, decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all.

Part II provides a clear and comprehensive “**Definition of the SSE**” based on a set of values and

principles. This is the first agreed tripartite definition of the social and solidarity economy at the international level.

Part III spells out the “**Guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities**” to promote decent work and the social and solidarity economy for a human-centred future of work.

Part IV explains “The role of governments and the social partners”, in fostering the social and solidarity economy’s economic, social and environmental contributions.

Part V entitled “The role of the ILO”, provides recommendations for Office action, and key principles that underpin such action.

An **Annex** to these Conclusions provides a “Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations relevant to decent work and the social and solidarity economy”.

President, distinguished delegates,

I believe it is fair to say that the Conclusions presented before you today, provide sufficient guidance to the Constituents, and to the Office, on the promotion of decent work in and through the SSE for years to come.

Therefore, I now have the distinct honour and privilege of submitting to the International Labour Conference for adoption, the Resolution and Conclusions concerning the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Muchas gracias! Thank you very much.