

REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**AT THE SIDE EVENT ON "ROLE OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY
ECONOMY IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs: POTENTIAL GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION"**

**ORGANIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN,
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) AND UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
(UNCTAD)**

**FRIDAY, 22 JULY 2022
10:00 – 11:30 HOURS**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 3
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery.

- **Moderator – Mr. Yvon Poirier, Special Advisor at the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS);**
- **Excellency Yolanda Díaz Pérez, Second Vice President of the Government and Minister of Labour and the Social Economy of Spain;**
- **Excellency Mr. Luka Mesec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia;**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am delighted to deliver some remarks at this side event on "***Role of Social and Solidarity Economy in Achieving the SDGs: Potential General Assembly Resolution,***" which is organized by the Government of Spain, International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2. This is an important side event that offers the **Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)** as an alternative economic model that can play a significant role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its **17** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. The theme of this side event complements the main theme of the just concluded 2022 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – ***“Building Back Better from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”***
4. The HLPF and ECOSOC High-Level Segment provided an opportunity to advance our thinking and actions towards a just, inclusive, equitable and resilient recovery while confronting the impacts of the surreal struggles of the past two years against the pandemic.

5. We have come to realize that we now live in a world of increased conflict, inequality, poverty, and suffering; of economic instability; energy and imminent food crisis; increasing debt levels; and of a slowing of progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.
6. But at the same time, we have also heard the positive messages of encouragement. One such clear key message is that - despite our grim times - there is a continued believe and optimism that the 2030 Agenda provides us a framework for building back better.
7. This proves once again that the United Nations continues to provide the best venue to discuss how to best develop forward-looking policy approaches towards rebuilding and to put the world back on track to implement the 2030 Agenda.
8. I am pleased that a week later after the conclusion of the HLPF and the ECOSOC High-Level Segment, we are gathered here today to discuss the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in achieving the SDGs.

9. I wish to reiterate my remarks that the current global challenges must not dampen our resolve and determination to realize the 2030 Agenda and that, nations must act together in solidarity and in a strong multilateral system.

Excellencies,

10. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is key because it puts people and social objective at the centre of business operations based on care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods.

11. It is therefore needed to drive transformation and to achieve the 2030 Agenda as it assists us to break away from the old models and practices that put us off-track to achieve the SDGs.

12. The Social and Solidarity Economy promotes the deployment of models that are more inclusive; that improve equality and transform individuals and communities.

13. Furthermore, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) helps bring people together using economic models and forms of organization for solving social and environmental issues in and with their communities, sectors and countries.
14. I am gratified to note that SSE organizations and enterprises, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, mutual societies, foundations, and self-help groups are active in most of the economic sectors and contribute significantly to all 17 SDGs in different contexts.
15. Given the immense contribution made by the Social and Solidarity Economy, I am elated to learn that some Member States are considering the possibility for a General Assembly resolution, which would create the opportunity for enhancing the sharing of experiences and learning on SSE and its effective contribution to sustainable development, ultimately leading to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

16. Furthermore, if this materializes, it will build on the recently adopted 'Resolution concerning decent work and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)' by the 110th International Labour Conference of the ILO. The Resolution amongst other, encourages ILO to constitute an Office aimed at establishing a conducive environment for SSE as a tool to promote decent work.
17. In this connection, a General Assembly resolution on SSE for sustainable development will encourage the United Nations agencies to give due consideration to the SSE within their policies, programmes and action plans and to provide support to Member States, reinforcing and expanding the ongoing work of the UN Task Force on the SSE (UNTFSSSE).

Excellencies,

18. In conclusion, I am delighted to highlight that this side event complements the meeting that I jointly organized with the Second Committee in October last year, on the theme “Building productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS as well as MICs, for more resilient recovery and sustainable development in the post-COVID era”.

19. I firmly believe that the advancement of the Social and Solidarity Economy would lead to increasing opportunities for building, maintaining, and enhancing productive capacities, especially in the developing world. This model will contribute to efforts to advancing sustainable development outcomes.

I thank you all for your kind attention.