



Seventy-seventh session
Agenda item 18
Sustainable development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 April 2023

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.60)]

77/281. Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further its resolution [71/256](#) of 23 December 2016 on the New Urban Agenda, the annex to which contains a commitment to supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies,

Recalling its resolution [76/135](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Cooperatives in social development”, in which it recognized that cooperatives, in their various forms, promoted the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and all people, whose inclusion strengthened social and economic development and contributed to the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing that social entrepreneurship, including cooperatives and social enterprises, can help to alleviate poverty and catalyse social transformation by strengthening the productive capacities of those in vulnerable situations and producing goods and services accessible to them,

Recognizing also that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the adverse impacts of climate change and geopolitical tensions and conflicts have exposed many fragilities in economies and deepened existing inequalities, and that a deeper, more ambitious, transformative and integrated response is urgently needed,



Noting that, to accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,¹ encourages a broader range of businesses, from multinational corporations to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate in the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action, including through business models that aligned with efforts to rethink measures of progress and prosperity,

Recognizing the resolution of the International Labour Organization concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, adopted in June 2022, in which it recognizes that the social and solidarity economy encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits, as well as assets, that social and solidarity economy entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy, that they put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods and that, according to national circumstances, the social and solidarity economy includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the social and solidarity economy,

Acknowledging that the social and solidarity economy can contribute to the achievement and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in terms of employment and decent work, the provision of social services, such as those related to health and care, education and skills training, environmental protection, including through the promotion of sustainable economic practices, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, access to affordable finance and local economic development, the strengthening of the productive capacities of people in vulnerable situations, the promotion of social dialogue, labour rights and social protection, as well as inclusive and sustainable growth, the forging of partnerships and networks at the local, national, regional and international levels and the promotion of participatory governance and policymaking and all human rights,

Recognizing the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to decent work and inclusive and sustainable economies, to the promotion of international labour standards, including fundamental rights at work, to the improvement of the standard of living for all and to social innovation, including in the field of reskilling and upskilling,

Recognizing also the role that social and solidarity economy entities as local anchors can play in providing decent work opportunities and empowering women, including women in rural areas, youth, persons with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, and recognizing their role in building community and social cohesion and fostering diversity, solidarity and protection and respect for traditional knowledge and cultures, including among Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities,

Recognizing further that the social and solidarity economy contributes to more inclusive and sustainable economic growth by finding a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience that fosters economic dynamism, encourages a just and sustainable digital transition, social and environmental protection and sociopolitical empowerment of individuals over decision-making processes and resources,

¹ [A/75/982](#).

Recognizing that the social and solidarity economy can play a key role in eliminating poverty and catalysing social transformation, thus helping to achieve the objective of leaving no one behind and to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, while ensuring social inclusion,

Recognizing also the role of the social and solidarity economy in promoting democracy and social justice, including by increasing social and solidarity economy workers' awareness of their human and labour rights, developing partnerships and alliances to achieve common goals, enhancing business potential, entrepreneurial and managerial capacities, strengthening productivity and competitiveness, and supporting social and technological innovation and participatory business models, and the need to facilitate access to international markets and institutional funding for social and solidarity economy entities,

Recognizing further that social dialogue and the protection of all labour rights contribute to the overall cohesion of societies and are crucial for a well-functioning and productive economy,

1. *Encourages* Member States to promote and implement national, local and regional strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and solidarity economy as a possible model for sustainable economic and social development, taking into account national circumstances, plans and priorities by, inter alia, developing specific legal frameworks, where appropriate, for the social and solidarity economy, making visible, when feasible, the contribution of the social and solidarity economy in the compilation of national statistics and providing fiscal and public procurement incentives, acknowledging the social and solidarity economy in education curricula and capacity-building and research initiatives and reinforcing entrepreneurship and business support, including by facilitating access for social and solidarity economy entities to financial services and funding, and encourages the participation of social and solidarity economy actors in the policymaking process;

2. *Encourages* relevant entities of the United Nations development system, including United Nations country teams, to give due consideration to the social and solidarity economy as part of their planning and programming instruments, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, so as to provide support to States, upon their request and in accordance with their mandates and to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent and enabling policy measures and frameworks for developing the social and solidarity economy as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard acknowledges the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy;

3. *Encourages* multilateral, international and regional financial institutions and development banks to support the social and solidarity economy, including through existing and new financial instruments and mechanisms adapted to all stages of development;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, within existing resources, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into consideration the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an inclusive, job-rich, resilient and sustainable recovery, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development".

*66th plenary meeting
18 April 2023*