

## **Declaration for a Transformative Social Solidarity Economy**

15<sup>th</sup> of September marked the tenth anniversary of the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, the trigger that ignited the biggest financial crisis even known, and placed capitalism at the centre of all citizen's criticism. Yet until now the much-awaited and necessary changes have not occurred. Quite the contrary: the processes of financialization of the economy have increased, its speculative character has strengthened and, above all, the poverty and inequality rates on the planet have grown significantly. Our planet is deeply threatened by the environmental and social effects of an economic system based on profit seeking, productivism, limitless consumerism and the denial of the inequitable distribution of wealth. Inequalities and poverty continue to increase, while social protection decreases. The tragedy of forced migrations is yet another outcome of this unsustainable system.

The Social Solidarity Economy aspires to build a socio-economic system that places people, their communities and their environment at the centre of all its processes. A system whose objective is to guarantee the sustainability of life in all its aspects and to promote equitable, inclusive, democratic and sustainable well-being for all people - women and men – and human rights of peoples everywhere in the world.

That is why we, who gathered here in Bilbao at the Global Social Economy Forum 2018, raise our voice to denounce capitalism that commodifies and threatens our lives and our planet. It is a hetero-patriarcal capitalism that promotes discrimination against women and excludes diversity. We hereby commit to working together with other social movements for the transformation of the economy through alternative and social initiatives in the areas of finance, production, marketing and consumption. By transforming the economy, we transform territories and communities and thus promote a new cultural, social and political model.

From this perspective, we encourage the promotion of processes of convergence of the different transforming economies: solidarity, feminist, ecological, commons, among others, and we call for the incorporation of the values and practices of the different sovereignties: that of our bodies, that of our people, food, finance, energy, culture... We defend participatory, democratic self-management and also the commitment to cooperation and solidarity between individuals, movements and peoples.

To this end, we commit ourselves to the construction of alternative initiatives:

- In the field of creating and sustaining cooperative enterprises
- In the development of livable organizations for women and men
- In alternative finance and ethical banking
- In the promotion of social auditing tools and collective business management
- In the promotion of agro-ecological production and consumption
- In the construction of social markets and solidarity circuits of proximity marketing
- In the development of fair-trade networks
- In the promotion of the cooperative generation, marketing and consumption of renewable energies
- In the promotion of Community economies through social currencies, time banks, shared care management, etc.
- In research, training and civic and public awareness,
- In the building of alliances and social and economic inter-cooperation processes,
- In the regeneration of cities and territories that respect the rights of their inhabitants, are welcoming and inclusive, and link urban and rural areas in mutual respect
- in the co-construction of public policies that allow citizen initiative and participation, with collaboration agreements and instruments of deliberative democracy
- etc.

In short, we are committed to a transforming social and solidarity-based economy at the service of a New World that is more just, respectful, democratic and sustainable. It is now a question of joining forces, and all existing practices, to build and impose an Inclusive Global Agenda from the Local to the International, and show that we have answers and proposals to overcome today's huge global challenges.

Bilbao, 2 October 2018

**People, Organizations and Networks of Social and Solidarity Economy  
present at GSEF 2018**