



Intercontinental network for the promotion of the social and solidarity economy
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INTERVENTION BY RIPESS

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Launch of the Group of Friends of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

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International Labour Organisation (ILO)

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Thank you Excellencies, colleagues,

RIPESS, the intercontinental network for the promotion of the social and solidarity economy, with members in more than 75 countries on five continents, warmly welcomes the launch of this Group of Friends of the SSE. For more than 25 years, we have shown that the SSE is a deeply political response from civil society to the failures of the dominant economic model.

The emerging human rights economy agenda, and the Roadmap for eradicating poverty beyond growth presented here at the ILO, make this clear: the social and solidarity economy offers a concrete, proven pathway to address the root causes of poverty and inequality, not just their symptoms. Putting people and territories before profit is not utopian; it is already happening through cooperatives, mutuels, associations, care, feminist and community economies in all regions.

RIPESS has helped bring these realities into multilateral and regional spaces: contributing to the adoption of the UN General Assembly and ILO resolutions on SSE; securing recognition in the Sevilla Commitment at the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development; advancing the ASEAN roadmap for SDGs and SSE through our member ASEC; participating in RIFESS to strengthen Ibero-American cooperation; and working alongside RAESS, whose contribution is recognised in the African Union's ten-year strategy on SSE. These processes show that we are talking about a systemic response, grounded in a global movement with solid regional foundations.

The creation of this Group of Friends is therefore a political commitment to move from recognition to implementation: to bring SSE into the strategies of UN entities and development and public banks; to strengthen interministerial coordination and national SSE infrastructures; and to anchor this work in dialogue with organised civil society. We also strongly encourage a geographically diverse and truly global Group, reflecting the full richness of States' practices and leadership.

As Jean Ziegler reminded us, “we need to crush the invisible hand; the economy is not a natural phenomenon, it is a tool that must be dedicated to one single goal: the pursuit of global prosperity.”

I thank you.