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## **RIPESS – Plenary Intervention**

### **ILC 114 | Decent Work in the Platform Economy**

President, Director-General, distinguished delegates,

I speak on behalf of RIPESS – the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy – representing SSE networks across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania.

RIPESS welcomes this historic moment. But as we design new standards for platform workers, we must ask a harder question: who owns the platforms?

Today, platforms are owned by investors. Workers bear all the risk and receive none of the decision-making power. But this is not the only possible model.

Across the world, workers are already building platforms they own and govern themselves. The Platform Cooperativism Consortium documents more than five hundred platform cooperatives across 60 countries. These are not experiments. They are alternatives.

The draft Convention establishes crucial protections. RIPESS fully supports them. But if we only regulate the dominant model, we risk consolidating it. This Conference must also open the door to different models.

And it must be consistent with its own commitments. In 2022, this Conference adopted a Resolution on Decent Work and the SSE. The UN General Assembly followed with two resolutions – in 2023 and 2024 – recognizing SSE as a driver of decent work. The ILO itself chairs the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

The platform economy Recommendation must reflect these commitments. RIPESS calls on the Standard-Setting Committee to include language recognizing worker-owned and cooperative platform models, and encouraging Member States to support them through public procurement, digital infrastructure, and financing.

Workers deserve more than protection within an unjust system. They deserve the power to build a different one. Let us democratize the platform economy for decent work.

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Thank you.