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Sustainable development: promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development

Armenia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Mongolia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Suriname: revised draft resolution

Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 77/281 of 18 April 2023 on the social and solidarity economy,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling 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 also its resolution 78/175 of 19 December 2023, 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,

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Recognizing also that the consequences of 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] encouraged 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 recognized 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,

Taking note, in this regard, of forthcoming events that can further promote social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, such as the Global Forum for Social and Solidarity Economy, to be held in Bordeaux, France, from 29 to 31 October 2025, the General Assembly of Social Economy Europe, in October 2025, the General Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance, in November 2025, and the International Conference on Social Protection, to be held from 28 to 30 May 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan,

Recognizing the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to mobilize the furthest behind towards achieving inclusive and sustainable development,

[1] A/75/982.

Recognizing also 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 further 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 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,

Recognizing also 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 further 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 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,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy,[2]

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 for the social and solidarity economy, where appropriate, which consider the needs of its workers and entities, making visible, where 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 capacity-building, and encourages the participation of social and solidarity economy actors, including through consultative dialogue, in the policymaking process and policy implementation;

[2] A/79/351.

2. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate, through relevant settings within and outside the United Nations, to support the exchange of replicable good practices and lessons learned in support of the social and solidarity economy, including through South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and regional networks, and support the creation of decent jobs;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to consider how the social and solidarity economy could contribute to and feature in relevant upcoming multilateral processes, such as the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the "World Social Summit" under the title "the Second World Summit for Social Development" and the second International Year of Cooperatives in 2025;

4. *Encourages* relevant entities of the United Nations development system, including United Nations country teams, to mainstream the social and solidarity economy as part of their planning and programming instruments, including by enhancing research, statistics, knowledge management and capacity-building, 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;

5. *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;

6. *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 eighty-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development".