

▶ ILC 2022 General Discussion on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy

Presentation of the Resolution and Conclusions

July, 2022

▶ Resolution and Conclusions of the General Discussion on Decent Work and the SSE at the 2022 International Labour Conference (ILC)

- ▶ Background
- ▶ ILC General Discussion Committee on Decent Work and the SSE
- ▶ Resolution and Conclusions concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy
 - Section I. Introduction
 - Section II. Definition of SSE
 - Section III. Guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities
 - Section IV. The role of governments and the social partners
 - Section V. The role of the International Labour Office
 - Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the ILO and the UN relevant to decent work and the SSE
- ▶ Next steps

▶ Background

▶ The global context leading to this ILC General Discussion

- ▶ Growing attention from governments and social partners on **human-centred economic models**.
- ▶ Opportunity to shed light on the growing **diversity of enterprise models** that combine social, economic and environmental objectives.
- ▶ The SSE has gained further recognition for its role during the **global financial crises** and the recent COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Relevance of the SSE in **building resilience** in the **post-pandemic era**.



▶ The decision

- ▶ Decision taken by the 341st Governing Body (GB) of the ILO in 2021 hold a General Discussion on “Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)”
- ▶ The first time that the International Labour Conference (ILC) held a general discussion on the SSE



▶ The Office report on decent work and the social and solidarity economy



International
Labour
Organization

▶ Report VI

▶ Decent work and the social and solidarity economy

International Labour Conference
110th Session, 2022



It is organized into five chapters:

- ▶ Chapter 1. The SSE around the world
- ▶ Chapter 2. Contributions to decent work and sustainable development
- ▶ Chapter 3. Relationship with ILO constituents
- ▶ Chapter 4. Office action on the SSE
- ▶ Chapter 5. Decent work and the SSE: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

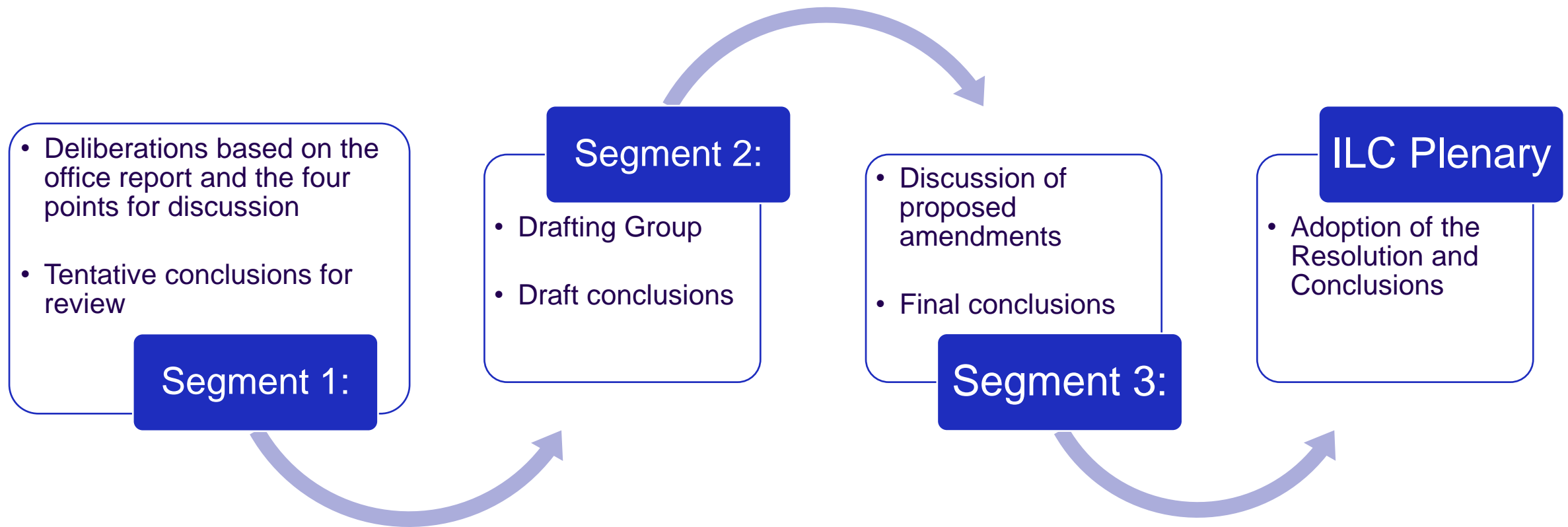
Relevant material and the Report is available in many languages:

▶ The points for discussion

- ▶ What should be a universal definition of the social and solidarity economy?
- ▶ How can the social and solidarity economy contribute to decent work and sustainable development?
- ▶ What can governments, workers' and employers' organizations do to promote the SSE's contribution to human-centred recovery?
- ▶ What actions can the ILO take to promote the social and solidarity economy?

Committee on Decent Work and the SSE during the 110th ILC

Process leading to the Adoption of the Resolution and Conclusions on decent work and the social and solidarity economy at the 110th ILC



For more information, see the [Committee webpage](#), and a [write up on the process](#).

Resolution and conclusions concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy

The Conclusions

The Conclusions are organized into five sections and an annex:

- Section I. Introduction
- Section II. Definition of SSE
- Section III. Guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities
- Section IV. The role of governments and the social partners
- Section V. The role of the International Labour Office
- Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the ILO and the UN relevant to decent work and the SSE

▶ Texts adopted

International Labour Conference - 110th Session, 2022

Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy

(10 June 2022)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, meeting at its 110th Session, 2022,

Having undertaken a general discussion on decent work and the social and solidarity economy, on the basis of Report VI on Decent work and the social and solidarity economy,

1. Adopts the following conclusions;
2. Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to give due consideration to the conclusions and to guide the International Labour Office in giving effect to them; and
3. Requests the Director-General to:
 - (a) develop a strategy and action plan on decent work and the social and solidarity economy to give effect to the conclusions, for consideration of the Governing Body at its 346th Session (November 2022);
 - (b) communicate the conclusions to relevant international and regional organizations; and
 - (c) take into account the conclusions when preparing future programme and budget proposals and mobilizing extra-budgetary resources.

Conclusions concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy

L. Introduction

1. Guided by the Declaration of Philadelphia in the Constitution of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which affirms that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity"; and that "the

▶ Section I. Introduction



Constitutional mandate of the ILO

Declaration of Philadelphia in the Constitution of the ILO (May 1944)

Affirms that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity"

Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation (No. 193) (June 2002)

Affirms that "establish and expand a viable and dynamic distinctive sector of the economy, which includes cooperatives, that responds to the social and economic needs of the community."

"A balanced society necessitates the existence of strong public and private sectors, as well as a strong cooperative, mutual and the other social and non-governmental sector."

ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (June 2008)

Recognizes that "productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises, together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector, are critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities."

The Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)

Acknowledges cooperatives and SSE units as a means to facilitate the transition to the formal economy, while recognizing that they may operate in the informal economy.

The Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)

Recognizes the role of cooperatives and other social economy initiatives in enabling recovery and building resilience.

ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work (June 2019)

Recognizes the importance of promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy, in order to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all.

The ILO's global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient (June 2021)

Recognizes the important role of the private and the public sector and the social and solidarity economy for a broad-based, job-rich recovery with decent work opportunities for all.

▶ Section II. Definition of SSE

► The agreed tripartite definition of the Social and Solidarity Economy

- *The SSE 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. SSE 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. 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. According to national circumstances, the SSE includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE.*

▶ The set of values and principles characterizing the SSE

The SSE puts into practice a set of **values** embracing:

- ▶ care for people and planet
- ▶ equality and fairness
- ▶ interdependence
- ▶ self-governance, transparency and accountability
- ▶ the attainment of decent work and livelihoods

A set of SSE **principles** operationalizes the set of SSE values:

- ▶ voluntary cooperation and mutual aid
- ▶ democratic and/or participatory governance
- ▶ autonomy and independence
- ▶ the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets



▶ The SSE includes entities operating in accordance with values and principles

According to national circumstances, they include :

- ▶ Cooperatives
- ▶ Mutual societies
- ▶ Associations
- ▶ Foundations
- ▶ Self-help groups
- ▶ Social enterprises
- ▶ Other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE



▶ Section III. Guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities

▶ Seizing opportunities (1/2)

- ▶ Ensuring the respect, promotion and realization of the **fundamental principles and rights at work** in and through all SSE entities
- ▶ Paying special attention to SSE workers and economic entities in the design, implementation and monitoring of strategies and measures to address the root causes of informality and facilitate **the transition from the informal to the formal economy** and advancement towards a universal **social protection** system
- ▶ Developing an inclusive, integrated and **gender-responsive approach** to the promotion of the SSE
- ▶ Supporting the SSE's potential for **building social inclusion**, especially with regard to women, youth and disadvantaged groups



▶ Seizing opportunities (2/2)

- ▶ Supporting SSE's role in **just digital transition**
- ▶ Valuing the local anchoring of the SSE and its contribution to both well-established and **innovative solutions to provide decent work**
- ▶ Fostering the contribution of the SSE entities to **just transition to environmental sustainability**
- ▶ Assessing the potential of the SSE to withstand **crises** and preserve jobs and to promote of **peace and resilience**
- ▶ Promoting the complementarity between SSE entities and other enterprises, to enhance the **achievement of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all**



▶ Overcoming challenges

- ▶ Overcoming **unfavorable environment** for SSE entities, such as:
 - lack of adequate participation, policies exacerbating informality, poverty, indebtedness,
 - legal uncertainty, weak rule of law,
 - inadequate access to finance,
 - unfair competition and trade practices and other deficits in the conditions for a conducive environment
- ▶ Recognizing and supporting the role of the SSE in **enhancing productivity** by:
 - enabling the horizontal, vertical and transversal organization of SSE entities,
 - harnessing the complementarity and possible synergies with other enterprises,
 - investing in competencies development and lifelong learning, as well as in technology and infrastructure.
- ▶ **Combatting pseudo-SSE entities** and their circumvention of labour and other legislation in violation of workers' rights



▶ Section IV. The role of governments and the social partners

▶ ILO Constituents

- ▶ The constituents have the obligation to respect, promote and realize the **fundamental principles and rights at work**, including in all types of SSE entities.
- ▶ The social partners are encouraged to, among others, engage in **social dialogue** with a collaborative and proactive attitude vis-à-vis the SSE on issues of mutual interest.
- ▶ The governments, workers' and employers' organizations are encouraged to establish a **conducive environment** consistent with the nature and diversity of the SSE to promote decent work and harness the fullest potential of SSE entities.



▶ Governments

The governments are encouraged to establish a conducive environment for the SSE, including by:

- ▶ developing policies to ensure the level playing field for SSE entities and the creation of decent work in the SSE;
- ▶ Integrating the SSE into national development, recovery and employment strategies;
- ▶ furthering the contribution of the SSE in national and global supply chains;
- ▶ strengthening labour inspection;
- ▶ improving statistics on SSE.



Employers' organizations



Employers' organizations may:

- ▶ consider, where appropriate, extending membership to SSE entities wishing to become members and provide them with adequate support services.
- ▶ facilitate SSE entities' access to business networks and partners that can:
- ▶ contribute to their development;
- ▶ enhance their business potential; entrepreneurial and managerial capacities;
- ▶ strengthen their productivity and competitiveness;
- ▶ facilitate their access to international markets and institutional funding.

Workers' organizations

Workers' organizations support and defend the rights and interests of SSE workers and this interaction should be reinforced, including by:

- ▶ increasing SSE workers' awareness of their labour rights and recruiting SSE workers to join unions;
- ▶ supporting their organizing and collective bargaining;
- ▶ developing partnerships and alliances to achieve common goals; and increasing the visibility of SSE workers.

They could also:

- ▶ provide inputs and counselling, especially for SSE entities in their formative stages,
- ▶ facilitate the provision of SSE goods and services for union members, and
- ▶ contribute to the establishment of SSE entities, as relevant.



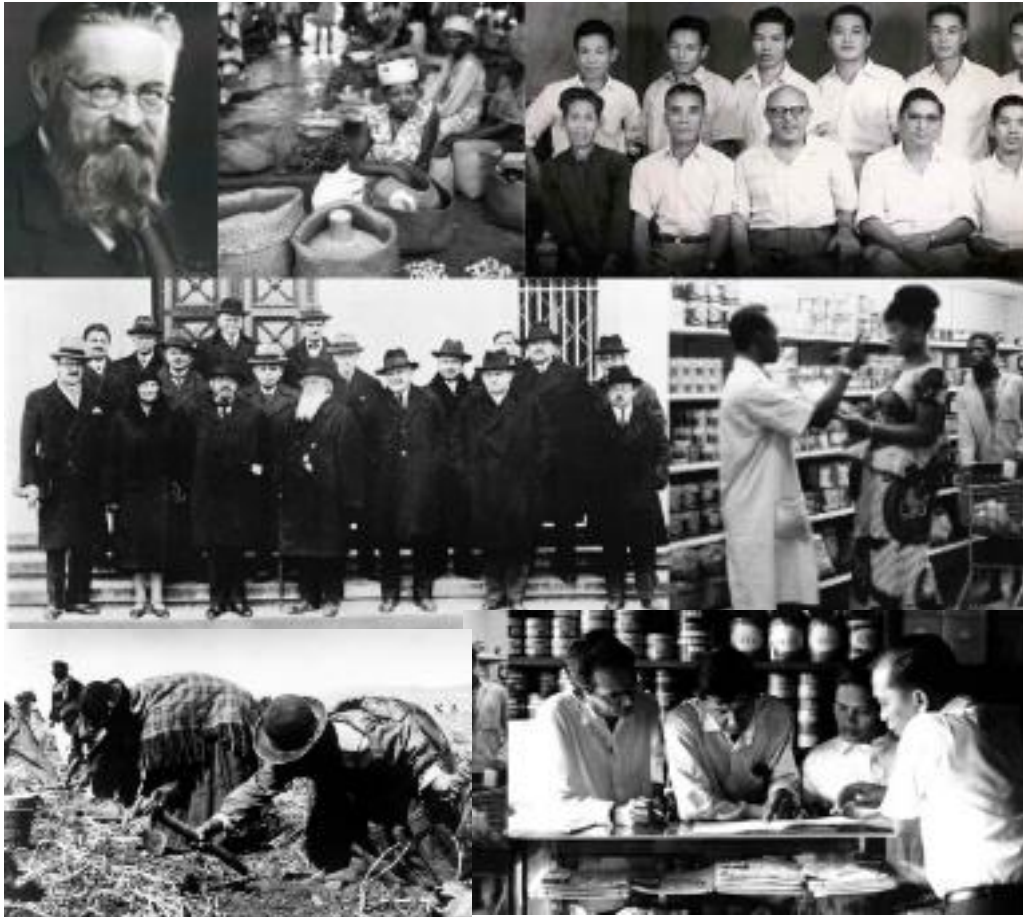
▶ Section V. The role of the International Labour Office

The Office has supported constituents in SSE-related areas of work for more than a century

- ▶ ILO's Cooperatives Unit (ILO COOP) was established in 1920 by a decision of its Third Governing Body.
- ▶ It has worked on advancing cooperatives for over a century in responding to Constituents' requests in partnership with cooperative organizations.
- ▶ In the past decade the ILO has been developing a work portfolio on the wider SSE.
- ▶ The Office uses a "one ILO" approach in incorporating SSE units into its programmes.



▶ Recommendations for Office Actions



Actions taken by the Office to promote the SSE for a human-centred future of decent work, should, with relevant partners, focus on:

- ▶ provision of legal and policy advice;
- ▶ advocacy;
- ▶ knowledge generation;
- ▶ exchange and dissemination of good practices;
- ▶ training and education;
- ▶ capacity building; and
- ▶ development cooperation.

▶ Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the ILO and the UN relevant to decent work and the SSE

▶ Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the ILO and the UN relevant to decent work and the SSE

- ▶ Fundamental Conventions
- ▶ Governance Conventions
- ▶ Other Technical Conventions
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ Resolutions
- ▶ United Nations Instruments



▶ Next steps

▶ Office-wide strategy and action plan

- ▶ The Resolution and Conclusions provide sufficient guidance to the Constituents and the Office on the promotion of decent work in and through the SSE for years to come.
- ▶ An Office-wide strategy and action plan will be developed for consideration by the 346th Governing Body of the ILO that will meet in October/November 2022.
- ▶ In developing and implementing the strategy and action plan, the Office will coordinate with ILO constituents, and welcome inputs from SSE entities and umbrella organizations.



▶ Thank you!

For more information, see:

- ▶ [ILO topical page on cooperatives](#)
- ▶ [ILO topical page on the SSE](#)

To stay connected:

- ▶ [Sign up for ILO's monthly enewsletter on cooperatives and the wider SSE](#)
- ▶ Follow twitter accounts on the ILO's work on cooperatives and the wider SSE ([@coopsemploy](#) and [@sseacb](#))

