



Launch meeting of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy

11 June 2026, 10:45–12:00 CEST

Room VIII (R2 South), ILO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Concept note

Background

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) is supported by a wider body of international, regional and national frameworks. This includes United Nations General Assembly resolutions on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, as well as the ILO resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy and the related Strategy and Action Plan. It also includes the OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation, the European Union Social Economy Action Plan and Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions, the African Union ten-year Strategy and Implementation Plan on the social and solidarity economy, and the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy. Together with growing legal, policy, institutional and statistical frameworks at the national level, these international and regional frameworks provide an important basis for strengthened cooperation on the social and solidarity economy.

The importance of the social and solidarity economy for a human rights economy has gained visibility across recent work linked to the Global Coalition for Social Justice. In 2024, the report *Eradicating poverty beyond growth* by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights included “stimulating the social and solidarity economy” as a priority for moving towards a human rights economy. In 2025, the SSE was highlighted at the Annual Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice partner-led conversation on the human rights economy. In 2026, the joint policy brief *Advancing a human rights economy through the social and solidarity economy*, presented at a public conference on the SSE in Turin, further elaborated this connection. The SSE is also included in the *Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth*, to be presented at the 62nd session of the Human Rights Council.

Building on these developments, the Governments of Brazil, Colombia and Spain will convene the launch meeting of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy on 11 June 2026 in Geneva, as a contribution to the Global Coalition for Social Justice. The meeting will provide an opportunity for interested governments to mark the establishment of the Group and to hear reflections from social partners and other relevant stakeholders on cooperation concerning the social and solidarity economy.

The Group will provide a voluntary platform for intergovernmental cooperation among interested governments, with a view to promoting the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to decent work, sustainable development and social justice, including through exchange, cooperation and follow-up in relevant multilateral processes.

Objectives

1. Mark the establishment of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy.
2. Introduce the Group's purpose, working methods and voluntary intergovernmental character.
3. Provide an opportunity for interested governments to share priorities and experiences concerning cooperation on the social and solidarity economy.
4. Invite reflections from relevant stakeholders on areas for cooperation.
5. Indicate next steps for interested governments following the launch.

Format

The launch meeting will take the form of a partner-led conversation. Opening remarks will be delivered by a representative of the Government of Colombia. A representative of the Government of Brazil will provide a brief overview of the Group's purpose and working methods. A representative of the Government of Colombia will then provide an overview of the international framework and opportunities for cooperation concerning the social and solidarity economy. Governments, social partners and other relevant stakeholders will then be invited to make short statements on the launch of the Group of Friends and opportunities for cooperation on the social and solidarity economy. The meeting will close with remarks by a representative of the Government of Spain on next steps for interested governments following the launch.

The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation. Participants wishing to follow the meeting online are invited to register [here](#).

Proposed programme

Moderator: Mr Jaime Iglesias Sanchez-Cervera, Special Commissioner for the Social Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, Government of Spain

Time (CEST)	Segment
10:45–10:50	Opening remarks (H.E. Mr Antonio Sanguino Páez, Minister of Labour, Government of Colombia)
10:50–10:55	Overview of the Group's purpose and working methods (Mr Marcos Perioto, Secretary of Labour Relations, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Brazil)
10:55–11:00	Overview of the international framework and opportunities for cooperation (Mr Mauricio Rodríguez Amaya, Director-General, Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, Government of Colombia)
11:00–11:35	Statements by representatives of interested governments on the launch of the Group of Friends
11:35–11:55	Reflections from social partners, members and observers of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, and other relevant stakeholders on cooperation concerning the social and solidarity economy
11:55–12:00	Closing remarks, invitation to join the Group of Friends and next steps (Ms Amparo Merino Segovia, Secretary of State for Social Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, Government of Spain)