

Advancing the Social and Solidarity Economy

Discussion of the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 79/213 and Ministerial Dialogue of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy

25 September 2026, 12:00-14:15

Location: Auditorium of the Instituto Cervantes of New York (211 East 49th Street)

Background

In December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 79/213, its second resolution on the social and solidarity economy, entitled “Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development”. It reaffirmed the important contribution of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE), to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution for the Assembly’s eighty-first session.

The resolution encourages Member States to strengthen policies and support for the SSE, cooperate and exchange good practices and lessons learned, and promote its consideration in relevant multilateral processes. It also encourages the United Nations development system to mainstream the SSE in planning and programming, and multilateral, international and regional financial institutions and development banks to support it through appropriate instruments and mechanisms.

The 2026 report of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) is the second report on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the SSE. It reviews developments since the previous report and finds that the SSE has received greater legal, policy and institutional attention. It also highlights advances in statistical work. Progress nevertheless remains uneven, the report notes, with stronger evidence of formal measures than of implementation quality, sustained results and effects on entities, workers, members and communities.

The report underscores that the SSE is increasingly recognized as a means of advancing sustainable development, decent work and social justice. It calls for coherent legal and policy measures, effective institutions, appropriate financial and non-financial support, stronger participation, robust statistical systems and sustained international cooperation so that political recognition is translated into measurable results.

The report is presented against a backdrop of growing political recognition of the SSE and uneven implementation across countries, institutions, policy areas and stages of delivery.

On 11 June 2026, the Governments of Brazil, Colombia and Spain convened the launch of the Group of Friends on the SSE at ILO headquarters in Geneva, with representatives of around 30 governments from all United Nations regional groups participating.

Co-chaired by Brazil and Senegal, the Group is an open and voluntary platform intended to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation on the SSE, facilitate policy dialogue and the exchange of experiences, and support follow-up in relevant multilateral processes.

In July 2026, the Group issued its first Declaration, reaffirming the commitment of the supporting governments to promote the SSE as a key driver of social justice, decent work, inclusive and sustainable development, democratic participation and resilient economies, while expressing support for continued multilateral cooperation and stronger international action on the SSE. The Co-Chairs invite additional governments to support the Declaration and join the Group.

Objectives

The high-level will:

- Facilitate high-level discussion of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of resolution 79/213 and highlight its principal findings and recommendations, as a multilateral roadmap for advancing the SSE.
- Generate high-level political momentum towards a third UN General Assembly Resolution on the SSE in 2027.
- Strengthen the Group of Friends and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy as leading platforms for international cooperation.
- Exchange political priorities and national experiences to accelerate implementation.
- Reinforce the contribution of the SSE to social justice, decent work, democratic resilience and the SDGs.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness among Member States of the findings and recommendations of the 2026 United Nations Secretary-General's report and recent progress in implementing resolution 79/213.
- Ministerial dialogue on priorities for strengthening international cooperation on the SSE, including possible elements of a future third United Nations General Assembly resolution.
- Reinforced political commitment and cooperation, also through the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy, including enhanced exchange of policy experiences and collaboration among Member States.
- Against a backdrop of growing risk to the multilateral system, increased visibility of the SSE as a practical instrument for advancing decent work, social justice and the Sustainable Development Goals across the United Nations system and other multilateral processes.

Illustrative Questions for the Ministerial Dialogue

- In the current context of growing inequalities, conflicts and pressures on multilateral cooperation, why is the SSE strategically important today?
- What are the most urgent actions to implement the recommendations of the report?
- What enabling policies work best and what concrete commitment will your government make in the coming year?
- How can the Group of Friends strengthen political leadership and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation?
- How should the UN and the ILO common work on the SSE evolve in the current situation?
- What measures should the Group of Friends and Member States promote to translate the growing political recognition of the SSE into concrete results, and what priority should be incorporated into a future third United Nations General Assembly resolution?

Tentative Agenda

Time	Advancing the Social and Solidarity Economy
12:00–12:20	Introductory remarks on the 2026 UNSG Report: <i>Promoting the SSE for Sustainable Development</i> by the secretariat of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE)
12:25–13:45	Ministerial Dialogue “Building Social Justice through the Social and Solidarity Economy in a Fragmented World” with representatives of: - Africa - Americas - Asia - Europe
13:45–14:15	Family picture and informal lunch and networking

Key Logistics Information

English – French – Spanish interpretation will be provided at the event.

Delegations must send an email containing the names and identity document numbers of their members to: comisionado.ecosocial@mites.gob.es