

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1st high level work meeting – 16 June 2016

Chaired by the Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, André Vallini, as representative of the French Presidency of the International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy (ILGSSE) and coordinated by the Permanent Secretariat provided by the Mont-Blanc Meetings in collaboration with the French Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, and the Minister of State for SSE, the high-level working meeting was held in the hotel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development in Paris, France on 16 June 2016.

This high-level meeting brought together:

For Member States of the ILGSSE

- Costa Rica:
Mercedes PENAS - First Lady
Gabriel MACAYA TREJOS – Ambassador in France
- Luxembourg:
Nadine MULLER – Responsible for SSE, Ministry of Labour, Employment and SSE
Jean-Christophe BURKEL - Director of the Luxembourg Union of SSE
- Morocco:
Nadira EL GUERMAI - Governor, coordinator of the National Initiative for Human Development

For international organizations and the civil society organizations

- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE)
Hamish JENKINS, Officer in Charge, UN-NGLS Geneva
- International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
Jean-Louis BANCEL, Board Member
- International Association of Francophone Mayors (IAMF)
Julie GUILLAUME, Advisor
- International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM)
Menno AARNOUT, Executive Director
- Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)
Laure AUFRERE, Ripess Europe

For the permanent Secretariat

- For the French Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, the Directorate General of Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, and the Sustainable Development Department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) :
Henry DE CAZOTTE, Assistant Deputy Director,
Christine ROSELLINI, Division Manager
Lola BLANC, Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation Editor

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- For the French Minister of State for social and solidarity economy, the services of the Directorate General of the Treasury, the Interministerial Delegation for SSE :
DHONT Raphael, Head of Interministerial Delegate for Social Economy
Eric DUEDAL, Special Adviser to the Head of Bilateral Affairs and Internationalization of Enterprises Department, DG of the Treasury
Joanna KOCIMSKA, Deputy Head of the Americas Bureau, Bilateral Affairs and Internationalization of Enterprises Department, DG of the Treasury
- For The Mont Blanc Meetings :
Thierry JEANTET, President
Abdou Salam FALL, President of the Scientific Committee
Jean-Philippe POULNOT, Vice President
Anne-France PITEAU, General Manager
Melanie LUCHTENS, Project Manager
Mariyana AMOVA, Secretary of the Scientific Committee

As observer

- European Commission
Michel CATINAT, Head of Unit "Clusters, social economy and entrepreneurship" DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Excused

For Member States of the ILGSSE

- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Senegal (observer)
- Quebec (observer)

For international organizations and the civil society organizations

- Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)
Carlos DE FREITAS, Program Director
Melissa VERGARA

I / Purpose of the high-level working meeting and introductory remarks by members and observers

Mr. Minister of State André Vallini opened the high-level working meeting recalling the importance of promoting SSE at an international level and the commitment of France to the ILGSSE, of which it holds the presidency until 2017.

Henry de Cazotte, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) which is **permanent co-secretariat of the ILGSSE**, recalled France expectations:

- Define and adopt working methods of the ILGSSE
- Define and adopt lines of work from the **Joint Declaration of the ILGSSE** (adopted at the high-level event organized in parallel to the UN General Assembly in September 2015-namely legislation for SSE and good practices of public-SSE partnerships, the organization of an international conference on financing SSE and indicators for SSE).
- Prepare the ILGSSE meeting in September 2016

Costa Rica reiterated its commitment to SSE, which is factor of progress, and to the Leading group which offers the opportunity to share valuable experiences with other countries.

Morocco stressed the importance of the Leading group that will give another dynamic to the actions undertaken for SSE in France, Morocco and in other countries around the world.

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Luxembourg reiterated its commitment to SSE with the conference organized during the Luxembourg presidency of the European Council.

The representative of the **European Commission** expressed its appreciation regarding the invitation to join the ILGSSE which will be forwarded to the College of Commissioners. He stressed the common work issues, including financing SSE, the regulatory environment, visibility and the international dimension of SSE.

The representative of the **ICA** indicated that he will report on the Leading group's initiatives at the next meeting of the ICA.

AIM stressed its commitment to the development of SSE.

The representative of the **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE (UNTFSSSE)** recalled the collaboration between the Leading group and the UNTFSSSE when the September 2015 joint declaration was drawn up and highlighted the cooperation grounds between the UNTFSSSE and the ILGSSE.

IAFM stressed the need to show one of the major contributions of SSE which is the "better living together".

RIPESS stressed the importance of the development of SSE internationally for which the ILGSSE is committed.

II / Conduct of the working meeting

The works followed the agenda adopted during the meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ministry of State André Vallini.

There were discussions and recommendations around the 3 following topics:

1. The first session was devoted to the presentation of the ILGSSE vade-mecum.

The vade-mecum was adopted, reinforced with two complementary elements, namely a reference to the role of SSE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a reference to the September 2015 ILGSSE joint declaration.

The reference language of the Leading group is French. English and Spanish are also used by the working group.

The following points were also raised:

- ILGSSE membership of SSE nationally representative organizations: this should require further reflection;
- the term "entrepreneurship" should replace the term "business" in the English version
- the text should be able to be revised if necessary.

2. The second session was devoted to the presentation of work plans which aim to operationally decline the Joint Declaration of the ILGSSE

The permanent secretariat of the ILGSSE presented the work plans to operationalize the joint declaration adopted at the end of the high-level event in parallel of the 70th UN General Assembly in September 2015.

These work plans cover the three priority themes:

1. Produce an International Guide on Legislation for SSE / Theme 1a: Public-SSE Partnerships
2. Social and economic indicators to measure the contribution of SSE
3. Organization of an International Conference on Financing SSE

It was agreed that the ILGSSE members will contribute to the implementation of the joint declaration, which will be provided by ad hoc working groups. ILGSSE members are invited to join the working groups and, to this end, each member shall appoint a contact point to the permanent secretariat in charge of the animation of these working groups.

2.1 Produce a guide on legislation for SSE

Members of the ILGSSE have considered first contributions on the subject:

- Work on the legislation is a priority of the UNTFSSSE; the International Labour Organization could contribute as well as the ICA commission of laws and RIPESS;
- Law Committee of the AIT and RIPESS;
- It will be necessary to promote good practices and to include the resolutions of the international and European organizations (Commission, EESC, the Council of Europe ...) that lead to frameworks for SSE.
- The Interministerial Delegation for SSE distributed an inventory document of SSE regulatory and legislative provisions in France.

ILGSSE members drew attention on the difficulties of developing such a guide, including:

- the existing political barriers towards the development of legislation for SSE within countries;
- the fact that legislative frameworks are evolving a lot;
- the wide variety of legislative proposals;
- the need to take into account existing works on the subject.

2.2 Organization of an international conference on financing

The following recommendations and contributions were made:

- An ad hoc working group should be set up in order to:
 - conduct an exploratory work to identify the goals of such a conference and target the financial sector stakeholders who should be involved in this international conference;
 - specify the terms of reference and to include this action program in line with and complementary to the international agenda of financing for development.
- Participate in various events organized on this subject will constitute steps such as the Conference that Costa Rica wants to organize the first quarter of 2017.
- The Luxembourg Presidency chose as a key topic financing SSE. A White Paper produced by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is available. This remains a very important issue for Luxembourg which can establish connections with the European Investment Bank to solicit their contribution to the working group.

The following points were discussed:

- It may be appropriate not to limit the issue to financing but to open it to:
 - the question of security through development policy frameworks;
 - the professionalization of SSE enterprises
- Public funding of SSE should be studied, including internal budgets of States dedicated or contributing to SSE. It may be appropriate not to limit the issue to financing but to open it to:

2.3 Indicators for SSE

The following recommendations and contributions were made:

- From an inventory of the existing, adopt the most relevant angle of attack;
- Integrate SSE qualitative indicators will be essential to take into account any societal and human impact of SSE;
- Consider the indicators defined under the SDGs.

It will be essential to link the works lead in this context to the question of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and new data for development relying in particular on the work of ECOSOC

3 / The third session was devoted to the high-level event in New York and the preparation of Habitat III

The document prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the ILGSSE and filed with the Habitat III Office was introduced.

The high-level event to be held in New York in parallel with the 71th UN General Assembly in September 2016 should enable to reach a common position of the ILGSSE in order to contribute to the New Urban Agenda.

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A side-event to the Habitat III Summit with the theme of SSE as a response to urban challenges will also be organized with the ILGSSE.

4 / The last session was devoted to the development of the ILGSSE

- The conference "Scale me up" organized by the French Minister of State for ESS on 17 June in Paris (France), and in which the President of the Mont Blanc Meetings will speak, will be a forum to invite the represented **European States** to join the ILGSSE.
- The Habitat III Conference to be held in Quito (Ecuador) and the conference on financing held in San José (Costa Rica) will be many opportunities to invite the **Latin American States**. Bilateral agreements with Peru, Ecuador, Morocco, Brazil, Venezuela and Quebec already signed with France on SSE could also be an opening point. It would be appropriate to contact these countries to offer them to join the group.
- The Euro-Mediterranean Network of SSE (ESMED) will be a central relay to promote the entry of **Mediterranean countries**.
- Morocco will facilitate contacts for membership of **African States** (Cameroon, Gabon, Senegal and Togo).
- The UNTFSSSE contact points could be effectively mobilized in particular to facilitate the accession of **Anglophone and Asian countries**. RIPESS Asia could also facilitate the accession of countries in the region. IAMF underlines that the Economic Strategy of the Francophonie adopted at the Dakar Summit in 2014, emphasizes the need to develop a responsible human-centred economy. Due to these guidelines, the International Organizations of la Francophonie will be a fertile ground for approaching States.
- Connecting with **major emerging** such as China which is more and more interested in the Silver Economy models, areas in which SSE is very present and brings new solutions, could also be considered as proposed by the General Directorate of the Treasury.

Following the discussions, the participants praised again the quality of the documents and reiterated their willingness to contribute to the work of the ILGSSE. This ambitious work, as defined under the adopted work plans, will be subject to refinement in technical, methodological, and organizational terms, by working groups to be set up in the second half of 2016.

Annexes

1. Joint Declaration of the ILGSSE
2. Roadmap of the French Presidency
3. Vade-mecum of the ILGSSE
4. Work plans
5. Side-event Habitat III