



## **Final Declaration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs**

We, the participants of the 7th meeting of the Mont-Blanc (MBM) - International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurs on the theme of "The Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable and Human Development of Cities and Territories";

Determined to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted at the 70th UN General Assembly in September 2015;

Determined to contribute to the success of the COP 21, and committed to prepare the Habitat III conference in 2016, declare to do our part of these agendas in order to move towards a sustainable human development when faced with priority issues such as climate change, poverty and inequality, unemployment and underemployment etc. We act in favor of the creation of jobs, gender equality, bottom-up participation in economic and social activities and in democratic choices, food security, and improvement of education and health systems;

We aim to substitute competition with solidarity, waste with recycling, individual ownership with a collective appropriation, verticality with collective management, profit with the well-being of members, monopolization of the profit by a few people with a fair distribution, financial speculation with actual production of goods and services, capital accumulation with reinvestment, exploitation of the vulnerable with support and help.

Our deliberations focused on 4 major projects.

### **Project 1 : Financing of cities and territories, food sovereignty, climate change**

The challenges posed by climate change and globalization must be thought from the economic and social dynamics that take shape in the territories. Therefore, the SSE actors, by their territorial anchoring, are at the center stage in the construction of local and community responses to questions related to the development, management of natural resources, building of cities that uphold human rights, environmental laws and an urban-rural balance. Thus, the territorial management by its multidimensional character is at the heart of building a new model of society that starts from local initiatives. It should have as ultimate goal the change of energy and food production, mobility and funding systems.

To do so, it is imperative for all countries to:

- 1) Promote legislation for the SSE and the SSE's values in the norms and regulations of the activities that impact the territories. We support the development of an international guide of the laws of the SSE;

- 2) Build with the SSE systems of production, distribution and consumption of food and energy rooted in the territories and focused on the needs of their inhabitants. On the eve of the COP 21, we argue that sustainable solutions are mediated by the SSE's sustainable production and consumption enterprises, such as renewable energy and recycling cooperatives and associations;
- 3) Promote diversified fair and innovative modes of financing, which take into account the needs and requirements of the SSE, with the participation of both specialized bodies and other mechanisms within the financial institutions. We support the holding of an international conference on financing of the SSE in 2017, as well as any other initiative capitalizing on the full potential of the SSE's actors, including the international cooperative organizations, and in cooperation with the States and the international financing agencies;
- 4) Support the synergies between SSE and territorial actors by creating Territorial Development Poles, for a participatory planning in order to ensure respect of human rights and balance in the relationship between urban and rural areas.

## **Project 2: SSE for social inclusion, social and environmental justice and equitable development policies**

Our societies of the XXI century must fulfill three major imperatives: social inclusion, social and economic justice and fair development. On the one hand, they are universally recognized human rights by peoples represented at the United Nations. And secondly, it is under these conditions that we can face the challenges of today: climate change, resource depletion, conflict situations and blind violence, economic and social inequalities, the unequal access to technology, gender discrimination, damages on future generations, etc.

In this context the SSE is a major asset:

- It carries social cohesion by cooperatives that give access to housing and support services to individuals, direct financial transfers, universal access to health care, quality education, etc., all are opportunities for partnerships between cities / territories and the SSE.
- The SSE is focused on welfare. It structures fair trade and is the source of environmental and energy innovations.
- Intrinsically, it aims at promoting decent jobs and inscribes bottom-up participation in its internal management principles and in its services.

It is important to make the most of its potential that remains largely untapped.

Thus this is the ability of the SSE to respond to new needs arising from the concentration of populations in cities. Whether it concerns waste management, access to water and sanitation, examples of creativity, innovation and innovative partnerships are plenty.

Local authorities are not mistaken because without investing great means, they know how to use their convening and mediation capacity to encourage and support initiatives, which overcome the tight budgets that they dispose of.

We propose to:

- 1) Leverage the alliances between the cities, the territories and the SSE built around axes such as social housing, access to health, social inclusion, innovative enterprises rooted in the territories, dedicated funds, places for exchange and innovation of the SSE;
- 2) Define, through a participatory process, indicators to measure economic, social and environmental impacts that could change the vision of development;
- 3) Create networks of SSE enterprises that directly contribute to the fight against climate change (renewable energy cooperatives, car-sharing associations, organic agriculture cooperatives ...)
- 4) Support the creation of activities and jobs for young people and women, and the persons that are socially excluded. We hope that governments and international institutions support outreach and training programs in this direction so that living on its own territory is still possible.

### **Project 3. Governance and transformation of entrepreneurial modes: culture, technical, social and digital innovations and public policy**

The SSE is a melting pot of entrepreneurial transformations. This creativity helps it to participate in the development of quality of the human capital and the mass creation of decent jobs. The SSE contributes to the transformation of the modes of work and wage systems. It enables employees to be co-decision makers and co-owners. It brings out the entrepreneurial modes that enhance the commons and the sharing economy and anchors them in ethics and solidarity.

While advanced technologies are not neutral and create new dependencies and may deprive the actors at the basis of their expertise, the SSE, while supporting innovation, maintains close links and autonomy. It helps initiatives such as free software platforms, open source seeds, carpooling or co-gardening, etc., to structure, to become sustainable and to scale up.

The ESS is an economy of links that creates alliances with local and national governments, and international development institutions.

We propose to:

- 1) Contribute to promoting research, the capitalization of experiences and research partnerships (partnerships between Universities, research laboratories and SSE organizations);
- 2) Leverage and mutualize the mechanisms of protection of the innovation to create starts-ups and accelerate technology transfer and the creation that is free of exclusive right; ensure the internet neutrality;
- 3) Open public procurement to the SSE and ensure that small and medium producers are not excluded;
- 4) Create public policies conditions that are favorable to an ecosystem of stakeholders;

- 5) Develop public policies that are participatory and driven by communities (eg participatory budgets);
- 6) Support exchange platforms and public/SSE partnerships in order to foster new entrepreneurial modes;
- 7) Involve SSE in the citizens' education in order to provide capacities to the people to create and manage enterprises in which they are naturally stakeholders.

#### **Project 4 : The international leading group of the SSE**

The Mont-Blanc Meetings – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, jointly with the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the forum:

- Welcome the prompt launch and implementation of the International Leading Group of the SSE and the outcome of the high-level session of September 2015, [the joint declaration](#) of the Leading Group on SSE;
- Propose as part of a broad appeal to States to adhere to the International Leading Group of the SSE at the UN, and to the participants to commit to intervene directly with their states to do so quickly;
- Invite the international organizations of the SSE, including the Global Social Economy Forum, to join the SSE organizations of the International Leading Group on SSE;
- Appreciate the work that UN agencies lead on the SSE, particularly through the Inter-agency Task Force on the SSE and want them to be consistent and enrich the work of the International Leading Group;
- Welcome the creation of an international network of parliamentarians supporting the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Finally, the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mont-Blanc Meetings Forum state that the Social and Solidarity Economy is an essential stakeholder in the implementation of the Sustainable development goals, COP 21, Habitat III because the SSE:

- Adapts to the requirements of development where they emerge: the SSE is sustainably rooted everywhere in the world and in all contexts;
- Generates important economic resources: they go beyond the economic field and are invested in people, territories, development projects that go beyond immediate gains;

- Offers alternatives by constantly renewing itself, while withstanding economic turbulences;
- Covers projects that forge alliances with various partners: the SSE extends far beyond its own organizational field;
- The SSE is present and developing in all continents, as is evidenced worldwide in the Thousand Initiatives Report<sup>1</sup>.

We are committed to promoting these proposals and to ensuring that they are implemented at all local, national and international levels.

*The Mont-Blanc Meetings – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs,  
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc (France), 28 November 2015*

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<sup>1</sup> The link of the Thousand Initiatives Report in three languages:

French : [http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/cahier\\_initiatives\\_ess\\_4ed\\_fr.pdf](http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/cahier_initiatives_ess_4ed_fr.pdf)

Spanish : [http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/cuadernos\\_de\\_iniciativas\\_ess\\_4ed\\_esp.pdf](http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/cuadernos_de_iniciativas_ess_4ed_esp.pdf)

English : [http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/initiatives\\_report\\_sse\\_4ed\\_eng.pdf](http://www.rencontres-montblanc.coop/sites/default/files/initiatives_report_sse_4ed_eng.pdf)