

Social Solidarity and South-South Cooperation:  
A compilation of short South-South Cooperation articles for the  
*“Academy of Social Solidarity Economy: Social Innovation  
in the World of Work” (Johannesburg, 2015)*

***by South-South Scholars***

Edited by Anita Amorim, Andrew Dale and Charbel Fakhri-Kairouz  
Geneva, July 2015



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# Preface by Virgilio Levaggi<sup>1</sup>



## Innovation in the Social and Solidarity Economy: the way ahead

The Director General of the ILO highlighted that the concept of “social and solidarity economy” has been recognized on various key occasions by the ILO. In 2008, the unanimously adopted Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization recognized a strong social economy as critical to sustainable economic development and employment opportunities, along with productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises and a viable public sector. Five years earlier, the ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, No. 193, stipulated that: “A balanced society necessitates the existence of strong public and private sectors, as well as a strong cooperative, mutual (...) social and non-governmental sector.”

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) aims at being a model of market exchange among people-centered organizations. This objective allows this type of Economy to be a privileged “locus” for advancing the Decent Work Agenda.

Such organizations seek, on the one hand, resources to guarantee their financial viability, and, on the other one, concrete results to promote sustainable development initiatives. It is important to note that the concept of sustainable development that guides the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is based upon three pillars: social, economic and environmental. In this context, Social and Solidarity Economy paves the way to a more just process of globalization. Innovation in Social and Solidarity Economy means adapting practices to the

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<sup>1</sup> Director, Department of Partnerships and Field Support (PARDEV), ILO.

local possibilities and constraints in different parts of the world. This reflects an aggregate value component of the SSE model: legitimacy. SSE is work in progress that depends on the contributions of actors directly involved with it: especially employers and workers.

The innovation component of Social and Solidarity Economy brings it closer to the concept of South-South and triangular cooperation. The idea behind South-South cooperation is that it allows countries to interact at a horizontal level, promoting solutions that are the outcome of an exchange of skills, resources and technical expertise, while promoting solidarity. The South-South cooperation model is complementary to the North-South dimension, in a dynamic that aims at promoting equality among peoples and democracy among states. Such dynamic can expand the impact of Solidarity Economy in national contexts by building regional and inter-regional networks of knowledge and sharing of experiences. Furthermore, the interaction between the SSE and South-South triangular cooperation is an opportunity to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

From an ILO perspective, SSE is both an opportunity to build up cooperation in a South-South triangular context and a means to propagate the Decent Work Agenda. The concept of Decent Work has four pillars, which are the promotion of jobs, the enforcement of rights at work, the increase in social protection and the establishment of social dialogue. Such concept guides the functioning of the ILO as a direct reflection of the common interests of workers, employers and governments. The ILO sees the application of SSE practices as a step forward towards the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, which, in its turn, is a means to achieving SDG 8: “the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and Decent Work for all”.

The Social and Solidarity Academy brings together actors directly involved with SSE from around the world to share their experiences and to meet leading specialists in the area. The 2015 Social and Solidarity Academy took place in Johannesburg and adopted “Social Innovation in the World of Work” as its guiding theme. More than 100 participants from all over the world, but predominantly from Southern countries, had the opportunity to debate, to participate in workshops and to visit some of South Africa’s SSE projects, such as Pet Recycling Africa – PETCO. The Academy also promoted the discussion on the complementarity between SSE and South-South triangular cooperation, placing particular emphasis on the India – Brazil – South-Africa Forum (IBSA), which, by means of its own fund, has proven to be an innovative enterprise of South-South cooperation in the last decade.

The ILO participation in the Academy on SSE for the past five years brings about the advantages of the inclusion of its tripartite structure. The contribu-

tions of workers, employers and governments strengthen the component of legitimacy of the Social and Solidarity Economy. In fact, one of the main outcomes of the Johannesburg edition of the SSE Academy (July 2015) was a Declaration issued by the Workers' organisations on Social and Solidarity Economy. While recognizing the importance of South-South exchanges it reaffirmed the pivotal role of workers' rights in cooperativism and solidarity economy.

The ILO also contributed with its experiences in the area of triangular cooperation for the promotion of Decent Work, as well as promoting a "Jobs for Peace" agenda. In fact, the g7+ (group of Fragile countries established during the Development Cooperation meeting in Busan in 2013) was represented at the Academy, enhancing the link between fragile-to-fragile cooperation and the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The present Compilation of Articles constituted an important outcome of the 2015 SSE Academy. These articles were mainly written by the participants from developing countries who received a "South-South Scholarship" to attend the academy, and they offered to the public over 40 different intakes on the application of the Social and Solidarity Economy at a local level in a wide range of locations worldwide. It also explores horizontal and peer-to-peer linkages of SSE. It is interesting to note that, whereas initiatives may differ substantially from one country to the other, there is common ground in terms of how actors see Social and Solidarity Economy. In a nutshell, SSE comes to fulfill a demand gap for opportunities of social and economic inclusion that are conducive to a more just and solidarity-driven process of development.

Whilst reading the articles, one can see how social innovation is often a response to local circumstances that uses the conceptual tools offered by initiatives such as the SSE Academy. Indeed, this is the ultimate goal of the Academy: to provide participants with a chance to debate ideas that lead them to new forms of implementation of SSE in their countries. Such ideas are discussed among equals and represent a unique contribution to a much-needed development paradigm: one that is both inclusive and respectful of the needs of future generations.



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This publication would not have been possible without the guidance of Jürgen Schwettmann, our main reference in Social Economy matters in the ILO, Roberto Di Meglio, the Coordinator of the Academy on SSE, and the editorial work of Anita Amorim, Andrew Dale, Fernando Baptista, Charbel Fakhri-Kairouz and Pedro Paranhos.



# Introduction



By virtue of the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality, South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is regarded as compatible with Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in sharing knowledge, experience and good practices, in supporting capacity development, technology transfer and resource mobilization, as well as in the establishment of international chains and networks on social innovation. Both development cooperation models share the principle of solidarity.

In the past few years, the ILO has engaged in initiatives that demonstrate the complementarity between SSTC and SSE. Such activities were showcased in the SSE Academies in Agadir (2013) and Campinas (2014) and Johannesburg (2015). South-South and triangular arrangements can expand the impact of Social Economy in national contexts by building regional and inter-regional networks and platforms for knowledge and experience-sharing. There are already many SSE networks among countries from the South, for example, the Latin American Coordination Bureau of Fair Trade, MERCOSUR Solidario, ASEC (Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition) network in Asia, RIPESS (Intercontinental network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy).

As for Africa, many networks specific to a certain type of SSE Organizations were established. For instance, the ILO has built a partnership with the African Social Entrepreneurs Network (ASEN) for facilitating the exchange of ideas on good practice initiatives that will further develop the social entrepreneurial space in Africa. As a direct follow-up to the Johannesburg Conference, 14 African social economy networks met in Mehdiya, Morocco, in October 2010, to create a regional network on SSE (i.e. Réseau Africain de l'Économie Sociale et

Solidaire). The regional network is part of RIPESS. RIPESS Africa is represented in this compilation, sharing some of its good experiences.

Considering those facts, the articles below, written by South-South scholars for the ILO's Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy held in South Africa, focus on Regional and Sub-Regional networking experiences for social innovation in SSE policies in the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation. The objective is to share and exchange good practices on SSTC and SSE and create a strong network of practitioners that combine the SSE work with a South-South and triangular cooperation methodology. Following the Academy, a series of networks were established, namely: lusophone countries, MERCOSUR, Francophone experts promoting Solidarity Economy, IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa), "Fragile-to-Fragile" exchanges among others. This compilation brings to light the wealth of these exchanges in an important field of cooperation.



# Compilation of Articles on South-South Cooperation and SSE



Triangular cooperation and Solidarity Economy by Abreu Santos,  
Jacinto (Cabo Verde)

## Introduction

The fall of the Berlin wall, icon of the Cold War, was the starting point for the democratization of societies of Eastern Europe and the globalization of liberal democracy. It made the world a global and increasingly multipolar space. Regional blocs acquired a greater role in the construction of the international political agenda. Emerging economies, constituted by China, India, Brazil and South Africa, are compelling actors and partners in the global economy.

The persisting economic, financial, social and environmental crisis reveals that the dominant economic model is not enough to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and degradation of natural and environmental resources. Besides, globalization has deepened inequalities between countries and regions.

Globalization and new information and communication technologies are the levelers of the modern world, if they are considered to promote global justice and access to resources, as well as more balanced distribution of wealth in the world and a more just and inclusive international trade. Furthermore, the crisis of 2008 has revealed that the state, the capitalist society and private

sectors are insufficient to generate income and sustainable jobs and social justice for all.

Several studies have shown the importance of Social and Solidarity Economy as a possible response to economic, social and environmental problems, as well as a true alternative to thousands of citizens and communities of our Planet, at an international, regional and local level.

It is in this perspective that the dialogue and cooperation on the economic, cultural, scientific and environmental fields among developing countries has gained increasing importance in the definition and implementation of plural and inclusive development models within which Social and Solidarity Economy is to be an active element in defining public policies for development.

### **Triangular cooperation and Social Solidarity Economy**

The establishment of networks for the sharing of experience and knowledge, as well as for cultural and economic exchanges at the regional, continental and international levels, can contribute to the implementation of a development model that helps organizations and communities serve people and trace the path for more solidarity, self-assistance and democratic management of resources. There is still a “variable geometry” in degrees of Solidarity Economy organization.

The various regional networks, involving organizations and companies in the social economy sector, have played an important role in the innovation process and the establishment of partnerships. Such partnerships among developing countries, governments and private companies had a direct impact on the conditions of life of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, resulting in public policies that facilitate their access to resources, information, knowledge, food, financial and non-financial services, new production technologies, and markets. Finally, these partnerships also favour access to vocational education and training, ensuring social and economic self-advancement of women and decent jobs for young people.

Triangular cooperation and South-South dialogue are present in the development cooperation model that ensures inclusion through production as well as through the empowerment of the most disadvantaged social layers. Thus, networking is an essential condition for the Social and Solidarity Economy movement to influence public policy at both the regional and the international levels. Networking has the purpose of ensuring the dynamic insertion of enterprises and Social and Solidarity Economy organizations in the global supply chain of goods and services that can gather together economic, social, cultural and environmental factors as a coherent whole.

Cabo Verde, a small island and archipelagic country, is promoting social inclusion in multiple coordination and consultation phases. This particular case involves mainly civil society actors. Only structures which are integrated into regional and international platforms can systematically share, knowledge, technologies and resources, taking advantage of the scale effect, mitigating the country's physical isolation.

The participation of Cabo Verde in this 5th Academy will be a further boost to create the Network of Cape Verdean Social and Solidarity Economy Experts, which is a necessary condition for integration in the African Social and Solidarity Economy Network and other networks of regional interest, such as the Lusophone Network on Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy, with tools and instruments reinforcing South-South cooperation.

### Comprehensive analytical approach to cooperatives and South-South Cooperation by Abed, Yesin (Palestine)

The cooperative sector makes a significant contribution to socioeconomic development in Palestine. Cooperatives contribute to job creation, income generation and poverty reduction. As member-based social enterprises, cooperative organizations contribute to economic change, while promoting fair economic participation by their members, and practising democratic management. Additionally, cooperatives have social responsibilities towards their societies and contribute to strengthening the civil society concept.

Cooperative principles and values, as defined by the International Cooperative Alliance, have served to guide and define the tenets of the founding and functioning of cooperatives. Cooperatives that have remained true to these principles have brought about immense value to their members, as well as their communities and customers.

Recent studies have highlighted the key problem of the cooperatives movement in Palestine: the lack of understanding of cooperative principles and lack of a cooperative model. The key stakeholders believe that there is a crucial need to support the development of model cooperatives in order to use these successful models as a mean for sharing and spreading the right cooperative concept and modality among cooperatives.

Relevance<sup>2</sup> is the key concept for establishing, within cooperatives, a harmonious consensus and coherence between the principles, values and laws

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<sup>2</sup> Methodology: Relevance in cooperatives can be studied through analysing the cooperatives generic aspect; as a) cooperatives' case or reason; b) the capital and investments; c) membership; d) work systems and bylaws; e) shared needs; f) services and products. Relevance analyses can be used

ruling cooperative, on the one hand, and the members' and community's need, on the other hand. The relevance diagnoses in cooperatives are crucial in building the capacity to increase efficiency. Relevance can be studied through comparison between the members' needs and the services provided by the cooperative. Correlation analyses could be the appropriate way to examine this relation and they must be done considering the operation system and methodology and field of operations.

### South-South and triangular cooperation

The UN conceived the notion of South-South Cooperation as a way to promote cooperation networks between developing countries from the South. South-South cooperation started to influence the field of development in the late 1990s. Some examples of South-South cooperation are the South America-Africa (ASA) Summit and the Asian Solidarity Economy council. South-South cooperation has been successful in decreasing dependence on aid programs from developed countries and in creating a shift in the international balance of power.

Since the 1960s, technical cooperation has included various approaches within both bilateral and multilateral relations. In the UN system, the concept known as "horizontal cooperation" has brought new development aid profiles and helped enhance the social impact of development. Traditional international technical cooperation has reached a point where some beneficiary countries have started learning sufficiently from development efforts and mastering techniques that they can now pass them on to other countries to promote this learning process. This is what is known as South-South cooperation. Most countries that are now donor/ development partners to the UN system and to the ILO benefited in the past from traditional cooperation. One relevant case is Brazil, which learned from South-South and triangular coop-

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note 2 continued from page 11

in pre-registration phase as a tool of verification by the registration authorities, a process that will help in starting a active cooperatives with right cooperative case. Relevance analyses can be used for cooperatives strategic area as vision, mission, and strategic objective. Good governance practices are another field of analyses that are necessary to understand cooperatives. Relevance analyses' comprehensive approach can be used at different cooperative levels of development. The main output of this approach is a diagnostic report that can be used to define improvement. In this context, I am developing a manual containing some important helpful elements with the aim of guiding Palestinian cooperatives on how they can become model cooperatives that can match their activities with members and community's needs and priorities.

eration, notably in the multilateral framework, and is now ready to contribute with its peer countries and LDCs to support development. Over the past few years, Brazil has been promoting horizontal cooperation in Haiti, Tanzania, MERCOSUR, Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Asia, sharing its experience and technical knowledge on approaches to combat against child labour. Since 2005, the ILO has supported the Government of Brazil in initiating more systematic horizontal cooperation in the field of child labour with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. The Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Brazil on 14 December 2007 to guide the future development of this important South-South initiative in a spirit of equality and non-discrimination and based on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Its most recent achievement is Brazil's agreement to finance projects in Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Timor Leste, following the conclusion of a framework agreement with the ILO in March 2009.

### ***Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)***

The term Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is increasingly being used to refer to a broad range of organizations that are distinguished from conventional for-profit enterprise, entrepreneurship and informal economy by two core features. First, they have explicit economic and social (and often environmental) objectives. Second, they involve varying forms of cooperative, associative and solidarity relations. They include, for example, cooperatives, mutual associations, NGOs engaged in income generating activities, women's self-help groups, community forestry and other organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprise and fair trade organizations and networks.

Today, Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a reality in many people's lives because it promotes values and principles that focus on people's needs and on their communities. In a spirit of voluntary participation, self-help and self-reliance, and, through enterprises and organizations, it seeks to balance economic success with fairness and social justice, from the local level to the global level. SSE appears to be moving beyond its niche, peripheral, project or community-level status, and becoming more significant in terms of macroeconomic, commercial and social-economic indicators.

Beyond the statistics, why is there a growing interest in SSE? Theoretical evidence tell us that such an approach can be a key mechanism through which poor or disempowered people in society gain greater control over resources and decision-making processes that affect their lives. Economists and political scientists have long espoused the benefits that can derive from co-operation or group behaviour in terms of addressing market failures and making demands

on more powerful entities. Sociologists have emphasized other virtues related to social cohesion, identity and job satisfaction.

But the contemporary interest in SSE also relates to the fact that we are living in an era that seems to be crying out for new models of development. Not only we have to deal with multiple and recurring crises (finance, food and energy), but also there is growing recognition that today's normative agenda has to be much more encompassing. Some may hark back to the glorious days of post WWII "embedded liberalism", of welfare states protecting citizens and corporations upholding some principles and practices of "Decent Work". But for all its benefits and ongoing pertinence, this model ignored some key issues related to gender equality and environmental pollution, and it is struggling to reproduce itself in contexts of economic liberalization and informalization of labour markets.

The discussions and debates taking place in the run-up to september 2015 – the date that has been set for the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – signal that the old development formula of economic growth plus social protection is no longer sufficient. Other aspects, associated with the realization of rights, empowerment, equality, women's care burden, and transformations in production and consumption patterns, need to be factored in. The theoretical attraction of Social and Solidarity Economy lies precisely in the ways it lends itself to addressing these multiple dimensions of development. It simultaneously fosters economic dynamism, social and environmental protection and socio-political empowerment.

However, achieving in practice what is promised on paper is another ball game. SSE's recent revival has been a largely grassroots phenomenon. Two aspects may be highlighted: First, collective action needs to connect at multiple scales via networks, movements and alliances. If SSE is to be sustained, enabled and scaled-up on terms compatible with its values and objectives, action cannot remain local; it must cohere at other levels (municipal, provincial, national, regional and global) where governance, advocacy and politics play out. Second, in order to expand, SSE must interact far more with states, private enterprises and global value chains. Such interactions inevitably generate tensions and dilemmas given differences in development priorities and approaches, as well as differentials in bargaining power.

Closer integration with powerful market actors underpinned the split. Fair-trade had expanded significantly over the years but quite different approaches were being promoted. The US organization model leaned towards engagement with corporations like Starbucks and was keen to source from large commercial tea and other plantations. Such relationships with big business had implications for the price that buyers were prepared to pay to small farmers and the quality

of sustainability standards. Meanwhile, various labeling organizations and producer groups, that were key stakeholders in fair labour organizations, wanted to stick to the original principles and practices of fair trade, based on small-holder empowerment and agro-ecology. What immediate policy implications stem from this reflection? Governments and international organizations clearly need to be paying far more attention to the SSE, and question how its developmental and emancipatory potential can be realized. And they should also be asking themselves whether current priorities or biases in policy approach in the field of development are not missing, or indeed undermining, what could be a major new game in town. These include the tendency to focus on: i) individuals or entrepreneurship, rather than groups; ii) economic, rather than political, empowerment; iii) idealize the integration of small producers and communities in global value chains; and iv) social (and environmental) protection, rather than equality and emancipation.

### Vision of Social and Solidarity Economy, Social Innovation and South-South and triangular cooperation by Baptista, Fernando (Brazil)

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has a valuable role to play in finding solutions for job creation, and Social Innovation is a key aspect in it. SSE can help cover the needs of people that have been ignored or inadequately addressed by the private or public sector, creating a strong, sustainable, prosperous and inclusive society. South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC), based on the principle of solidarity and non-conditionality, can be regarded as a SSE compatible approach for sharing knowledge, experience and good practices and for supporting capacity development, technology transfer, as well as resource mobilization and the establishment of international chains/networks of production and consumption. One of the main topics of my research in the past years has been the use of the Internet in international and multilingual cooperation regarding social-oriented economic practices. One practical example was the conceiving and implementation of virtual interactive spaces of knowledge exchange and South-South cooperation for the “ILO Social and Solidarity Economy Academy”

**SSE Academy Collective Brain** (<http://www.sseacb.net>): The “Collective Brain” is a virtual interactive space aimed at technically supporting the ILO Social and Solidarity Economy Academy. Its purpose is to allow former and current participants to keep involved, cooperate and deepen knowledge. This is a virtual multilingual space, which tries to reproduce and enhance, all year long, the interactive dynamics of the academy. The ILO has built a long tradition and developed a thorough expertise on SSE enterprises and organizations.

It believes that tools such as the Collective Brain can help to strengthen continental and inter-continental networks in the field of SSE. In addition, the concepts of SSE and SSTC cut across all four dimensions of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

**South-South Meeting Point** (<http://www.sstcsse.net>): The “South-South Meeting Point” is an interactive meeting point for South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) on the field of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). It was developed with the support of the ILO Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV) in the framework of the Social and Solidarity Economy Academy.

Another relevant work I did that embraced the notions of “Social and Solidarity Economy”, “Social Innovation” and “South-South and triangular cooperation” was a research conducted in East Africa. The goal of this research was to explore and understand the perceptions of grassroots youth entrepreneurs about collective engagement and its links with well-being. It drew from the Brazilian theories and practices of Solidarity Economy and its emphasis on democratic self-management and attainment of collective needs. As such, this research fostered theoretical and practical linkages and exchanges between the two regions in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy, particularly in the development of value chains and networks of production.

### Sense of Social Responsibility in the framework of SSTC- Social Entrepreneurship model on employment by Bayraktar, Sinem (Turkey)

Social enterprises or businesses aiming to provide social benefits through a rights oriented approach are acting with a sense of social responsibility. As Prof. Dr. Muhammed Yunus, the “ambassador” of the concept of social enterprise and 2006 Nobel Prize winner, said, the social business model would help us to be both process and result-oriented and, ultimately, it would reinforce sustainability. Instead of giving a man a fish and feeding him for one day, the use of this reinforcement strategy and for the promotion of public welfare by third sector organizations would encourage life-long learning through participative and practice-based activities, entrepreneurship and management which make social responsibility not an institutional obligation but an aim.

After working for UNICEF Turkey office, firstly in education programme, and then in child protection, participation and youth empowerment programme with an approach of enhancing triangular cooperation as well as South-South cooperation, I joined the Development Workshop Cooperative which operated as a non-governmental organization working in the field of social develop-



ment. The Development Workshop, which works through alliances, platforms, institutions and organizations from all sectors, is an example of cross-sector cooperation for the following reasons:

First, the Development Workshop defines the problematic reality as well as policies, strategies, further in-depth analysis, areas of cooperation, recommendations, strategy and action plans. Our combat against child labour in agricultural work, in support of Decent Work standards to improve the living conditions of seasonal workers and to promote gender equality in every segment of society allows for educational quality for all. The search for new employment models, like cooperatives, or new methods for development, like beekeeping, always needs mainstreaming know-how and sharing good practices. Therefore, Development Workshops promote rights oriented advocacy in order to ensure social development that is required by solidarity economy.

Second, the Development Workshop conducts capacity and partnership building activities with the cooperation of local actors (NGOs, public agencies, decision-makers, leaders, affected groups), which empower youth, women, producers, community members and leaders to participate in the decision making process, to learn their rights and related procedures and to initiate their own solutions.

Third, the Development Workshop implements its own project ideas, which combine knowledge, based on on-site observation, on-the-job training, learning-by-doing activities supported by constant communication via social media tools. This kind of work has a multiplier effect, since it starts from a limited local level and ends up affecting a critical mass.

Rather than putting these methods in separate boxes, the DW uses a two-logic model: simultaneous or consecutive logics. Thus, the advocacy for desired outcomes are supported by scientific proofs, coordination between concerned actors, tested by beneficiaries, embraced by stakeholders. In all methods, the DW works in an inclusive manner, it is to say, it includes persons from all segments of society and from all business sectors.

*“Triangular cooperation for Investigating Upstream Cotton Supply Chain in Turkey for Collaborative Follow-Up Action”:*

In June 2013, an effort to improve the social, structural, ecological and economic conditions in the cotton supply chain was undertaken by the Dutch textile and clothing industry resulting in the development of the ‘Action Plan for Improving Sustainability in the Dutch Textile and Clothing Sector 1.0’. Ten working groups were established and amongst them was the Child Labour Working Group in which the India Committee of Netherlands (ICN) and Hivos represented the Stop *Child Labour Coalition* and other members from *Terre des Hommes* and from five industry partners (companies). There was a gen-

eral agreement amongst the group members to conduct a more concrete and comprehensive research of upstream cotton supply chain and working condition related issues associated with the production, processing and transportation of cotton and cotton fibre. As two of the five members companies were operating in Turkey, it was decided to make the mapping in Turkey. The ICN and Hivos (Stop Child Labour Coalition) approached the Fair Labour Association (FLA) to explore the possibility of using the FLA's unique mapping and risk assessment methodology to conduct the above mentioned research on the cotton supply chain in Turkey. Consequently, the project was implemented by FLA's Research and Innovation Department in association with the local FLA staff based in Turkey as well as the Turkish civil society organization Development Workshop Cooperative. As soon as the funding of the project will be secured, the DW in partnership with the FLA will be launched along with the Stop Child Labour Coalition and across borders.

### Why South-South Cooperation is important for Social Innovation in SSE? by Canares, Michael (Philippines)<sup>3</sup>

The failure of neo-liberal economics to promote growth with equity, especially in a context of resource scarcity and a changing climate, calls for an alternative theory of development that would ensure that the poor will have access to economic benefits and enjoy a more sustainable and equitable future. In this case, what is needed is the development of a “serious alternative economic theory that goes beyond the critique of neo-liberalism” which offers an alternative world where social and economic arrangements can achieve “ecological sustainability and social equity and harmony” (Clammer, 2013:69). Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has gained prominence in recent years, as an alternative theory of development (Uchida, 2008), challenging current economic growth paradigms that rob ordinary people of the control of resources, the means of production, and even the just share of their labour. SSE, defined more distinctively by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is comprised of enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, which specifically produce goods, services and knowledge while pursuing economic and social aims and fostering solidarity. At SSE, ordinary people take control in shaping their

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<sup>3</sup> This paper is based partly on two papers written by the author: “Scaling Up: Interactions, Challenges, and Opportunities for SSEs in the Philippines” (2013: UNRISD) and “Convergence Model for Promoting and Sustaining Social Enterprises: Opportunities and Challenges in the Philippines (forthcoming, Skills@Work): mikocanares@steupconsultants.com.

economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental future by engaging in equitable systems of production, finance, distribution, exchange, consumption, and governance (RIPESS, 2013). SSE is an alternative that is most relevant for the developing world. In Asia, for example, SSE has existed for decades, though this may not have been officially called as such (Jayasooria 2013: 2). It was estimated that over 13 million people in Asia are members of more than 400 independent organisations and 21 countries in the region are involved in social economy initiatives (Loh 2013: 23). These initiatives are presented in the form of cooperatives, mutual benefit associations, social enterprises, people's associations, savings groups, and community-based enterprises that produce products or offer services and earn profit in a sustainable manner. The experience of Asia suggests that these organizations, within the context of SSE, have the ability to build participatory development, diversify a country's economic system, reduce transaction costs, and strengthen capacity of communities to fight poverty and inequity (Quiñones, 2015). However, these organizations should not work in isolation.

South-South cooperation in this case is critical. In the Social and Solidarity Academy held in Morocco in 2013, it was argued that South-South cooperation will add value to the SSE discourse, because it would strengthen the impact of SSE in national, regional, and inter-regional networks, and promote wider adoption of successful SSE initiatives. However, apart from South-South cooperation, it is important to take into consideration what Miller (2010: 10) proposes as a provision of shared services possible; where networks of social enterprises create "aggregations of financial power of many small enterprises (...) that can leverage economic power at scales of efficiency similar of that of larger companies". Such services are replacing dominant powerful companies and providing insurance, research and development, financial services, legal expertise, technical support, among others, to the most vulnerable in society. To battle against the dominant model of profit-seeking, shareholder-biased business establishments, a wider convergence is necessary. This global social innovation is what we need.

South-South cooperation will link SSE stakeholders from the local level to national, regional and international, networks. It will allow the links between the processes of production, consumption, exchange, and distribution of goods and services in the communities where people live, as well as improving policies, structures, and systems to serve the collective interests of local producers. It will help achieve an ethic of development that protects the environment, promotes quality of life, strengthens local business to achieve sustainability, and impacts not only on economic, but also the social, political, administrative and cultural aspects of life.

## Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and the ILO<sup>4</sup> by Cruciani, Antonio (Italy) & Amorim, Anita (Brazil)

On the 30th November 2011, at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the g7+ advocated for a *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*<sup>5</sup>. The New Deal policy document, which builds on the vision and principles articulated from the Millennium Declaration to the Monrovia Roadmap, proposes key Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, focuses on new ways of engaging, and identifies commitments to build mutual trust and achieve better results in states in fragile situation. The basis for this new paradigm was the acknowledgment that some beneficiary countries have learnt sufficiently from past development efforts and have mastered approaches and techniques that can now be shared with other countries. As a follow up to the Forum, the g7+ started promoting the idea of “Fragile to Fragile” (F2F) cooperation, which consists in: (i) sharing good practices and experiences to promote peaceful societies; (ii) placing common issues and goals in international agendas and forums; and, (iii) mutually supporting one another through exchange programs and resource mobilization from a fragile to another fragile country.

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) aims to provide an innovative response to global challenges that can be well adapted to the needs and development policies of the partner countries in fragile situations. The objectives and practices of SSTC are aligned with the principles of national ownership and self-assessment of F2F cooperation mechanisms as outlined in the Dili Consensus of the g7+. These countries experience similar situations and face similar challenges and, as they develop solutions to cope with current difficulties, the potential for South-South Cooperation increases, taking into account the sharing and adaptation of these solutions into analogous contexts. Through peer sharing and lessons learned, their successes and failures inform a new and better understanding of their own conditions and necessary steps for transition.

### The ILO's involvement in F2F cooperation within the framework of the g7+

Fragility is not a permanent condition but a temporary challenge to the successful socio-economic development of States and their citizens. There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach for operating in fragile environments. National ownership and the inclusion of local expertise are vital for designing evidence-based and diversified policy approaches that correspond to the individual

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<sup>4</sup> This article is an extract of the F2F article prepared for ILO-g7+ F2F meeting in Brussels, March 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Ref. <http://www.g7plus.org/new-deal-document/>

needs of States and societies affected by fragility. Since its foundation, the ILO has highlighted the role of socio-economic programs and policies in peace building and recovery. The *Employment (Transition from War to Peace) Recommendation 1944* (n. 71) proposed a pioneering approach to promote peace and social justice in the aftermath of World War II through employment-based recovery and reconstruction. Post-conflict, Fragile and disaster-affected environments are characterized by instability, insecurity, poverty and inequality. Lack of employment opportunities and livelihoods, youth unemployment and underemployment, inequalities and lack of participation can be catalysts for conflict. Conflict, natural disasters and fragility aggravate poverty, unemployment and informality, creating a vicious circle leading to even greater fragility. Decent Work can be a critical factor in breaking this circle and can lay the foundations for the construction of stable communities.

The international community recognizes the centrality of Decent Work for peace, security and social justice even in the most complex and fragile settings. The UN has acknowledged that employment creation is essential for political stability, reintegration, socio-economic progress and sustainable peace. Fragile environments and the challenge they pose to effective international cooperation are of high importance in current development policy debates and practices. The ILO's strategy for supporting Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation is built upon, and in accordance with, the defined new 2030 Agenda for Development. One of the 17 proposed new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes full and productive employment and Decent Work for all, which is at the heart of the ILO's mandate and is critical to ending poverty and contribute to peace building. However, priorities are also reflected in various other proposed SDGs that specifically include strategic areas directly referring to the ILO's mandate and calling for ILO's involvement, such as:

- *Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and Decent Work for all;*
- *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*
- *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation)*

Following the discussions on States in fragile situation held in the ILO Governing Body, on 20 March 2014, during the High-level Panel on Decent Work in Fragile States, Mr. Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Helder da Costa, General-Secretary of the g7+. The agreement foresees joint efforts to adapt the ILO's involvement in g7+ Member

States to specific contexts, in close cooperation with governments, in particular through joint programs and projects, with specific focus on: (i) Research (case studies) on the following issues: job creation, skills development and industry development; (ii) facilitation of peer learning among the g7+ and other developing and less developed countries with a focus on Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation; (iii) coordination between development partners and g7+ Member States on matters of international labour migration policy, as well as the socio-economic reintegration of refugees and other citizens of states in fragile situations, particularly within the same region and in neighboring states; and, (iv) technical assistance.

Given the ILO's experience in successfully promoting and expanding SSTC, the organization would be well positioned to offer valuable insights on consultation and policy processes to the g7+ and other countries in fragile situations. In this regard, the MoU is an important stepping-stone, as it declares that the "ILO will support and promote Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation between the g7+ member states and with other developing states, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation".<sup>6</sup> The "ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization" states that social dialogue and tripartism help strengthen social cohesion and the rule of law, as it is based on international labour standards (ILS) covering representation, consultation, freedom of association and collective bargaining. Social Dialogue and Tripartism also play a critical role in achieving the ILO's objective of advancing opportunities for women and men to secure decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity.

Within this framework, the ILO intends to contribute to expand and reinforce exchanges among countries and facilitate peer learning among the g7+ member states and between other developing and least developed states and countries in fragile situations with a focus on Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation (F2F) and South-South and triangular cooperation. The aim is to provide other governments of States in fragile situations with sustainable Decent Work solutions already successfully implemented in other countries with similar conditions. The ILO would provide technical and organizational support – in collaboration with all institutional partners, including governments, workers' and employers' organizations, civil society leaders, academics and donors – to cement initiatives, build partnerships and launch projects to bring tested solutions to be scaled up and address the challenges of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The ILO is available to jointly develop with the g7+ a coherent proposal for F2F, contribute to resource mobilization and assist in the

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<sup>6</sup> For instance, it is worth mentioning that the Secretariat of the g7+ was very active during the X Summit of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) held in Dili, Timor-Leste, in July 2014, as Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe are members of both organisations.

backstopping of F2F peer-learning activities. One solution to combat fragility may be Social and Solidarity Economy, and the promotion of fair and equitable trade and development cooperation practices between Fragile countries.

## Linkages of South-South Cooperation and Solidarity Economy: Experiences from Southern Africa by Chiweshe, Manase Kudzai (Zimbabwe)

### Introduction

This discussion paper outlines linkages between South-South cooperation and Solidarity Economy within the context of southern Africa. Focusing on Southern Africa will provide interesting insight into how the region can leverage processes of cooperation and solidarity economy for sustainable development. On using regional processes of cooperation already existent, it is possible to create stronger linkages of grassroots organisations that seek to improve livelihoods of communities. Regional and sub-regional economic communities continue to be the driving force of South-South Cooperation in Africa. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been among the most dynamic sub-regional groupings in the past four years. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization whose main goal is to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 15 Southern African states of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar.

### Theorizing South-South and triangular cooperation and solidarity economy

Solidarity-based economic enterprises can operate through cooperatives, associations and social enterprises, amongst other kinds of undertakings, which in various countries are already shown to be capable of contributing to the generation of wealth and the socio-occupational integration of various people, including young people and underprivileged groups. Experts who received an ILO South-South fellowship to the ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy (Agadir, Morocco, 8–12 April 2013) pointed out the complementarity between South-South and triangular cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy as follows: 1) South-South partnerships between SSE stakeholders are inclusive. They involve a multi-stakeholder approach central to the mainstreaming of the Decent Work Agenda. 2) South-South and triangular arrangements can reinforce the impact of Social Solidarity Economy in national

contexts. They can sustain wider regional and inter-regional networks and platforms for knowledge and experience sharing. 3) Existing SSE networks between countries from the South are inspiring initiatives.

### **Opportunities to engage South-South triangular cooperation in Southern Africa**

In this section, I outline opportunities were already existing cooperation is occurring which can be used to further solidarity economy by connecting transnational communities together.

#### ***1. Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP)***

The Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the peace park was signed on November 10, 2000 at the Gaza (Mozambique)-Kruger (South Africa)-Gonarezhou (Zimbabwe) Transfrontier Park. In October 2001, the name was changed to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. It includes, in principle, an agreement to manage those areas as one integrated unit. These areas may include ecological corridors, private game reserves, communal natural resource management areas and hunting concession areas. The mission is to remove all human barriers within the Transfrontier Park or Transfrontier Conservation Area, so that animals can roam freely within the local ecosystem. The purpose of these parks is to employ conservation as a land-use option to the benefit of local people. It is possible within the scope of this project to promote programmes that link communities across the three countries to natural resources.

#### ***2. The COMESA-EACSADC (CES) Tripartite Arrangement***

The CES Tripartite Arrangement, launched in October 2008, defines the vision and strategic objectives of the Southern and Eastern Africa regional integration agenda. The CES Tripartite Arrangement covers 26 countries, which accounted for about 56% of the population and some 58% of the combined GDP of Africa in 2008. The Tripartite Arrangement is a bold initiative to expand intra-regional trade, promote collaboration and facilitate joint planning, resource mobilization and project/programme implementation. It is important to find ways in which such initiatives can be used to promote linkages and growth of solidarity economy.

#### ***3. SADC Gender Protocol***

The South African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development was signed at the SADC Heads of State Summit, held on 16 and



17 August 2008, in Johannesburg. The protocol emerged out of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, which was signed about a decade prior, in 1997. The SADC Gender Protocol is founded on the rights-based approach to development. This approach requires the mainstreaming of human rights in the development process. This means embracing human rights in policies as well as in the implementation of programmes. Gender inequality, which is widespread throughout the SADC region, is one of the problems that a rights-based approach is intended to resolve. Equality, liberty and dignity – particularly the equality, liberty and dignity of women – are a critical part of mainstreaming. The SADC Gender Protocol is, therefore, both a policy document and an implementation framework for mainstreaming gender equality and equity. Such protocols can play an important role in bringing various actors under social solidarity economy across the region to work together towards gender and development.

### **Combating xenophobia**

The independence of South Africa was celebrated all across the continent with the promise of good life for all in a new democratic Rainbow Nation that embraced difference and diversity. South Africa, however, continued in a state of late apartheid pronounced by a strong grip of white capital on land and productive assets. Political independence did not bring economic transformation except for a few black political elites who have amassed great wealth in the midst of poverty. Disenchantment set in amongst the poor black communities reeling under years of poor service delivery and struggles to earn a decent wage. With the influx of black foreigners from across the continent competing for crumbs at the bottom became a serious war of survival. It is at this disjuncture that I discuss the most notable event in South African relations with black foreigners. May 11th, 2008 is a day steeped in South African consciousness as a tsunami of violence was unleashed on black foreigners across the country. In 2015 the attacks erupted again and there was an overwhelming condemnation across Africa and the region to these attacks. I believe that through South-South cooperation there can be ways to combat such acts of violence by promoting social diversity, respect, mutual regard for all Africans.

### **Conclusion**

There are many other forums for South-South cooperation within the region, which can be leveraged to promote Social Solidarity Economy. These should be built on mutual respect and benefit for all people within southern Africa. Social Solidarity Economy is not only important for sustainable

development but for enhancing the livelihoods and well-being of majority poor people in the region. South-South cooperation goes beyond the artificial colonial borders that have separated people of the south who share a cultural and ethnic history.

### The Cooperatives in Portuguese-Speaking Countries: The experience of OCPLP by Cohen, Catia (OCPLP)

The presence of cooperatives worldwide and the relevance of their work for socio-economic development are unquestionable today. While trying to fill existing needs in the various fields of society, cooperatives enable people to get involved in a more active and democratic way in decision-making and changes, thus becoming a pole of participation and citizenship. In Portuguese-speaking countries, the cooperative sector is increasingly being recognized as a tool to develop, at a local and community level, well-being and quality of life, to fight against poverty, and to promote employment creation and access to education, training, health and credits. In most Portuguese-Speaking countries, the cooperative sector lies mainly in agriculture, forestry, livestock, fishing and consumption, and it is experiencing an increase in the supply of markets and the flow of local production.

In certain Portuguese-speaking countries, cooperatives develop a key role in empowering women and stimulating their autonomy and their entrepreneurial and leadership ability. In fact, the cooperative initiatives developed by women are generating a “leverage effect”, in the sense that they are resulting in an improved quality of life for families and for the whole community. For example, the credit cooperatives promoted by women in Timor-Leste are ensuring, by the development of collective savings activities, children’s education, health care and financing of small business community members.

Nevertheless, the cooperative movements of several Portuguese-speaking countries find themselves at different stages of development and with specific local and cultural dynamics. The common language factor that unites them has enabled them to work together and develop closer ties for the launch of joint projects. The need to further strengthen relations between Portuguese-speaking cooperative movements was thus the cause of the foundation of the OCPLP – Cooperative Organization of Portuguese Speaking Countries, established in 1997 as a result of cooperation contacts between cooperatives and the organizations in Portuguese-Speaking countries, such as the CPLP.

The cooperative principle of mutual cooperation, which was institutionalized through the OCPLP was the basis for the commitment of the industry to assert its presence and importance in the Portuguese-Speaking space. The OCPLP currently comprises 32 organizations from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-

Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Portugal, Brazil and Timor Leste, including confederations and federations representing cooperatives from Portuguese-speaking countries. Overall, this Inter-cooperative structure intends to promote both cooperative and voluntary sectors in Portuguese-speaking countries, including its expansion and extension to new economic and social areas as well as the resolution of problems or constraints that the sector faces, the different levels of depth and social and economic impact in each country.

The implementation and development of activities aimed at training and building capacity for leaders and cooperative frameworks, either in-person or through distance learning, in a perspective of developing the skills and competencies of the members, is one of the priority areas of intervention within the OCPLP. Given the geographical dispersion of cooperative entities in each of the Portuguese-speaking countries, the use of electronic means allows the exchange of information and distance capacity building and training. In the case of OCPLP, it has implemented and developed an electronic portal ([www.portalocplp.org](http://www.portalocplp.org)).

Moreover, the promotion of the dissemination of ideas and business based on the principles of social, environmental, cultural and gender responsibility in a perspective of sustainable development, as well as the establishment of business networks using appropriate information and communication technologies, are seen as complementary areas capable to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of Portuguese-speaking cooperative movement.

Therefore, it is crucial for Portuguese-speaking countries to adapt forms, resources and financing instruments or other forms of credit and outreach of financial mechanisms and instruments successfully implemented in other countries, taking into account the territorial, cultural specificities and the strength of solidarity measures. The definition and development of cooperative legislation in Portuguese-speaking countries with high legal regulation deficit is another area considered critical to the development of procedures and tools to enable effective consolidation of the cooperative model. In summary, it is necessary to define an articulated strategy that favours the development of the cooperative sector in Portuguese-speaking countries and adopt policies and streamlining measures of inter-cooperation mechanisms focused on cooperative movements in Portuguese-speaking countries, namely in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor Leste<sup>7</sup>. In

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<sup>7</sup> **Biographical References:**

- Instituto António Sérgio do Sector Cooperativo, *Jornal Cooperativo de Língua Portuguesa*, edições 15 a 37.
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this regard, OCPLP is a fertile ground for promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in the fields of cooperativism and solidarity economy.

### The Sustainability Challenge of SSE: An agenda for South-South Cooperation? by Choudhary, Neetu (India)

A question frequently confronted by the notion of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is: what is new about it? Indeed, people have come together again and again in the past to form associations or cooperative organizations to act and/or to produce in groups. While associational activities have roots fairly in history, the renewed surge of interest in the solidarity economy needs to be explained partly by situating it in contemporary 'institutional context' shaped by neo-liberal policy agenda and also by gauging the scale of reorganization of activities that people across the world expect from this alternative form of economy. Increasing economic disparity, exclusion and informalization of workforce has triggered the quest for an alternative form of economy, which is resilient against the impoverishing ramifications of neoliberal policies and practices.

Neither is SSE a representative of state-sponsored welfare, nor is indicative of a mere cooperative of small, informal workers or micro entrepreneurs (UNRISD 2012). As such, the solidarity economy is far broader than the notion of cooperative production or voluntary and associational pressure groups. Of course, the latter could be a sub-set of the Social and Solidarity Economy. This expanded notion of Social and Solidarity Economy poses significant demands on institutional growth as well as on participants of the social economy – both significantly influenced by social norms, practices and individual values. Again, this demand varies considerably depending upon the nature and structure of activities, the SSE framework is applied to. Where the activity is purely of business nature, act of cooperation or of solidarity could be easier relative to the one where stakeholders from entirely different walks of society are at constant interface and where conflict of interests is very likely. Informal economy and management of the [environment or other] commons – the two salient issues particularly attached to neoliberalism – involve significant clash of interests but must also be handled for larger well being of the mass that survives on them.

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), as a form of production and exchange, offers a strategic and inclusive contour to engage with notions of democratic decision making, justice, resilience, capability expansion and cohesion (ILO 2011, UNRISD 2012) and, hence, has a potential for dealing with issues of informal sector that often touch upon the issue of commons – whether com-

mon natural resources, common social activities or common usage of public space. In fact, informality of work and access to public resources, like public spaces, etc are central among issues common to the Global South. As such, there is much scope for South-South cooperation in promoting SSE approach to these issues. However, the way various contours of SSE are operationalized on ground is likely to be influenced by prevailing institutional structure, social norms and ways of life. While norms and values vary across contexts, the fact that they assume greater influence in less developed and transitional contexts makes them common concern for developing and less developed countries. Such a context is indeed indicative of a potentially vicious circle, wherein what needs to be transformed during the evolution of SSE itself mediates the process of evolution. Consequently, sustainability of Social and Solidarity Economy approach as a sustainable answer to the quest for alternative system itself may become volatile, at least in sectors with conflicting interests of stakeholders. Thus, it might be an appropriate agenda for the discourse on SSE and South-South cooperation to look at challenges before its operationalization, from a sectoral perspective.

Based on a research associated with community level initiative to organize and systematize urban street trade in city of Patna in India, it was observed that there were challenges that emerged precisely from the context specific role of social norms, practices and values permeating across institutions – formal and informal. Urban street trade is one sector to point out which is pervasive across the global south but is also an area where the issue of informality as also of managing the commons tend to converge. This convergence makes the operationalization of SSE framework a challenge, at least in its ideal form – democratic, just, resilient, transformative and cohesive.

This is not to sound pessimistic on the opportunities for the solidarity economy. Instead, the intent is to underscore the criticality of assessing and dealing with challenges that may constraint realization of the potential of SSE. Here, it would be apt to mention Parnell and Edgar's (2010) contention on the indispensability of a radical programme of sub-national state construction that includes pro-poor administrative systems design within the bureaucracy for realizing socio economic and individual rights of street traders.

Moreover, even when badly needed, cooperation may fail to arise if the social and political structure at local level is not conducive to collective action and if appropriate beliefs and expectations have not come to prevail. Thus, one of the emphases of South-South cooperation agenda could be to dwell upon policy implications that also address ways of life and behavioural factors while supporting the implementation of SSE framework.

## The Promotion of the dynamic of Social and Solidarity Economy by Coumare, Madani (Mali)

The bipolarity that the world has known for decades was the main factor that widened gap between North and South. We witnessed an unfair and circumstantial management of international economic relations by the dominant powers, which hindered the universalization of the right to development. It seems easy to analyse this context of inequality in retrospect. However, in the current context of multidimensional crises and a seemingly world unipolarity, the major industrialized countries maintain dominant positions in the so-called globalization. Developing countries, in their turn, remain sidelined. This is a situation of paradoxes when referring to growth targets and the fight against poverty advocated by the MDGs.

In the South, the universality of rights has coexisted with the denial of rights in a context of poverty and social inequality. Equity in international economic relations requires convergent approaches to economic and social development. Common theoretical foundations should support such convergent approaches.

Indeed, the African context is marked not only by the weakness of participatory democracy and resource governance deficit, but also by the low involvement of intellectuals committed to transform pro-poor societies. This situation leads to precarious development strategies.

In addition to the economic and financial crises and their corollary of chronic deficits of public budgets, the role of the State on sustainable economic development requires a profound review. The challenges of new forms of poverty, persistence of youth unemployment and climate change exceed the state capacity.

This situation highlights the fact that the peoples of the world have similar fates and therefore must necessarily work together in the search of better conditions of life (education, training, information, food, health, housing, peace and security, freedom and democracy, development...).

Alternatives are needed to curb the harmful effects of ultra-liberal globalization.

### – **Roads that can be undertaken in the South**

The social economy promotion cannot be carried out in a isolated way in between the Southern countries; regional economic integration and globalization prevent it! In this context, this promotion can be undertaken in a quadruple pole dynamics related to national dynamics (internal to each country), South-South, North-South and West.

– **The pole of national dynamics:** It is the base of all dynamics, likely to contribute to developing relations between the stakeholders. These dynamics

will be credible and innovative as long as they give structures and human resources dedicated to their cause.

- **The pole of the South-South dynamics:** It is probably the sphere capable of ensuring relationship between countries with more or less similar contexts where the emergence or renovation shares are needed for the development of organizations of the social economy. This dynamic could develop concentric circles: at the sub -regional (e.g. Economic Community of African States ECOWAS-West regional and inter-regional: between the South). It is in this spirit that the RENAPESS – Mali accompanied the creation in March 2014 of a network of Malian parliamentarians to promote the Social and Solidarity Economy. This network aims to encourage the creation of similar network in Africa.
- **The Pole of the North-South dynamics:** It must be the carrier of fruitful partnership between older experiments (North) and more recent (South) in terms of solidarity and social economy. It is probably an appropriate sphere to take into account many issues such as those related to the trade between North and South, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility.
- **The pole of western dynamics:** It would create international cooperation strategies among developed countries, in particular with the South-South pole.

The existence of umbrella organizations at a national (national networks), regional (continental networks such as the African network of social economy, RAESS) and international (RIPESS) level is a can stimulate the foundation of a global movement in the Social and Solidarity Economy whose different poles are the pedestals.

### Responses to the challenges of promoting Social and Solidarity Economy

- ✚ The Sociology of Work in African countries such as Mali, reveals that 2/3 of employees prefer to spend their lives in this work situation, far from the troubles of all kinds involved in the pension in these countries where social protection systems are embryonic.
- ✚ Meanwhile, the social economy organizations are in a situation of training skills deficit, they can scarcely reconcile their social mission and economic and financial viability of activities.
- ✚ For, the normative planning, governance, technical and professional capacity of the economically oriented organizations must be strengthened so that they can become social enterprises and builder of a solid national economy.

The answers to the challenges require the following alternative actions, among others:

**a) The implementation of public policy favourable to Social and Solidarity Economy**

A national policy can be formulated and implemented in the field of local development, economic and trade as well as production and processing in order to effectively promote social economy in the African countries as some countries in Latin America (Brazil), North America (Canada), Asia (Philippines), Asia (Australia), Europe (Belgium, France) do.

Alternative approaches to promote Social and Solidarity Economy in the South must be backed by national policies co-produced by governments and stakeholders in the social economy, as was the case in Mali.

**b) Adequate support to social enterprises and cooperatives**

➤ Social enterprises and cooperatives operate with collegial management rules and economic and social performance goals. They produce goods and services for the market.

➤ They deserve special attention because of the role and the place they hold in terms of job creation and income, especially for young people and women who are at the same time, the majority of the population of these countries, and key determinants of their socio-political stability.

**c) Access to adequate funding**

➤ Often, because of the many misadventures in the field of microcredit in developing countries, one wonders if the credit can play a role of economic growth in the plural economy.

➤ The approach of Social Solidarity Economy to social and solidarity finance, availability of patient capital and responsible financing are able to provide credible and sustainable responses to this question.

➤ The Grameen Bank, founded by the Nobel Prize Yunus, is a global success story regarding the granting of micro credit

➤ The policies will focus on enterprises' access to social economy with adequate funding, equipment and land but also volunteering.

**d) National and sub-regional legislation and regulations around different branches of Social and Solidarity Economy.**

The experience of the Organization on the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) and the West African Accounting System (SYSCOA) is, in



the field of sub-regional legislation, legislation precedent whose scope is assessed in terms of standardization of business law and accounting. Such an example could be considered in the field of cooperative societies, mutuals and associations but particularly in the field of a sub-regional service offer the development of a regional policy on Social and Solidarity Economy

**e) Supporting the dynamics of South-South trade exchange**

Important informal trade exchange flows have always existed in Africa, between actors of Social and Solidarity Economy. In the search for sustainable solutions to systematize / formalize these best practices and proven experience, Réseau National d'Appui à la Promotion de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire (RENAPESS-Mali) organize annual exhibitions of the social economy in Bamako, bringing together companies of social economy from Mali and the countries of the subregion in the every last week of the month of October, which is dedicated by the Malian government to the social economy.

**f) The strengthening of the networking of organizations and enterprises on the social economy at national, regional and international level**

With the support of RIPESS and the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), many initiatives on Social and Solidarity Economy were created in twenty African countries.

The African network of social economy (RAESS) was set up in October 2010 in Morocco with the national networks and movements.

The main lines of the roadmap, which lead to the appointment with African networks open to other initiatives and partners, are

- strengthening initiatives of sharing and dissemination of skills, best practices and successful experiences among countries in the field of the SSE, social and health matters, social entrepreneurship, training and the socio-economic integration of young people and women;
- the development of South-South partnership by including it in a dynamic of cooperation and international solidarity, respecting the culture, the universal values of human rights and taking into account the gender approach and realities of each country;
- supporting “Action-Research-Training-Action approach” in favor of an institutionalized development of skills and adequate human capital.

**Conclusion**

The development of the social economy is one of the best ways for socio-economic development in the South. Convinced of this reality, the Government

of Mali adopted a national policy in this field in partnership with the actors of the social economy. This provision that exists in other countries such as Cameroon and Morocco, has been shared within the RAESS so that national networks can be inspired by it.

Finally, strategic alliances supported by structural action programs are needed between the movements of social economy, the international organizations who have a vocation of human development and public institutions.

### Social and Solidarity Economy and the IBSA Dialogue Forum by Dash, Anup (India)

The growing need for a transformative ‘paradigm shift for people and planet’, arising out of the failures of the neo-liberal development policy agenda and the resultant crises, brings the SSE into the centre stage of the new development framework that succeeds the MDGs in 2015. At the same time SSTC is becoming an important vehicle for change in the dominant architecture of North-South development cooperation because of the need for an active and constructive engagement of Southern countries toward a new and more inclusive development regime. Different societies have different needs, and solutions must be found there, not in the headquarters of the Northern donors or by the Bretton Woods experts. Thus SSE and the SSTC are organically connected to this transformative process, and mark a “double shift” in the dominant paradigm – in the *substance* (of development) and in the *structure* (of its development cooperation).

The South is a tremendous source of innovative solutions to development challenges (low-cost, home-grown, community-driven, solidarity-based, and embedded in the local cultural contexts), marking a departure from the earlier paradigm of “Northern medicines for Southern diseases”. The SSE landscape is filled with these indigenous local inventions across the Global South, pushed to the margin by the colonial and post-colonial predatory economic system based on alien values and *Weltanschauung*, only to be rediscovered today when they surprisingly proved resilient in the face of the crises-ridden dominant model, compared with the inability of Western governments to save the economic livelihoods of millions, not to speak of the planet. The South holds immense possibilities for the Post-2015 development agenda.

In the global arena, the normative legitimacy of the SSTC is marked by the emergence of a “multipolar” world and a shift away from the *Washington Consensus* and the OECD-led discourse on “aid effectiveness” to the broader notion of “development effectiveness”, which refers to the enhancement of positive social outcomes in terms of Decent Work, social protection, social

dialogue, respect for human and labour rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and the promise of decent livelihoods and well being by all in the process of development. Among others, IBSA is one such instrument and an important driver to reach the SDGs.

Led by emerging economic powers India, Brazil and South Africa, IBSA is a growing and dynamic “Dialogue Forum” (created in 2003 as a trilateral development initiative) committed to inclusive sustainable development in pursuit of the well-being for their peoples and those of the developing world, and, thus, is an engine to propel South-South cooperation and exchange towards achieving the Post-2015 SDGs. The three countries which formed the IBSA – three major democracies from three different continents sharing commonalities in terms of their pluralistic and multicultural social structures, historical experience with colonialism, with similar conditions and problems as developing nations – are guided by a shared vision that democracy and development are mutually reinforcing and key to sustainable peace and stability. Each of them is critically important in the geo-politics of its respective region, and together they have a great capacity to act on a global scale.

IBSA is not restricted to government efforts. It also seeks to deepen the relationship between the societies through different people-to-people fora to promote the exchange of ideas and cooperation and as a means of engaging society at grassroots level. It aims at supporting viable and replicable projects in interested developing countries based on the capabilities available in the IBSA countries and in their internal best practice through the IBSA Fund, and intends to make a difference in the lives of communities in all parts of the world. The main objective of the IBSA Fund (managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and executed through partnerships with UN agencies, national institutions, local governments and NGOs) is to benefit other developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) countries around the world in partnership with the UN. The IBSA Fund has no conditionality, and underscores the importance of the capacity-building impact of its projects; favours local procurement; and promotes the use of Southern expertise in meeting development challenges. The key principles of the IBSA Fund are that cooperation projects should be need-driven as well as locally owned and managed to ensure sustainability and continuity of development outcomes on the ground.

IBSA has already earned a mark of distinction for its development cooperation projects in less-developed countries, because of the remarkable success they have had on the ground. In recognition of its work, it was honoured with the UN South-South Partnership Award in 2006 and the UN’s MDG award in 2010 for

utilising innovative approaches to share, replicate and upgrade successful development experiences for eradicating poverty and hunger in the world. In 2012, the IBSA Trust Fund received another tribute when it received the South-South Champions Award at the Global South-South Development Expo in Austria.

Because of the political momentum it has generated in the South and its success in coalition building in the multilateral arena (including the WTO), IBSA is today regarded as the ‘central axis of the South’ and the ‘hard core’ of the Group of 20 developing nations (G20), and has created an influential space in the new global order. With its strong commitment to the ILO’s “Decent Work Agenda”, and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (a commitment reaffirmed by IBSA in 2010<sup>8</sup> and 2012), the IBSA policy emphasis centres around the need to promote a job-intensive recovery from the economic slowdown and create a framework for sustainable growth. It seeks to promote a response to the global economic crisis guided by the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO and the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the Global Jobs Pact. Thus the IBSA Dialogue forum strives to further develop and promote South-South and triangular cooperation for effective implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, to support countries of the South, through SSTC in their effort to implement the Decent Work Agenda, and to intensify policy dialogue and exchanges between India, Brazil, South Africa and the ILO.

The prospects for realizing the Decent Work Agenda have been severely challenged since 2008 by the impacts of multiple crises because, the neo-liberal economic policies, with their emphasis on market-led, export-oriented growth and capital accumulation, have been creating jobless growth and a “one-fifth society” over the past three decades marked by an increasing disconnect between wealth and well being. This calls for expanding the space and the scope for the SSE as a way to restore the life-line of the people and create a “second chance” for the “losers” as also to realign the fragmented communities with new economic opportunities in the new (post 2015) development regime. A healthy, vibrant and efficiently functioning SSE sector is a strong bull work against the collapse of the financial system, as well as a robust foundation for sustainable development. Given its strategic importance and its rich experience and expertise in SSE, IBSA presents a real opportunity to strengthen the dialogue forum to transfer its capacities, and share the innovative approaches and best practices with the Global South in its effort to bring the SSE from the margins to the mainstream.

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new\\_delhi/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_172003.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_172003.pdf)

## Solidarity Economy in São Tomé and Príncipe by Ferreira Luis, Adalberto (São Tomé and Príncipe)

In recent years, the Solidarity Economy has been perceived as an innovative alternative approach to generate jobs and income and to increase social inclusion. Solidarity Economy comprises a range of economic and social practices carried out by social entities such as cooperatives, associations, exchange groups, self-managed enterprises, and cooperation networks, among others, for the purpose of increasing and improving goods production and service provision and, at the same time, promoting solidarity finance, fair trade and solidarity consumption.

Over the past 15 years, São Tomé and Príncipe has developed a model of Solidarity Economy focused mainly on the agricultural sector. After the failure of the large State properties model (1975 – 1990), the government felt the need to restructure the agricultural sector and opted, in 1990, for distributing rural plots among older workers.

The establishment of this new socioeconomic model has favoured the emergence of initiatives and projects aimed at creating a structured model for rural areas and, thus, leveraging the country's rural economy and providing sufficient income to the new tenants in order to guarantee a decent life.

The production of a range of agricultural and fishing goods (cacao, coffee, pimento and fresh fish) and the promotion of programmes supporting agriculture and fisheries have brought capital benefits and generated a multiplier effect on the country's scarce resources. Cooperatives have been an ideal model to support the production of this range of goods.

In 2005 the first bio cacao producing cooperative – CECAB/STP – was founded as a result of cooperation through public private partnerships and producers such as PNAPAF, FIDA, KAOKA and NGOs.

Based on this model, other agricultural cooperatives were developed. The following are a few examples: CECAQ-11 – High quality / bio cacao producing and exporting cooperative; CEPIBA – Bio pepper and vanilla producing cooperative; CECAFEB – Bio coffee producing and exporting cooperative.

In São Tomé and Príncipe, this model has brought countless advantages to its members and to the whole country.

The bio production model and the fair market rules adopted for these cooperatives are the main cause of solidarity economy's huge success, since they have made possible the following:

- the creation of permanent access to niche export markets, giving the products a high added value (fair market and certified high quality and bio products) through fair commercial and technical partnerships financed progressively in the medium and long term by private partnerships

- generalized systems and techniques to produce and transform biological goods (based on solar energy) without negative impact on the natural resources of the country, thus helping reduce the risks related to climate change
- higher added value for exports (higher FOB price and reduction of import goods) than those generated by traditional or modern models
- the transfer of almost the totality (around 90%) of FOB value to the small producers (poorest rural populations) and organizations.

It is worth mentioning the success of cooperatives in the fisheries sector. COOPA Fresco, an association of farmers, and PICA-PAU are two examples of successful cooperatives operating in the fishing sector.

This rural model was created on the basis of a simple structure associated with family-level producers initially grouped in community associations and then gathered together in cooperatives supported by European private enterprises. The associations harvest the product and ensure the primary transformation involved (fermentation and solar energy-based drying processes).

Cooperatives organize producers and the finalization of dried products. They complete the drying process, if necessary, and ensure full traceability and control of the quality of products. They can also obtain certification, negotiate and organize exports, and provide technical support (for example, for vivariums, replantation, etc.) to their members through technical members' communication channels, at no cost. Private partners are engaged for the total or partial purchase of the product according to the wishes of the cooperative and subject to negotiable conditions and norms on biological goods trade and fair market conditions.

### **South-South and triangular cooperation**

North-South Cooperation has played an important role in the development of this cooperative model. European purchasers and partners in France, England and Italy have played a very important role in providing both technical and commercial support. In addition, the sharing of experience between countries producing the same kind of products has been of major relevance.

Côte d'Ivoire (fair market), Cameroon and Ecuador (techniques for the production of cacao) and Madagascar (techniques for the production of pepper) show the success of South-South cooperation. In the framework of the CPLP, the sharing of experience in fishing between São Tomé and Príncipe, Mozambique and Cabo Verde is worth being mentioned. Brazil also cooperated in the sharing of experience and training in cultivation techniques. In conclusion, we can confirm that Solidarity Economy has widely contributed

to the progress of São Tome and Principe through both South-South and North-South cooperation. Seminars, training workshops and the sharing of experience in food security in the framework of the CPLP have borne fruit to all CPLP Member States.

### Different approaches to Social and Solidarity Economy: a focus on Brazil by Filipe, Esmeria Maria (Mozambique)

#### Summary

In several countries, there has been a growth in production initiatives and the provision of services organized on the basis of free association and the principles of cooperation and self-management. The presence and extent of this progressive practice field motivated the launch of programs and actions which offered income option and better quality of life and well being. At the same time, Social and Solidarity Economy led to a permanent state of debate among political and social leaders, militants and students, about their main explanatory causes and its importance to build an effective alternative development at the local and global levels, taking into view the structural inability of the current system to provide well-being and improvements in quality of life of people. From an international point of view, the socio-economic perspective and the most significant theoretical and empirical studies on Social economy began in the 1970s. In a bit less than three decades, especially in Anglo-Saxon countries, there started appearing an early work aimed at investigating the complexity and diversity of this sector of the economy.

Since the second half of the 1970s, scholars from different disciplines and countries have expressed growing interest in economic initiatives of the associative or cooperative type that did not belong either to the sphere of “classic” private enterprise or the public economy. In this period, known as the crisis of the “Fordist”, the “new” trends and interest in Social and Solidarity Economy had seen the light. According to the author, the socioeconomic transformations of this period and the context of unemployment, uncertainty, insecurity, social and political tensions, combined with the state’s inability and the “market” to face such a situation are the main elements that can explain the massive mobilization of Civil society seeking collective solutions. This is where SSE encounters a “breeding ground” suitable to its development. This gained even more strength in the 1990s, with the final implementation of the outsourcing of the economy, the flexible production and outsourcing activities and functions and also with the restructuring of public life, with the “outsourcing” of management of certain public services.

As we have stated previously, the term SSE is not traditionally used in Brazil despite the fact that the organizations working at the interface between the economy and society constitute a significant and increasingly recognized social phenomenon. However, as most studies on the subject in other countries, there is in Brazil no consensus about what SSE entities are. The SSE is increasingly characterized by a “semi-autonomous microcosm” which has its own rules, regulations and codes and must be mastered by those who wish to enter the field.

Scientific production in the SSE sector is relatively recent (except for cooperatives) and, although using different names (social economy, third sector, NGOs, etc.), the number of studies initiatives that address the socioeconomic nature of civil society continues to grow.

From the 1970s, the pragmatic approach of “economic and administrative rationality” in the field of cooperatives emerged in Brazil, “exerting a strong influence up to the present”. This time was also marked by the intensification of criticism of this new “posture” on cooperatives, based on efficiency, competitiveness and technological and organizational innovations, since “from this period onwards, the businesses character got prioritized in most Brazilian cooperatives”. According to this author, “the cooperative detached from any doctrinal content is actually a pragmatic inadequacy of cooperative economic activity in the context of modern national economies.” A “new cooperative”, based on a synthesis between the two currents presented above and focused on the cooperatives as “effective businesses” but with “democratic management” saw the light. In fact, due to both tradition and economic importance of cooperatives in the Brazilian economy as a whole, it is expected that the scientific production in this field continues to expand, intensifying the debate between its internal currents and thus expanding the wealth studies on the social economy in the country. The second current mentioned above (studies on the “third sector”, as described in international studies) is turned over to the study of organizations that have no profit objective and aimed at promoting the public interest. Thus, in the studies that make up this current, the term “third sector” is used as the first English modern cooperative, founded in 1844 by 28 workers, whose core values and principles (democratic companies, free membership, equal rights vote, irreparable heritage, etc) have been adopted by all classes of currently existing cooperatives.

Regarding the jobs created in this sector, two points may be mentioned: the first refers to the fact that, the number of jobs created in these organizations is 55% of the total of employees formally registered in the country, and the second refers to the significant increase in jobs (50% in six years): from 1996



to 2002. From the sectoral point of view, the areas of education and health took up more than half of employed persons, followed by social assistance.

For Paul Singer, in capitalism the weapon of no capital is solidarity and then the economy and although the social economy constitutes an alternative within the market relations. He is the Secretary of the National Solidarity Economy Secretariat (SENAES).

SENAES was established in June 2003 by the Brazilian state, a process of social transformation in progress, caused by wide crisis of work that had been sweeping the country since the 1980s was taken as a defence against social exclusion and as socioeconomic insertion mechanism (Singer, 2004), as well as an alternative to the capitalist mode of organizing social relations of human beings (Lance, 2006). According to Lima (2003), when dealing with the theme of solidarity economy, one must take into account the confluence of many streams and the vast and heterogeneous aggregate of activities<sup>9</sup>.

It is noticed that the authors of this current are based on the notions of recovery and concepts that are used primarily to explain the phenomenon of the “new cooperatives” in Brazil. Besides, the thread of his argument lies mostly in dualism, always antagonistic dimensions such as heteronomy versus autonomy, hetero versus self-management, competition versus solidarity, profitable work versus volunteer work. In the light of the meaning of “social economy” from the point of view of this current, it can be seen that it is essentially composed of organizations in which the self-management is practiced. This is understood as a “central category” from the definition of some types of economic enterprises, among which private companies taken over by their workers after bankruptcy and some popular cooperatives.

With specific regard to the experience of SENAES, the term “solidarity economy” is defined as a “set of organized and economic activities carried out joint-

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<sup>9</sup> Yet, the formulations converge to a common core: solidarity as the core of all proposals; this solidarity which, for critics of the idea, is the starting point for their argument, to derail the harmonious relationship between solidarity and market capitalism (Vainer, 2000). Solidarity can be defined as a set composed of different types of “business” that arise in response to the needs that the dominant system refuses to settle. Lisbon (2005) is another author mentioned by Serva & Andion (2006: 63), responsible for deepening this characterization, saying the “socio – economic solidarity” is a new mode of production, because it creates new relationships both in production and in the distribution of surplus. It is also important to note that, in the view of this author, the solidarity economy does not refer to a “non-commercial” and “non-monetary” sector as the “gift economy”, but also does not refer to a non – profitable sector such as the “third sector”. For him, “the perspective of socio – economic solidarity is crucial to realize that this is driven by new technologies and the growing assertion of a network society (Lisbon, 2005: 111, quoted p. 63).

ly by men and women workers in the form of self-management.” Economic activities means activities related to the production of goods, services, solidarity finance, fair trade and solidarity consumption. It is also worth mentioning that the “solidarity organizations” refer to cooperatives, associations, self-managed companies, solidarity groups, solidarity networks, exchange groups, etc., from the idea of “Solidarity Economy Enterprises” – SEE, which are natural or complex collective nature organizations, where workers in urban or rural areas are engaged in the collective management of its projects and that may or may not have legal registration to practice their economic activities.

### Final Considerations

The term SSE includes a multiplicity of opinions, that is, its concept lacks widespread acceptance and implementation. In fact, it can be said that there is no consensus on the delimitation of its frontiers and activities so far. In addition, the use of this term creates ambiguity as it coexists with a variety of classifications and typologies (“third sector”, “third system”, “economy in profit”, “voluntary sector”, “alternative economy”, etc.). Although it is used to denote similar conditions, it does not always delimit the same field of activities. As a result of this multiplicity of views and concepts as well as of ambiguities and contradictions, there appears another obstacle to the advancement of studies of this “sector”, which refers to the quantitative information on measurement. In this regard, in each country, or even in each region different references are adopted, which vary depending on the historical socio-cultural, political and economic background as well as on desiderata, ideology and values of the researcher.

### Facilitating g7+ Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation: A paradigm for building resilience by g7+ secretariat (Timor-Leste)

The g7+ group was established to give a voice to the challenges of conflict-affected and post-conflict states and committed to transitioning to the next stage of development. The group, currently comprised of 20 countries, promotes country owned and country led, and advocate for reforms to the way international partners engage in conflict-affected and post-conflict states. The g7+ enables member countries to share experiences and learn from one another, and response to a gap identified by conflict-affected and post-conflict states in the effectiveness of aid partnerships and delivery in their countries. Under the scope of South-South cooperation, the g7+ has piloted a new paradigm: Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation (F2F). Fragile-to-Fragile is driven the core principles of voluntarism, solidarity, and cooperation. Countries engage in Fragile-to-

Fragile not to promote geopolitical interests, but to further the common desire for peers to transition from fragility to a stable present and a resilient future. To date, Fragile-to-Fragile has centered around three pillars: (1) Addressing urgent and emerging crises; (2) Implementing the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*, a development framework endorsed in 2011 at the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan 2011, South Korea; and (3) Peer learning and capacity building.

### **Fragile-to-Fragile Pillar 1: Managing implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.**

The *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* is the first aid architecture in history for conflict-affected and post-conflict states and includes three interconnected pillars: five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) to guide development strategies: Inclusive politics, Security, Justice, Economic foundations, and Revenues and services; FOCUS, a new way of engaging; and TRUST, a set of commitments by donors and recipient countries alike. The New Deal will guide country-led planning by prioritizes use of country systems, and calls on both donors and national governments to manage resources effectively and transparently. This is a very different approach to that taken by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it is an approach that is context-sensitive and truly country-led. The framework recognizes local regional and national government actors together with constructive civil society, private sector and the empowerment of women, youth and marginalized groups participation are at the heart of successful Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. More than 40 countries and organizations have endorsed the New Deal, including g7+ members, Australia, Canada, the United States, the European Union, Japan, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the OECD, the UN Development Group, and the World Bank.

New Deal implementation begins with FOCUS, a country-led Fragility Assessment, designed to assess a country's status on the five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals and identify key areas for domestic and donor interventions. The results of the Fragility Assessment inform the country's national development strategy and provide a roadmap for donors seeking to promote resiliency. While Fragility Assessment processes and findings vary from country to country, methodologies and applications are similar. g7+ member countries are at different stages of New Deal implementation, 7 pilot countries: South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, DRC, Timor-Leste and the Comoros have conducted Fragility Assessments and moved on to further stages; others are in the process of initiating or completing their assessments. When donors and governments

have agreed what TRUST commitments to make at the country level, these are the Country TRUST Commitments. These show HOW donors and government will build mutual TRUST and ensure the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals can be successfully achieved.

Under the umbrella of Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation, member countries meet regularly, both virtually and in person, and conduct fact-finding missions to review Fragility Assessment implementation and discuss strategies for advocacy and engagement with development partners. The g7+ report (November 2013) on Fragility Spectrum notes sets out the rationale and benefits of a 'spectrum approach' to fragility, and the purpose and use of country-specific fragility spectrums and indicators (developed through fragility assessments). It also discusses the utility of a consolidated fragility spectrum and a shared menu of indicators. It outlines definitions of fragility and resilience agreed by the g7+ and discusses the benefits and use of the fragility spectrum tool (*see Further Reading*).

### **Fragile to Fragile Pillar 2: Peer learning and capacity building.**

Many of the realities of countries in conflict-affected and post-conflict are unique to the fragile state context. While the g7+ strongly advocates for each country's development strategy to be tailored to circumstances of that country, it also believes that the lessons learned of one country can be applied to others. By engaging in F2F, countries are encouraged to identify what works, what does not, why, and share those lessons broadly. In particular, peer learning in this format is focused on natural resource management, public financial management, and peace and reconciliation, all issues common to many fragile states. The g7+ report on Natural Resource Management (May 2014) states "Many of the issues and lessons are common across fragile states, which underscores the role that information sharing and peer learning can play in supporting countries to achieve progress and take greater ownership of developing their natural resource potentials. This report provide a reference point for those wishing to research natural resource management in g7+ countries and will form the basis for peer learning among our member states" (*see Further Reading*). Engaging in Fragile to Fragile knowledge sharing through conferences, fact-finding missions, informal networking and authorship of joint policy briefs not only contributes to technical outcomes, but also builds the capacity of researchers, policymakers and civil servants involved in development planning and implementation. The g7+ Secretariat also works to make this knowledge available to decision-makers outside the g7+, lending important context to policy exchanges at the international level.

### **Fragile to Fragile Pillar 3: Addressing urgent and emerging crises.**

The emergence of insecurity, natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies is a critical threat to stability and development in fragile states. By their very nature, conflict-affected and post-conflict countries are at high risk of devolution into political or violent crisis. Relapses on the path toward peace and prosperity are part of the process of transitioning out of fragility; what matters is how countries manage those relapses. As the g7+ Fragile to Fragile policy note points out, “The emergence of crisis harnesses our conviction that building effective institutions and trust in government is a matter of life or death in our countries.”

Crises have the potential to reverse decades of progress in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries. For this reason, addressing emerging crises and mitigating negative impacts is of vital importance to g7+ members. At times of crisis, especially political crisis, donors and development partners tend to be risk adverse, pulling out resources and disengaging at a time of great need. Fragile to Fragile cooperation in this area seeks to provide reliable and knowledgeable support in the spirit of responsibility and solidarity. This involves committing immediate resources where possible, including direct financial support and technical assistance; and using the g7+ network to advocate for early engagement and resource mobilization in the international community. The g7+ report in April 2015 on Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation notes, “A wealth of experience has been gained in these countries in how to initiate, coordinate and manage these processes; how to adapt the tools and methods to the existing context and institutional setting; and how to actually use the tools and methods in practice”.

#### **Case study: Timor-Leste.**

Timor-Leste has piloted Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation within the g7+. In November 2013, at the invitation of the Government of **Guinea-Bissau**, a team of technical experts from Timor-Leste established the Timor-Leste Cooperation Agency in Guinea-Bissau to provide technical assistance and human resources in support of Guinea-Bissau’s efforts to hold peaceful, democratic elections. This cooperative team took a lead role in facilitating effective and legitimate voter registration throughout the country. In 2014, elections were carried out successfully, and the international community praised Guinea-Bissau for its commitment to the peaceful and orderly process. Also In 2014, a delegation of officials from Timor-Leste and the g7+ Secretariat visited Guinea-Bissau to participate in the launch of the country’s first Fragility Assessment and share lessons from Timor-Leste’s Fragility Assessment experience.

During the outbreak of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, Timor-Leste responded to calls for assistance from the international community, contributing \$2 million to fellow g7+ members **Sierra Leone**, **Liberia**, and **Guinea**. Former Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao noted, “This is an emergency of enormous scale, and we all have a moral obligation to stand shoulder to shoulder to ensure its swift conclusion. Especially, as we see time and again, it is the poorest and most vulnerable that are most at risk... The current Ebola crisis is not West Africa’s problem alone. It is in all of our interests to take immediate action now, and to sustain our support into the future” (*see Further Reading*). In channeling resources directly through country systems, this F2F cooperation also promoted capacity building and institutional strengthening.

In early 2015, a Timor-Leste delegation traveled to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC) and **Central African Republic** (CAR). In DRC, the delegation met with Prime Minister Matata Ponyo and other senior officials to review priorities around g7+ participation and natural resource management, and met with civil society leaders to discuss civil society engagement in New Deal implementation. In CAR, the delegation met with Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun and other government leaders to recount Timor-Leste’s experience in peace and reconciliation, and identified ways in which CAR can apply Timor-Leste’s lessons learned to its own reconciliation process. The discussion brought out clear opportunities for further collaboration, and resulted in a second mission from Timor-Leste to CAR in May 2015. At the invitation of the Government of CAR, the delegation participated in CAR’s groundbreaking Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation, which led to a disarmament agreement and establishment of a clear path forward for national elections.

The experience of Timor-Leste and its peers in Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation is evidence of the potential of F2F to promote best practices and improved outcomes. In favoring international engagement over isolation, F2F offers a new approach to formal cooperation between fragile and conflict-affected states<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> **Further reading.**

- Note on the g7+ Fragility Spectrum, launched in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 27th November 2013. <http://www.g7plus.org/publications/>
- Gg7+ report on Natural Resource Management launched in Lome, Togo, May 29 2014. <http://www.g7plus.org/publications/-g7+PolicyNoteonFragiletoFragileCooperation>, April 2015. <http://bit.ly/1KlRyBz>; – Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and Decent Work: An ILO perspective, January 2015. <http://bit.ly/1gPB3E5>; – Xanana Gusmao: Ebola is Not Just West Africa’s Crisis, September 2014. <http://huff.to/1RSWBR7>.

## My Vision for SSE, Social Innovation and South-South and triangular cooperation by Gicheru, Esther (Kenya)

I grew up in a rural setting of the central Province of Kenya. As I grew up, I witnessed cooperation taking place right from my childhood days. I witnessed women coming to our home to work with my mother in the family piece of land. Then the same team would go and work in another member's piece. As they worked they used to socialize, sing traditional songs and this seemed to lighten what would have been otherwise a heavy task. Seemingly, they enjoyed the togetherness.

I came from a coffee growing area and I used to come from school and deliver coffee to the factory where it was sorted and packed to go for milling. My life was, therefore, shaped by the presence of collective action where people organized and mobilized through collective action, in form of associations, cooperatives community organization, etc. Up to the present I find myself in a series of "Merry Go Round Groups" which have enormously contributed to enhancing my social and economic status. I also belong to two formally registered cooperatives; a savings and credit cooperative and a housing cooperative. I usually borrow money from the savings and credit cooperative and invest in land buying and construction of houses through my housing cooperative society.

When I first learned about the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), my background came into my mind. SSE are distinguished from for profit enterprises. They have explicit economic and social objectives. They also involve varying forms of cooperative, associative and solidarity relations. They include for example, cooperatives, mutual associations, NGOs engaged in income generating activities, women self help programs, community forestry and other organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprise and fair trade organizations and networks.

In Kenya, 6 million people are involved in cooperatives as direct members. Economists and political scientists have long espoused the benefits that can derive from cooperation or group behaviour in terms of addressing market failures and making demand on more powerful entities. Sociologists have emphasized other virtues related to social cohesion, identity and job satisfaction. If SSE is to be sustained enabled and scaled up on terms compatible with its values and objectives, so action cannot remain local; it must cohere at other levels (municipal, provincial, national, regional and global).

The SSE must interact far more with states, profit enterprises and global value chains. The new phenomenon of South-South cooperation offers a path to a new Global partnership for sustainable Development. This is essentially

cooperation between and among developing countries and offers a path to balancing growth and equity (U.N Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.)

The question to be answered is whether triangular cooperation can make Aid more effective. It is observed that better results can be achieved when southern partners and “traditional” donors (OECD’s Development assistance committee, DAC) join forces through triangular cooperation. Services and technologies provided by developing countries are likely to be less expensive furthermore there are a lot of similarities of development challenges in pivotal and beneficiary countries and therefore pivotal countries can contribute with expertise that is adapted well to beneficiary countries’ realities at a lower cost.

### Challenges

There are several challenges to achieve good results. These include

- Coordination challenges leading to high implementation costs;
- Lack of demand from and involvement of beneficiary countries;
- Limited scope/scale of triangular cooperation projects.

However such challenges can be overcome if beneficiary countries participate actively in and have ownership over projects/ programmes, helping to adapt them to local realities. If such support is channelled through cooperatives and other member-based organizations they will assist to ensure that the providers of South-South cooperation and DAC donors align with beneficiary countries development priorities. Such priorities are best defined by individual members’ needs.

Strengthening a joint strategy in Solidarity Economy Networks in Latin America: A methodology for joint South-South Cooperation based on the Principles of Solidarity Economy by Goncalves, Dimas (Brazil)

### Dimas A. Goncalves / Brazil

The Solidarity Economy (SE) is built as medieval cathedrals are: “stone by stone and in long time frames.” Thus, I believe that such issues related to the SE imply dwelling on the historical processes. One must seek their origins, history, causes, consequences, advances, decreases, as well as the current situation and prospects. It is with such view that the link between SE in South-South cooperation should be built.

In Brazil, there are two distinct realities. One is represented by the OCB – Brazil’s Cooperatives Organization, a confederation established by Federal Law No. 5,764, which has promoted the unity of the national cooperative or-



ganizations. The other is represented by all those cooperatives which do not feel represented by the OCB and that call themselves authentic cooperatives, given that they are productive organizations organized by and for the workers, also called as Solidarity Economy and Economic Solidarity Projects (EES). These EES derive from 3 institutions – UNISOL, CONCRAB and UNICAFES, respectively: Central of Cooperatives and Solidarity Enterprises; Confederation of Cooperatives of Agrarian Reform in Brazil; and National Union of Cooperatives of Family Agriculture and Solidarity Economy – and represent 32,000 solidary economic enterprises (EES). More recently, these 3 institutions formed the UNICOPAS – National Union of Solidarity Cooperative Organizations.

The relations between Brazil and the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay) are articulated by Mercosur, Southern Common Market, since 1991. Institutionally there are several joint technical initiatives between the ministries of these countries, from a perspective of trade coordination and exchange of organizational technical experience. In the field of Solidarity Economy, the most remarkable experience is the organization of the Cooperative Without Borders ([www.cooperativasinfronteras.net](http://www.cooperativasinfronteras.net)) – a joint 34 cooperatives from Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Central America (Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala) and Italy for the purpose of the generation of trade products and strategic cooperation services from the solidarity economy enterprises. Currently there is already marketing initiatives for sugar, cocoa, fruit pulp, honey and cereals, which are all organically certified production. Marketing is a reality in Canada, Spain and Italy.

There is no way to win in an isolated way in a globalized world. There is no way to develop the cooperative movement only in one country. It is essential to understand the cooperative organizations from the conception of networks. As joint processes of production, marketing and, more specifically, exchange of experiences and technical advisory references.

However, other issues must express joint strategies on networks. Such as sustainable and inclusive local development, sector approach to development based on productive chains, local and regional political representation actions, inter-regional and international links of marketing and production, as in the example of “Cooperativa Sin Fronteras”.

Therefore, I presented a preliminary draft of a **Plan of Economic Sustainability (PS)** for the network coordination purposes. This instrument (PS) is intended to support the creation and / or structuring of the SSE, in a participatory manner and considering the principles of ES, which should leverage complementarities in cooperation activities and could insert themselves in a sustainable manner in the operation of productive chains or clusters in their territories (micro and macro international).

Its objectives are:

- a) To mobilize stakeholders around a proposal for a solidarity project that expands their ability to appropriate values in providing territories of products for society as a whole;
- b) To describe (and understand) the social, physical, management, market and financial instruments and all other elements that compose a coherent way an enterprise can optimize elements of cooperation aimed at sustainable integration of the enterprise in the market;
- c) To develop preliminary commitments started in the elaboration of Territorial Plans Production Chains or Productive Arrangements where the SSE is in context;
- d) To provide a continuity of work schedule that induces the consolidation of the enterprise in the production environment;
- e) To present the results in the social management structure of the territory or similar space as targeting element of the implementation of public policies and resources to support the integration of actors and monitoring of commitments;
- f) To present the Economic Sustainability Plan Development for potential funders; and,
- g) To make fundraising projects for the economic sustainability of the SSE in cooperation articulated Network.

### ***Development axes of an Economic Sustainability Plan***

**Marketing:** Engaging the measuring of the market and demand, the competitive situation, the estimated annual amount of sales, an estimate of the sale prices, developing marketing strategies for products and services;

**Production:** Determination of productive capacity, necessary amount of resources for the production, location, production layout, use of technology partners, suppliers of inputs and specifications, operational requirements and quality and management of production costs;

**Organization and Management:** Forms of organization of the enterprise (legal, organizational and operational), and knowledge (information management), strategic planning and political leadership and the setting of the operational bases of self-management;

**Economic and financial control:** Dimensioning the initial capital and working capital needed, structuring control tools of the enterprise finance, forms of financing, definition of economic performance indicators, projections of income / withdrawal, investment performance and forms of transparency of results the enterprise; and

**Global vision of production and marketing:** Joint ventures with other economic, supportive and popular character within Mercosur, Latin America and engage on Brazil-Africa relations for exchange of experiences, technical support and economic integration of production and business processes.

### South-South and triangular cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy by Ghosh, Abhijit (India)

In recent times, there has been a surge in interest in a plethora of organizations that constitute the Social and Solidarity Economy. These include cooperatives, mutual associations, NGOs, women's self-help groups, community forestry groups, social provisioning organizations, fair trade organizations, social enterprises and other associative organizations in the voluntary and informal sector (Quiñones, Amorim, and Tavares-Martins, 2015). These organizations have variously been referred to as social sector organizations and citizen-sector organizations. Typically organizations within the SSE are characterized by a strong desire to bring about major social transformations in the "way things are done" or status quo. These social transformations typically involve the use of a social innovation which results in shifts in the distribution of rules, resources and routines.

In so far as this constitutes their very *raison d'être*, these entities, unlike those in the private (corporate) sector, are driven by multiple objectives – social, political, cultural, environmental etc. Based on the mandated principles of voluntary self-help, open membership, democratic member control, member participation, and concern for community (Ghosh, 2011), SSE organizations combine socio-political goals like empowerment, member access to markets and services, securing livelihoods and preventing exploitation with means of facilitating collective participation in economic activity. In other words, these organizations do not exist merely to maximize shareholder wealth, but to benefit the community at large. By definition, such a hybrid orientation requires these organizations to heed the voices of multiple stakeholders – beneficiaries, donors, suppliers, activists, volunteers, government agencies and other societal actors with whom they transact. Such an orientation means that these organizations are likely to be more embedded in their community and to be more responsive to their needs (Ghosh, 2011; Michelsen, 1994; Spear, 2000). What sets these organizations apart is their democratic control by members and the commitment to operate in a way that is just and equitable. For organizations like coops, mutuals and similar social enterprises this often translates into democratic principles like one-member, one-vote and equitable principle of surplus distribution based on patronage rendered rather than percentage of ownership held. Recent literature suggests that these organizations are more likely to be

“pluralistic” (Denis, Langley, and Rouleau, 2007) i.e. explicitly characterized by multiple objectives, both, social and economic, and diffuse power distribution that allows a wide array of constituents and stakeholders to influence the nature of goals pursued and the means adopted for the same (ibid) unlike what may be expected in traditional firms. Thus inclusiveness, plurality and justice are the key pillars on which these organizations are built.

The discussion above illustrates how organizations that constitute the SSE strive to enact an alternative system of production, distribution, consumption and exchange- one that is based on the key pillars of inclusiveness, plurality, solidarity and justice. Contrast this with the taken-for-granted systems of capitalism which are based solely on the logic of shareholder wealth maximization – one which rewards profits over people and in the pursuit of which people are treated as instruments – exploited as yet another “means of production” alongside capital rather than as substantial entities to whom profits and capital must be subservient. This neo-liberal logic is supported by huge moneyed interests (corporations and their value chains), by vested political interests (governments that instead of ruling for people, rule for private interests) and by bureaucratic interests whose career interests depend on serving the “will” of their political masters, regardless of how perverted this will might be. Thus the capitalist system geared toward maximizing profits squeezes suppliers, exploits workers and cheats customers and increasingly taxpayers to reward shareholders. This is a system which is exclusive (rewards a few), appallingly exploitative and grossly manipulative (involving the use of lobbies and electoral funding) to hold democracy at ransom. The status quo under neoliberal capitalism lends itself to gross unethical practices which became manifest following the financial crisis of 2008. This discussion provides the relevant background to theorize about an alternative future where every member of the human community will have the freedom to pursue a life of dignity – one that provides access to nutritious food, clean water, sanitation, education, housing and the capacities to lead the life of a productive citizen.

### **Vision for the Future: Avoiding redundancy, optimizing capacity utilization and scale.**

The social sector can be distinguished from the private sector on the basis of demand (for social needs and corresponding services) and the limited ability of beneficiaries to afford these services. Typically, the social sector faces severe resource constraints since the demand for social goods far outstrips the beneficiaries’ ability to pay for them. Given these resource constraints, it would be pertinent for SSE actors not to reinvent the wheel ever so often. One of the ways in which these redundancies may be minimized is through maintaining a systematic database of social innovations and core capabilities of social enterprises. For

instance, if a system of fighting AIDS works very well in Brazil, it would make a lot of sense to catalogue the social actors, innovations and capabilities responsible for the effectiveness of this system. Instead of reinventing the whole system for another country, i.e. South Africa, it would make sense for government officials, NGOs, health workers and doctors to have access to a ready reckoner providing essential data which can hopefully be replicated with some adaptation. In addition to avoiding redundancy, the sector would also benefit if it spawns sister organizations (operation on the same model) and leverages the resources and capabilities of large and experienced social actors who enjoy economies of scale resulting from the generation and use of capabilities over time and space.

### **Building awareness through training and education**

One of the stickiest problems plaguing the Social and Solidarity Economy is the lack of awareness among people about the available goods and services and how the SSE sector works. This problem is especially acute in poor, developing countries, partly due to illiteracy and partly due to lack of convenient access. For example, when Muhammad Yunus started Grameen Bank, there was little or no awareness about the potential of micro-credit to promote livelihood and escape the vicious poverty trap. It would be fair to say that today, most countries of the South have some form of micro-credit available to their members and the awareness of its potential is relatively high when compared to other services. This is in part because Grameen Bank and its sister organizations spent significant amounts of resources in making members aware of and providing them with training on what it means to be a member of a micro-credit cooperative. Moreover they were reasonably successful in replicating the Grameen model across countries by keeping the business model relatively simple and intuitive. SSTC, by virtue of bringing together SSE actors from the South, can benefit people significantly if they earmark a part of their funds to activities (SSE Academy being one) that bring people together and enable them to share their values, ideas, practices, core competencies, strategies and technologies. Such collective forums where like-minded people with a shared purpose and sense of destiny assemble are often the recipe for social innovation. An effort must be made with the assistance of ILO to set up incubators and centres of excellence in the domains of health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, income generation, agriculture and food security, fair trade, Decent Work and social security. These centres of innovation will function as relatively autonomous body and will be tasked with collecting fine-grained data on real-world initiatives in the aforementioned domains of activity and providing social sector actors with real-time and actionable

information. These are propitious times for advanced countries to show their leadership in terms of sharing effective technologies and research methodologies to facilitate the task of capacity building in the South.

### **Building legitimacy for the social sector – Voice in enacting legislation**

SSE organizations typically operate in non-market environments which are characterized by the provision of goods and services on the basis of need among constituents served, rather than on the basis of the profit accruing from such activity. Situations where neither state nor the market is able to address social problems of large numbers of people in the community demand that community actors themselves take steps to redress their own grievances in the spirit of voluntary self-help. Often times, these services must be provided by the SSE because governments are inefficient or lethargic in providing these services, while the private sector may be reluctant to serve those constituents who do not have the ability to pay for the services rendered.

Since governments in democracies exist for the people, it is vital that citizens themselves take necessary actions and mobilize themselves politically through solidary, citizen groups. A good case in point is AMUL<sup>11</sup>, India which is a dairy cooperative of 6 million farmers. It exists to serve the dairy farmers of Kheda district of Gujarat. Formed in 1946 as a result of the rebellion of the dairy farmers against the then Colonial Government in Bombay which controlled the supply of milk, AMUL's politically engaged leadership stood out for its ability to vigorously lobby the state and national governments. Faced with extreme competition, they convinced the government to enact policies to substantially curb or ban cheaper imports from multinationals, thus enabling India to be self-sufficient through AMUL's 'import-substituting' product development strategy. This allowed AMUL to survive market competition from much bigger MNCs and over time achieve economies of scale and scope, ultimately making India self-sufficient in dairy products.

AMUL, to its credit, boasts a number of directors on its board who concurrently hold prestigious political offices as members of parliament or Ministers. This embeddedness of AMUL in the broader political structure allowed AMUL to obtain favours like start-up loans and grants from the government, higher milk prices for their members, technical support for product development and machinery from FAO and OXFAM and, last but not least, a congenial institutional environment shielding it from competition in its formative years. All this

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<sup>11</sup> AMUL is an Indian dairy cooperative. The word AMUL is derived from Sanskrit, *amulya*, meaning "valuable".

was possible because the elected representatives of AMUL's membership were sincerely committed to the task of nation building and it was the leadership's mission to "serve the farmers of Kheda" by providing them the best prices for their milk and by providing them with the necessary extension services to help them enhance the productivity of their bovines. This spirit of "public service" is ubiquitous in SSE organizations, yet few SSE organizations actively engaged the broader political context. In order to effect social transformation through an "alternative economic model", it is imperative that social sector leaders demonstrate the willingness and acumen to engage politically. This is the only way to build the kind of taken-for-granted legitimacy that capitalism enjoys today. For this to happen, leaders of SSE organizations may undergo an extensive course in public service and leadership training. There are few institutes in the social sector that groom leaders for a career in public service, advocacy and politics. This is where the SSTC can be of enormous service by bringing together SSE luminaries and high impact social entrepreneurs under one roof to exchange and perfect their ideas and discuss their visions for the future. A cadre of such social sector leaders, having undergone necessary training, may be encouraged to offer their candidature for public office nomination so as to become members of upper/lower houses or Ministers. The citizen sector beneficiaries are often seen as a vote bank and democratic elections offer a great opportunity to bring to power those who imbue the spirit of social and public service, so that in due course enabling legislations may be enacted. The enactment of favourable legislations for the SSE, will then provide the basis for significant resource reallocations that prioritize the needs of citizens and communities.

### Solidarity Economy: Cases from India by Ghosh, Sanantu Kumar (India)

'Exclusion is the name of the Market Economy'. This understanding of the common people about the free- market economic system is probably beyond any question. Economic and social illness coupled with acute environmental pollution have brought forth the question of 'sustainability', which, for the sake of humanity, needs to be addressed with utmost sincerity. For addressing the issues of 'sustainability', a clear understanding of the performance of the so called competing system which may be referred to as 'Social and Solidarity Economy' should be carefully analysed with a view to learn from the experiences.

Two specific experiences may be considered in this respect. Cases have been drawn from two states of India: i) Odisha and ii) West Bengal.

The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) is the institution operating in Odisha, India has been addressing various socio-economic illness from which

the communities belonging to the schedule tribes have been suffering for long. It is involved in providing free education services including accommodation, health care, games & sports, vocational training to the poorest of the poor tribal communities residing in the state of Orissa. Their **goal is to ensure all-round development and empowerment** of the selected population.

Started with only 193 students in the year 1993, it has grown to be the world's largest residential free institute for 25000 students representing 62 tribal communities of which 13 are primitive.

Besides utilizing grants and donations from various sources, its students generate income by producing art & crafts articles which are sold to the market and a part of the revenue generated through this activity is handed over to the poor parents of those students. This motivates the poor parents to allow their kids to attend the school and to get educated.

### **Cooperation with National and International organizations and governments.**

Though this unique initiative was created by a few individuals, on its way of achieving exemplary success during the last two decades it has received various forms of cooperation from national and international organizations and governments.

Among the organizations and Governments some of the important names include: i) Hanseo University, South Korea; ii) College of Charleston, USA; iii) Vedanta Foundation and Vedanta Alumni, India; iv) Intel Technology; v) US Federal Government; vi) Eberhard Karls Universidad Tubingen, Germany; vii) Oracle Educational Foundation; viii) Tata Institute of Social Science, India; ix) NALCO, India.

In addition to these, the organization has been receiving assistance from noted multi-lateral international agencies like – UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Though cooperation has not been received in the traditional South-South and triangular cooperation format, involvement of US Federal Government and different organizations from USA and Germany along with those received from organizations of South Korea and India may be considered as an example of similar cooperation to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

Compared to the government run institutions, KISS offers a new model of educating and empowering the poorest section of the society who are excluded in all respects. This model may be replicated in other parts of the world as well.

### ***Local Citizen's Committee for Forests (West Bengal)***

In the southern part of the state of West Bengal, two districts namely Bankura and Purulia, were known for their dense forests. Dominated largely



by the poor indigenous people, these two districts gradually lost this unique feature as a result of felling of trees by local business communities. For their livelihood, poor people economically depend largely upon these forests. In absence of forests their livelihood got seriously affected. Moreover, weather condition of the locality became adverse for cultivation.

Understanding the need for forests, under the leadership of local self-governments people of the local areas formed 'Forest committees' to take care of the newly sown trees and plants. After some years of the implementation of this step, the said districts have got back their reputation once again. Economic condition of the local poor people also improved substantially as the proceeds of the occasional sales of the trees are shared by the residents of the locality who took part in the process of development and preservation of forests in the local areas. This initiative is similar to those adopted in the countries like China, Laos and Nepal.

## Social Solidarity and Social Economy in Brazil and South-South Cooperation Potential by Gouveia, Robert (Brazil)

### 1. Economics and Social Solidarity

Social Economy brings together the non-profit economic activities and, even though they are private, they share goals with the public sector. So is the sphere of the so-called third sector, first sector and public sector (State Government). It is the second sector, the sector of private companies. In the sphere of social economy, they are the associations, cooperatives and mutualism as ways of organizing productive activities (NGOs – autonomous organizations; these are aimed at improving the social quality, social projects, non-governmental organizations).

Over the past 150 years, Social Economy has been gaining relevance. Its main means is solidarity and its main goal is the integrated development of communities. In this sequence of ideas, social economy or third sector can eventually replace state action or be an extension of this to implement their social policies. It includes two types of organizations: those that operate as businesses but do not aim at profit (flatly related to the cooperatives movement), and private organizations maintained by donations, contributions, volunteering, donations and public funds, such as associations and foundations.

In this sense, Social Economy as a solidarity economy has been an important response for workers to change the labour world. It is an alternative source of employment and income through work that combines the principles of self-management, cooperation and solidarity in carrying out production activities of goods and services, distribution, consumption and finance.

Thousands of economic, rural and urban initiatives, where workers are organized collectively: associations and groups of producers or consumers; family farming cooperatives and agrarian reform settlement; cooperatives to provide services; recovered companies that were taken over by workers self-management system; networks of production, trade and consumption; solidarity finance institutions (community banks, solidarity revolving funds, and credit unions); exchange clubs; among others.

When considering the human being as a whole, as the subject and the purpose of economic activity, solidarity economy points to a new development strategy, antagonistic to capitalism, and that is expressed in different dimensions: the democratization of management of economic activity; fair distribution of the results achieved; participation by the local community in sustainable development processes; concern for the welfare of workers and the preservation of the environment; and relationships with other social movements, with popular and emancipatory character.

Thus, solidarity economy is a process of social conquest. Yet its growth and expansion depend on both government efforts and political organizational skills of those who build up Solidarity Economy. For instance, Brazil has recognized Solidarity Economy as part of the economic and political democratization movement of Brazilian society. The last years have been critical to the expansion of public policies of solidarity economy throughout Brazil, thus strengthening a broad movement that involves the efforts of civil society organizations and local and state governments, for the purpose of enhancing strategies associated to job generation and cooperation in production activities, marketing and consumption articulated sustainable processes and solidarity development.

## **2. South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of Solidarity Economy in Brazil**

### ***Introduction***

The last years have been marked by the global economic crisis, emphasizing the issue of unemployment and its undesirable consequences for the development in several countries. In this context, cooperation between countries in the search for solutions to the problem gained importance. Besides, actions such as South-South and triangular cooperation, comprising relations between developing countries in the Southern Hemisphere and countries from the Northern Hemisphere, was present on the agenda, emphasizing the fight against unemployment as a common and urgent agenda in order to overcome socioeconomical disadvantages.

International organizations linked to the United Nations, particularly the International Labour Organization – ILO, have fostered this type of action through direct financial support or joint implementation of programs and projects in association with many local governments, always in order to enable countries to access to better conditions of economic life.

We should also emphasize what role Social and Solidarity Economy has developed that goes in the same direction of South-South and triangular cooperation, especially with regard to social, solidarity, and self-management of projects. It is in this case a clear counterpoint to the capitalist system, which supported individualism and relentless drive for profit, regardless of the social consequences of this type of posture.

We can clearly see the resemblance between Solidarity Economy and South South and triangular cooperation, especially when you look at the elements of the actions of South-South and triangular cooperation in the light of the ILO, as, for instance, the social and environmental character initiatives; solidarity and sharing as essential elements; social dialogue in the search for the common interest and the consensus decisions; the socioeconomic background of the initiatives; tripartism as an action methodology; among other common features.

The Solidarity Economy, which has various terminologies and interpretations, functions in the form of cooperatives, associations, and other types of enterprises, usually in a self-managed way, where its members work together in order to get results to be equitably shared.

This attitude therefore contributes to the questioning about the competitive nature of the capitalist economy, promoting a reflection on what kind of world we want: a world based on the cult of the shortage and the privilege of a few to the detriment of the vast majority, or a way of solidarity,, sustainable living, where the homogeneity of basic survival conditions is the rule, and where cooperation is a core value to be preserved. In this sense, Solidarity Economy is seen as a way to help us rethink the current development on the planet, removing from the agenda the economic growth as the main objective and replacing it for a more inclusive character model.

### ***The Solidarity Economy in Latin America***

The experiences of the Solidarity Economy in the world are different. In Latin America, in particular, there has been an interesting and significant range of situations that are consistent with the observed principles, particularly with regard to South-South cooperation actions and Triangular.

In Argentina, for example, there is a National Plan for Local Development and Social Economy (Manos a La Obra), led by the Ministry of Social Devel-

opment, which aims to support local economic social development initiatives without resources sectors, and aimed at improvement income of the population. This goal is pursued in this case on several fronts, ranging from the economic and financial support, to strengthen advisory boards, where the course of actions and collective enterprises are decided by all. Also in Mexico, there is a global strategy for economic and social development in networks present throughout the country, all based on solidarity assumptions, including stimulating the formatting of a common identity among communities, with strengthening of its internal and external relations.

In Brazil, there is a range of actions and activities that demonstrate the importance and the possibility of Solidarity Economy to take a starring role as a dignified survival strategy within the framework of capitalism, as well as a future perspective of rupture with the same production system. These initiatives range from the solidarity finance and its popular and community banks, to the creation of public policies based on the organization and promotion of cooperatives and associations of individuals without a prior social identity, such as collectors of recyclable material, alcohol users and other drugs, the graduates of the prison system, or users of the mental health system of the country.

In Ecuador, since 1998, by constitutional precept, the country's macroeconomy is linked to principles that encompass beyond the traditional tripod efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness, solidarity and sustainability, which sometimes contradict the relentless pursuit of profit, public and peasants and small farmers get the attention of public policies to generate employment, employment and income, social inclusion and environmental awareness.

### ***South-South and triangular cooperation and the Brazilian experience in Solidarity Economy***

One of the most emblematic actions of South-South Cooperation within the Solidarity Economy in Brazil is called the Binational Solidarity Chain of PET in association with neighbouring Uruguay. In 2014, it involved more than two hundred cooperatives and about nine thousand workers were still benefiting about forty-five thousand people indirectly.

The project, which was initially developed by the Solidarity Economy Secretariat of Rio Grande do Sul (SESAMPE), involves Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais and Uruguay, and aims to consolidate a productive chain in PET bottle recycling sector, involving for it several popular and solidarity cooperatives. According to Nelsa Fabian Nespolo, director of SESAMPE, it is an initiative that includes people, protects the environment and distributes income, and it is so important that it has spread to several other parts of the country, through the various segments which make up the solidarity network.

What happens in practice is the transformation of the PET flake (plastic flake) from the work of waste pickers. These flakes are mixed with fibre and finally transformed into fabric and craft. The collectors are at the forefront of the initial process, distributed in various centres and grouped into cooperatives and solidarity and self-managed nature associations. Once this first stage ends (processing of PET flake), the material is sent to Uruguay, more precisely to the city of San José, where the flakes are transformed into fibre and then forwarded to Minas Gerais (Pará de Minas), where they are fractioned and made into fabric. The material ends up in the seamstresses' cooperatives in Rio Grande do Sul for completion.

All this process and all the accumulated experience make it possible for Brazil to be able to replicate this experience throughout their territory, where the National Secretariat for Solidarity Economy – SENAES plays key role in the dissemination of social technology by fostering its own initiatives.

Another example from Brazil involves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which brought together forty developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia in a South-South and Trilateral Cooperation, in Brasilia. It is a project run jointly by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ABC / MRE), the Agency of Japan's International Cooperation (JICA), and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The goal is the qualification of managers in order to increase the exchange of experiences as well as his acting abilities from their expertise.

One of the experiments in progress linked to this project is a trilateral exchange signed between Brazil, Bolivia and FAO to undertake initiatives on food and nutrition security and poverty reduction. The actors are the ABC (Brazilian Agency for Cooperation) / MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA) and the FAO, and the Ministry of Labour of Bolivia., the idea is to contribute to the sustainable development of the cotton sector in Bolivia and the Community of farmers, indigenous people, and cotton producers, aimed at food and nutritional security and sovereignty. The goal of the search is that the government, family farmers, indigenous people and even their organizations can strengthen their technical, productive capacities, management and coordination, to reactivate the production of cotton in the framework of sustainable development and solidarity economy.

Regarding Solidarity Economy in Brazil and South-South and triangular cooperation, the country has a cooperation project with Cuba which is being expanded. One example is the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries during the 104th International Labour Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first half of June. The document's content focuses on the areas of labour and cooperative with supportive bias, proposing exchange on

issues of employment, vocational training, health, safety and labour inspection, as well as the encouragement of cooperatives and associations in Solidarity Economy. There is also the MERCOSUR Social Solidarity Programs, which is a working platform that includes seventeen non-governmental organizations working in the field of local development, education and popular communication, citizenship and social participation, as well as about two hundred Basic Social Organizations in these countries.

In Brazil, the programme seeks to strengthen democracy and active citizenship through the establishment of social movements with the support of public policies like those that focus on local realities within Solidarity Economy. The South-South cooperation emerges in the joint actions with the countries of the regional group, who share and exchange their experiences, for the purpose of strengthening each other and finding often feasible solutions to their difficulties.

### South-South Cooperation and SSE Linkages: Evidence from Ethiopia By Karthikeyan, Muthumariappan (Ethiopia)

The rise of emerging economies in the mid-2000s was coupled with the revitalization of South-South Cooperation. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) views South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity between peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Developing countries initiate, organize and manage the South-South cooperation agenda themselves and may range from the sharing of knowledge and experience to training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions.

The development of Social and Solidarity Economy involves a partnership between Social and Solidarity Economy organizations (cooperatives, clubs, village associations or other types of membership-based organizations) that operate and manage *solidarity-based community enterprises*, on the one hand, and *helping organizations* (e.g. nongovernmental organizations, private shareholding social enterprises, faith-based organizations, local government agencies, etc.) on the other. The latter usually provide financial, technical support and professional services to the solidarity-based community enterprises (ILO, 2015).

Ethiopia continues to record high economic growth averaging 11.3% over the last decade and is ranked among the ten fastest growing economies in Africa (AEO, 2011) and the second fastest mover on human development (UNDP, 2013). Despite these strong gains, there are serious threats and vulnerabilities

that could derail the established positive progress on human development. Principal amongst these threats and vulnerabilities are ethnic, communal and pastoralist conflicts.

The government of Ethiopia and UNDP have developed a robust partnership to strengthen the evolving architecture for peace. Central to this partnership is building national standing capabilities or infrastructures for peacebuilding and prevention. In this regard, UNDP facilitated experience sharing between Ethiopian and Ghanaian policy makers and practitioner on emerging policy practices on strengthening infrastructure for peace. The level of participation from Ethiopia demonstrated the consistent commitment of the government of Ethiopia to peacebuilding as a strategic policy intervention to inclusive and equitable development.

Apart from this as an educational institution, Ambo University through its Department of Cooperatives had much South-South and triangular cooperation development projects funded by the British Council, ILO-CoopAfrica, and a relief fund. The University completed a project called England Africa Partnership project which enabled to have a capacity building programme for cooperative stakeholders in Oromia region of Ethiopia. The Department of Cooperatives had gone for training need assessment among cooperative stakeholders, designed participatory curriculum, developed 18 different modules, and test course / training delivery was made. Another project called Capacity building of smallholder cooperative coffee farmers in Kenya was funded by the ILO. The partnership was between Lorna Young Foundation (LYF), UK; Ambo University, Ethiopia; and Nyeri Technical Training Institute (NTTI), Kenya. Ambo University experts supported NTTI through Training of Trainers approach (TOT) to undertaking training needs assessment, curriculum, module development, and delivery of courses with the help of LYF, UK. The same had been replicated through another south-south partnership project funded by LYF, UK. These can be considered as cases for south-south and triangular partnerships and linkages at the regional and sub-regional level to strengthen Social and Solidarity Economy.

There are number of evidences for south-south cooperation on strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy of Ethiopia by way of different partnership projects in the field of cooperatives. An ILO South-South and triangular cooperation programme for the development of Social and Solidarity Economy in Africa could be considered, which would be geared towards strengthening institutional and business linkages between helping professional organizations and solidarity-based community enterprises.

## The Summary of Pre-works showing my vision on Social and Solidarity Economy, Social innovation and South-South and triangular cooperation and SSE by Kelemu Melaku, Tadie (Ethiopia)

Over 10 years of progressive experience in development-related work at the project management level in a governmental, multilateral, bilateral and Civil Society Organizational-setting, of which seven years in management responsibilities in areas of capacity development, grant management, Local Economic Development (LED), Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Local and International Partnership Development, I was directly involved with SSE.

I played a central role in the successful introduction of LED Approach/programme and its scaling up in Amhara Regional State. By doing this, I mobilized thousands of stakeholders/officials at all levels and developed their capacities on LED. I established an excellent partnership with the governments, private sector and civil society at the regional, zonal, Woreda and Kebel levels. I set up a multi-stakeholder decision-making platform, representing government, private sector and civil society, within the government system – which is running well. Besides, I led the process of developing and institutionalizing an inclusive micro-finance strategy, which is being implemented in Amhara, benefitting/ providing jobs to thousands of unemployed people. Having mobilized thousands of youth and women as well as government and private sectors, I was successful in setting up a network of Business Development Resource Centres (public-private-CSO partnership), bringing ICT facilities to Amhara for the poor/ disadvantaged people – this is functional and benefitting thousands of people. Finally I have been successful in mobilizing significant resources locally for the LED initiatives.

With regards to the practical experience of external professional based cooperation, my private company (TkSRDC) has signed an agreement to work with Israeli company SUIITS- Smarter Urban iT & Strategies (SUIITS), led by a highly professional team from a broad range of fields relevant to cities, infrastructure and sustainability, with hands-on experience in Israel and in adapting the Israeli experience to the international arena and specifically Africa. SUIITS was founded to promote smart urbanism around the globe, through tailor made solutions, aiming at both developed and developing cities. SUIITS is geared towards empowering municipalities and local economies, through strategies, governance tools and technologies, improving the efficiency and financial accessibility of new and existing infrastructure and urban management. TK Scientific Research & Development Consulting (TkSRDC), which is my own development advisory firm, was established to provide services on Business Development Service (BDS), Scientific Research, Entrepreneurship



Development, Project Development, Business Plan Development, Local Economic Development (LED), Urban & Rural Development, GIS and IT Related, Social Work, Monitoring & Evaluation, Financial Diaries Research, Training and Capacity Buildings to Governmental, NGOs, Civic Societies and Related Development Based Institutions. Therefore, SUIITS and TksRDC cooperate based on their complementary social and economic objectives and their strong desire on Social, Economic, Environmental and related development interventions in the respected nations.

Finally, I have a strong vision that South-South cooperation and SSE will be the best model of development to the developing countries, including Ethiopia and I will exert my unconstrained effort to achieve this goal.

Social and Solidarity Economy in South-East Asia: Inclusive Business to create Decent Work and the Asia-Africa conference to enforce South-South Solidarity by Kusumawardhani, Marina (Indonesia)

### **1 Inclusive Business (IB) as a solution to create Decent Work**

According to definition of the Social and Solidarity Economy academy in 2011<sup>12</sup>, Decent Work is defined as the sum of aspirations of people in their working lives, which can be concluded into four pillars: 1) fundamental principles and rights at work 2) productive employment, livelihoods and fair income, 3) social security for families and security in the working place, 4) dialogue and freedom of expression between workers, governments and employees, and 5) better prospects for personal development and social integration. According to the same source, there are various definitions for social/solidarity economy, but common characteristics can be derived which differentiates them from other forms of social organizations: 1) recognition of the primacy of people and work over capital, 2) built on the principles of solidarity, mutuality, reciprocity, cooperation and proximity, 3) seeking to simultaneously achieve social, economic and environmental benefits, and 4) based on voluntary participation, member empowerment and commitment. Considering this, five families of social/solidarity economy are identified: cooperatives, social enterprises, mutual societies, foundations and associations.

Social Solidarity Economy becomes important considering its potential to transform informal economy into Decent Work. According to a recent study, non-agricultural employment in the informal economy still represents 65% in

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<sup>12</sup> Schwettmann, Juergen, 2011, "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Decent Work – The 2nd Social and Solidarity Economy Academy, Montreal, 24 October 2011", ILO PARDEV.

the East and South-East Asia (excluding China)<sup>13</sup>, therefore the transition of informal economy is crucial in the development of this region. To transform it into Decent Work, it is necessary to eliminate the negative aspects of informality (small workplaces, unsafe/unhealthy working conditions, low levels of skills and productivity, low incomes, long working hours, or lack of access to information, market, finance, training and technology, or lack of protection/incorporation of workers, etc.)<sup>14</sup>, while at the same time ensuring the continuity of livelihood and entrepreneurship.

As one form of “social enterprise”, inclusive business provides exactly this characteristic of solidarity and entrepreneurship of the social economy. Based on ADB definition, Inclusive Business (IB) are commercially viable companies that provide – in scale – systemic solutions to the relevant problems of the poor and low income people (the bottom 60% in Indonesia). The difference with other forms of social enterprises is their higher commercial viability and larger scale of impact. It also differs from SME in their social orientation and from CSR in its involvement of the core business or supply chain of the company.

In South-East Asia, the ADB inclusive business programme started in the Philippines and is now starting to expand to Indonesia. A 2013 market scoping study by ADB found about 70 IB business cases in Indonesia; the UN “Global Compact” and “Business Call to Action” identified 40 case studies on IB in Indonesia. To initiate public discussion on inclusive business in the country, ADB was cooperating with the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Tourism, to hold policy and sectoral workshops on inclusive business in May 2015. Currently, the discussions are ongoing among the participating public and private institutions as a follow-up to the workshops, especially regarding the establishment of a national task force for social business. The national task force should serve as a centre of accreditation for inclusive business and social entrepreneurship. The accredited companies would, as in the case of Philippines, obtain greater access to financial investment as well as policy advantages. ADB itself administered 300 million USD IB investment in the Philippines in the form of sovereign as well as “Business-to-Business” loan. This scheme is planned to be replicated in Indonesia, although an official request needs to come from the government or the task force. A part of this investment is used as guarantee for commercial banks who lend money to accredited social companies, hence doubling its impact. Indonesian government itself just came into agreement for 400 million

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<sup>13</sup> International Labour Office, 2014, “*Transitioning from the informal to the formal economy, Report V(1)*”, International Labour Conference 103rd Session 2014

<sup>14</sup> International Labour Conference, June 2002, “*90th Session of the ILC*”, ILC.

USD sovereign loan with ADB this year, and ADB is currently considering to allocate a part of this for inclusive business programme in infrastructure projects (energy, agricultural infrastructure, etc.).

Accreditation criteria depend on discussion among public and private actors in each country. However, experience in Philippines as well as other advanced region in inclusive business programs (such as Latin America) includes criteria of: 1) creation of at least 1000 decent employment per business, especially employment from the marginalized population (bottom of pyramid), 2) higher wage than the market rate in order to lift workers out of poverty. Inclusive business in general tries to create Decent Work by campaigning towards private sector to be more socially inclined, through a promise of accredited seal/brand and easier access to finance and favourable policy. Instead of enforcement from the government towards decent employment (for example, the Seattle 15\$/hour movement), inclusive business tries to “persuade” businesses to deliberately aim for this goal. In relation to ADB’s loan programme, it is estimated that 50,000 – 100,000 people will benefit from the inclusive business programme in the country.

In Indonesia, the time is ripe for this kind of approach because the new government has been looking to solve social or development issues by means of private investment (without using public funding). It is also in general open for cooperation with citizen’s and private sector in achieving public sector goals. There is an audience with the President Joko Widodo being planned with the actors of social/inclusive business in the near future, hoping to bring social/inclusive business more in the public spotlight.

## **2. South-South Cooperation and the Asia-Africa Conference**

In 1955, leaders from Asia and Africa came to Bandung, Indonesia, to state its non-alignment to either of the blocs, as well as freedom from imperialism. Sixty years later, the commemoration took place in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, attended by almost sixty country leaders from Asian and African countries. In his speech at the opening of the conference in Jakarta, President Joko Widodo emphasized the greater significance of the Asia-Africa countries in the current global geopolitical arena. Back in 1955, most of the co-founding members are imperialized, undeveloped countries; but in this decade, some of the highest economic-growth countries in the world (China, India, Indonesia) are among its members.

The president made exceptionally strong, highly publicized remarks on how the Asian and African countries should demand that the United Nations reform to function optimally as the world body that puts justice for all nations (giving

a special emphasize on the case of Palestine as one of the founding members which has not enjoyed freedom from imperialism)<sup>15</sup>. He continued that there should also be a reform on the global financial architecture; that the global economic problems cannot be solved only by the World Bank, IMF, or ADB.<sup>16</sup>

After the main programs in Jakarta, the leaders of the Asian African countries headed to Bandung to reinstate the historic ceremony. At the Freedom Hall where the original conference took place, the Dasasila Bandung (the Ten Bandung Statement) was once again read to reinforce the “Bandung Spirit” among the Asian African countries: 1) respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, 2) respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, 3) recognition of the equality of all races and nations large and small, 4) abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country, 5) respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, 6) abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressure on other countries, 7) refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country, 8) settlement of all international disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration, or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, 9) promotion of mutual interests and cooperation, and 10) respect for justice and international obligations.

Apart from the commemoration, the government of Bandung also held a “Smart City Summit” which invited more than 16 mayors from Asian and African cities to share smart city implementation in their cities. At the end of the summit, the group established an Asia-Africa Smart City Alliance in order to enforce South-South cooperation in smart cities (as a platform to share knowledge, networking and assistance in implementation)<sup>17</sup>. This is the first South-South alliance on smart cities and it will be presented in the global expo of smart city in Barcelona in November. The Smart City Alliance, led by the Bandung government, also welcomes other interested municipalities in Asia or Africa in joining the cause.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/asia-africa-summit-leaders-urge-major-reforms-un-other-international-bodies-1497775>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/22/us-asia-africa-idUSKBN0ND09820150422>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/04/24/asian-african-mayors-set-smart-city-alliance.html>

### A brief account on South-South Cooperation by Martinez Louvier, Juan Manuel (Mexico)

Though it is not common for a university to take part in the direct process of cooperation for development, given the mission that guides it, in the Universidad Iberoamericana work has been done in this regard practically since its inception thirty-two years ago .

The mission of the University presents “forming men and professional, competent, and committed to free and with other women; generate sustained in their academic and human excellence, in dialogue with the different realities in which it is involved, to help address the various forms of inequality and social exclusion in order to promote sustainable development within the pursuit of building a society knowledge more just and humane solidarity.”

Backed by this organizational directive, various areas have generated jobs for disadvantaged populations. In particular, the work that today articulates the Laboratory of Economic and Social Innovation, revolves around a central goal: “To generate experiences of economic and social innovation through the promotion, support and consolidation of companies to solve social problems from sustainable economic structures generated with direct distribution of wealth.”

In other words, the social contribution of our area lies in accompanying groups in society, especially in disadvantaged conditions, to consolidate organizations to solve social problems from a platform of changing economic conditions around from the principles, values and practices of Social and Solidarity Economy.

#### **Work at the local level**

Since 2005, various strategies, actions and programs for the Social and Solidarity Economy have been created in Puebla.

These strategies are noticing the experiences of business strengthening on the base of the Social Service of the University; generating training processes with graduates and especially the Masters in Business Administration of Social Economy; adaptation and implementation of incubation model joint venture projects; and the impact on the federal public policy through research, advocacy and drafting of the Programs for the Promotion of Social Economy 2014 – 2018 of the National Institute of Social Economy.

By government order, college degree students must provide 480 hours of community work in Mexico. The University has developed intervention strategies that mobilize these possibilities of cooperation towards action with disadvantaged sectors. The set of activities has strengthened links with various actors in the social sector of the economy, academic institutions, public ad-

ministration, international networks of social economy and philanthropic organizations. In the public sphere, two studies have led to the structuring of the Programme for the Promotion of Social Economy 2014–2018 by the Ministry of Economy of the Federal Government

This set of experiences, linkages and the overall context of the social economy in Mexico and the world, characterized by a gradual increase in visibility and promotion, contributes to the configuration of a favourable scenario to generate a university mechanism that fosters a greater impact on promoting economic and social innovations. As a result of the work of these years, a team of specialists in the field was created with links that provide the University areas of application and facilitate the physical, financial and media impact.

Regarding the impact on society, these strategies have resulted in the creation of seventy companies of Social Economy, training and education platforms focused on popular education, strengthening community centres in disadvantaged areas and creating specific methodologies for social enterprises in incubation urban, agricultural and preservation of areas of biological and cultural wealth level. SHARE, born in June 2011, is a learning space and shared action between sixteen Latin American organizations belonging to the network of social centres of the Society of Jesus that wanted to critically analyse their practices, reflect on them and generate a new way to make the changes. This community is convinced it can bring the theoretical and practical reflection on the development and creation of viable alternatives possible and suitable to the interest of poor people.

Work routes that allow consensus approaches and ways to build and share knowledge and practices have been created. The network had to be provided with a methodological, organizational and communication framework that allows us to reflect practice, share reflections, theorize them and return to practice to recreate.

- The central objective is to build alternative proposals in the productive economic field, through the generation of knowledge and reflection from the experience and improving the economic and productive processes in which they work. Other objectives (2014–2018) are: A cohesive and empowered community, based on human values (solidarity, caring for people, respect and responsibility) enriched by Ignatian spirituality and shared objectives.
- A proposed community content and methodologies that arise from practice and contributing to the discussion of socio-economic development from an alternative approach.

- A community whose work impacts on the social organizations that form the community.
- A community working in an articulated manner and consolidated with universities and social and economic agents.
- A community able to spread knowledge and generate discussion to influence public and private policies that affect the processes of economic development in our regions.

The Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla was one of the founding actors of this network of support among Latin American countries and during the last meeting in May 2015, it has achieved a first communication with four social centres in Africa.

In general, it can be said that this effort is the dynamics that Jesuit organizations have been working with locally, generating identity and transferring best practices for better impact in their areas of action. Thus, what is described herein is a panoramic view of the actions that have the Laboratory for Economic and Social Innovation at the Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla, in favour of cooperation between southern actors.

### Social Protection and safety of self-managed associative workers: Diagnosis and proposals for South-South cooperation for workers in the Social and Solidarity Economy by Marzi, Maria Victoria (Argentina)

Self-managed associative workers are heterogeneous groups, which have the particularity of having been promoted in recent years by a new generation of public policies that sought to address the need for employment of large groups of population in the world. These state interventions assume different names, particularly in Latin America and are identified as: social economy in Argentina; popular, social or communal economy in Venezuela; solidary popular economy in Ecuador; solidarity economy in Brazil, and so on. From the perspective of social movements that drive these proposals, self-managed associative workers are considered as the subject of a strategy of establishing new social relationships that build another economy, an alternative economy whose axis is not the reproduction of capital, but the centrality work on the life reproduction of.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), is emphatic in promoting cooperatives and self-managed enterprises inspired by solidarity. It also underlines the importance of the transformation of marginal survival activities (informal economy) in a job covered by the legislation. In recommendation 193 of 2002, the ILO proposes the formulation and revision of laws and policies regarding cooperatives on the basis of the need to incorporate the self-managed

work within the framework of the proposal of “Decent Work” regulation. Like other international institutions, it awarded an important role in public policy and government and, at the same time, encouraged workers’ organizations to contribute to the creation of cooperatives and protection of jobs, promoting equality of opportunity in cooperatives and the exercise of the rights of worker-members of cooperatives (ILO, 2002). SSE also recognizes the ability to activate “endogenous development processes in rural areas, for the rebooting of declining industrial areas and the revitalization of degraded urban areas, thereby alleviating significant regional imbalances without keeping a unique pattern of local development, but allowing the coexistence of different ways according to the social and economic needs of the territories “(Economic and Social Committee, 2012: 9).

In this context, we proposed characterizing and problematizing the status of protection of this form of work in the country in our region focusing on how the concern about the protection of self-managed associative workers is specifically expressed in public policies of Latin American governments and workers’ organizations in the respective states.

The legal situation of self-managed associative work in Latin America was systematized through a journey that began with the countries that had included Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in their constitutions. Those that had specific revisions of laws on cooperatives in this century include: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Dominican Republic. A regional approach was adopted because it was considered as essential to build supranational diagnoses that would reflect the current situation of the protection of workers self-managed associations, which would serve as a basis for designing policies and instruments promoting these forms of work, within the framework of South-South cooperation. The following are the main conclusions of this work.

- The review of the laws and regulations in Latin America shows a high level of vulnerability still faced by the self-managed associative workers in our region. This is expressed in two main areas: a) the demands of legislative reforms on social security and social solidarity economy; b) the various strategies being discussed in areas and organizations representing this sector. Both reflect the need and complexity of the required transformations in a context of a political-cultural dispute over the recognition of the rights they have as workers, which in turn depends on the conditions of their lives.
- Generally speaking, countries in the region that provide for the protection of workers self-managed associative work under the tax system and tax for autonomous and independent workers. The analysis of national cases



shows clearly that the legal framework does not contain the specifics of this working group, but rather it violates them in its principle, while the protections are much lower than those recognized internationally for salaried workers and employees.

- ✚ Therefore, self-managed associative organizations demand the most basic workers' rights. In their proposals, salaried workers are taken as a reference, for the moment, no major adjustments to the features of the self-managed associative work.
- ✚ Surely instruments developed protection for workers as employees constitute a benchmark from which the debate on the contents of a protection system of this way of working can be initiated and expanded. To our knowledge, this requires rethinking: a) the issue of the **redefinition of the needs** in the protection of these workers; b) the question of the **redefinition of solidarity**.
- ✚ The proposals outlined have few options: greater government accountability in non-contributory benefits or protection of the organizations themselves. Both considerations require technical depth once viewed in the framework of solidarity principles, areas of discussion and formulation of regional proposals. We note the relevance of diagnoses from the regional situation and the need to make proposals based on exchange and cooperation between countries in the region (South-South cooperation). A starting point for discussion in regional terms could be the difference in approaches taken so far: between clearly particularistic initiatives conceived to serve the interests of a particular industry versus the demand for protection for all citizens.
- ✚ Another aspect to note is that concern for social security in relation to this type of work is recent. In fact, documents and systematic literature mostly do not exceed a decade and those more focused on the thematic focus in recent years (shared with most Latin American legislation revised aspect). In Latin America, as we have discussed, this could be read in the context of the last decade in which public policies have recovered the importance of work as a tool for social inclusion: public policies have promoted associative work through plans and programs aimed at worker cooperatives.
- ✚ In this context of strong state presence and demands for the state to take an active role in the defence of self-managed associative work, the future of the dispute over the protection, the forms it should take and the quantum of coverage that should be considered, should be formulated within the framework of forums for dialogue and policy coordination (and pos-

sibly international) regional level in which the foundation for the rights and guarantees of self-managed associative workers in the region (or the world) is. We therefore propose dialogue and policy coordination as an essential factor to strengthen cooperation between countries (South-South).

### Social and Solidarity Economy and the trade union movement in Brazil<sup>18</sup> by Monteiro, Ruth Coelho (Brazil)

The principle of solidarity economy is a collective appropriation of the means of production, the democratic management of decisions by its members and the collective deliberation on the course of production, on the use of surplus as well as on the collective responsibility for the possible losses of the economic organization.

In Brazil, solidarity economy re-emerged in the 1980s as a response of workers to the social crisis caused by economic stagnation and the reorganization of the capitalist accumulation process. However, solidarity economy enlarged its visibility in the next decade when it was inserted the debate on the transformative potential concerning the working class struggle. The response of workers and impoverished communities started having an emancipatory character.

It was a sustained political agenda on concrete economic practices: unemployed workers occupied closed factories and activated their production through their collective organization and self-management: Family farmers and agrarian reform settlers organized credit unions, production and services, as opposed to subordination to agribusiness in Capitalism. Similarly, urban and rural communities collectively organized production groups, collective purchases and solidarity funds and credits. Also, garbage collectors (in landfills and in the cities) organized their activity of collecting and recycling through associations and cooperatives. These are some examples of the practice of solidarity economy in Brazil.

It is understood here that solidarity economy sets a socializing and democratic proposal of social movements to the “social question”, lying in the intensification of the conflict and contradictions between the democratic conquests (universality of constitutional rights in 1988) and the increasing unemployment and social exclusion resulting from the neoliberal model to overcome the crisis of capitalist accumulation. This “social question” features the national situation in the 1990s. After the defeat of the popular democratic project in 1989, with prospects of deep structural reforms, we witnessed the decline of the mass struggle, demobilization and fragmentation of the trade union movements as well as the social movements.

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<sup>18</sup> Ruth Coelho Monteiro, National Secretary for Citizenship and Human Rights – *Força Sindical* – Brazil Email: secddhh@fsindical.org.br, phone: (+5511) 3348-9033

In the context of state action, its reorganization with a view to cope with the demands of capital accumulation crisis involved the implementation of explicit policy of increasing transfer of public funds to the financial system and the consequent reduction of public responsibility for social issues. So, what is called “minimal state” was nothing more than a capital-based maximum state, more foreign than national, and capable of transferring society’s public funds to a certain sector, hence unsuitable to meet the people’s rights and to provide the nation a development project. Therefore, an environment permeated by unemployment, insecurity, exclusion, inequality, reduction of the social struggle and neoliberal policies made up the context of a joint economic expansion, the specific economic experiences of solidarity economy enterprises, and increasing choice of social, trade union movements, universities and popular organizations for a new form of social struggle on the basis of people’s economic ordering.

There is no doubt that solidarity economy is a proper civil society strategy. However, with the coming to power of “democratic-popular forces”, solidarity economy became a part of the governmental agenda. It was in the second half of the past decade that the first government programs and activities to support solidarity economy were implemented. Such initiatives have gained greater relevance and visibility when they were implanted in metropolitan cities such as Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, Recife and Belém. Thus solidarity economy also emerged from government action and not just from civil society. There are already analyses and evaluations published about these experiences. Even the National Secretariat for Solidarity Economy, along with the Network of Public Policy Managers for Solidarity Economy, promoted studies and debates on such initiatives (SENAES/MTE, 2008).

It is also worth considering that solidarity economy has entered the agenda of government policy from “the back door”. I am referring here to economic cooperation initiatives and self-management launched in the context of employment and income generation programs. Despite adopting the perspective of employability (workers’ accountability for employment or unemployment), substantive amounts of resources of these programs were taken by the social and trade union movements for the promotion of professional training activities and for support of income-generating projects. The employment and income generating programs were also present in healthcare and local development policies. Many solidarity economy enterprises have emerged, for example, from the local, integrated and sustainable development programme and the national professional qualification plan. Data from the National Information System on Solidarity Economy also demonstrated the importance of government support (various organs and bodies) for the emergence of solidarity economy in Brazil during the 1990s.

From then on solidarity economy has consolidated as a specific policy integrating in a increasing way a specific agenda in the government programs and plans. This process occurred from a broad “experimentation” to support social economy policies. Such diversity can be understood according to the specific local issues, the political understandings about the potential of social economy in facing the social, political, administrative and budgetary prioritization of the actions implemented, as well as according to the different understandings of the meaning of solidarity economy.

### **Solidarity and public policy economy**

Some provincial governments implemented more in-depth actions through an internal consensus regarding solidarity economy while others carried out more specific and residual actions. From the point of view of public policies, the inclusion of social economy in government actions made clear the limits and contradictions of the “minimal state for social issues” because solidarity economy demanded an increasingly active role of governments: creating qualified teams of managers, long-term action plans, facilitating resource allocation ability, integrating the state to the real economy of communities. Somehow it can be stated that the requirements of solidarity economy contributed to more criticism on neoliberal policies and to the defence of a more active participation of the state in addressing social issues.

This experimentation was taking better shape thanks to the willingness of managers to exchange information and experiences. In this sense, the constitution of the managers’ network of such policies allowed a jump in quality to the debate and the practices of the now called “public policy of solidarity economy”, since the initiative for dialogue between managers, the exchange of experiences, the awareness of what was being implemented in the municipalities and states and the elaboration of self-evaluations were consolidating the idea that there would be unity in diversity. The Managers Network was instrumental in building an identity process of what is understood today as public policy of solidarity economy.

The conduction of a more systematic process of workshops and training activities – extended with the support of the National Office for Solidarity Economy – allowed the systematization of documents and statements on the principles, guidelines, characteristics, instruments and institutions of public policies on solidarity economy. Such an accumulation of practices and reflections was instrumental in the drafting of the basic text of the First National Conference on Solidarity Economy in 2006 (I CONAES). With the conference deliberations, public policy on solidarity economy started composing the centrality of the

political strategy of the solidarity economy movement in the country. The conference itself and in particular the foundation of the National Solidarity Economy Office – and still later the creation of the National Council of Solidarity Economy – configure a new institutional framework in Brazil for the solidarity economy policies.

However, such political and institutional developments have not altered one of the main features of social economy policies: “government policies” depends on the parties, coalitions or political groups who assume the direction of the Executive. Therefore, the social economy has not yet been incorporated into the schedule of rights (citizenship) and duties (public). This is the issue of institutionalization of public policies on solidarity economy. How to incorporate the social economy in the Brazilian State agenda? How to translate the demands and needs of the social economy into the rights of workers and duty of the State? How to ensure that government actions remain beyond the elections? Thus the question of the institutionalization of public policies on solidarity economy refers to two aspects: i) their transition from government policies to state policies, considering that solidarity economy is a possibility that government policies would become permanent or be recognized by the state structure, and not just by the team of government; and ii) their insertion into the field of rights, constitution of subjects of rights and public obligations (State requirements to ensure this set of rights).

To go a little deeper in the problem of institutionalization of social economy policies, it is also necessary to observe their character of interaction. In their trajectory, these policies were forging their identity within other policies, policies on employment and income, social welfare, rural development, economic development etc. Solidarity economy was presented as part of other policies – sectoral or thematic policies that preceded it in the government agenda, and that encompassed it but not as a specific policy. Many of these policies have a high degree of institutionalization and some of them are organized in public systems, such as the Public Employment System, Work and Income (SEPTR), the Unified Social Assistance System (HIS) or the recent National Food Security and Nutrition System (SISAN). Therefore, when addressing the issue of institutionalization, it is vital to include the relationship between social economy and other policies. This sets new challenges: how to approach the solidarity economy already included in other existing political institutions? How to identify the specific characteristics that allow demonstrate the particularities of the rights regarding social economy? How to institutionalize the own social economy without generating the overlap of actions?

Yet, solidarity economy was gaining its own status. And perhaps the creation of the National Solidarity Economy office is the milestone in this direction,

as well as the implementation of the National Council of Solidarity Economy and some related institutions in some Brazilian states. Solidarity economy is getting greater visibility inside the structures of government with the creation of the solidarity economy coordination, solidarity economics departments, and in some cases, such as the Union of solidarity economics departments. At least under the action of the executive branch, the solidarity economy will be claiming from specific management structures.

Another topic prominently figures in the implementation of these policies: the question of participation and social control that, after the 1988 Constitution is consolidated through the conduction of national conferences, through the Joint Sector councils and through other mechanisms. Will the topic solidarity economy oppose policies from the already existing councils or build a space of participation and social control policy? During the foundation of the National Council of Solidarity Economy and conduction of the First National Conference on Solidarity Economy a clear position on the issue was already visible. Thus, the challenge here is to deepen the institutionalization of participation and social control, and at the same time to ensure the necessary coordination mechanisms and the integration of solidarity economy with other public policies, recognizing their specificities, their careers and their subjects.

To conclude, solidarity economy remains a challenge. Government policies and their implementation as permanent policies were discussed here so far. The simplest proposition seems to be the idea that we need to transform our programs and our actions on legislation into law: Municipal, state and national laws. Once understanding is established, government policies, their actions, instruments and law through control mechanisms would have ensured the state's point of view, the policy to be operated by rulers by a public demand. It would not be a choice of government: it would be a public demand for implementing policies. Though it seems essential, we must make clear that is insufficient to institutionalize policies. Why? Because the institutionalization of policies is not simply legalizing the policies. It is rather to create conditions for social economy. The law itself is important but does not solve the problem of institutionalization, since the institutional framework is not limited to legalization: it corresponds as well to the establishment of political conditions so that government can be socially and morally tied to implement a set of actions to support solidarity economy. This is a key issue discussion that must be deepened.

An important progress has been recorded from the point of view of the direction of institutionalizing public policies on solidarity economy in the country. There are some definitions that need to be implemented. Resolutions of

the First National Conference on Solidarity Economy propose to create a National System of Solidarity Economy, the strengthening of the National Council of Solidarity Economy, the establishment of councils in federated states and municipalities, pointing to the urgent need for specific legislation to formally establish the subject, rights, and the instruments to ensure the rights of the solidarity economy.

The idea to turn “legal” social economy on its own could be naïve. It is not only the written legislation that guarantees rights and obligations. The legislation will only be maintained alive if the solidarity economy will represent a political strength by enforcing existing initiatives. And this strength depends, in turn, in the ethical-political force originating from the alliances and commitments between the social economy and other subjects and emancipatory struggles. This strength is the prospect that the creation of new institutions means the assertion of new values and new bases for the development process.

For the trade union movement this is a new field of activity, since it escapes the traditional worker-employer relationship, but it has a major impact on social protection issues, such as Social Security, as public retirement and pensions, social assistance (which protects low-income families) and the Unified Health System (which is universal, public and free). For this reason, the unions have sought to organize this sector within its structure, as in the case of Força Sindical, that in its last Congress launched the Secretariat for Family Agriculture, to work within this sector within the informal economy.

The major concern of the labor movement is that these workers have also to be assured of their labor rights, which are part of the national legislation and collective labour agreements: They should not be used by companies for precarious labor relations, such as false cooperatives and the use of the figure of the individual micro-entrepreneur as a way to conceal formal employment relationships. Hence, it is critical to organize these workers in professional bodies, to defend and expand their social and labor rights<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> **Biographical References:** França Filho, G. C.; Laville, J.; Medeiros, A.; Magnen, J. (Org.). Ação pública e economia solidária. Uma perspectiva internacional. Salvador e Porto Alegre: Edufba, UFRGS Editora, 2006 Schiochet, V. Políticas Públicas. In: CATTANI, A. D; LAVILLE, J.; GAIGER, L. I.; HESPANHA, P. (Coord.). Dicionário internacional da outra economia. Coimbra: Ed. Almedina, 2009. SENAES/MTE. Políticas públicas de economia solidária: reflexões da rede de gestores. Rede de Gestores de Políticas Públicas de Economia Solidária, Recife, Ed. Universitária da UFPE, 2008. SENAES/MTE. Economia solidária como estratégia e política de desenvolvimento. I Conferência Nacional de Economia Solidária, Documento Final, 2007. IPEA

## South-South Cooperation and Food Security by Morgado, Maria La-Salette (Angola)

### Introduction

South-South cooperation emerges as an incentive in closer relations and co-operation ties between countries, governments, international organizations and civil society. In fact it covers a wide range of phenomena concerning relations between developing countries, formation of multiple geometries groups, collective platforms of multilateral negotiations, regional integration arrangements, development assistance, policy exchange, trade flows and private investments etc.

Frequent global economic crises put employment at the center of local, national and international development strategies, the geopolitical and economic scenarios have greatly increased the importance of the South in development processes.

In this sense, solidarity is gaining ground and South-South and triangular cooperation is becoming a manifestation of this between developing and less developed countries, contributing to their well-being, and their national and collective self-reliance, and the achievement of development goals as the Millennium Development Goals (as recommended by the South-South cooperation and triangular strategy of the ILO). In this regard, Social and Solidarity Economy is of fundamental importance, since it advocates for the improvement of employment and income as well as for supportive economic enterprises.

In this context, Social and Solidarity Economy is largely assumed by social organizations to respond to situations such as social exclusion, poverty, unemployment and inequality between countries, entering innovative and sustainable approaches. Solidarity organizations, involving associations, cooperatives, foundations and business chambers, already have shown in several countries, that they contribute to the generation of wealth and reduce social inclusion of several people, including young people and disadvantaged groups.

### South-South cooperation: food and nutrition security

The ongoing transformations in Cooperation for Development have pointed to the progressive reduction of North-South cooperation and the entry of new development partners, among which, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) stand out. Northern countries have changed the thematic and regional focus of cooperation due to internal and external factors and they have redefined their priorities, vis-à-vis some countries of the South. Despite the lower volume of funds invested compared to traditional donors, the actions taken by these new actors have promoted new dynamics of cooperation based on the rhetoric of solidarity and horizontality, being referred to as South-South cooperation.



Food and nutritional security of citizens is now a prominent issue in the CPLP. The countries of the community discuss issues relating to sovereignty and food security, focusing on the Human Right to Food (DHA): analysed under the prism of access to food in quantity and quality.

Agricultural production is the main source of employment and livelihood in rural areas in Angola, the efforts of various sectors associated with agricultural production, have little contributed to reduce food imports, particularly in the area of cereals (maize) in the last two crops (2012 and 2013) and pulses in the last three crops (2011, 2012 and 2013). Still, in 2012 the quantity of imported cereals and beans were not sufficient to meet all the food needs of the country.

Families, who depend directly on agriculture as a source of employment, are struggling to get results that allow them to meet their food needs for a period that links two agricultural campaigns without going into food crisis. For example, a study by ADRA (“Ação para o desenvolvimento rural”), an Angolan NGO (2012) in four provinces of Angola, showed that a large majority of the sample of 960 households had crops whose duration does not exceed three months. This phenomenon has contributed greatly to the rural exodus of mainly young people to the cities in search of job opportunities, although precarious, to ease the situation of food shortage.

From 2003 to 2010, the issue of global food security assurance gained centrality in the international debate that reflected both the growing visibility of the experience of countries in fighting hunger and building a participatory and cross-sectoral policy Food Security, as a condition of resuming the issue at the global level from the food crisis that erupted in 2006/7, and the resulting emergence of conflicts between different opposing paradigms, highlighting Brazil's involvement in the enhancement of family and peasant farming (resistance factor in Latin America and Caribbean) and also in the new edition of the green revolution with the creation of favourable environment for the expansion of the private sector (driven in Africa). The growing notoriety gained by food security themes calls for social participation in food security processes.

### Social and Solidarity Economy and South-South and triangular cooperation: Social Innovation possibilities from the IBSA Forum (India, Brazil and South Africa) by Morais, Leandro (Brazil)

This paper aims to present the relationships between ESS, the CSST and the IBSA Forum, based on the analysis of the Brazilian experience in building public ESS policies. It appears that many of the challenges encountered with regard to the strengthening of ESS can be addressed based on the assumptions

and the existence of projects for the CSST in these countries. Socializing forms of social innovation in pursuit of strengthening the ESS in this environment (Academy) constitutes an extremely relevant and pertinent opportunity, especially in the current scenario.

### **1.1. The increasing visibility and recognition of South-South cooperation and triangular**

Cooperation among developing countries has been part of the cooperation for global development since the 1970s, but has recently gained greater visibility. The growing importance and relevance of South-South Cooperation and Triangular were reaffirmed by several major UN conferences.

It is worth mentioning that South-South cooperation is complementary to traditional North-South relations and embodies the idea that “through a spirit of solidarity, developing countries can provide sustainable solutions to their own problems and at a lower cost”. In this way, “South-South cooperation – which is based on identifying successful experiences in one country to adapt them in another country sharing a similar socio-economic context – is an important addition to the dissemination of results of Decent Work in the four strategic objectives of the ILO”. “It allows, at the same time, the establishment of networks among developing countries and traditional donors in triangular arrangements, contributing to a fair globalization”. In this perspective, it is understood that “the ILO can play an important role not only as a support channel but also as a means to maximize the financial, logistical and technical resources” (Amorim, 2013, p.8).

Thus, South-South cooperation is seen even as an important means to address the challenges faced by LDCs. The Istanbul Programme of Action highlights South-South cooperation as an important form of support and calls on developing countries to promote such cooperation with the least developed countries.

**Table 1 – Main landmarks of South-South and triangular cooperation**

The General Assembly in 2004, the High Level Committee for the Assessment of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries gave rise to the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Under the guidance of the High Level Committee, the UN system has given priority to South-South and triangular cooperation as a key modality for promoting collaborative initiatives at national, regional and inter-regional level;

Table 1 continued

In December 2009, the UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi, took a big political boost. There it was requested that the United Nations system organizations should make additional efforts to ensure with the fulfilment of the expectations of Member States regarding support for this type of cooperation;

In 2010, the Final Document of Nairobi, drafted in 2009 and approved by the UN General Assembly in 2010, provided the most comprehensive and far-reaching definition of South-South and triangular cooperation within the UN system;

In the same year (2010) during the Global Development Orientation South-South, India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILO in South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of Decent Work. The Declaration reaffirms its intention to enhance ILO's South-South cooperation programme in order to promote greater solidarity and equality between countries and peoples in matters of labour;

Later in 2012, the Government of India hosted the IBSA's first Ministerial Conference on Decent Work, and many initiatives are underway to support this Declaration, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation Development Programs of the United Nations;

Also in 2012, the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation is reaffirmed in the Quadrennial Review of Global Policy on Operational Activities by the United Nations Development System (2012), which devoted a part for South-South Cooperation.

Source: Morais (2014)

**Table 2 – South-South and triangular cooperation in the ILO**

- It encompasses social, economic, environmental, technical and political initiatives;
- demonstration of solidarity;
- equal partnership based on solidarity, sharing knowledge and experience and training and technology transfer;
- Tripartism and building of consensus and cooperation between the actors;
- Social Dialogue;

Table 2 continued

- Common interest;
- Emerging from a socio-economic demand;
- Respect of autonomy, peculiarities and priorities at a national level
- transversal character of actions and objectives;
- Cooperation between unions and universities;
- Strengthening of knowledge and research capacity for intervention in political and organizational development

Source: Morais (2014)

It is worth noting that these elements are connected with the components of the ESS.

### **1.2. The ILO and the put into practice of the South-South and triangular cooperation: some experiences**

For decades, the ILO has attached great importance to regional economic cooperation initiatives, which already constituted a form of South-South and triangular cooperation. As recorded in “South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation: The way forward (2012)”, in 2005, Brazil became the first partner of the South to support the Technical Cooperation Programme of the ILO through a South-South Cooperation Agreement. Since then, the ILO has formally strengthened its role as a bridge between countries of the South, helping them to share Decent Work experiences and moving towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Consequently, Southern new partners have established partnerships and expressed interest in promoting the Decent Work Agenda through South-South and triangular cooperation, including South Africa, Argentina, Chile, China, India, Kenya and Panama. As examples of actions and practices of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, we can mention the initiative to combat child labour in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay; Support actions to meet the 2015 goals to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Lusophone countries of Africa; Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training – CINTERFOR – ILO and South-South and triangular cooperation; National Industrial Apprenticeship Service (SENAI) in the implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation; South-South and triangular cooper-

ation and Social Protection; The South-South cooperation for the implementation of Social Protection Floors (PPS) sensitive to national gender issues; innovations in Public Employment Programmes and Sustainable Growth Inclusive; Global Labour University (GLU); Programs in the green economy.

### **1.3. The IBSA and the SSTC statement**

Brazil, India and South Africa signed a Declaration of Intent on South-South and triangular cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) regarding Decent Work. The IBSA-ILO Declaration is based on the commitments made by these countries to promote cooperation as an important tool for social and economic development (Geneva, 2010 – Newsletter – No. 26 – Monday 22 November 2010). The goal is to foster dialogue between governments, workers and employers in their respective countries, as a way to promote their integration and sharing regional experiences in each of the developing countries.

### **1.4. SSE as strengthening opportunities of IBSA region**

SSE provides real and effective instruments to contribute to this project involving the IBSA countries. SSE, with its social and labour insertion capacity and income generation, allows facing the scenario of social and economic inequality and poverty of many places in these countries, especially for the most vulnerable communities, deprived of opportunities and prospects. SSE also has territorial development mechanisms, based on local action and productive mobilization and planning policy, pointing to strengthening prospects of production networks, marketing and advice of the Solidary Economical Enterprises.

Some interesting experiences that connect the SSE with the SSTC are: the Food Procurement Programs (PAA) in Brazil; the Expanded Public Work Programs, Community Work Programs, in South Africa; the Plan Jefes y jefas de Hogar, Argentina; Productive Net Safety Programme in Ethiopia and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India. These programs are coined as “Public Employment Programmes”, which refer to government job creation programs en masse to vulnerable groups and understood as structural programs of medium / long term to combat poverty and structural unemployment.

### **1.5. The Brazilian experience: the National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy (SENAES)**

Since 2003, with the creation of SENAES, several actions were taken to meet the main demands of the SSE among which is the access to financial services,

infrastructure, knowledge and increasing the marketing etc. The latest ESOL national mapping was conducted and published in “e Solidarity Economy in Brazil: an analysis of national data” under the coordination of Gaiger (2014). Based on this mapping, there are 19,708 Solidary Economy Enterprises and 1,423,631 members. Of total Solidary Economy Enterprises, nearly 55% are in rural areas, while 34.8% are in urban areas and 10.4% simultaneously operate in rural and urban areas.

Despite the advances of ESOL public policy in the country, it is clear that even this universe of practices is marked by weaknesses and challenges, which can be discussed in the framework of IBSA and SSTC for the purpose of finding opportunities together; main challenges that we need to overcome are listed below and can be met from social innovations, including some which are already underway, which allow the strengthening of the SSE and its territorial ties.

### **1.6. Advances and challenges: social innovations in the ESS strengthening the search in the context of SSTC**

- SSE as a state policy and not government;
- Legal and legal vacuum;
- Mechanisms own and autonomous financing;
- Tools and instruments of evaluation and monitoring of public policies to support the SSE;

Strengthening ESOL networks (internally and externally) as strengthening the territorial development mechanism, from the “basics services” and an “entrepreneurial ecosystem”.

### **Triangular cooperation and Solidarity Economy by Munguambe, Emilia Raquel (Mozambique)**

Solidarity economy consists of finding practical and sustainable solutions to the problem of economic and social asymmetry that afflicts many people and communities through cooperation among industrialized countries, emerging powers and developing countries, as well as in different sectors of economic activities that make up a particular country.

This model enables the development of economies or economically disadvantaged sectors and increases the ability of developed economies to the extent that the development plans, means of production, technology and knowledge can be shared among stakeholders countries solidarity.

In the case of the CPLP countries, the adoption of solidarity economy among members would lead to considerable gains in several socio economic fields, as some member countries recorded advances and other delays in certain areas that are priority for achieving the objectives of social development economic of a particular nation. The joint effort in identifying the factors of success and failure would allow the development of common benefits among members.

In the case of Mozambique, where land is intensive capital and about 80% of the population practices subsistence agriculture, the partnership in this area, more specifically the exchange of technology and knowledge, allows the introduction of new production techniques, diversity of cultures, increased exports to countries where agriculture is not a priority and consequent improvement in the trade balance of the country, thereby ensuring an increase in family and national income, food security and improvements in employment levels. However, we cannot develop the agricultural sector in detriment of education, health, infrastructure and other areas.

In my perception the solidarity economy not only restricts trade relations, to the extent that to have a solid commercial basis it is necessary trained personnel to deal with the changes that may arise from the relationships created between the various economies. As for South-South cooperation, Mozambique has developed various activities in coordination with Brazil in various areas, namely: Legal Training for Trainers and Judges; Bank implementation of Human Milk and Lactation Centre in Mozambique; Support for the Implementation of a Tele-Health Centre, Library, and the Distance Education Health Programs for Women, Children and Adolescents in Mozambique; Training and Methodological Transfer to Food Programs; and Implementation of Community Seed Banks and Training to the rescue, multiplication, storage and use of traditional seeds in areas of family farming in Mozambique and South Africa.

In the area of Labour, Employment and Social Security, cooperation between Mozambique and Brazil provides the modernization of social security in Mozambique, training of national staff on hygiene and safety at work, employment, vocational training, use of information technology and communication and other matters pertaining to the labour sector. Solidarity among the economies in the frame and skilled personnel training area allows the reduction of external dependence with regard to skilled labour, thus inclusive development among stakeholders.

## Social Economy in Latin America: Forming a third power by Nagao Menezes, Daniel Francisco (Brazil)

The so-called “social economy” has the assumption that wealth ownership created in a given society is appropriate collectively. The European doctrine divides the Social Economy into two branches: ownership through state-owned companies and ownership through cooperative society.

Latin America searches a new approach on Social economy, different from that created in Europe, especially in Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Germany. Such a new approach shall lead to the formulation of a Latin American theory of Social Economy which respects the social and economic peculiarities of the region. In Latin America the social economy is much more developed in the cooperative sector but with a pre-eminently welfare nature. The welfare profile of the cooperative movement in Latin America is leading to its use as part of public policies for economic inclusion of marginalized populations, through the cooperative work.

This mutation in the European concept of social economy creates what we call – especially in Brazil and Argentina – Social Economy Enterprise, which is planned not only for the collective appropriation of the wealth but also for the productive inclusion of the economically excluded population. The public policy of social inclusion in Latin America implies direct participation of the state as planning agent and executor of socio-economic inclusion projects, which modifies the libertarian character of the cooperative.

When it comes to state public policy, this turns into rule of law, creating a new field of legal knowledge, still little studied by law.

From the academic point of view, there are hardly any proposals to study the legal regulations in key Latin American legal systems in order to identify the existence of a Latin American legal theory of Social Economy. The first research hypothesis assumes the classic Social Economy concepts developed since the nineteenth century in Europe were transported to Latin America and underwent an evolutionary adaptation forming a third stream within the Economy Social, which I call here “Solidary Development”. The main feature is socio-economic inclusion of economically excluded population.

The second hypothesis is that there is a factual and legal identity in most Latin American countries, identity which allows you to speak in a Latin American legal system of solidarity enterprises, thus promoting legal and economic integration of this region of the planet. The legal integration in Latin America will only occur after the economic integration leading to the unification of priority network of social enterprises in the region.



## The South-South and triangular cooperation in East Africa: Progress, challenges and prospects by Nannyonjo, Justine (Uganda)

### Introduction

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is a broad framework for promoting and supporting collaboration among countries of the South. It differs from bilateral exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how by developing countries, which often involves bilateral cooperation agreements, in that it is much broader as it entails political, economic and technical collaboration among developing countries. With the rise of China, India, Brazil and a number of other developing countries, SSC has been increasingly playing an important role in global trade, finance, investment and governance, allowing for more substantial collaboration among Southern states than the previous times, when traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitated SS initiatives. SSTC is prominent particularly through regional integration initiatives across the developing world, reflected in, among other things, the creation of regional common markets, customs unions and institutional and regulatory frameworks. This article outlines the nature of SSTC in East Africa (EA). It highlights progress (cases of successful experiences in the EA states) and some challenges which must be addressed in order for SSTC to succeed in EA. It draws policy implications and recommendations on the way forward. It is based on a critical review of literature. In this article, EA includes the following five countries: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda. These countries have membership of East African economic Community (EAC).

The EAC was revived in 2000 after its collapse in 1977. It has made impressive steps towards economic integration, with the launch of the Free Trade Area (2001), a Customs Union (2005), and the common market in 2010 that would facilitate job creation and the mobility of people regionally. The EAC is also in the process of establishing the EA Monetary Union by 2021. Apart from promoting trade and easing the doing business in the entire EA region, EAC also focuses on other areas of cooperation and development among the five member states. These areas include the harmonization and promotion of employment, education, energy, the environment, the youth, peace and security, health among others. Many initiatives of SSC and some on TC have sought to contribute to this process, and this should be encouraged. Besides increasing the sources and amounts of resources available for development, SSTC is considered to be important in promoting close socioeconomic links between the partner countries, thus helping them to strengthen their position in the world economy. Other potential benefits include mutual learning and institution building among the partner countries.

The areas of co-operation between EA countries and their Southern partners have included infrastructure, health, agriculture, human resources development, and water supply. In this regard, co-operation has resulted in major projects including: (i) South Africa–Kenya – Pan African Infrastructural Development Fund. (ii) Pan African e-network for medical services and human resources where India is an important partner; (iii) India-Tanzania-Uganda dairy Cooperative program where India shares its experiences on improving dairy cooperatives with Uganda and Tanzania. TC is also helping to deepen collaboration between Southern states by providing additional resources through partnering with the North. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme is an African initiative that seeks to find unique solutions for African problems by encouraging, interactions and lesson-sharing among African farmers. The programme focuses on improving food security and nutrition and increasing incomes in Africa's largely farming-based economies. Both Northern and Southern partners have become involved in this project, making it an example of both SSC and TC. Another program is the African Peer Review Mechanism (voluntarily adopted by the member states of the African Union (AU), to promote and re-enforce high standards of governance. The AU/ New Partnership for Africa's Development (NAPAD) is the major framework for continent-wide harmonization and coordination of development cooperation with member States.

CSOs: South-South Cooperation between CSO's in EA has seen tremendous growth over the past years. Currently CSOs have different forum for sharing experiences and knowledge on poverty reduction, advocacy for human rights and debt cancellation among others. For example, Philippines based IBON International, undertook personnel exchange with the Kenya Debt Relief Network to build the capacity of the personnel with the view of improving program management as well as the institutional capacity in organizational administration. However, CSOs in EAC partner states face challenges including being excluded from the official SSC partnerships, restrictions in the movement of people across the borders as well as lack of legal and regulatory framework for their operations.

### **Challenges of SSTC in East Africa:**

One of the great challenges of SSTC is weak coordination which leads to high implementation costs, existence of distinct procedures and institutions from different countries, longer negotiation process, difficulties in agreeing on common standards and procedures for measurement and evaluation, and unclear division of roles and responsibilities, lack of demand from and involvement of beneficiary countries, and limited scope/scale of SSTC projects. Another

one is lack of appropriate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the projects, or an analysis of the efficacy of different cooperation models and insufficient ownership by the beneficiary country. A problem also prevalent in other forms of cooperation. Lack of national policy and regional frameworks for cooperation with pivotal countries and lack of long term strategic frameworks of operation by pivotal countries for engaging with both the North and the South is another challenge. Most arrangements exclude civil society and/or local stakeholder participation, which leads to the processes often being perceived as supply driven as opposed to demand driven. The EA regional integration process, is also encountering numerous challenges, making it ineffective, due to diverging political and economic interests and rivalries. For example, while the Protocol requires that the partner states guarantee the free movement of EAC citizens within their territories, this has not been achieved, as only Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda have abolished the requirement for work permits to facilitate movement of labour. Free movement of labour is hampered by protection of national interests among partner states, thus undermining effective implementation of decisions agreed upon. as per the Protocol. As regards trade, there is the problem of dependence on a few commodities and particularly of primary nature, which has seen the partner countries competing with each other in producing similar products. This makes it hard for the realization of intra-trade benefits with each other since there exist very limited regional demand. Further, overreliance on labor as opposed to capital intensive production technologies has the consequence effect of making exports from the region uncompetitive. Other problems include weak human capacities, and lack of a common policy framework.

Conclusions and policy recommendations: SSTC in EA has clearly increased resources available for development, and provided new opportunities for the partner states to comprehensively address their development challenges. However, to ensure that EA maximizes benefits from the partnerships, SSTC needs to be strengthened by mainstreaming it into national and regional development priorities. In addition, there is a need to develop strong policy and institutional frameworks for SSTC to facilitate partner countries to pursue SSTC partnerships in a comprehensive manner. Similarly, pivotal countries should work out long term strategic frameworks for engaging with both the North and the South in TC. Ownership of SSTC should be broadened to include CSOs as key stakeholders in policy development and implementation of these partnerships. Continuous monitoring and evaluation frameworks should also be set up to inform the progress made so far and help identify new areas where policies might be needed to boost ECA's effectiveness. Human and institutional capacities of EAC need to be strengthened to pursue common and collective development goals in a harmonized, coordinated, and measurable manner. Member States also

need to ensure that they have long term strategies that emphasize consultations with national institutions, and broad based stakeholders to enable national ownership of SSTC. A Lack of progress by member States in attaining EAC milestones is another serious impediment to effectiveness of SSTC, particularly the role that pivotal countries could play. EAC institutions should therefore take note of the potential benefits of alternative SSTC such as the AU/NEPAD framework. Analytical work may also be required in some key areas such as: assessing the comparative advantage of Southern contributors in promoting regional cooperation and its potential as a modality for strengthening future SSTC.

### Article on Solidary Cooperation: Decent Work Country Programme by Pereira Cardoso, Renato Maria José (Mozambique)

#### Introduction

In the framework of the Implementation of the “Decent Work Country Programme”, approved in 2011 by the Council of Ministries under the cooperation of the Ministry of Labour the ILO in partnership with MITRAB and other Ministries, started implementing programmes founded in the priorities defined by the social partners and the tripartite family. The main objectives of the “Decent Work Country Programme” of Mozambique are contributing to the materialization of the national priorities or reduction of poverty and promoting an inclusive growth through the promotion of Decent Work. This goal was focused on the vulnerable groups on the employment market: young people, women, disabled persons and HIV infected persons.

The ILO supported the execution of projects in the field of Social Protection, HIV and AIDS, women’s empowerment, social dialogue, child labour, among other initiatives in the framework of the UN.

#### Project for the support of the “Decent Work Country Programme”: Components

- Social Dialogue
- Promotion of women’s empowerment and rights for working women

The project was funded by the Flemish Agency for International Cooperation – FICA from October 2010 to October 2012.

Its goals were: contribute to the reduction of poverty in Mozambique, through the creation of decent employment, economic empowerment of women and equality of gender; contribute to the materialization of Mozambique’s

priorities relating to the promotion of Decent Work: 1- Creation of Decent Work and 2- Reinforcement of Fundamental Rights at work.

### **Concerning the promotion of women's empowerment**

- 5000 factsheets were printed on occupational qualifiers in the tourism sector.
- The INEF trained 290 people (80% were women) in the Provinces of Nampula, Sofala and Maputo on the methodology how to develop their enterprises.

### **Promotion of Rights for working women**

- Supporting the celebration of the I and II national conferences on Women and Gender (2010 – 2012 respectively)
- Supporting the establishment and training of the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce.
- 2000 booklets on how to combat the gender discrimination in the labour sector (ILO Conventions 100 and 111) were elaborated and distributed.

### **Promotion of Social dialogue**

Some 317 participants were trained in issues related to Social Dialogue (45% of the participants are members of the women's trade union committees COMURRA and COMUT)

In the same project an assessment on the consultative commission of Labour (CCT) has been carried out at a national level, in the provinces of Nampula and Sofala concerning its role in the promotion of women's right in particular.

The participation of the trade union federation was supported in the process of negotiation of the minimal wage. In 2012 representatives of the trade union federation in Maputo agreed upon a strategy on the negotiations of minimal wage. As a result, a salary increase was possible by sector, varying from 6% to 15%. Referring to the Country Programme, it is being implemented in a calculated and slow form according to available resources. This programme is being implemented in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi and 22 further African countries.

## Linkage between South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE): A Shared Experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America by Quiñones, Benjamin (Philippines)

The basic elements that constitute South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) are the following: (1) emerges out of a socio-economic demand; (2) shared interest; (3) taking initiatives in social, economic, environmental, technical or political realms; (4) manifestation of solidarity; (5) egalitarian partnership based on solidarity, on the sharing of knowledge and experience, and on training and technology transfer; (6) social dialogue; (7) respect for autonomy, peculiarities and priorities of partners at the national level; (8) cross-cutting nature of actions and objectives; (9) cooperation between trade unions and universities; and (10) strengthening of knowledge and research capacity for interventions in policies and organizational development. Attachment 1 shows selected cases in Asia where SSTC was instrumental in developing SSE.

Meanwhile, the development of SSE involves both: (1) the synergy or working together of individual members of SSE organizations (cooperatives, clubs, village associations or other types of membership-based organizations) that operate and manage *solidarity-based community enterprises*, and (2) the partnership between SSE organizations and the *helping professional organizations* (e.g. non-governmental organizations, private shareholding social enterprises, faith-based organizations, local government agencies, etc.). The latter usually provide financial, technical support and professional services to the solidarity-based community enterprises. SSTC strengthens such synergies and partnerships across countries.

### **Globalizing SSE through SSTC**

SSTC has been instrumental in spreading SSE initiatives throughout the world, particularly among developing countries. This phenomenon is especially illustrated in the initiatives of fair trade, community supported agriculture (CSA), financial inclusion through microfinance, and inter-people cooperation in building solidarity in conflict-affected areas. These SSE initiatives are on the rise in Asia and widespread in Latin America as well as in Africa. They have become widely recognized as instruments for people empowerment and poverty alleviation.

Fair trade and CSA practices promote the globalization of SSE by linking solidarity-based community enterprises in developing countries to fair trade and organic buyers in developed countries. In 2011, 54% of the producer organizations certified for Fairtrade were located in Latin America, 31% in Africa

and only 15% in Asia. CSA is a local solidarity-based partnership between ‘organic’ farmers and the people they feed that can be found in many parts of the world, including developed countries. There is no fixed way of organizing these partnerships, it is a framework to inspire communities to work together with their local farmers, provide mutual benefits and reconnect people to the land where their food is grown. Each community finds its own methods of distribution, packaging and sets its own prices and payment schedule.

Integration into the global supply chains of fair trade or organic farming helps SSE organizations access vital information, markets, financing and technical support. Integrating SSE enterprises into “triple bottom line” global supply chains is a crucial SSTC strategy as many SSE enterprises are small and localized, and they need some scaling up.

Financial inclusion through microfinance – the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to sections of disadvantaged and low-income segments of society – is an area where SSTC has accomplished far-reaching milestones in supporting SSE in Asia as well as in Latin America and Africa. Financial inclusion is a built-in feature of group formation and social capital formation in SSE. This feature was evident in cases from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam where self-organized groups of people mobilized savings from members to create revolving loan funds that are accessible to members at affordable costs. In Africa, savings-based microfinance is prevalent among ROSCAs (rotating savings & credit associations). In Latin America, microfinance and complementary currencies are vital instruments of financial inclusion in local economies.

In recent years, microfinance institutions (MFIs) – among them NGOs, co-operatives, credit unions, and non-bank financing companies – have diversified their portfolios by extending financial and technical support to the collective production and marketing activities of organized groups of farmers. MFIs that have scaled up their operations with a clientele outreach in the hundreds of thousands gradually adopted the new role of social investor and integrator of the value chains of solidarity-based community enterprises.

A top development priority in developing countries is the empowerment of people, particularly women, in fragile environments. People living in fragile situations caused by conflicts, natural disasters, and socio-political crisis are estimated to number around 1.5 billion worldwide. Fragile situations prolong poverty, unemployment and instability.<sup>20</sup> SSTC geared towards empowering women in conflict-affected territories is illustrated in a project in Sri Lanka supported by the Pacific Asia Resource Centre for Inter-people Cooperation

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<sup>20</sup> Da Costa, Halder (2014). “ILO Solution Forum: fragile-to-fragile cooperation.” Paper presented at the Global South-South Development Expo 2014, Washington DC., 19 November 2014.

(PARCIC), a Japanese international NGO. PARCIC first applied its “inter-people cooperation” programme in Timor-Leste by buying ground native coffee from local farmers based on fair trade standards. Having gained some experience from Timor-Leste, PARCIC replicated its inter-people cooperation programme among fishing communities in war-torn Jaffna, Sri Lanka, and more recently in Eastern Malaysia.

SSTC typically emerges out of socio-economic demand. The more specific the socio-economic demand is, the greater is the precision of partnership focus. Ordinary people in many developing countries today are organizing SSE initiatives to address their need for access to finance, market, technical know-how, jobs, and social services. Socio-economic demand is a solid basis on which the shared interest of would-be partners is built.

Shared interest among SSE stakeholders motivates them to engage in constant *social dialogue* and to forge *solidarity* among themselves in order to undertake collective action meant to address the socio-economic demand. SSE addresses *cross-cutting nature of actions and objectives*. Collective actions of SSE stakeholders are aimed at solving their problems arising from *social, economic, environmental, technical or political realms*. Solutions provided by SSE stakeholders are geared toward achieving the cross-cutting objectives (or ‘triple bottom line’) of social development, economic development, and environmental protection. They promote *egalitarian partnership, the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and respect for autonomy of partners*. These are the very elements that form a solid basis for the ‘shared interest’ of partners involved in SSTC. Transfer of knowledge, experience and technology among SSE partners are premised on their shared interest in the common undertaking.

The stakeholders of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) are varied. They may include community based social enterprise organized by ordinary people, and service providers (e.g. input suppliers, fair trade buyers, microfinance institutions, training institutes, etc.), or professional helping organizations (e.g. government agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.). A relevant question is: in what ways can these various stakeholders come together and engage in a dialogue on their common but differentiated responsibilities of developing their supply chain as an instrument of inclusive and sustainable development?

### ***Social Dialogue as a means of facilitating SSTC in Asia***

The case of the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC) can be cited to address the above question. ASEC has been instrumental in bringing together SSE stakeholders from various countries in Asia and other continents for purposes



of knowledge and experience sharing. ASEC has contributed to the conceptualization and implementation of an ongoing dialogue on SSE in Asia by tapping the knowledge and research capacity of its partner organizations including academic institutions. It employed several strategies for bringing together SSE stakeholders to a dialogue including: developing a shared vision, sharing practical knowledge and experiences in developing a supply chain, peer-to-peer learning and exchange visits among top executives of supply stakeholders, joint effort in institutional capability building, and replicating supply chain models.

The capabilities of ASEC for organizing dialogues have been strengthened through the years. From 2007 to 2013, ASEC facilitated country-to-country peer cooperation in promoting SSE through the Solidarity Economy Learning Journey project partially funded by the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for Human Development (FPH), and to a lesser extent by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In the process of country-to-country peer cooperation, a strong dynamics in partnership building transpired. Among participants of the solidarity economy learning journey, there was great interest in the case studies because they addressed common socio-economic problems and they provided solutions that were adaptable, replicable and sustainable.

### ***Outcomes of SSTC in SSE***

Results of the South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) initiated by ASEC and its national focal points are the following: a compilation of studies on SSE practices in Asian countries, currently used as references for research, training, roundtable discussions, and exchange visits by the ASEC partner organizations, RIPESS, and other international organizations. Many of the SSE cases generated by ASEC are featured in the ILO publication “Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia: A South-South and triangular cooperation Perspective”; broader knowledge and greater understanding of the SSE concept and practice; facilitation of roundtable discussions on SSE by ASEC focal points in several Asian countries; design of producer-consumer solidarity projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines patterned after the practice of community supported agriculture; and design of a training course on SSE for capacity building of partner organizations.

In addition, the ASEC-initiated SSTC resulted in the emergence of a few organizations that played a key role in sustaining country-to-country peer cooperation by providing technical assistance to their counterparts in other countries/territories on SSE research and advocacy. These are the Coalition of Socially Responsible Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia (Philippines), the Pacific Asia Resource Centre (Japan), the Malaysian Network for Community

Economy, Bina Swadaya (Indonesia), the Association of Social Enterprises in Indonesia, the Universiti Sam Ratulangi (Indonesia), Jobs Australia, the Common Wealth Network for People Centred Development (India), and the Social Solidarity Economy Network of Nepal. The focal points of ASEC have also established collaborative ties with universities in their respective countries to promote SSE among the youth and students.

### **Conclusion**

There is ample evidence from the Asian experience to show that: (1) SSTC and SSE are “two sides of the same coin”, and (2) SSTC has been a driving force in the development of SSE. Furthermore, both government-driven (top-down) and people’s organization -driven (bottom-up) SSTC are flourishing on the ground and they are instrumental in broadening development cooperation among developing countries. The partnership between helping professional organizations and solidarity-based community enterprises, and with the financial and technical assistance of partner organizations – is a strong driving force behind the advance of SSE in Asia. The enhanced knowledge and research capacity on SSE of ASEC and its partner organizations in Asia can be tapped for the purpose of energizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the strengthening of value chains of solidarity-based community enterprises. From the learning journey that was largely concerned about drawing lessons from existing good practices, ASEC partner organizations today are gradually turning their attention to facilitating SSTC in developing SSE as an alternative development model. Groundworking of the multi-stakeholder dialogue by the partner organizations from the South will pave the way for development organizations from the developed North to fine-tune their interventions of investing additional capital funds and extending technical assistance for the development of SSE.

The ILO can put its strategic advantage as a unique tripartite institutional arrangement comprising representatives of governments, employers and workers to a broader application and impact on public policies and programmes by encompassing both ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approaches to mainstreaming its Decent Work Agenda.

### **South-South and triangular cooperation and SSE by Rahman, Kamran (Bangladesh)**

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a model of cooperation between and amongst developing countries that are usually referred to as countries of the

“global south” to exchange resources, technology and knowledge. However, South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is a model of cooperation between the developing countries of the south along with developed countries of the north guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality. SSTC is an effective means of capacity development, knowledge sharing, exchanging experience and good practices, interregional cooperation, intra-regional cooperation and resource mobilization.

After World War II, international development cooperation was directed largely at ensuring economic, financial and technical assistance to the developing countries by the developed countries, based on the premise that the developed North possessed the capital resources and technical skills which the poor South did not have. Guided by such concepts of development cooperation, the capital continued to flow to the developing countries. As a result many developing countries also went through a period of economic growth which encouraged them to borrow huge sums of money from international creditors to advance industrialization and infrastructure development. South-South Cooperation (SSC) had slackened from the 1970s up until the mid-2000s, but South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) became strong because of the initiatives taken by developed countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in providing official development assistance (ODA) to the developing countries. These initiatives enabled some developing countries to graduate to “Emerging Economies”.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) takes different forms depending on the region, culture, needs, level of socio economic development and so on. Some examples of cooperation are as follows:

- Facilitation of trade flow through regional trade or cooperation blocks, e.g., ASEAN, SAARC, MERCOSUR, etc.
- Capital flows – overseas (official) development assistance or foreign direct investment Loans provided by India to Bangladesh at low interest rates is an example of official development assistance by a developing country to another developing country. Likewise, investment by countries like China, India and Malaysia to Bangladesh, Myanmar, etc. are examples of FDI.
- Movement of labour (international migration) – There are about 9.2 million migrant workers from Bangladesh working in different countries of the world, mostly in Asia, sending some 14 billion \$ per year as remittances. Similarly, other Asian countries like India, Nepal, Pakistan, Srilanka, Philippines, and Indonesia who have surplus labour are also sending large numbers of migrant workers to labour deficit countries. This has been possible both because of SSC as well as SSTC.

- Technical assistance, e.g., in social and physical infrastructure- Grants, scholarships, etc. for education are examples of cooperation in the social field, while assistance in construction of roads, bridges, etc. are examples of technical assistance in developing physical infrastructure. Technology transfer: Some developing countries may have attained higher levels of development and technology and may be willing to share/transfer technology in various fields with other developing countries.
- Exchange of knowledge and experience-Knowledge about improved methods/technology in agriculture, experience in social fields, etc. Examples: Farming technologies in Israel, methods of making knowledge of basic hygiene and primary health care services available to the poor in Bangladesh.
- Energy Sharing – this is an area where cooperation exists not only amongst developing countries but also amongst the countries of the north. There are a number of regional cooperations through which cross-border energy trading is taking place all over the world.<sup>21</sup>
- A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in January 2010 between Government of India and Government of Bangladesh for bilateral Co-operation in the areas of Power Generation, Transmission, energy efficiency, Renewable energy, Consultancy services, Training & Development,

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<sup>21</sup> Examples of some of these initiatives are as follows: ENTSO-E Created in year 2011; 41 Transmission System Operators (TSOs) from 34 countries of Europe. 428,161 GWh traded in 2012.

GCC • Created in year 2001 • United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. Intermittent exchange of power.

GMS • Created in year 1995 (Electric power forum) • Cambodia, PRC (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. 34,139 GWh traded in 2010.

SAPP • Created in year 1995: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South • Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Malawi and Tanzania; • 10,409 MWh exchanged in 2011–12.

- 55000 MW of combined electricity production between the countries; • Countries like Mozambique, Botswana etc. have huge reserve of Coal, very less local demand and major Infrastructure bottleneck for coal transportation; US – Mexico: • Import and Export of power during emergencies up to 1.5 BUs in a year. • A total of 9 interconnections between Texas and Mexico Turkey – Azerbaijan – Iran – Bulgaria.

- Azerbaijan has excess generating capacity & Georgia has seasonal surplus capacity which matches Turkey's power requirement. • At an average, Turkey imports 400 MW from Iran and 500 MW from Bulgaria. In exchange, Turkey exports 150 MW to Greece.

UK – France; • Power mainly traded in European Power Exchanges: • 2000 MW of HVDC interconnectivity between UK and France.

India-Bhutan; • Bhutan mainly exports Hydro power to India; • India may supply power to Bhutan under swap arrangement for upcoming power projects; India – Nepal • India mainly supplies power to Nepal during dry season.

Constitution of Steering Committee on Working Group and establishment of grid connectivity between India and Bangladesh.

Social and Solidarity Economy has been defined as an alternative to capitalism and other authoritarian, state-dominated economic systems. In Social and Solidarity Economy ordinary people have the opportunity to play an active role in shaping their lives economically, socially, culturally, politically and environmentally. Asia is one of the most diverse regions of the world. There are countries with well regulated labour markets and also countries with very large informal sectors. The challenge here is to formalize the informal sectors and to ensure Decent Work for all. Social and Solidarity Economy strives to overcome inequalities in all classes of society. Social and Solidarity Economy has the ability to take the best practices that exist, such as efficiency, use of technology and knowledge and transform them to serve the welfare of the community based on different values and goals.

### Social Innovation: The undertakings on Solidarity Economy and public policy on production and integration in Brazil by Rosadinski, Eliane (Brazil)

In Brazil, the vast majority of the studies made on labour market gives evidence of the level of poverty, more specifically of the problem of coping with productive exclusion inherent to structural operating conditions of capitalist societies. Exclusion is not limited to low-skilled workers. However, despite the heterogeneity of excluded workers in terms of qualification, there is a certain consensus that generally low-skilled and older age individuals are the most vulnerable. This is a problem that permeates all countries. The indicators of social exclusion and income inequality present in Latin America, Africa, India and even in European countries confirm the exclusive nature of the capitalist system of production.

Thus, given the increasing difficulty of capitalist production structure to absorb the human resources available in the labour market, States, in an attempt to mitigate the deleterious effects of exclusion, have been proposing alternatives of production inclusive of the most vulnerable groups. That been said, the proposals of intervention through public policy tend to be structured in line with the concept of development and the achievement of specific policy instruments to each of them. Due to its characteristics, the Solidary Economy Enterprises constitute a kind of productive organization promoted by public policies. The main features of these projects are: collective ownership of the means of production; democratic management; breakdown of net revenues; and disposal of the remains by criteria between the members (Singer, 2002).

In order to better define the contours that public policy has assumed when focusing on Solidary Economy Enterprises it is necessary to recover the theoretical and conceptual work that takes place in this productive organization type and what kind of support such work needs. Unlike the typical structures of capitalism, this type of project does not require a separation of ownership of the means of production. In a solidarity economic model, “work would be placed at the service of cooperation, not just for profit”

It is evident that much of the success of these policies on SSE is conditioned to the assimilation capacity of these concepts by workers. France Filho and Laville (2004) complement this idea by introducing the importance of training for management and self-management, thus emphasizing the role of the actions of capacity building and training for the success of SSE. Faced with these challenges in Brazil, the National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy of the Ministry of Labour (SENAES / MTE) built a support policy to solidarity enterprises whose major innovation has been the focus on networks of SSE operating in the territories. Aimed at promoting local and regional development, the proposal of intervention of SENAES focuses on the strengthening of socio-economic sectors, cooperation networks and supply chains. As a consequence, in this context, the support institutions, called basic services providers, are highlighted.

In this model, basic service providers are strategic since they offer support to SSE services (from their viability and sustainability to the provision of training for self-management). This reveals the strategic and political function of basic service providers, which must go beyond the provision of technical services. In addition, it is clear the importance given to training processes, as consistent with the concept of solidarity, sustainable local development, training processes should be aimed at building a critical conception of reality and production in which solidarity is rescued as a dynamic element and transformer. Thus, in South-South cooperation projects, there is an important sharing of agendas and of experiences at the international level. It is believed that, given the need to face these common problems, it is necessary to share the experiences of different countries.

While acknowledging that social technology is specific to each country and being consistent with the strategic objectives of the ILO, successful experiences may be adapted in other countries, even transferred through sharing networks aimed at planning joint actions to strengthen these policies focused on SSE in order to combat exclusion. From the categories presented by Morais (2014), it is important to focus not only in the horizontal aspects of SSTC cooperation, but, fundamentally, in the creation of networks, while seeking to incorporate innovative and sustainable aspects of cooperation. The challenge of cooperation must, therefore, be met with dialogue and exchange of experiences and good practices.

## Role of the SSE in Fragile States and Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation<sup>22</sup> by Schwettmann, Jürgen (Germany) & Fakhri-Kairouz, Charbel (Venezuela & Lebanon)

### Introduction

In 2010 a group of fragile and conflict-affected countries, brought together in Dili, Timor Leste, established the “g7+” to share experiences and to advocate reforms of the international community’s engagement in conflict-affected States. The main goal of g7+ is to promote peace and state building and to provide a platform for countries in fragile situations to come together to discuss their shared development challenges and advocate for better international policies to address their needs.<sup>23</sup>

The term “fragile situation” describes a delicate or extremely vulnerable context that has a profound effect on the social and economic development of a country. Fragile situations have become a topic of increasing importance for the international community. Development partners review their policies to ensure effectiveness in countries with fragile institutions, governments from the South are in search of innovative solidarity mechanisms to assist fragile partners, and agencies within the UN system realign their institutional arrangements to provide better technical assistance in environments where fragility and uncertainty challenge effective planning and programming.<sup>24</sup>

Fragile States can be defined as “those where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor”.<sup>25</sup> In fragile States, “state policies and institutions are weak, making them vulnerable in their capacity to deliver services to their citizens, to control corruption, or to provide for sufficient voice and accountability. They face risks of conflict

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<sup>22</sup> *List of SSEA participants, which contributed to making possible this article:*

- *Alfredo Handem – Guinea Bissau*
- *Asmou Bab – Guinea*
- *Augustine Ouenzou – Central African Republic*
- *Bobomalala Ramarimbaboaka EP Rarijason – Madagascar*
- *Emmet Manley Crayton – Liberia*
- *Mohammed Adde Mukhtar – Somalia*
- *Robert Gozo – Togo*
- *Sibabi Edouard Ladouyou – Côte d’Ivoire*
- *Sissi Odile Dakouo Kone – Mali*
- *Sleid de Souda Costa – São Tomé*

<sup>23</sup> Antonio Cruciani: *Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation and Decent Work: an ILO perspective*. 2015

<sup>24</sup> Julian Schweitzer, ILO Policy Brief, “International Cooperation in Fragile Situations: Concepts, Trends, Perspectives & ILO Actions”. Fragile States Disaster Response Group (DEVINVEST) & Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit (PARDEV). Geneva, April 2014.

<sup>25</sup> Department for International Development, United Kingdom.

and political instability”.<sup>26</sup> In 2014, 48 countries were classified as fragile States according to a combined list prepared by the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the OECD and the World Bank. Some 1.25 billion people live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence. Fragile States have higher poverty rates, lower growth rates, and weaker human development indicators than other low-income countries. They are the least likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and their problems may have a destabilizing effect on neighbouring countries.<sup>27</sup>

As for the ILO, “its constituents envisage to further expand their support of socio-economic development in States in fragile situations by developing its contribution to the new Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) cooperation strategy through interagency and through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) mechanisms. The objectives and practices of SSTC are aligned with the principles of national ownership and self-assessment of F2F cooperation mechanisms. These countries experience similar situations and face similar challenges. The potential for South-South Cooperation increases as countries with similar contexts develop solutions to cope with current difficulties. Through peer sharing and lessons learned, their successes and failures inform a new and better understanding of their own conditions and necessary steps for transition.”<sup>28</sup>

During the fifth Social Solidarity Economy Academy, 2015, held in Johannesburg (South Africa), a session on the role of SSE in fragile States was organized with participants from 10 sub-Saharan African countries: Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, and Togo. Participants gave an overview of stability factors in their own countries, the development of SSE in the institutional, legal and social framework, and how the F2F cooperation modality could be used to promote SSE. The following is a brief summary.

### Political, social and economic context

Africa is undergoing long-term instability characterized by recurrent coups d’état, and chronic political and constitutional changes. The lack of a realistic vision on development based on social concerns, the high level of corruption, and the weak economic growth, lack of jobs, and the absence of social protection systems are the main factors of instability and fragility of the last few decades. Most sub-Saharan African States in fragile situations have been in political

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<sup>26</sup> World Bank.

<sup>27</sup> Jürgen Schwettman. Presentation to the SSEA 2015: The Social and Solidarity Economy in Fragile States. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>28</sup> Antonio Cruciani: Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation and Decent Work: an ILO perspective. 2015.



and military conflict for some time. This has resulted in the lack of a common vision and effective regional agenda for development. On the contrary, it has weakened national systems and structures that might otherwise have contributed to poverty alleviation and social inclusion.

Average economic growth is too weak to attain any real degree of development in such countries. The poverty rate in most of those countries is more than 50% of the total population, and the unemployment rate is high. Only an extremely small percentage of people are protected by any system of social protection. The Ebola crisis has deeply affected some West African countries, threatening them with economic collapse.

### Strategies developed

As an answer to the deep situation of fragility, governments are seeking efficient strategies to overcome instability and fragility and lead to sustainable development. Most of the strategies are focused on the reform and modernization of administration, on social justice and peace, and on macroeconomic management and the reform of public finance. Some government programmes have promoted significant local development, decentralization and citizen participation.

For example, the strategic Plan Terra Ranka (2015),<sup>29</sup> presented at the Brussels Round Table in April 2014, allows Guinea-Bissau to strengthen peace and governance processes as the starting point for establishing authentically republican institutions, including the armed forces, in the long term, and for endowing the administration with the capacity to lead the in-depth transformation of the country. Civil society organizations are called on to participate in this transformation, helping construct new paradigms of development.

In Madagascar a National Development Plan<sup>30</sup> was created on the basis of a national development strategy for the purpose of implementing structural adjustment. The plan includes areas such as governance, law, security, decentralization, democracy and national solidarity. It also aims at preserving macroeconomic stability by supporting development, inclusive growth and human and natural capital.

In Guinea<sup>31</sup> all political and social sectors have been mobilizing to support and improve the means of eliminating the Ebola virus throughout the country.

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<sup>29</sup> Alfredo Handem: "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Guinea Bissau. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>30</sup> Bobomala Ramarimbahoaka EP Rarijason: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Madagascar. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>31</sup> Asmou Bah: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Guinea. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

The UN Mission for Emergency Response to Ebola organized a meeting with political parties, religious leaders, civil society, trade unions and the private sector with the aim of broadening consensus among political parties on Ebola.

In the Central African Republic<sup>32</sup> a national forum was conducted to promote the peace process and national reconciliation. In Liberia<sup>33</sup> a programme called Agenda for Transformation (AfT) has been created with the aim of developing capacity building. In Mali<sup>34</sup> two new ministries were created: the Ministries of Solidarity and National Reconciliation. In Somalia,<sup>35</sup> despite the serious problems that the country is facing, the Somali Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has signed an MOU with UNDP and donors for youth employment programmes.

### **Social and Solidarity Economy in Fragile States**

The role of SSE in fragile States is of the utmost importance. The three components of SSE together address the roots of poverty in Africa. Cooperatives, associations and mutual societies are important employment sources in most sub-Saharan countries. Despite the fact that an important part of the economy of most Sub-Saharan African countries is based on SSE, cooperatives are still little developed and mutual organizations are only visible in microfinance.

SSE components have diversified their activities. In rural areas, the main objective is to increase rural productivity. In this context SSE organizations in rural areas focus on the structuring of farmers' organizations, support for access to productive resources such as credit, access to land, production inputs, and improvement of production techniques and access to the markets and to information systems. In urban areas, SSE organizations develop several programmes, including structuring and supporting the development of trade unions, and capacity building of informal economic actors to facilitate their gradual transition to the formal economy.

Mali shows an interesting SSE profile.<sup>36</sup> Some 27,878 cooperatives, 201 mutual societies, 125 social finance institutions and more than 8500 associations

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<sup>32</sup> Augustine Ouenzou: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Central African Republic. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>33</sup> Emmet Manley Crayton: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Liberia. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>34</sup> Sissi Odile Dakouo Kone: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Mali. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>35</sup> Mohammed Adde Mukhtar: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Somalia. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>36</sup> Sissi Odile Dakouo Kone: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Mali. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

have been registered so far. The National Federation of Association of Community Health and the National Federation of Artisans are cooperating in the development of SSE.

In Guinea,<sup>37</sup> which created a network for Social and Solidarity Economy, the SSE components represent 45% of GDP and 50% of new jobs. In Madagascar<sup>38</sup> some 28% of people are benefiting from microfinance. In Togo<sup>39</sup> some 307 cooperatives have been created, but 129 are not registered and 29 are technically illegal.

As for regulations governing the SSE, laws on cooperatives, microfinance, associations and NGOs exist in most of African countries. However Africa is lacking support policies facilitating their development. In fact, only a few initiatives supported by development partners and private initiatives are pushing forward the development of SSE. Most of the regulations aim at restructuring the development of cooperatives, mutual organizations and associations as well as improving strategies to reduce poverty and create jobs.

### Potential for F2F cooperation

All African countries have great potential for developing Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) cooperation programmes. Some African countries have undertaken cooperation programmes with their peers through international organizations such as the CPLP. Guinea Bissau<sup>40</sup> has considerably profited from the support of Timor Leste through the CPLP, particularly for logistics, census and development of cartography during the 2014 elections.

Yet, the intentions of governments for moving deeper through F2F cooperation are rampant. Hence, the support of the ILO's, g7+ and the international community in describing the notion of F2F cooperation is crucial for most of the countries with fragile situations.

During the ILO, g7+, KAS workshop, "Jobs for peace and resilience in the Framework of F2F Cooperation", which took place in Brussels 2015, participants recognized the fundamental importance of peace and resilience, and the potential of Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation modality to help countries in fragile situa-

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<sup>37</sup> Asmou Bah: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Guinea. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>38</sup> Bobomala Ramarimbahoaka EP Rarijason: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Madagascar. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>39</sup> Robert Gozo: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Togo. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>40</sup> Alfredo Handem: Elective on "The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State". Guinea Bissau. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

tions for progress by learning from each other. Job creation in fragile countries requires an approach that takes fragility into account. Hence it is necessary to develop tailor-made strategies, focused on groups that have the potential to drive conflict: young people in difficult situations, marginalised groups, ex-combatants and IDPs and build better labour market data to support better decision making.

During the F2F session of the SSEA 2015, participants gave an overview of interesting initiatives and projects aimed at developing SSE components at a national level. Some of these projects can be replicable in other countries with similar socio-economic and political contexts. One of the replicable projects is the “Ghatenkar Ghaba na Ubom” initiative, which is being launched in Guinea Bissau<sup>41</sup>. It is composed by 300 members, mostly women, who have been producing vegetables since 2000 in the periphery of Bissau and are responsible for a big part of vegetables sold in the market in Bissau. The revenues allow certain women to finance the studies of their children. At the same time, a system of solidarity credit has been added to the initiative through an extra project launched by 30 women. In this extra project, the funds are collected with the sale of vegetables. Each of the 30 women collaborates with 10 USD a week, which totalizes 300 USD a week. This amount is given to one woman per week through rotations. The mode of functioning of this system is crucial for both governance and social responsibility, since it allows women to have access to supplementary funding and the power to invest in health and education. Thanks to this system, thousands of women survive from extreme poverty.

Another project that can be reproduced in other countries with fragile situation is the RA – Rede Ajuda<sup>42</sup> (Aid Network), in Guinea Bissau as well. Created in the 1990’s, this network is involved in community development and revenue generating activities aimed at reinforcing social cohesion and combat poverty in rural areas. One of the most relevant initiatives of RA was the construction of a local market accommodating, at the time, more than 3000 persons, especially women, who have found an ideal space not only to commercialize their agricultural products but also to socialize commercial exchange and share knowledge and promote small technologies.

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<sup>41</sup> Alfredo Handem: Elective on “The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State”. Guinea Bissau. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>42</sup> Alfredo Handem: Elective on “The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State”. Guinea Bissau. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

In Madagascar, some Solidarity related projects are worth being replicable in other fragile African countries. In Kankan<sup>43</sup>, for instance, 5 groups of 60 members benefiting from financial support have gathered together to share experience for the purpose of standardizing the practices for the production of shea nuts and derivatives by creating a network. This project resulted in the reinforcement of the skills of shea nut producing women to produce a range of products made from shea nut butter, thus diversifying women’s economic activities and increasing their revenues.

**Summary of the contribution of experts to the “elective” on Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation<sup>44</sup> (country by country)**

Countries	Factors of Stability and Fragility	Strategies developed to overcome fragility	Environment of Social and Solidarity Economy	F2F practicality to promote SSE
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Presence of destabilizing militias, generalized insecurity, bad political governance, high unemployment rate	National forum (11 May 2015) for Peace process and national reconciliation	107 NGOs registered (cooperatives, associations and mutual societies)	Important for the promotion of good practices and social peace
<b>Côte d’Ivoire</b>	Political and Social instability, high rate of poverty, Overwhelming informal economy (90% of the economy)	New institutional framework to promote national reconciliation. Launch of programmes for the rehabilitation of basic social services.	Côte d’Ivoire’s Agency for the Regulation of Social Mutuality and Côte d’Ivoire’s Agency for Deposit Insurance. General Mutual Society of Côte d’Ivoire’s Government Officer	Contribution possible but limited because of fragility of the cooperating states.

<sup>43</sup> Bobomala Ramarimbahoaka EP Rarijason: Elective on “The Social and Solidarity Economy and Fragile State”. Madagascar. SSEA 2015. Johannesburg 2015.

<sup>44</sup> ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy: 27-31 July, Johannesburg, South Africa

Countries	Factors of Stability and Fragility	Strategies developed to overcome fragility	Environment of Social and Solidarity Economy	F2F practicality to promote SSE
<b>Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe</b>	High poverty level (66.2%), low economic growth, high rate of unemployment	National Strategy for Poverty reduction National Strategy for Social Protection	The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs is responsible for the SSE.	No F2F cooperation programme yet. STP adhered G7+ last year.
<b>Guinea</b>	Resurgence of socio-political tensions, high unemployment, high public debt, EBOLA	Mobilisation and consensus to combat EBOLA	SSE components represent 45% of the GDP and 50% of the creation of new jobs Guinea's SSE network	Social Peace is needed
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Two decades of political instability. No common vision and effective agenda of development	Action framework to strengthening peace and governance process. Civil societies for water supply, community school, wealth care, food supply and protection of human rights.	<b>Bandim's Association of Retailers.</b> <b>Divutec</b> (ONG specialized in microcredit) <b>Ghatenkar Ghaba na Uborn</b> (responsible for the production of the considerable rate of vegetables in the market). <b>RA – Rede Ajuda</b> (women empowerment and rural development)	Substantial cooperation through CPLP. Financial and Technical Support from Angola and Cape Verde in the election processes. Possible F2F cooperation through CEDEAO

III) Compilation of Articles on South-South Cooperation and SSE

Countries	Factors of Stability and Fragility	Strategies developed to overcome fragility	Environment of Social and Solidarity Economy	F2F practicality to promote SSE
<b>Liberia</b>	High poverty (48% of Liberia's people), deficient community related education, difficult access to basic facilities, frequent presence of disease	Agenda for Transformation (AfT) focused on capacity building	Liberian Chamber of commerce. Liberian Business associations	Through Decent Country Work Programme
<b>Madagascar</b>	Recurrent political changes, society project, weak economic growth	National Plan for Development based on 5 axes: Governance, preservation of macroeconomic stability, growth, human capital and natural capital.	Associations and NGO's are important source of employment (1,5 million formal jobs). 28% of Madagascans benefit from microfinance	Through mobilization of resources and the exchange of good practices
<b>Mali</b>	Institutional Crisis, weak education system, high unemployment rate, structural problems	Creation of Ministries: the one for Solidarity and the other of National reconciliation. Launch of projects in harmony with the goals of UN Post Agenda 2015	26878 registered cooperatives. 201 mutual societies. 125 social finance institutions. More than 8500 associations. National Federation of the Associations of Community Health. National Federation of Artisans.	Cadre Commun sur les Filets Sociaux Saisonniers (CCFS) Regional Directorate for Social Protection and Solidarity Economy (DRDSES)

Countries	Factors of Stability and Fragility	Strategies developed to overcome fragility	Environment of Social and Solidarity Economy	F2F practicality to promote SSE
<b>Somalia</b>	No efficient Government, Consequences of the civil war, drought, poor infrastructure	the Somali Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has signed a MOU with UNDP and donors for youth employment related programmes.	MOLSA is planning to conduct a survey aimed to determine the number of cooperatives and their economic impact.	Crucial to avoid political and social conflicts
<b>Togo</b>	Social conflicts, control of resource by a minority, insecurity, weak national consensus, weak social cohesion, weak state	Mechanism for Dialogue and National Reconciliation, social protection, and institutional and constitutional reforms	307 cooperatives (from which 129 are not registered and 29 are illegal) 31 mutual societies; 4506 associations	Some South-South cooperation programmes with neighbouring countries (PGS, OHADA, ETI).

### Conclusion

The ILO is convinced that the principle of social solidarity is of paramount importance to the economic development of countries characterized as fragile. Furthermore, a peaceful environment is a condition for development to be sustainable. Africa has considerable economic, demographic and social potential for improvement. However, permanent regional conflicts, unstable governments and social inequality prevent the African continent from moving forward towards development. In this context, fragile-to-fragile cooperation is an important mechanism to promote both the Social and Solidarity Economy and peace initiatives. SSE allows for the facilitation of self-help and mutual assistance, which provide essential services the State is no longer able to guarantee. Even in countries that deliver essential services, SSE organizations can be a useful means for the sustainability of such delivery.

Some countries in Africa have experienced considerable progress in the last decade thanks to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) initiatives. The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) is an important ex-



ample of valuable cooperation by means of development-oriented initiatives, which have built long-lasting connections and mutual support for its members. At the national level, some African governments have made considerable efforts to transform the legal, political and economic structure and adapt it to the Social and Solidarity Economy model, thus moving forward in overcoming fragility. In Rwanda, for instance, the SSE has played a major role in the promotion of development and the reduction of fragility. In the Rwandan agriculture and food sector, numerous initiatives of support to value chains (especially for horticulture and seeds) became representative of the SSE, given the participation of farmer's organizations and the use of financing tools. Rwanda's success in SSE can be replicated in other countries in Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Such SSTC based initiatives, as well as those undertaken at the national and local levels, can be implemented through fragile-to-fragile cooperation mechanisms. Fragile-to-fragile is, therefore, a harmonizing approach both within and parallel to SSTC in the process of building a regional economy based on solidarity and social values.

### Social and Solidarity Economy, Social innovation and South-South and triangular cooperation by Soares, Matheus (Brazil)

The "globalisation of capital", as coined by François Chesnais (1994), which became preponderant after the world liberalization of the 1970's, is characterized by two main pillars: firstly, the intense and constant accumulation of capital and, secondly, the dismantlement of past social and democratic rights. This socio-economic period of history, therefore, is powered by the liquidity of capital, outsourcing, the revolution of technology, the deregulation of the financial markets and the flexibility of production (HARVEY, 1989). According to Piketty (2014), the consequences of this economic logic are the high global unemployment rate, precarious conditions of work, the notoriously rising of inequality rate and the promotion of harmful policies to the environment. It is from this context that the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) gains protagonism.

The Social and Solidarity Economy emerges in this context as an alternative socioeconomic model, defined by its emphasis on the social and local endogenous development and on its worries about the environment, cooperation, solidarity, job and income creation well-being of individuals, democratic values and autonomy (SINGER, 2002). Alongside with the SSE, an important movement is the South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC), which involves the cooperation of two or more developing countries, supported by a developed partner, organization or country (MORAIS, 2014). The interconnectivity existent

between SSTC and SSE is undeniable, and its progress throughout the years are also notorious, however, many difficulties can still be identified, such as: lack of a regulatory framework for SSE; problems for the SSE's to insert themselves in the competitive markets; lack of good infrastructure; lack of technical skills, like management expertise; lack of government support (ILO, 2014). With that in mind, what can be done in order to diminish these obstacles? Innovation.

Innovation, important to notice, has two fronts: firstly, the materialistic one, based on material technology that can foment productivity in SSE and, secondly, the service innovation, that englobes knowledge, new productivity management and new logistical strategies as well as the enhancement of effective regulatory policies (NEVES, 2012). Here are some strategies that SSTC can lean on in order to support the further development of SSE. The first strategy is the '*social restructuring*', it is to say, technology must reach the field of SSE – potentially with the support of SSTC – and not be centralized in multinational companies; in other words, technology must seek a real change in this structure, given the fact that if that happens, SSE will be able to enhance their position on the value chain, promoting social technology and surviving against competitive companies. The second strategy is the '*knowledge*': SSE lacks management knowledge, lacks research on product quality, lacks the knowledge of the existence of advanced productivity systems, lacks the knowledge of market information, *etc.* In a world where only 24% of people from the developing countries have access to internet, SSTC can play a major role in developing instruments to provide such information to the SSE. The third strategy is the, '*public sector engagement*', which must be a variable of great concern, given the major role that the government can play for the development of SSE.

### Links between South-South cooperation and the Social and Solidarity Economy in Africa: the case of Morocco by Solaimani, Youssef Alaoui (Morocco)

Today, regional development is a tool whose impact generates social, economic and environmental effects, especially for rural women, whose condition and region have been transformed. Furthermore, this has contributed to the promotion of regional tourism.

To increase the yield, we introduced mechanization in these cooperatives, notably through a partnership with the Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (IRSAT) of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. Consequently, we used plans developed under another project funded by IDRC in this country.

Cooperation in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is not isolated: cooperation goes even beyond the framework for private interest some

States and African governments. Such agreements were multiplied during official visits of heads of state and ministers of the SSE. Morocco is the illustration of it: this country has set up a partnership African policy within the SSE sector. Cooperative enterprises that create jobs, projects and wealth, are central to this cooperation. The experience gained is put into the service of a political and diplomatic strategy towards several African countries, including Gabon, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

- ✚ Gabon: four agreements were signed: the first concerns directly SSE. It establishes a Memorandum of Understanding on cottage industry and thus SSE. The cottage industry has a number of associations and cooperatives. The memorandum implies cooperation in the following areas: technical assistance, promotion, partnership and capacity building. The goal is the realization of studies and development projects in the sectors of handicrafts and the SSE: organizing, structuring and cooperative associations, promoting income-generating activities, mastery of production techniques and recovery crafts products, protection and labelling of these products.
- ✚ Côte d'Ivoire: a protocol agreement was signed between Cargill West Africa, Attijari Wafa Bank and the International Finance Corporation to promote leasing in agricultural cooperatives.
- ✚ Guinea-Bissau: sixteen agreements were signed, including one on crafts and ESS.
- ✚ Senegal: fifteen partnership agreements were signed. On this occasion, a group born. The goal: economic momentum between the two countries. It includes a work cell devoted to Social Economy.

### South-South Cooperation – The role of BRICS by Tonk, Shyam (India)

The BRICS grouping of Brazil, Russia, India and China – with South Africa joining in 2010 were expected to become the future engines of global growth, catching up with the US and the EU. However, the prospects now appear bleak with China's growth slipping from double-digits during the last decade to 7.9 per cent. India, too, has experienced a sharp slump from an average of 7.6 per cent to five per cent. Brazil and Russia are sluggish at 1.4 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively.

But it should be emphasised that BRICS comprises Asia's two leading giants and the largest economies in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. These economies have a major impact in their respective regions as "role models", despite the group's limited success in changing the global architecture of gov-

ernance. But one area where this grouping remains relevant is in fostering South-South cooperation, especially in Africa. Individual BRICS members are also centres for policy innovation, relevant to the promotion of inclusive development and poverty reduction in the South.

BRICS are the growth drivers for many low-income countries in Africa. This grouping is ranked among the top-investing countries there. In 2010, the BRICS share in the foreign direct investment (FDI) inward flows to Africa reached 25 per cent. Brazil, which has more people of African descent than any country outside of Africa, is raising its profile by playing a key role in the expansion of the ethanol industry in Angola, Ghana and Mozambique.

The labour market experiences and social protection measures – especially in Brazil, China and South Africa – offer valuable examples to the South. Brazil's growth may be slow, but the rate of open unemployment is also low at 5.6 per cent when compared to India and South Africa (which has the highest rate of 24.9 per cent). The economy has created 12.5 million formal jobs during the last eight years, reducing poverty and inequality. The reasons for Brazil's success are empowerment at the grass-roots level and the coming together of diverse social groups, including organised labour, huge expansion of education, besides higher minimum wages and cash transfer policies to disadvantaged groups that played a major role in the reduction of poverty and income inequality.

Such examples from the BRICS fold offer valuable examples on how to promote job creation with social protection, better align economic and social goals that help in the reduction of poverty and income inequalities in the South.

### **Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad (Lijjat) – A fine example of Solidarity Economy**

Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad (Lijjat) is a cooperative established by Indian women at Mumbai that has developed a unique model for development and empowerment for low income female workers. Papad is a crispy-thin cracker or wafer that is a staple food in India. Made of the dough of black gram (vigna mungo; a bean that is indigenous to southern Asia), papad is usually fried or dry-heated and served as an accompaniment to a meal or as an appetizer or snack.

It is registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 and also registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and got recognition from Khadi & Village Industries Commission as a village industry. Indeed, the cooperative's trade name – Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat – encapsulates its women-orientated, quality-driven and tradition-inspired business ethos. In English, Shri can translate as Mrs. or Ms., mahila as women, griha as home, udyog

as industry, and lijjat as tasty. The objective of the Institution is to provide employment to the women to enable them to earn decent and dignified livelihood. Any women who can render physical work in this Institution without distinction of caste, creed and colour and agrees to abide by the objective of the Institution can become a member of the Institution from the date on which she starts working.

### The Beginning

It all began on 15th March 1959, with seven women on the terrace of their building in Mumbai started production of 4 packets of Papads by borrowing Rs. 80/- and a firm resolve to continue production. As members grew, the institution began to grow. The early days were not easy with the faith and patience of the members being put to test on several occasions. Self-reliance was declared as the policy and no monetary help was to be sought (not even voluntarily offered donations). So work started on commercial footing.

With quality consciousness as the principle that guided production, Lijjat grew to be the flourishing and successful organisation that it is today from an initial number of 7 sisters from one building to over 43,000 members and 81 branches across 17 states of India. Various Products are also exported to countries like UK, USA, Middle East Countries, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Holland, Japan, Australia and other Countries.

### Synthesis of three different concepts, namely

- (1) **The concept of Business** – All its dealings are carried out on a sound and pragmatic footing – Production of quality goods and at reasonable prices. It has never and nor will it in the future, accept any charity, donation, gift or grant from any quarter. On the contrary, the member sisters donate collectively for good causes from time to time according to their capacity.
- (2) **The concept of family** – member sisters have adopted the concept of mutual family affection, concern and trust. All affairs of the institution are dealt in a manner similar to that of a family carrying out its own daily household chores.
- (3) **The concept of Devotion** – For the member sisters, employees and well-wishers, the institution is never merely a place to earn one's livelihood – It is a place of worship to devote one's energy not for his or her own benefits but for the benefit of all. In this institution work is worship. The institution is open for everybody who has faith in its basic concepts.

### Core principles

- ✦ mutual affection and concern (employees all have an equal status);
- ✦ devotion (the workplace is treated not just as a place of employment but also one of reverence); and,
- ✦ Sarvodaya or collective ownership (also called trusteeship, a central idea of the historical Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi).

Each member at Lijjat is considered an equal and a co-owner of the cooperative whose opinions contribute to all business decisions.

Each sister (receives 15 days of training and has to be over 18 years old) works approximately six hours a day and receives an average monthly wage – called Vanai – of between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 (approximately US\$ 35 and US\$ 53) per month. Extra Vanai is paid on the occasion of an Indian cultural festival.

### Organisation

Every branch is headed by a Sanchalika (Manager) to see the production of the branch. A Central Managing Committee, which consist of 21 members out of, which we have 6 elected Office Bearers i.e. President, Vice – President, 2 Secretaries and 2 Treasurers.

The success of the organization stems from the efforts of it's member sisters who have withstood several hardships with unshakable belief in 'the strength of a woman'.

### Gender concerns and Social and Solidarity Finance by Villarreal, Magdalena (Mexico)

SSF organizations live in very complex forms of give and take with capitalist ideas, practices, events and relationships and obviously cannot abandon market-oriented options. Some find themselves slipping into common capitalist practices, but many others, including informal groups, community and family constellations, are able to further a large part of their egalitarian, solidary aims despite their surroundings. Gender concerns are an important issue in Social and Solidarity Finance. Financial inclusion must include women on an equal basis, promoting values and principles that focus on their needs and those of their families. To discuss such concerns, I build upon the premise that women are not excluded from "the economy", in which they in fact play a critical role. However, the nature and scope of their participation tends to be overlooked by

a large number of analysts, planners and development practitioners who disregard the value of non-commoditized forms of production and exchange and fail to take into account the contradictions, ambiguities and vulnerabilities of market oriented economies. I believe that, in envisaging better living conditions for them, women's actions and their personae should be acknowledged as situated within a more encompassing economic scenario, and that failure to do so leads to inaccurate foresight and expectations, thus obscuring avenues for change.

I will resort to cases from Mexico, Central America and India to discuss these issues, seeking to situate SSE within a more encompassing scenario that does not overlook the contradictions, ambiguities and vulnerabilities of market oriented economies nor neglect the value of non-commoditized forms of production and Exchange. In learning from such experiences, we should be able to detect cleavages and non-alienating voices. We can help define the value of non-commoditized transactions, crucial to both large and small scale economic enterprises in order to highlight the vulnerabilities of the structures we are not only abiding by, but also contributing to reproduce.

Here power relations and gender differentiations will surely make their glaring appearance, not least because the context-specific social processes within which value equivalences are defined will be revealed. Power relations are generally incorporated in the formal design of anti-poverty programs and projects. The notion of power is often present, whether in conceiving the poor as excluded from the market, in mentioning the problem of distribution of resources, or in reiterating the need for empowerment, particularly in the case of women. But the tendency is to visualize all scenarios involving "the poor" in terms of power and resistance, the latter being identified with the poor and the former with the affluent, capitalism and the state. This is not enough. We need to pin down the processes of reproduction of power, including the gaps, inconsistencies and ambiguities wherein space for manoeuvre and possibilities of subversion can be identified. By overlooking the ways in which power relies on subordination, omission and compliance, we tend to obscure its weaknesses, and with them, the potential for alternative paths in the actions that run counter to typical market behaviour. We fail to perceive the scope for change found within the complex flux of contradictory and muddled processes. These concerns provide the lenses from which I will present the particular cases – some more successful than others – of Social and Solidarity Economy in Mexico, Central America and India.

## Social Innovation in the World of Work by Vilorio, Julie (Philippines)

### Vision Statement

The following perspective on the role of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and the South-South triangular cooperation in the context of Social Innovation in the World of Work show how the programs and projects and the policy and knowledge development work supported by international organizations attempted to address some of the challenging related to the social, micro-level and governance aspects, and the management, institutional arrangements to support them, complementing macro-economic policy. A selection of various examples in different sectors and countries are used to illustrate how these social, governance and institutional aspects have been addressed working with SSEs

Considering the results of these works, SSE and the South-South triangular cooperation (SSTC) can help strengthen resilient and inclusive communities, towns, cities and regions directing their own social, economic and environmental futures, based on the principles of natural ecosystems and social justice. Experiences elsewhere in the world appear to suggest that SSE and SSTC strive to promote a sustainable culture of coexistence with our natural environment. The partnership between SSEs and SST cooperation would support people, communities, and their localities to build more self-reliant local economies, to meet their needs in food, products, energy, health, shelter and basic services of all people, and to facilitate equitable access and opportunity for all people to be active agents in determining their own future.

Yet three pillars must be taken into consideration to develop a SSE: These are to **“Create”** partnership with SSEs and their members and provide innovative solutions, to **“Support”** local, regional and international actors and provide technical assistance to existing projects, and to **“Share”** knowledge and experiences. **Innovation** is the key of Social and Solidarity Economy.

The models and approaches work in collaboration with SSE communities to understand each specific context and identify local needs; undertake supportive actions such as training, research, creating networks with both cross-communities and the private sector, jointly identifying and developing local economic, social and infrastructure projects and providing support in negotiating legal, regulatory and funding requirements with governments, financial institutions and other stakeholders.

Empowerment is the key. Even if social innovative programs are pursued, they may not be effectively utilized unless SSE actors and main participants are actively involved in their design and implementation, and commit their own resources to the effort. Key factors include:



- Decentralization of decision-making and resources to lower levels of whose decisions are made accountable to the population (usually through a local electoral process),
- Improvements to the legal and regulatory system, both to void laws which hinder and harass the poor, and to establish those which promote citizen involvement and which strengthen the rights of women and those with disabilities,
- Promote mechanisms which encourage SSE communities and their members to share power and participate in decisions which affect their local services and living environment,

### Context Why Now?

There is a looming planetary crisis in the provision of energy and other resources, degradation of natural systems and climate change, lack of basic services and employment, severe social inequalities and alienation alongside hyper consumerism. The economic and power structures built to promote this unsustainable situation are nearing collapse. There is an urgent need to develop alternatives. This crisis offers an opportunity for a fundamental change towards a closer, more cooperative, caring and equitable society.

There are significant opportunities to address these issues which lie at the intersection of the interests of community, industry, the not-for-profit sector mainly through SSEs and SSTs and government.

There is an opportunity to work with a variety of stakeholders to identify and realize these opportunities to create tangible and sustainable improvements in social capital, wellness and quality of life for local communities worldwide.

Achieving results for communities at the grassroots also requires working effectively with local, regional and national governments, service agencies and the private and non-government sectors. It requires a range of appropriate technical skills in the relevant service sub-sectors. The SSE and the SSTC communities and their members could provide the necessary range of skills and experience in these sectors and institutions.

### Illustrative examples

**The World Bank's Yemen Fisheries Resource Management & Conservation Project (2007–2012):** the project's objective is to achieve sustainable economic development of Yemen's fisheries sector and improved household incomes of fishing communities through improved fish preservation, fish quality, and marketing. The example worth to be mentioned is in the strengthen-

ing of fisheries cooperatives as SSEs in order to increase incomes derived from fisheries sector development and production through better fish handling, quality and marketing. The project took time and effort in the provision of assistance to the fish cooperatives and the role of women in fisheries development to give them more voice in project implementation. Another innovation worth mentioning is the development of the framework for the transfer of responsibilities of the fish sector to include local governments in partnership with the local cooperatives.

**Promoting Green Jobs and Sustainable Construction in Palestine and Israel with the International Labour Organization, 2012.** The main activities include (i) conducted focus group meetings with key stakeholders including SSEs in Gaza and Jerusalem to identify challenges and needed interventions to promote sustainable construction and green jobs in Gaza; (ii) stakeholder workshop attended by more than 300 people (members of SSEs) at several workshops utilizing SSTC approach made up of various organizations and (iii) Prepared two Concept Notes for follow-up activities and concrete interventions to endorse sustainable construction and green jobs in the peri-urban and agriculture in Gaza based on consultations and findings of the workshops and mission activities

**ILO's Improving Livelihood in Key Economic Sectors of Low Income Settlements affected by Typhoon Haiyan.** Philippines (Cebu and Manila), Conducted Training Needs Analysis and Background research on Cebu and other provinces affected by the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan. Helped developed proposals for Livelihood Projects for funding support including support to the provincial government to develop a Livelihood-Employment Framework and Recovery Plan. Conducted training of trainers (ToT) to other members of key tri partite organizations and SSEs utilizing a generic course modules and key examples from SSTC initiatives to about 55 participants and with an action plan and agreement to replicate the ToT with other members and other provinces.

## Conclusion

# IV

Cooperation between developing countries is not new. However, it has gained more visibility and importance in the last decade. Moreover, in December 2009, the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi urged UN system organizations to “take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership”. By recognizing the need for the United Nations development system to continue to adapt and respond to evolving challenges and opportunities for development cooperation, the recent “Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review” (QCPR) resolution of the UN paves the way to cooperation mechanisms such as South-south and triangular cooperation (SSTC): The resolution insists on the importance of SSTC in the development of national capacities and reaffirms key principles guiding SSTC such as national ownership and leadership (paragraph 74). These principles are fully aligned with the ILO SSTC strategy.

*“Reaffirms the increased importance of South-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the regular country-level programming of operational activities for development, to strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including drawing upon the knowledge networks of global entities and the capacities of the regional commissions and the United Nations development system regional teams, and to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South cooperation and triangular*

*cooperation in order to achieve their national goals, with special emphasis on the internationally agreed development goals (...)*”.

Therefore, the potential of SSTC in fostering the Social and Solidarity Economy is extremely promising, especially in the framework of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agenda Action (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/07/addis-ababa-action-agenda-ban/>) which called for a stronger integration of the Global South and solidarity principles in the current development cooperation scenario, as set out in the 2030 Development Agenda’s call for a global partnership.

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