Declaration on the launch of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy

We hereby establish the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation with a view to promoting the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to decent work, sustainable development and social justice, consistent with relevant resolutions and decisions of United Nations bodies.

The governments supporting the present Declaration are listed in the annex.

Following its inaugural meeting, convened at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization in Geneva on 11 June 2026 as a contribution to the Global Coalition for Social Justice, the Group issued the present Declaration.

1. We recognize, as reflected in the Doha Political Declaration of the World Social Summit, that the social and solidarity economy can play a key role in eradicating poverty, promoting social inclusion and catalysing social transformation, thus helping to achieve the objective of leaving no one behind and to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, while ensuring social development for all.

2. We recall the resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2022, including the definition of the social and solidarity economy contained therein, which provides that, according to national circumstances, the social and solidarity economy includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the social and solidarity economy, and recognize the social and solidarity economy as a relevant means of achieving sustainable development, social justice, decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all.

3. We also recognize, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 79/213 on the promotion of the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to inclusive and sustainable economies and to social innovation, including in the field of reskilling and upskilling, and the role that social and solidarity economy entities can play, as local anchors, in providing decent work opportunities and empowering women, including women in rural areas, youth, persons with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, as well as in building community and social cohesion and fostering diversity, solidarity and protection and respect for traditional knowledge and cultures, including among Indigenous Peoples.

4. Through the Group of Friends, we will cooperate to support the exchange of replicable good practices and lessons learned in support of the social and solidarity economy, including through South–South and triangular cooperation initiatives and regional networks, and to consider how the social and solidarity economy can contribute to and feature in relevant multilateral processes.

5. We acknowledge the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy and encourage relevant entities of the United Nations development system, including United Nations country teams, to support States, upon their request and in accordance with their mandates, in identifying, formulating, implementing and assessing coherent and enabling policy measures and frameworks for developing the social and solidarity economy as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. We welcome the work of the International Labour Office in supporting efforts to establish a conducive environment consistent with the nature and diversity of the social and solidarity economy, in line with international labour standards. We also welcome its statistical work to support measurement of the social and solidarity economy's economic and social contribution and the development of international guidelines concerning statistics of the social and solidarity economy.

7. We invite interested governments to join the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy, and welcome continued engagement with social partners, social and solidarity economy actors, partners of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and other relevant stakeholders, as we work together to strengthen the role of the social and solidarity economy in advancing decent work, sustainable development and social justice.

Annex:

Governments supporting the Declaration as of 21 July 2026:

- Barbados
- Brazil
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea-Bissau
- Italy
- Lebanon
- Luxembourg
- Mali
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Senegal
- Spain
- State of Palestine
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan