



▶ The social and solidarity economy, other enterprises and the quest for sustainability

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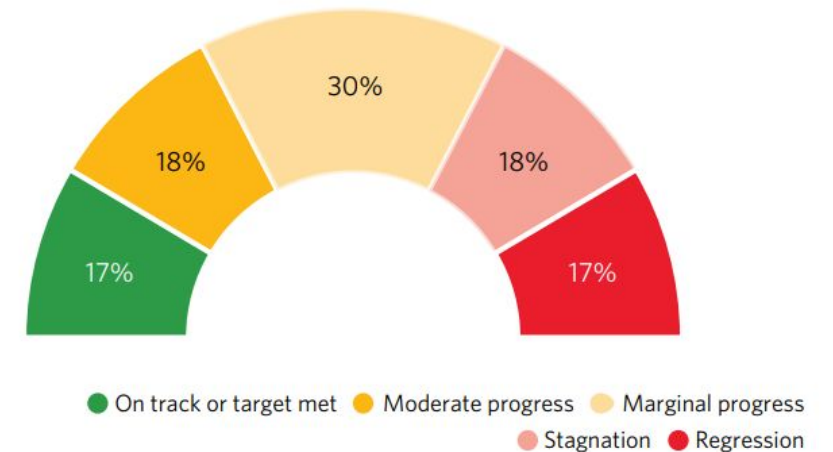
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Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

“The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 makes for sobering reading” – UNSG

- ▶ Systemic deficiencies and inequities in the global economic and financial system
- ▶ COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions, growing climate crisis, accelerating biodiversity loss, growing inequalities, disappointing progress towards gender equality
- ▶ An unprecedented 120 million forcibly displaced people worldwide
 - ▶ UN, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



Enterprises need to become more sustainable

- ▶ “[R]esource-constrained States often struggle to fully discharge [their] duty. This reinforces the need for all businesses, regardless of their size, to comply with applicable laws and respect human rights”
- ▶ “While voluntary corporate initiatives are commendable, they cannot be a substitute for the effective enforcement of and compliance with national laws and respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work.”
- ▶ “The global social contract increasingly requires that all businesses follow sustainable environmental, social and governance practices”

Potentially sustainable models vary significantly

- ▶ Yvon Poirier's *Decoding the differences between SSE, social entrepreneurship, and related initiatives* is a timely contribution that raises significant questions regarding a range of potentially sustainable enterprise models, with a focus on:
 - ▶ The entity/enterprise/organization/meso level (less on other levels)
 - ▶ Explicit organizational principles (less on organizational practices)
 - ▶ The evolving relations between terms and concepts (less on realities)
 - ▶ The private sector broadly construed (less on the public sector)
 - ▶ Differences and competition (less on similarities and complementarities)

Relating discourse to systemic change

- ▶ What are the relations between entrepreneurs, enterprises and entrepreneurship, and what makes them more or less ‘social’?
- ▶ To what extent does discourse concerning the entities align with the realities, and how can that be determined in the absence of agreed upon definitions, methodological frameworks and evidence?
- ▶ How can entities advance decent work when 6 in 10 jobs are informal?
- ▶ How can partnerships and alliances be developed within the SSE and between SSE entities and non-SSE enterprises, governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and other stakeholders?
- ▶ What is the relation between the SSE and stakeholder capitalism?

Connecting SSE entities and other enterprises

- ▶ “SSE entities face unique challenges, in addition to the difficulties that they share with many micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”
- ▶ “[R]ecognize and promote the complementarity between SSE entities and other enterprises”
- ▶ “[E]nsure a level playing field by treating SSE entities in accordance with national law and practice and on terms no less favourable than those accorded to other forms of enterprise”
- ▶ “[E]nabling the horizontal, vertical and transversal organization of SSE entities, harnessing the complementarity and possible synergies with other enterprises”

▶ ILO Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, 2022.

Adopting and adapting SSE values and principles for non-SSE enterprises and broader frameworks

- ▶ SSE values are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with:
 - ▶ Care for people and planet
 - ▶ Equality and fairness
 - ▶ Interdependence
 - ▶ Self-governance
 - ▶ Transparency and accountability
 - ▶ The attainment of decent work and livelihoods
- ▶ SSE entities are based on the principles of:
 - ▶ Voluntary cooperation and mutual aid
 - ▶ Democratic and/or participatory governance
 - ▶ Autonomy and independence
 - ▶ The primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets

▶ ILO Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, 2022.

Thank you

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