

**Organised by:** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on behalf of the UNTFSSSE

**Session Type:** Panel Discussions

## Session Title

Strengthening the sustainability of trade through the integration of SSE entities

## Session Description

On April 18, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/77/281). It provides an official definition for the Social and Solidarity Economy and acknowledges that the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) can contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting a green and just transition and integrating environmental considerations into their core operations. SSE entities help mitigate the impacts of climate change, preserve natural ecosystems, promote reuse and recycling, mobilise citizens to produce renewable energies through renewable energy communities, foster sustainable agri-food production, and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the planet. SSE plays a critical role in addressing environmental challenges globally, actively supporting SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). SSE entities often engage in practices that promote sustainable resource management, reduce and reuse of waste, and lower carbon footprints. They are involved in renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture, conservation efforts and sustainable use of enhancing biodiversity with BioTrade initiatives programs. Following the UN resolution on SSE, all Member states were called upon to participate in the drafting of an implementation report. Azerbaijan contributed to this mobilisation effort and in this sense supported the implementation of the resolution on SSE. UN Trade & Development is organising a conference to coincide with COP29 in Baku. This event will bring together researchers, SSE organisations, United Nations entities and local political leaders.

## Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Member of the UN task force on Social and Solidarity Economy, UNCTAD or ILO (**Moderator**)
- UN entities: UNEP, UNDP, UN Trade & Development
- SSE entities: Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), The International Federation of Work Integration Social Enterprises, sustainable agriculture SSE federation: Carmen Aja (Director of AERESS, Work Integration Social Enterprises active in the circular economy, or Neva Nahtigal, Director of RREUSE. Roopa Mehta, President of World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) or Leida Rijnhout, CEO of WFTO. Dirk Vasingtjan, President of RESCOOP. Sandra Moreno, Executive Director of RIPESS.
- Member States: Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of Spain.