

13 October 2025

Mr. Li Junhua
Under-Secretary-General for
Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Dear Mr Under-Secretary-General,

It is our honour to write to you on behalf of several of the twenty-two Ibero-American countries that are particularly committed to the social and solidarity economy, to convey a concern we hope you can address.

As you know, on 18 April 2023 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 77/281, on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development. The resolution was reaffirmed in the subsequent resolution 79/213, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 2024, which reiterated much of the wording.

The two resolutions specifically encourage Member States to make visible the contribution of the social and solidarity economy in the compilation of national statistics.

However, it is clear that one of the key obstacles to preparing such national statistics is the lack of visibility of the social and solidarity economy in the systems of national accounts—System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010)—that are currently in place within the United Nations system.

The existing Chapter 23 of 2008 SNA on non-profit institutions and the Handbook of National Accounting: Satellite Account on Non-profit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018) both establish concepts and scopes that differ from those of the social and solidarity economy.

In this respect, it is however important to note that the definition adopted by the United Nations unifies and defines the scope of an international concept of the social and solidarity economy that is widely recognized and agreed upon, strongly supported by the technical literature.

Furthermore, the enterprises and other bodies within the social and solidarity economy represent an institutional rendering of the economic system with its own distinct profiles, inspired by the values and principles of traditional cooperatives put forward by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

Lastly, given that the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations is in the process of revising and updating 2008 SNA, **the ministers and institutions signing this letter request that the United Nations Secretariat, precisely the Statistics Division thereof, include a specific chapter on the social and solidarity economy in the upcoming update to 2008 SNA, setting out the framework of criteria for the scope of the social and solidarity economy, and also prepare a handbook of national accounting on the social and solidarity economy.**

We stand ready to contribute to progress on this work.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Luiz Marinho

Ministro de Trabajo y Empleo de Brasil

Mr. Antonio Sanguino Páez

Minister for Labour of Colombia

Mr. Andrés Romero Rodríguez

Minister for Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica

Mr. Wilmer Javier Fernández Alachan

Minister for Labour and Social Security of Honduras

Ms. Maria do Rosário Palma Ramalho

Minister for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
of the Portuguese Republic

Mr. Juan Castillo

Minister for Labour and Social Security of Uruguay

Mr. Agustín Mariano Quinchao

President of the National Institute
for Associations and Cooperatives of Chile

Ms. Arianna Stephany Burgos Carrera

Director-General of the National Institute for the
Popular and Solidarity Economy of Ecuador

Ms. Eldaa Catalina Monreal Pérez

Director-General of the National Institute
for the Social Economy of Mexico

Ms. Yolanda Díaz Pérez

Second Vice-President of the Government and
Minister for Labour and the Social Economy of Spain