



## PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEADING GROUP ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

(last updated: 17 September 2014)

### Background

In 2012, the association The Mont Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs took part to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development by organizing two side-events, first in New York at the UN headquarters on March 26, 2012, secondly in Rio de Janeiro at the **Rio +20 Earth Summit** on June 19, 2012.

Then, the United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided during the ordinary session held from 21 to 30 January 2013, to grant the **special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** for the association of The Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs.

With this participation and now its special consultative status, the association of the Mont-Blanc Meetings intends to continue its efforts to promote the SSE internationally. That is why in 2013, through its president Thierry Jeantet, **the MBM expressed to the French government the wish to impel the creation of a leading group on social and solidarity economy.**

The international leading group of the SSE **received the official support of France** at the opening matinée of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mont-Blanc Meetings on Saturday 9 November 2013 in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. **Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic recalled this pledge of support in his speech** given at the launch of the Congress of the International Association of Francophone Mayors, brought together in Paris on Tuesday 12 November 2013. He has agreed to discuss the topic with other Heads of State.

On 4 February 2014, the Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, in partnership with UNRISD and UN-NGLS, organized a side-event at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. It was an opportunity to present the leading group to the United Nations, with **speakers from the first three States involved in this initiative, namely France, Morocco and Ecuador.**

### Objective of the leading group

It aims to **promote the social and solidarity economy (SSE) in the world**, making this form of entrepreneurship accessible to all people and to increase the recognition of this economic model in public policies implementation.

In practice, the SSE international leading group will **submit concrete suggestions promoting SSE to national and international bodies** during major international summits or national consultations on SSE (law bills in particular).

### Composition

The leading group is a platform made of:

- **States** from all continents and representing the socio-economic diversity in which the social and solidarity economy has a role to play and a place to take
- **Civil society organizations** such as the Mont-Blanc Meetings – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, Association Internationale de la Mutualité, International Co-operative Alliance, foundations networks, trade-union confederations...
- **International institutions**: United Nations agencies, interregional development banks...

### Functioning

The leading group is chaired by one of the State members, whose mandate is to determine (rotating presidency every six months or annually). A meeting of the leading group's stakeholders takes place at least once a year to steer the activities of the forthcoming year.

The leading group is currently administered by the Mont-Blanc Meetings Association - International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs. A page is dedicated to it on the association's website. In the future, and depending on the leading group's activities, it shall be considered the implementation of a permanent secretariat in charge of organising the annual work sessions and implementing the initiatives decided by the group.

### *List of the official stakeholders of the international leading group of the SSE (on 17 September 2014)*

- France
- Morocco
- Luxembourg
- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Quebec
  
- The UN Inter-agency Task Force on SSE (including UNRISD, UN-NGLS, ILO, UNEP, UNCTAD, OECD, ECLAC, ESCWA, FAO, TDR, UNAIDS, UN-DESA, UNECE, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN Women, UN-Habitat, WFP and WHO)
  
- The association of The Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) – International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs
- International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM)
- International Association of Francophone Mayors (IAFM)
- Global fund for cities development (FMDV)