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Written statement submitted by Monde des Possibles, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Monde des Possibles, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, wishes to share information with the high-level political forum on sustainable development about migrant-led cooperative initiatives with the potential to create jobs.

More generally, it is our view that the solidarity-based social economy is destined to play a growing role at the international level in the sustainable development of contemporary societies. However, implementation of this concept is set against a backdrop of employment instability, “uberization”, disintegrating labour laws and escalating structural violence against individuals, particularly migrants or diaspora members.

In this context, Monde des Possibles believes that increased attention to migrant-led cooperative initiatives is essential to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reducing inequality) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

Migrants, who have ideas, skills and experience, are subject to job discrimination and social disqualification and are often forced to abandon their original trades or professions, usually in favour of a manual trade with a shortage of workers. The solidarity-based social economy emphasizes new innovation- and creation-driven potentialities, particularly in the digital economy and digital services.

On a more general level, with a view to harmonious and dignified sustainable development on an international scale, the principles of the solidarity-based social economy emphasize possible ways to put each person’s knowledge and skills to better use and create employment opportunities that respect the individual’s real potential. There is also the matter of shedding a special light on the social disaffiliation of migrants and on the obstacles to implementing initiatives that stress improved use of the skills of migrants or diaspora members who are long-time residents of the countries in question.

In this connection, Monde des Possibles wishes to highlight two projects developed in Liège, Belgium: Univerbal, a community-based translation and interpretation service, and Sirius, a web coding school. Based on a self-management approach, they are en route to becoming social economy businesses.

Through these and other multilingualism- and digital development-related projects with partner associations such as Semantis ASBL, Monde des Possibles has been able to identify a number of basic principles for moving towards the solidarity-based social economy.

Clearly, one of the requirements is a migration policy that respects people of foreign origin. This means seeking convergence among social, cultural, territorial and political activists, so that the economy comes back to reality and contributes to the recognition of each person’s knowledge and practices and to the rights of workers.

Through this statement, Monde des Possibles requests that its principles and objectives be taken into account in the future work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. We thank you.