



# CHALLENGES FOR PEOPLE'S CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

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# SUMMARY

- Global issues affecting communities
- Inspiring initiatives
- Civil society as a global actor
- Networking Solidarity Economy and People's Centred Development



# GLOBAL ISSUES AFFECTING COMMUNITIES

- Global warming
- Financial and economic upheavals
- Food crises
- Poverty and the MDG objectives



# HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES

- A global economic system that does not live up to promises and expectations
- Communities, populations and countries building alternatives
- Building from the bottom up



# INSPIRING INITIATIVES

- Federation of Community Forestry Users of Nepal (FECOFUN)
- General Union of Coops (UGC) – Mozambique
- Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (USA)
- Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA) – India
- Seikatsu Club Coop – Japan
- Inner city development coop – Manila



# MORE – FROM QUÉBEC PROVINCE IN CANADA

- Solidarity Economy Credit Union (Québec)
- Nunavik Inuit Federation of Coops (Québec)
- Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec
- Universal day-care: mostly nonprofits



# PUBLIC POLICIES ON SSE

- Brazil –National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy
- Québec - Provincial government support
- Mexico – Legislation for a social economy policy and secretariat
- Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela
- West Africa : Mali...



# CIVIL SOCIETY AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

- The Accra Civil Society Organisation (CSO)  
Parallel Forum on Aid Effectiveness – August 31  
and September 1 – 2008
- History of the process
  - The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
  - CSO's organise themselves
  - Support from some donor Agencies
  - Towards Beijing 2011 meeting

[www.betteraid.org](http://www.betteraid.org)



## ACCRA CSO STATEMENT

- *2008 is an important year for development financing and an opportunity to move the international community to a more equitable, people-centred and democratic governance system. Today 1.4 billion people live under the new poverty line of US\$1.25, and the majority of them are women. The current financial, food, energy, and climate change crises make evident the urgency for action.*



# ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Some positive results
- *“We will deepen our engagement with CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector. We [donors and governments] share an interest in ensuring that CSO contributions to development reach their full potential.”*



- *“Gender equality, respect for human rights, and environmental sustainability are cornerstones for achieving enduring impact on the lives and potential of poor women, men and children. It is vital that all our policies address these issues in a more systematic and coherent way.” [para 3]*



# SOLIDARITY ECONOMY : AN ALTERNATIVE

- **What is the solidarity economy? A definition**
- US – Solidarity Economy Network
- *The Solidarity Economy (SE) is an alternative framework for economic development that is grounded in principles of solidarity, equity in all dimensions, participatory democracy, sustainability and pluralism. The solidarity economy framework seeks transformation rather than band-aid solutions, yet rejects one-size-fits-all blueprints. It isn't abstract theory nor pie-in-the-sky utopianism. Rather, it pulls together and builds upon the many elements of the solidarity economy that already exist. Some are new innovations, some are old. Other elements have yet to be realized or even imagined, and the journey of creation is ongoing.*

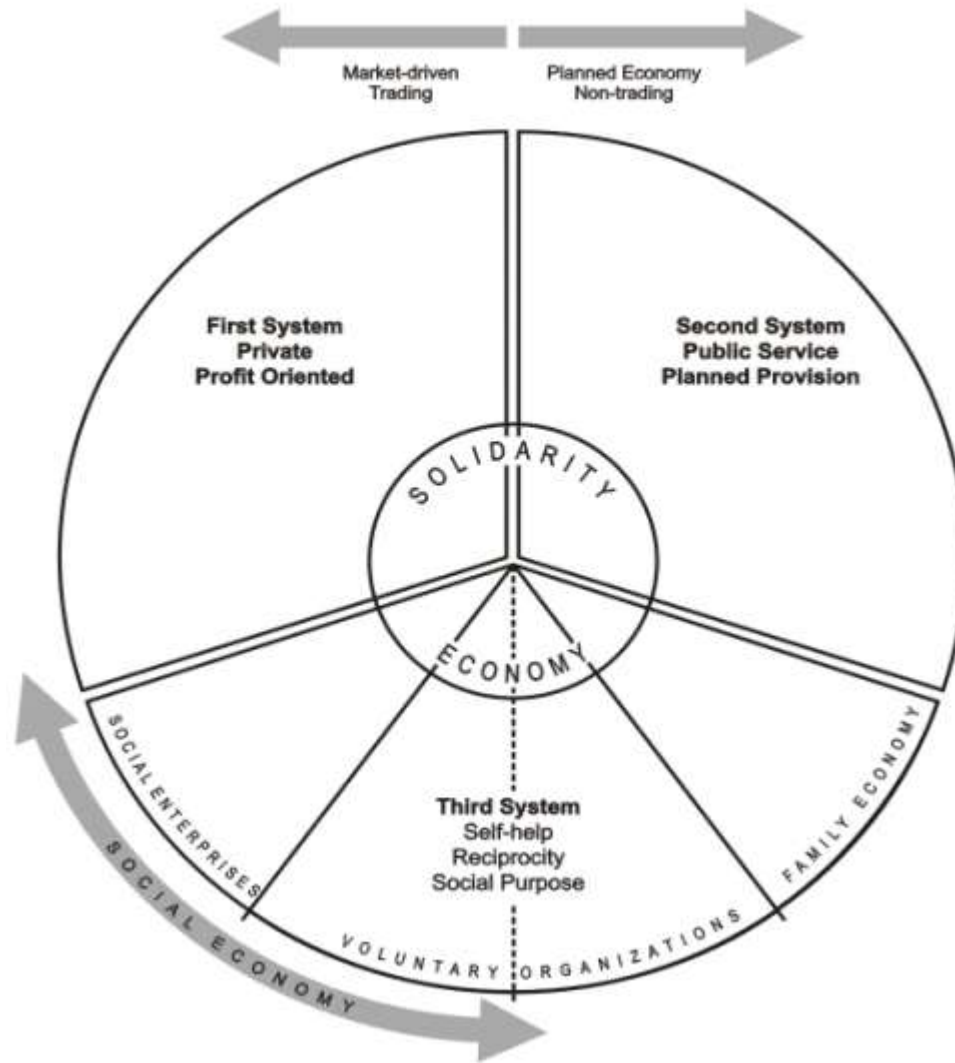


## A SECOND DEFINITION

- *“They are activities of production, distribution and consumption which contribute to the democratization of the economy based on the involvement of citizens at a local and global level. It takes form through different modalities on all continents. It encompasses the different forms of organizations that a population adopts to create its proper resources for work or to access quality goods and services; this is accomplished through a dynamic socially responsible reciprocity which articulates individual and collective interests. In this manner, social/solidarity economy is not per se a sector of the economy, but rather a global approach encompassing initiatives in most sectors of the economy”.* International Forum of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World, 2001



**Diagram 2: Reframing the Debate**



# INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

- Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)
- INAISE
- IFAT
- ICA
- ITUC
- COMMACT



# RIPES

- RIPES South America - 17 organisations
- RIPES North America – 3 networks
  - GESQ--CCEDNET- U.S.SEN
- Europe – a Steering Committee
- Africa – National networks (mostly in West Africa)
- Asia – A first meeting in Manila (October 2007)
- Oceania - Australia



# GLOBALISATION OF SOLIDARITY MEETINGS

- Lima Peru 1997 – 350 participants
- Québec 2001 – 600
- Dakar 2005 – 1200
- Luxemburg – April 2009 – 1200 expected



# CHALLENGES - NETWORKING

- Very tough task : funding, lack of time and resources, question of priorities
- Very stimulating and exciting : many initiatives, from the local to the global



## A FINAL COMMENT

- Communities and populations, from the local to the global, aspire a better life for themselves, their fellow citizens, and for the planet
  - CAN WE DELIVER....
    - OR



○ WE SHALL OVERCOME....

