

EXCERPT FROM...

# The Forum Proceedings

**Gsef**

**DAKAR 2023**

GLOBAL SOCIAL  
AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY FORUM

1 - 6 May 2023

**Youth and SSE**  
**pre-forum**

Collective and sustainable entrepreneurship for the territories:  
inclusion responses for the youth from here and elsewhere

Full version of the Forum proceedings: [dakar2023.gsef-net.org/actes](https://dakar2023.gsef-net.org/actes)



# Youth and SSE pre-forum

Collective and sustainable entrepreneurship for the territories:  
inclusion responses for the youth from here and elsewhere

Place du Souvenir Africain

1–2 May 2023



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The two days of the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum were organised by the Senegal Youth Consortium and its partners, who were specially chosen for the occasion. Visit the dedicated website:



**YOUTH & SSE  
PRE-FORUM WEBSITE**



From left to right: Garam Lee, Aboubakrine Ag Aklini, Fabrice Balou

# youth and SSE

## Editorial by the co-organisers

Today's constantly changing world is increasingly turning towards a Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). At the heart of this transition, young people are emerging not only as the future but also as the main drivers of innovation in this sector. The Youth & SSE Pre-Forum (Pré-Forum Jeun'ESS) is part of this trend. Three major objectives guided this initiative.

Firstly, the Pre-Forum aimed to highlight and promote youth-led initiatives in the SSE sector. How did we go about this? Through the temporary installation of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Village, a haven showcasing young people's innovative solutions and projects. This village was much more than a space for sharing: it reflected the ambitions, dreams and determination of our young people.

Secondly, the main aim of the event was to be inclusive. Young people were not simply invited to attend, they were the privileged guests. We are committed to listening to what they have to say, to their ideas and to their solutions. They are today's leaders, the agents of change that the world is waiting for.

Lastly, this meeting was very much action-oriented. Its aim was to work with all the attendees to come up with meaningful actions and recommendations. The ultimate goal was to influence and change our national legislation so that the SSE – the cornerstone of a fairer and more sustainable future – can reach its full potential and be effective.



Mr Mamba Souaré

In short, the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum was more than just an event: it was a celebration of innovation, a recognition of the potential of our young people, and a determined march towards a more inclusive and supportive future.

The event provided an opportunity to explore future avenues for continuing this work of recognising the role of young people in the Social and Solidarity Economy, whether as its advocates, as business creators or as network builders. The Pre-Forum was a turning point in the way we need to approach these issues in the future.

In conclusion, the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum succeeded in achieving its three objectives. It promoted SSE initiatives led by young people, it included and gave a voice to young people, and it co-wrote an appeal advocating the development of public policies in favour of the SSE. This demonstrates the potential of young people as drivers of social and economic change, and underlines how important it is to include their voice in debates and decisions about the future of the SSE.

The challenge now is to ensure that the discussions and ideas shared during the forum are translated into concrete actions, in line with the resulting Call of the Youth, to support the continued development of the SSE.

Mr Sobel Aziz Ngom, Executive Director of Senegal Youth Consortium  
Mr Mamba Souaré, Co-founder of Makesense Africa, Secretary General of Senegal Youth Consortium



Mr Sobel Aziz Ngom

# figures

## volunteers



100

volunteers trained by **Change Factory** over 2 days, divided into 4 teams: communication, logistics, hosting and reporting

## SDG Village

56 exhibitors from 12 countries

presented the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN's Agenda 2030 in the **SDG Village**, run by **Jeunesse Engagée pour le Développement** (Youth Committed to Development)

## sessions & speakers

35 speakers on stage from 9 countries

took part in 4 round tables in 3 different formats in partnership with **Ashoka**

5 self-organised sessions run by 5 different facilitators

## capitalisation & advocacy

1 study on the Social and Solidarity Economy, carried out by consulting firm **IP3 Conseil** and coordinated by **Makesense Africa**

1 Call of the Youth, with 11 recommendations co-written by the members and network of partners of the **Senegal Youth Consortium** and read out to the authorities

# SDG Village

The SDG Village, run by the NGO *Jeunesse Engagée pour le Développement (JED)*, was presented not only as a space to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also and more importantly as a platform for showcasing youth initiatives in the field of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). The Village had 17 stands, one for each of the 17 SDGs.

On each stand, four solution providers promoted their initiatives: two Senegalese solution providers, one African solution provider (from outside Senegal) and one international solution provider (from outside Africa). The SDG Village featured a total of 56 solution providers, who explained to attendees how their solutions address the SDG relating to their stand. This aspect was at the heart of JED's vision for the village.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SDG Village, Place du Souvenir Africain, Dakar

# programme

## On-stage sessions

The on-stage schedule was coordinated by **Ashoka**. It showcased young people from various countries around the world, demonstrating that young people are leading inspiring projects in the social and solidarity economy. The Youth & Youth & SSE Pre-Forum focused on four themes:



### Session 1

Digital Economy: an emancipatory force for young people



### Session 2

Financing: How can we support and encourage youth initiatives?



### Session 3

What role should youth networks and platforms play in the regions?



### Session 4

Green and Blue Economy: a local and sustainable opportunity for young people

Each session was divided into three parts:



Denise Fatoumata Ndour, Valérie Aubier

### Keynote speaker

A spirited 10-minute speech by a single person on stage to introduce the theme.

### Expert interview

An expert on the theme, aged over 35, shares their vision to young people for 30 minutes.

### Round table discussion

A one-hour discussion featuring a journalist and 3 to 5 speakers.

## youth & SSE on the air

The round table discussions from sessions 2 and 3 were recorded as radio programmes and broadcast on **RFI**:

### “8 billion neighbours” by Emmanuelle Bastide [↗](#)

Speakers:

- Mihoub Mezouaghi, *AFD Director for Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau*
- Mame Aby Seye, *Executive Director for DER/JF Entrepreneurship, Senegal*
- Pape Samb, *Executive Director of Ashoka Africa*
- Emily Miki, *President of the Denis Miki Foundation and Efeti Ventures, Cameroon*
- Laurent Levesque, *Managing Director of UTILE – Student Housing Development Task Force, Canada*

### “So, what do you think?” by Diara Ndiaye [↗](#)

Speakers:

- Yacine Dia Ndiaye, *Founder of the Maféminité platform*
- Moussa Camara, *Founder of Les Déterminés*
- Fabrice Balou, *President of ABEWE, Côte d'Ivoire*
- Abdou Khadre Sanoko, *Sociologist*
- Salif Kanoute, *President of Declic Sud*

# youth and SSE

## Self-organised sessions

The Youth & SSE Pre-Forum hosted five self-organised sessions. These sessions, planned and organised entirely by their facilitators, provided a valuable platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. They highlighted the importance of international collaboration in tackling the challenges facing the Social and Solidarity Economy worldwide.

- **Innovative approaches to strengthening safety nets**  
organised by the Seoul Youth Hub (South Korea)
- **Youth employment in Fatick and Diourbel**  
organised by the Departmental Offices for Youth Employment in Diourbel and Fatick (Senegal)
- **Empowering young people and resilience of territories**  
organised by the YELO network – Network of Young Locally Elected Officials in Africa – CGLU Africa
- **“Even broken pencils can be used for colouring in”**  
organised by Mr Svens Telemaque (Canada)
- **Young people for a fair economic transition**  
organised by RIPESS – International Network for the Promotion of the SSE

Find out more about these sessions on the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum website.



**YOUTH & SSE  
PRE-FORUM WEBSITE**



Andrea Rodríguez Valdés, Ismail Kelly Isko

## Advocacy activities

During the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, **Makesense Africa** played a pivotal role in orchestrating crucial advocacy around the development of national legislation for the SSE. This advocacy led to the production of a stirring “Call of the Youth” and a detailed study on the SSE carried out by consulting firm IP3 Conseil in collaboration with the Senegalese Ministry of Microfinance and SSE.

IP3, renowned for its expertise in economic and social analysis, produced an exhaustive study on the SSE, its issues, challenges and prospects. This study includes:

- A status report: a mapping of the SSE at national level (Senegal), highlighting the main structures, initiatives and current trends.
- In-depth analyses: detailed assessments of the obstacles and opportunities for the SSE, based on quantitative and qualitative data.
- Strategic recommendations: based on their analyses, IP3 proposed a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening the SSE ecosystem and facilitating its expansion.

Thanks to the impetus provided by **Makesense Africa**, these two outputs were developed with rigour and passion. “The Call of the Youth” provided a catalyst to stimulate the engagement of the younger generation, while the IP3 study offered a solid and informed framework for SSE decision-making and action.

# call of the youth

## **The Call of the Youth - DakarGSEF2023** [DOWNLOAD](#)

On May 1 and 2, 2023, at the place of African remembrance in Dakar, we were nearly 3000 people to participate in the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum.

We came from all regions of Senegal and more than 30 countries to exchange and share around the solutions, issues and challenges of effective development of social and solidarity economies.

Youth play an important role in the development of social and solidarity economies. And this event, which was organized by a team of young champions, made it possible to :

1. Enhance youth-led initiatives in the SSE ;
2. Include and give voice to youth through self-organized sessions and workshops for meeting, sharing and exchange ;
3. Co-construct a plea to change public policy for the development of the SSE.

We will try to summarize our conclusions for you, starting with the consensus that guided all our reflections.

As Eric Dacheux and Daniel Goujon said, " in social and solidarity economy, undertaking is a form of political action. It is about transforming the world."

Indeed, when we talk about social and solidarity economy we cannot afford to overlook empathy and solidarity.

If we want to accelerate its development in Africa, we will have to democratize its values to create vocations and transform the ethics of our economies by creating millions of social entrepreneurs. We are promoting the development of a social and solidarity economy that develops an alternative economic model in which the care and sustainability of life are placed at the center, instead of increasing economic profit.

If we want to have an impact, we will have to support these novice entrepreneurs so that they grow and provide the solutions that the world needs to live better

**For this purpose, to the local governments of the world and in particular the Senegalese government :**

1. We claim a social and solidarity economy where young people have their place, where the voice of all young women is heard and taken into account on an equal basis.
2. We propose the creation of a fund to support young people's projects, steered on a continuous basis by a GSEF youth's commission, ensuring in particular the follow-up of all the proposals resulting from this forum.
3. We young people, ask the members and leaders of the GSEF, the creation of a pole Jeun'ESS for the implementation of the action plan Post GSEF2023 Dakar.
4. We ask States, institutions and development partners to establish and finance initiatives aimed at increasing the mobility of young people throughout the African continent and to help boost the free trade area (FTAA) under development, such as the project SSE Caravans.
5. We call on national and local governments to promote public policies that include young people and take into account their needs in terms of economic opportunities

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# youth and SSE

## At the level of Senegal :

1. We ask to accelerate the effective implementation of the law of orientation, in particular through the recognition of the actors of the SSE in order to allow them to benefit from all the advantages envisaged including in particular exemptions and tax reliefs.
2. We propose the attribution of several seats for the representativeness of the youth within the National Council of the SSE stated by the article 13 of the law of orientation of the SSE. We ask to grant to the Ministry of the SSE the necessary means in order to equip it with instruments and mechanisms of development, promotion and valorization of the young actors of the SSE at the height of the stakes and potentials of the sector.
3. We suggest the creation of national conferences, regional consultations to include SSE in the calendar of Senegal's current events (political, economic, social, cultural, etc).
4. We also deem it important to create and promote teaching and professional training courses to raise awareness and educate about SSE and build bridges with the structures employing in SSE.
5. We call for the integration of young women and men in territorial planning to foster the development of localized SSE solutions.
6. We ask financial institutions to develop new financial products adapted to the needs of SSE actors. We recommend in particular the implementation of guarantee funds to encourage and promote impact investment.

## Conclusion

The new economic model that we want to support must be built on a global ,scale, including all peoples and their diversities and respecting our planet. We therefore strongly demand that in the next forums, these two themes, intergenerationality and gender, be taken into account as central, priority and transversal spaces for each of the themes and not as a "pre-forum" space. To put life at the center is to claim each of the issues that concern us all.

## Speech delivered at the closing ceremony of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum at the Grand Théâtre National in Dakar by :

Mr René Edouard MENDIS, Social Change Factory, Senegal  
Ms Jane MEDOR NANGA, NGO Jeunesse et Développement, Senegal  
Ms Louise PICARD, Makesense Africa, Senegal



From left to right at the podium: Louise PICARD, René Edouard MENDIS, Jane MEDOR NANGA



# the caravans

## SSE

### The SSE Caravans at the DakarGSEF2023 Forum

Many young people from all over the continent came to the Senegalese capital this year for the first GSEF Forum in Africa. On a continent where 62% of the population is under 25, mobilising young economic players was a priority. That's how the SSE Caravans came about. Some 200 young players, entrepreneurs, community activists and researchers, organised by focal points, travelled to Dakar to highlight the challenges and key principles of the Social and Solidarity Economy with and for young people. Eleven countries from West and Central Africa took part, in the hope of answering a number of questions :

How can we promote the initiatives of young people who are building the future of SSE in order to inspire and share the entrepreneurial know-how of young people in SSE? How can we give young people a privileged place in the design, implementation and decision-making processes of development agencies? At the end of GSEF2023, how can we create a framework for consultation and showcasing the work of young SSE players? How can we make this Forum the decisive turning point for a fairer and more sustainable global economy, with and for the younger generation?

### PHOTOS



The caravanners of the DakarGSEF2023 Forum in Dakar

### How did the idea for the SSE Caravans come about?

The SSE Caravans are one of the special events organised as a prelude to the Forum itself. They are a means of demonstrating the importance of hybridisation and the diversity of players in the Social and Solidarity Economy. In this respect, many young West African caravanners, through the activities of the Youth & SSE Pre-Forum, have been able to promote the integration of peoples based on solidarity. It proved to be an opportunity to integrate responses for the inclusion of young people from here and elsewhere in a Marketplace format (discovery, businesses, employment and social and solidarity-based entrepreneurship, etc.).

The SSE Caravans was a journey across borders. In spirit, they were also a time for reunions and the expression of solidarity between African citizens who were geographically different, but humanly close.

### Mobilising the caravanners

In order to mobilise these young caravanners, focal points, representing organisations involved in the Social and Solidarity Economy, have been identified for each of the countries taking part in these SSE Caravans. These focal points have been tasked with :

- Representing the country on the SSE Caravans organising committee ;
- Selecting the young entrepreneurs and SSE talent who will take part in the event ;
- Coordinating the country's participation in the SSE Caravans ;
- Implementing a strategy to finance the participation of caravanners ;
- Participating in the scientific activities of the SSE Caravans ;
- Ensuring post-Forum feedback and follow-up on return home ;
- Becoming key players in the implementation of the GSEF action plan in Africa.

# Focal points of the SSE Caravans

## GENERAL COORDINATION



**Beuchir Fall**  
Accounting and financial auditor and manager of BF Consulting Suarl, a consultancy firm

*SSE Caravans Coordinator*

## MAURITANIA



**Amadou Gacko**  
Member of Junior Chamber International Mauritania

*25 young people involved*

## TOGO



**Fadel Tchagouni**  
Member of the Handicap Solidarité association

*5 young people involved*

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE



**Fabrice Adelphé Balou**  
Chairman and Managing Director of ABEWE

*13 young people involved*

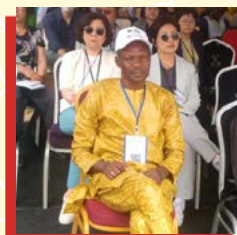
## GABON



**Antoinette de London Atayi Mepas**  
Second Deputy Mayor of Owendo

*15 young people involved*

## MALI



**Baba Sarmoye Cissé**  
Member of the National Support Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (RENAPESS)

*25 young people involved*

## GUINEA-BISSAU



**Junior Abdoulaye Touré**  
Member of the Pan-African Leaders Movement (MPL)

*24 young people involved*

## BURKINA FASO



**Wendpagnangdé Simpore**  
Member of Réseau Zoodo Action & Solidarité, an international solidarity organisation

*5 young people involved*

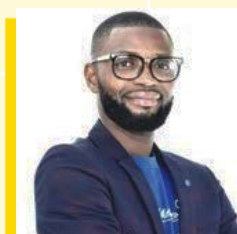
## BENIN



**Mahuto Léonce Mehoudinde**  
Member of Espace Wakanda and Agroboot

*5 young people involved*

## REPUBLIC OF GUINEA



**Mamadi Aminata Touré**  
Member of CIPAD International

*23 young people involved*

## SENEGAL



**Jean-Noël Waly Sarr**  
Member of KiTech (Kaolack innovatech), an organisation promoting digital technology in central Senegal

*20 young people involved*

## NIGER



**Ali Maman**  
Member of the Youth Movement for Development and Civic Education (MOJEDEC)

*5 young people involved*