



REPORT

5th World Forum on Local Economic Development.

The 5th Global Forum was held from 26 to 1 June 2021 virtually due to the pandemic. Organized in Cordoba, Argentina, it addressed issues related to local economic development in the context of the COVID19 crisis, as well as its sustainability.

The ILO had the opportunity to contribute to the success of this event by collaborating with other organizations such as ADEC, the municipality of Cordoba, the UCLG on all the sessions of Thematic line 3, the future of work and the work of the future from a territorial point of view in the context of the crisis generated by the COVID-19.

The city-to-city cooperation as a factor of development in this context of the health crisis was the main subject of discussion in this session, specifically the role of cities in the localization of the SDGs and the creation of decent work. Ms. Anita Amorim, Head of the Special and Emerging Partnerships Unit of the ILO was the moderator of this session organized in partnership with ADEC, the municipality of Cordoba. She had as speakers Mr. Edinho Silva, Mayor of Araquarara in Brazil, Ms. Maria Del Huerto Romero, Coordinator of city networks, Directorate of International Relations / Municipality of Rosario, Argentina; Ms. Marlene Simeon, Director of Operations at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions; Ms. Sara HOELFICH, Director of the learning area of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and Ms. Victoria Tolosa Paz, President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) of Argentina. It is worth noting that this session allowed to retain from all the speakers the importance of entrepreneurship, circular economy, south-south cooperation, city-to-city cooperation, gender equality, solidarity economy, innovation and knowledge sharing as a source of decent work.

The health crisis has revealed the fragility of countries, regions and people. In this theme, we will discuss and share the role of economic and local development in the promotion of decent work as a result of the fragilization of countries due to the COVID19; what is the role of south-south and triangular cooperation. Moderated by Mr. Celso Garrido, Founding Member and Secretary of the ALCUE Business University Network of UDUAL, the panel includes Mr. Elías Larrahondo Carabalí, Governor of the Department of Cauca, Colombia; Mr. Habib Mayar, Deputy Secretary General of g7+; Ms. María Belén Mendé, Education and Innovation Management Specialist, Dear, University XXI; Ms. Nieves Thomet, ILO Peace Employment Specialist and Ms. Anita Amorim, Head of the ILO Special and Emerging Partnerships Unit. It is worth noting that this session allowed to recall the economic development, the resilience, the creation of inclusive employment programs as factors of stability and development of fragile countries and the importance of fragile-to-fragile cooperation.

The end of this 5th Global Forum on Local Economic Development was marked by the intervention of Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard who highlighted the fact that this forum has a particular contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, promotes actions for



the achievement of the 2030 agenda at the local level, encourages Multi Stakeholders partnership and can facilitate coordinated action at the global, regional and local level. The COVID 19 situation has demonstrated how essential the partnership between community-based organizations, mayors, governors, and local authorities is in developing locally relevant solutions to address the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, she has mentioned. The richness of the exchange of good practices and experiences during this forum will lead to a “build better” development as mentioned in the ILC's 2019 Centenary Declaration on a human-centered approach to development.

The final declaration of this 5th World Forum on Local Economic Development is part of a path of recovery for sustainability and inclusiveness. It restated the centrality of the future of work, south-south and city-to-city cooperation and solidarity at the LED level to deal with the COVID 19 pandemic. It comes to reinforce the field of employment, the importance of social dialogue between economic social actors and the promotion of the transition to a formal economy, the strengthening of systems and spaces of knowledge for education, and the promotion of human rights in all areas of development for the promotion and construction of a culture of peace.

The entities organizing this 5th forum are committed to strengthening economic and local development, including:

- (i) Share response and resilience mechanisms to deal with risks, crises or emergencies.
- (ii) To prioritize and promote innovation, technological solutions and the reorientation of production and consumption models towards sustainability, equity and cohesion, strengthening the capacity to generate wealth and employment.
- (iii) Strengthen social dialogue between business organizations, trade unions and local governments and make all development actors co-responsible, by promoting alliances and improving cooperation.
- (iv) To maintain the process of reflection and debate, deepening territorial innovation, new models of sustainable production and decent, stable and quality work.