



UNECE

Annual Report



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Introduction by the Executive Secretary

Five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UNECE remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting our member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am pleased to share with you some examples of the impact of our work in 2019.

- The Air Convention marked 40 years of cooperation to tackle air pollution, achieving emissions reductions for substances including sulphur by 30-80% since 1990 in Europe and 30-40% in North America. In Europe, these measures account for 1 additional year of life expectancy.
- The amended Gothenburg Protocol became the first agreement to establish binding emissions reduction commitments for particulate matter and climate pollutants including black carbon.
- Mayors have pledged to plant over 8 million trees by the end of 2020 through the Trees in Cities Challenge, taking concrete climate action. I hope that more cities will join this effort.
- Following training in Paraguay on safer roads for children financed by the United Nations Road Safety Fund, the government decided that all future urban development projects will be based on child rights.
- Nine countries announced they will join the Protocol on Water and Health. Between 2010 and 2015, over 19 million people in the region gained access to a basic drinking water source following its entry into force.
- All UNECE countries committed to conduct a census in the 2020 round, following UNECE Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations. Uzbekistan will conduct its first census since 1989.
- A UN Regulation on Advanced Emergency Braking Systems will save over 1,000 lives in Europe per year from 2022. UNECE's World Forum for Harmonization of vehicle regulations produces binding legislation for the automotive sector, which in the EU alone generates over 7% of GDP and employs 13.8 million people.
- Fifty-five organizations committed to action for gender equality by signing UNECE's Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
- UNECE support for the circular economy included UNFC application for resource recovery from waste, development of a blockchain-supported marketplace to tackle food loss, and recommendations for enhanced waste management in Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

You will find many more examples in this report.



In 2019, we strengthened our cooperation across the regional UN system to optimize country support, contributing to coordinated delivery through UN Country Teams. UNECE further harnessed new and existing partnerships with international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia.

As we enter the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs, I look forward to our continued cooperation to make the vision of the 2030 Agenda a reality in the region.

Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



UNECE



CONNECTING COUNTRIES
DRIVING PROGRESS
IMPROVING LIVES

Supporting Countries to Achieve the SDGs

UNECE Highlights 2019

UNECE is supporting countries to address some of the key sustainable development challenges facing the region.

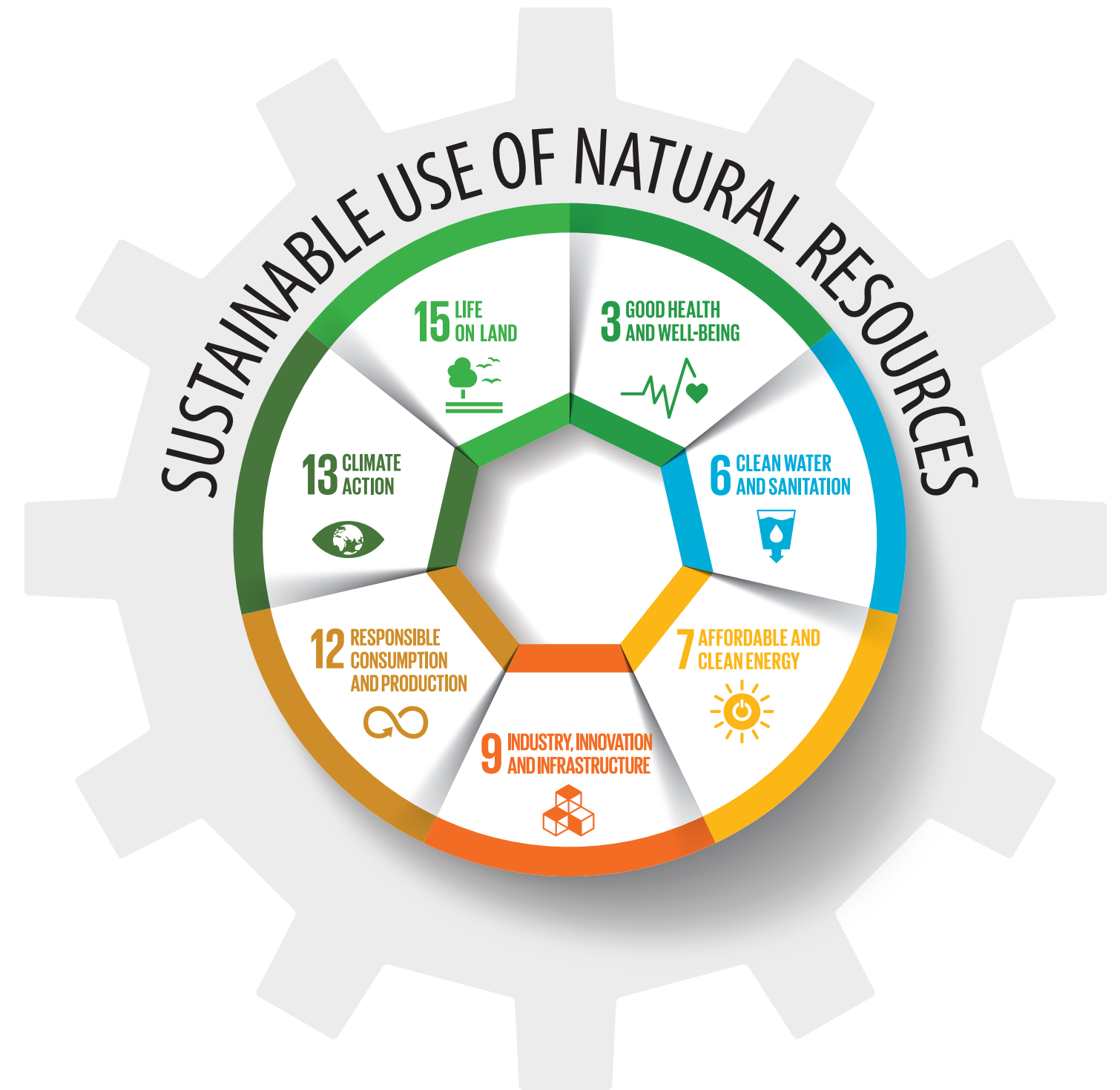
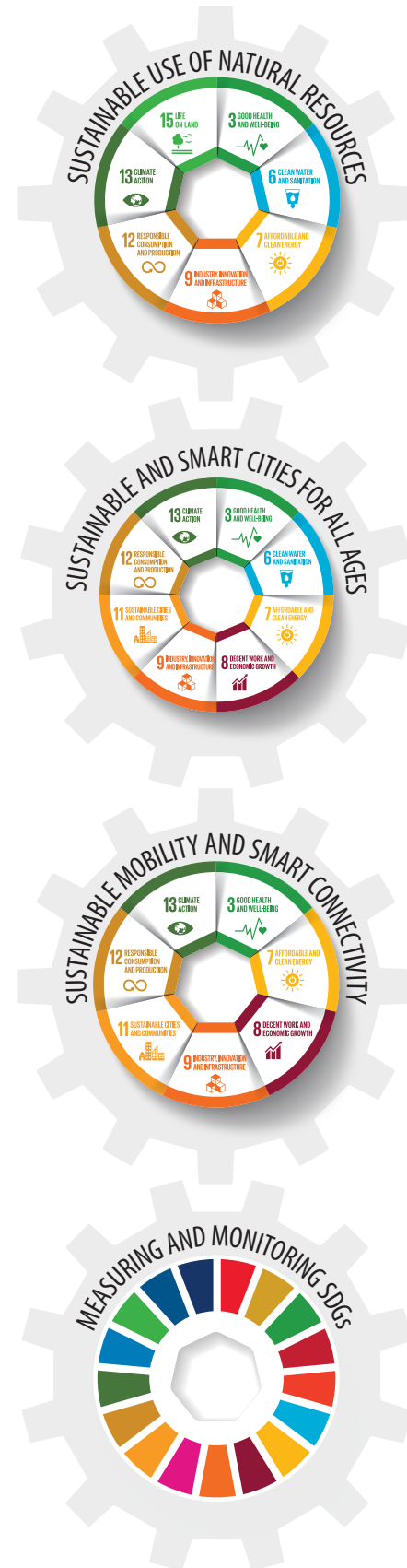
Through an integrated, multisectoral approach leveraging UNECE norms, standards and conventions, and by building capacities and providing policy assistance, UNECE is helping to accelerate countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This cross-cutting work is helping to drive progress towards 9 core SDGs where UNECE has particular strengths, namely SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15. Partnerships (SDG 17) and gender equality (SDG 5) underpin all UNECE activities.



High-impact Areas

At the crossroads of all UNECE programmes and expertise, four high-impact “nexus” areas have been identified where multiple SDGs converge.



The UNECE region is a major producer and consumer of natural resources. Supporting the shift to more efficient, cleaner and circular economies can have far-reaching benefits across multiple SDGs. Accelerating this transition represents a key source of economic dynamism and new opportunities for sustainable economic growth and green development.



- UNECE's Air Convention marked [40 years of cooperation to tackle air pollution](#). Decoupling economic growth from air pollution trends, it has achieved emissions reductions for substances such as sulphur and particulate matter by 30-80% since 1990 in Europe and 30-40% in North America. In Europe, these measures account for 1 additional year of life expectancy. To further share the Convention's experience and expertise, Parties launched a forum for international cooperation on air pollution.
- The [entry into force of the amended Gothenburg Protocol](#) made it the first agreement introducing legally binding emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), as well as key climate pollutants including black carbon (or soot – which is 680 times more heat-trapping than CO2), supporting integrated measures for clean air and climate action.
- UNECE and partners launched the [country-led "ECCA30" initiative, aiming to restore 30 million hectares - roughly equivalent to the size of Italy - of degraded and deforested landscapes](#) in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge. By avoiding costs related to soil erosion, forest loss and other types of land degradation, the countries can benefit from an estimated 5-6 factor return on investment in restoration.
- Azerbaijan, which finalized its [National Forestry Programme for 2020-2030](#) with UNECE support, announced its [commitment to restore 170,000 hectares](#) from degraded land to healthy, productive forests by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge, bringing the collective pledges of the Caucasus and Central Asia to about 3 million hectares.
- UNECE helped to build capacities on transboundary water cooperation and international water law for countries including Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Senegal and Uganda, and facilitated [dialogues between Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia and Guinea Bissau representatives](#) to promote a sustainable management of the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer.
- Montenegro announced it will become the 27th Party to the [Protocol on Water and Health](#) and 8 other countries confirmed that they are on their way to accession, helping to address remaining gaps in the region in access to water, sanitation and hygiene. 140 million people still lack access to clean water and 36 million lack access to basic sanitation services. Between 2010 and 2015, over 19 million people gained access to a basic drinking water source following its entry into force.
- UNECE directly helped to increase resilience to climate change in 5 major basins (Chu Talas, Dniester, Drin, Neman and the North Western Sahara Aquifer System, with a total population of around 35 million people) as well as indirectly in 13 basins through the [Water Convention's global network of basins working on climate change adaptation](#).

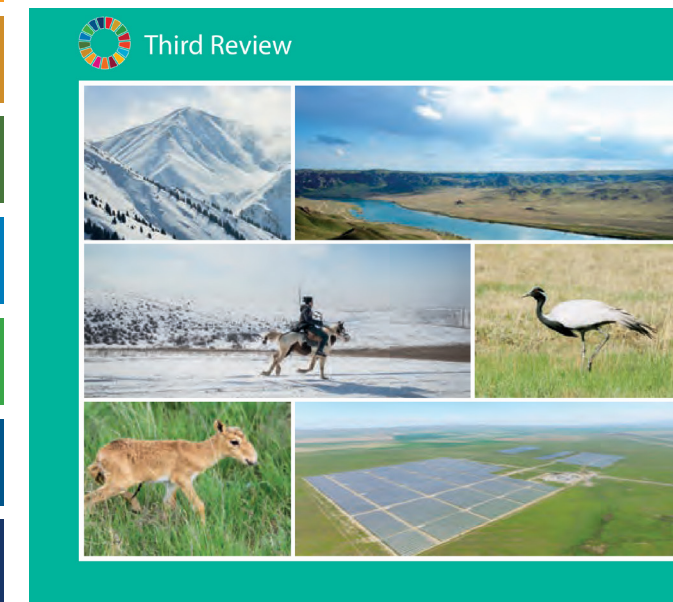
- [Through National Policy Dialogues \(NPDs\)](#) on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative plus programme, UNECE supported Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in reforming their water sectors, to promote intersectoral and transboundary cooperation, modernize legal and institutional frameworks in line with EU Directives and Multilateral Environmental Agreements and improve water quality and access to water and sanitation.
- [UNECE supported countries of the Western Balkans to take a basin-wide approach for the sustainable management of the Drina river](#), shared by Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, providing an integrated set of recommendations to increase inter-sectoral and transboundary cooperation. A draft tool aims to support policy makers to sustainably deploy renewable energy, building on synergies and minimize trade-offs between sectors.
- Strengthening the public's role in managing the environment and its resources, the [Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee](#) assisted 14 Parties to improve their legislation and practice regarding access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, on issues including environmental impact assessments, nuclear activities, energy plans, protecting environmental defenders, spatial planning, waste and legal aid.
- UNECE supported 46 member States and the EU, together with other partners, to strengthen environmental democracy through the Aarhus Convention in areas such as: providing public information on imminent environmental and health threats; [protecting whistle-blowers and other environmental defenders](#); promoting [access to justice](#); and using modern [digital technologies](#) like e-government and open data initiatives.
- UNFCCC Parties, other interested States and stakeholders were trained by the Aarhus Convention's secretariat on how to handle effective and inclusive public participation in climate-related decision-making ahead of [COP25](#).
- UNECE helped [all five Central Asian nations improve safety for the management of mining waste](#). Project results from Kazakhstan include the development of a hazard map for Tailings Management Facilities, and strengthened implementation of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, its Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs and a related checklist methodology.
- UNECE assisted Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to align and revise legislation and implement measures addressing adverse environmental and health impacts of economic development in accordance with the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

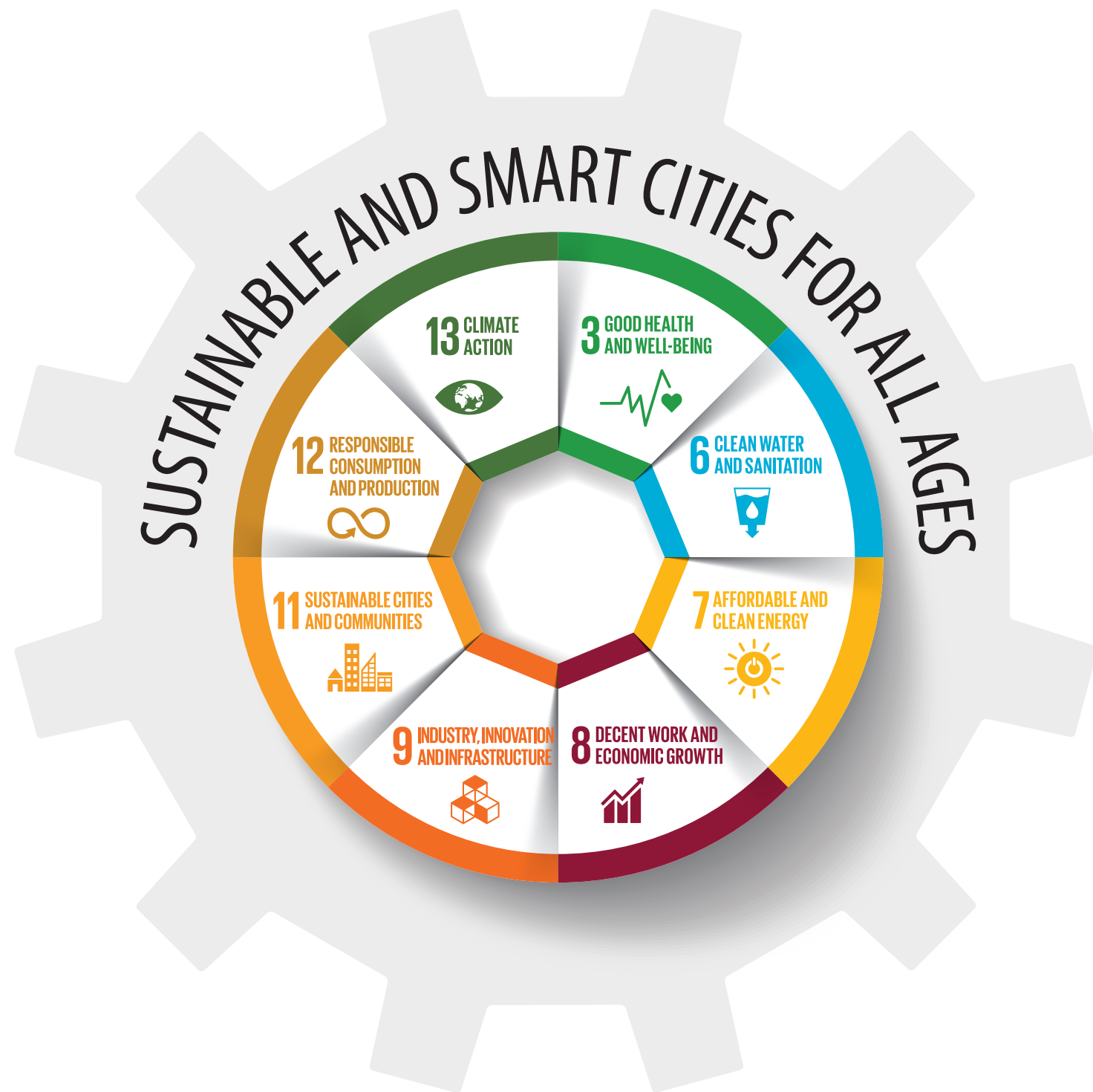




- With an estimated 25% of the 2018 timber harvest in Europe damaged by either storms or insects and USD 91 billion of wildfire damages in the US alone, the UNECE/FAO [Forest Products Annual Market Review and market discussions](#) put the spotlight on innovations to utilize dead, overstocked and damaged trees, supporting the circular economy, and to increase forest resiliency to fires and related climate risks. The Market Review is the go-to information source for the region's forest sector, which accounts for 60% of wood provision worldwide.
- UNECE/FAO established a Team of Specialists to [streamline science-policy cooperation on Boreal forests](#), which contain a third of all the trees on earth and in combination with their soil form the largest storage of CO2.
- A [UNECE study](#) revealed that only about 34% of companies in the garment and footwear sector – an industry worth USD 2.4 trillion globally – track and trace their value chains. As part of a major EU-funded project launched this year, UNECE mobilized industry and experts to develop a [technical standard and normative framework for full traceability of the industry's value chain](#), and designed a unique blockchain pilot for the cotton value chain.
- UNECE and partners established the UN Alliance on Sustainable Fashion, advancing solutions including its traceability work and its [Forests for Fashion initiative](#) which promotes sustainably produced wood-based textiles.
- The [UN/FLUX messaging standard](#) continued to spread throughout the fisheries of the world, from the EU – where its use is compulsory – to countries including Brazil, Uruguay and Thailand – UN/FLUX already allows the tracking of 53% of all licensed fishing vessels in Thailand, where the seafood industry generates USD 6 billion of exports annually and employs 2 million people. The standard makes a direct contribution to achieving SDG 14 by enabling the detection and prevention of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- UNECE helped Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to reach new markets by providing a [revised international standard for walnuts](#) (production of over 10,000 tonnes in Kyrgyzstan, 3,000 tonnes in Tajikistan) and targeted training. This will help preserve livelihoods in rural communities, especially for women and young people, and support the conservation of walnut forests (over 45,000 ha in Kyrgyzstan alone).
- UNECE advanced development of a [smart food loss management system](#), including a unique blockchain-based online market for food that today is lost or otherwise wasted in supply chains, supporting the circular economy. This is complemented by two new practical resources: a code of good practice for handling fresh produce to minimize loss, and a [simple methodology](#) to measure lost produce. Every 1 USD invested in measuring waste, training staff, improving storage and packaging generates an estimated 14 USD in return.

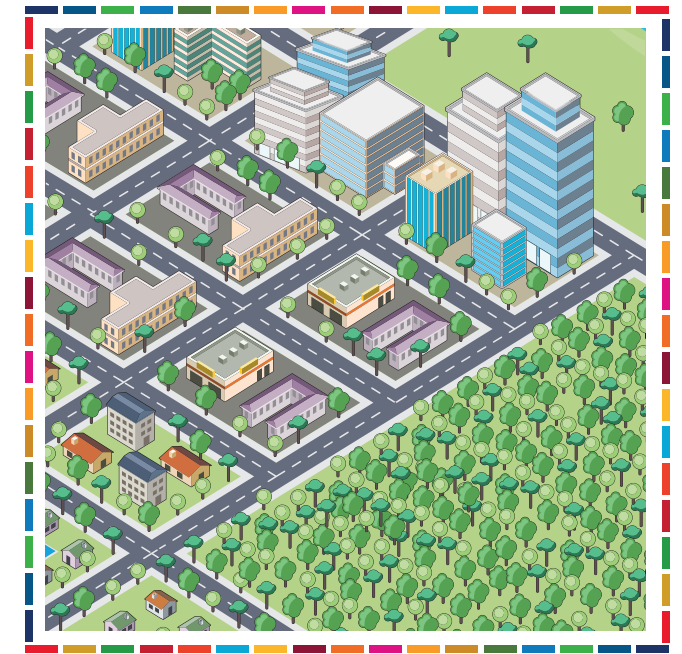
- UNECE adopted standards for the [assessment of wind and solar energy resources](#) under the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), enabling harmonized classification, reporting and comparison to support investment in renewables.
- UNECE advanced UNFC deployment including in Asia led by the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP); and in Europe, led by the European Commission, which also tested UNFC in the context of its [Strategic Action Plan on Batteries](#) to gather harmonized data on primary raw materials availability: 19 EU member States reported on cobalt, lithium, nickel, and graphite.
- Supporting climate action, UNECE issued [policy recommendations to accelerate the energy efficiency and renewable energy shift](#) in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.
- UNECE provided practical Best Practice Guidance for the [recovery and use of methane from Abandoned Coal Mines](#) and for [methane management](#) in the oil and gas sector - 11 UNECE member States expressed interest in applying the Guidance for their gas value chains. Methane is a powerful short-lived climate pollutant with an effect on global warming 84 times greater than CO2 over a 20-year period.
- UNECE supported [Serbia to overcome barriers and identify priority actions to sustainably scale-up renewable energy development](#). UNECE [Renewable Energy Hard Talks](#) (2016-2019) have provided Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia with practical policy recommendations which, in Kazakhstan for example, resulted in the introduction of policies including a renewable energy auction scheme and a land plot granting regime.
- As an immediate response to one of the key recommendations of its 3rd Environmental Performance Review undertaken by UNECE, [Kazakhstan re-established a dedicated ministry on the environment](#).





The UNECE region is among the most highly urbanized in the world and the share of its population living in cities is expected to continue rising over the next decades. Cities have a key role to play in addressing complex sustainable development challenges – for housing, energy, transport, environmental management, disaster risk reduction, climate change, population ageing and many other areas.

- Cities worldwide have pledged to [plant over 8.5 million trees by the end of 2020 under the Trees in Cities Challenge](#) launched by UNECE and Mayors at the Climate Action Summit. In 2019, 9 cities – Barcarena (Brazil), Bonn (Germany), Helsingborg (Sweden), Malaga (Spain), Mexico City (Mexico), Podgorica (Montenegro), Tirana (Albania), Vancouver (USA) and Victoria (Canada) – joined the Challenge; more cities continue to come on board.
- The [Day of Cities](#) gathered over 50 Mayors from 33 UNECE countries to share concrete experiences and priorities in response to key sustainable development challenges. Recognising cities as vital partners in delivering the 2030 Agenda, UNECE’s Committee on Housing, Land Management and Urban Development decided to establish a Forum of Mayors. The first session will be held in Geneva on 6 October 2020.
- The Second [Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Belarus](#) identified important advances in response to UNECE recommendations, including a state programme on housing construction resulting in a 20% reduction between 2010 and 2017 in the number of households registered as needing improved housing. The Profile outlined concrete recommendations to support further efforts to enhance energy efficiency and ensure affordability of housing for all.
- UNECE launched a [project to evaluate the sustainability and smartness of 17 Norwegian cities](#) as part of the [United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative](#). Their performance will be evaluated using the UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators, which are already used by over 50 cities worldwide.
- UNECE’s [smart sustainable city profile for the city of Voznesensk, Ukraine](#), prepared in cooperation with UNDP Ukraine, offered concrete policy recommendations in energy efficiency, reduction of waste and developing an economic diversification strategy based on agroindustry and tourism.
- UNECE adopted an updated [Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets](#), presenting 12 principles to promote the sustainability of markets and their contribution to the SDGs. UNECE also issued updated [Guidelines on the Management and Ownership of Condominium Housing](#), and [Guidelines on the formalization of informal settlements](#), which are home to over 50 million people in 20 countries of the UNECE region.
- One hundred million people in the UNECE region spend more than 40% of their disposable income on housing. The [fifth Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence was established in Trondheim, Norway](#), joining centres in Tirana, Albania; Tallinn, Estonia; Glasgow, UK; and Vienna, Austria, to support access to affordable, decent and healthy housing for all.

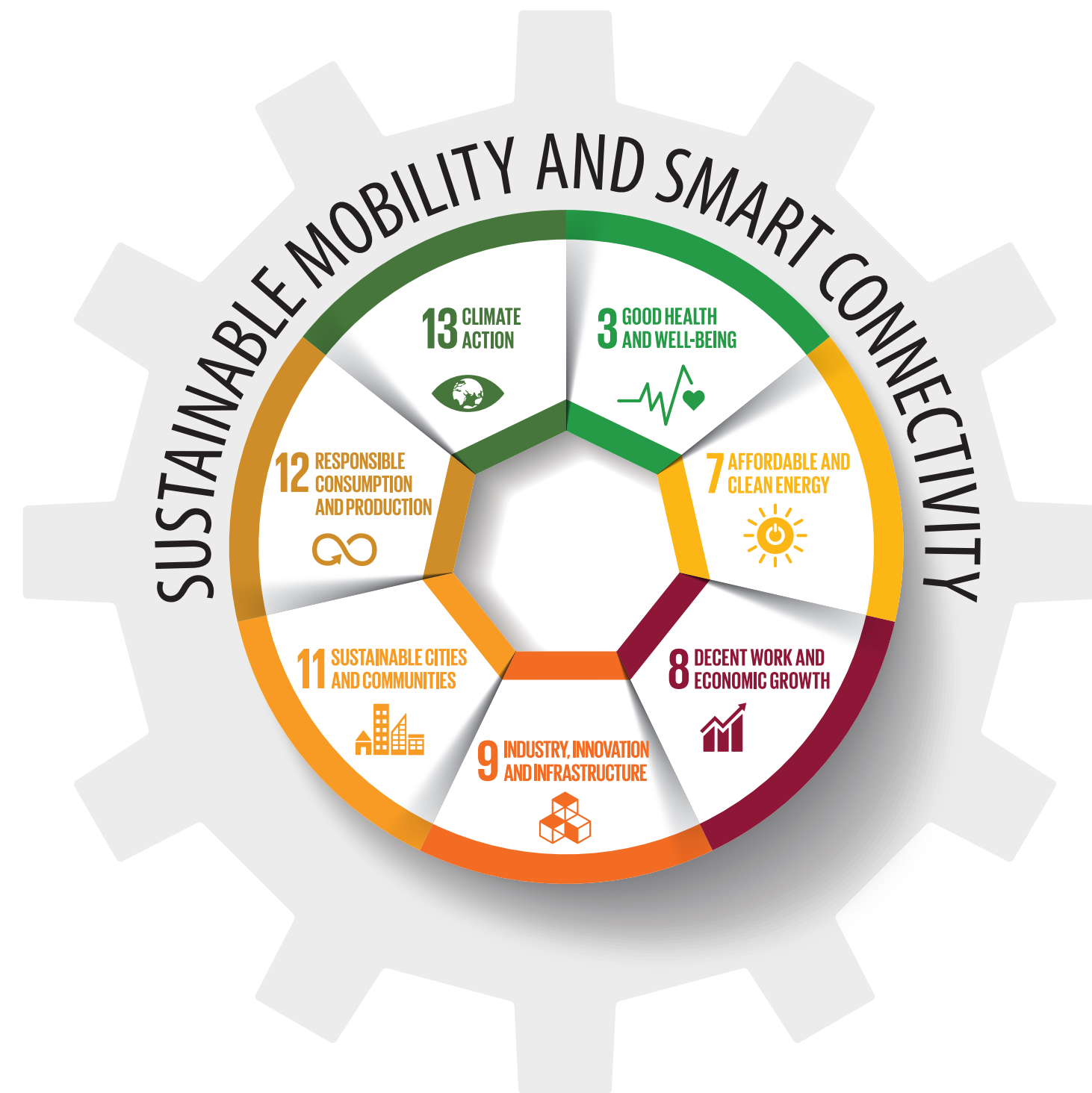


TREES IN CITIES CHALLENGE





- Around 10,000 building industry practitioners have benefited from over 200 training sessions, programmes and related events delivered through the International Centres of Excellence on High Performance Buildings initiative launched by UNECE. This supports deployment of its Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and the Geneva UN Charter.
- 40% of CO2 emissions in the region are produced by buildings. UNECE strengthened countries' capacities to improve buildings' energy efficiency through training workshops in [Geneva](#), [Kyiv](#), Ukraine and [Yerevan](#), Armenia, and reinforced the knowledge base through studies mapping energy efficiency standards and best practices.
- Six [countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus](#) agreed to further strengthen policy integration and inter-institutional coordination for land-use planning and industrial safety and to establish or revise legislation in line with UNECE's Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- UNECE supported Georgia for the application of strategic environmental assessments (SEA) to municipal spatial plans, in line with the UNECE Protocol on SEA.
- The Russian city of [Kazan](#) hosted a relay race workshop under THE PEP to disseminate good practices in sustainable and healthy urban mobility and transport.
- UNECE's [Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Belarus](#) provided recommendations spanning the integration of older persons in society, age-friendly environments, employment opportunities for older workers, social protection, lifelong learning, health and well-being, gender equality and families and intergenerational solidarity. It directly contributed to the development of the first national strategy on ageing in Belarus – Dignified Longevity-2030.
- The [Active Ageing Index](#) (AAI) was calculated at sub-national level in Romania and Spain. The AAI allows policy makers to identify areas in which the potential of older persons can be realized to the highest extent possible.
- UNECE's Policy Brief on Ageing highlighted [practical measures to combat ageism in the world of work](#), which is essential in encouraging longer working lives while enabling older persons to realize their full potential. A [Policy Brief on Ageing on informal carers](#) and a policy seminar on [informal care for persons with dementia](#) put the spotlight on the important contribution of unpaid care and presented support measures for informal carers. Among concrete measures shared are local alliances for people with dementia in Germany.



Mobility and connectivity can be powerful catalysts for sustainable development. Nurturing innovation, mobilizing partnerships and capitalizing on the potential of new technologies can drive cross-cutting SDGs progress.



- One hundred forty-eight of one hundred ninety-three UN member States, or 77 per cent, are Contracting Parties to at least one UN legal instrument on inland transport administered by UNECE. In 2019, Myanmar became Contracting Party for the first time by acceding to two core road safety conventions, covering Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals.
- The [UN Road Safety Fund's](#) 5 pilot projects - in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Pakistan, Paraguay and the Philippines – supported concrete action on the ground. For example, following training by UNICEF on safer roads for children, [Paraguay's Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning issued a memorandum to ensure that all future urban development projects are based on child rights](#); a network of Multisectoral National Committees has been set up in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal to improve road traffic death data collection thanks to a WHO project.
- The Fund's 2019 Call for Proposals received funding requests from over 50 countries that would require over 60 million dollars to finance. Launched in 2018, the Fund has already mobilized around USD 20 million from governments and the private sector.
- Countries adopted the [Inland Transport Committee \(ITC\) Strategy Until 2030](#) to harmonize inland transport developments worldwide and create the safest and most sustainable mobility.
- Countries agreed on provisions providing the legal basis for the paperless operation of the TIR Convention (the so-called [eTIR](#)). The TIR system already reduces cross-border transport time by up to 80%, and costs by up to 38%. The full computerisation of the Convention's procedures will unlock significant further efficiency gains, particularly in the area of intermodal transport.
- In 2019, [Belarus, Finland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom acceded to the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note \(e-CMR\)](#). The number of contracting parties to this legal instrument has doubled over the last two years. One billion transport contracts are issued annually based on the CMR Convention, enabling seamless road freight. Digitalization brings significant further efficiency gains.
- The [Agreement concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road \(ADR\) was amended to help more countries benefit from this tried and tested UN instrument](#). For over 50 years, ADR has prevented countless accidents involving dangerous goods transport and reduced the severity of accidents' consequences.

- Countries adopted a new [UN Convention aiming to significantly speed up international rail travel for passengers](#), especially in Europe and Asia, which account for 97% of all passenger rail traffic.
- UNECE's World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted a [UN Regulation on Advanced Emergency Braking Systems](#) that could save more than 1,000 lives every year within the EU from 2022. Over 15 million new cars in the EU and over 4 million in Japan (sales figures for 2018) will be equipped with the lifesaving AEBS technology every year.
- Experts from the World Forum developed a [framework to guide the future normative work of the UN on autonomous vehicles](#), ensuring that safety remains the cornerstone of all developments.
- UNECE provided [Kazakhstan](#) and [Kyrgyzstan](#) with policy recommendations to enhance transport competitiveness and logistics, supporting them to unlock significant untapped benefits of growing Euro-Asian cargo flows.
- UNECE's Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) initiative [advanced the operationalization of inland transport corridors across Eurasia](#). Over 38 countries participate in EATL, which has identified and prioritized the development of 9 rail and road routes, 17 water transport links, 53 inland and 70 maritime ports.
- To scale-up inland waterway transport, which is the cleanest means of transport of goods, UNECE adopted a road map to help more countries join the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN).
- Ministers from [Central Asian nations, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan adopted the Ashgabat Initiative to reduce barriers to trade and transport using UN legal instruments, standards and recommendations](#). Harnessing cooperation through the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), this will help countries to integrate with the economies of Europe and Asia.
- UNECE issued an [English-Russian-Chinese Glossary of Trade Facilitation Terms](#) that will help to cut red tape across Eurasia and beyond.
- Fifty-five standards organizations worldwide signed the UNECE [Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development](#). Initiatives taken include the introduction of a Gender Pay Gap Calculator (by IPQ, Portugal's standards body), and the establishment of Gender Action Plans with measures including sex-disaggregated data collection (European standards organization CEN/CENELEC) and gender-balance assessment of standards development committees (Standards Council of Canada). UNECE issued [research and recommendations](#) to further support these efforts.





- UN/CEFACT develops openly available and harmonized electronic exchange standards to help businesses and government agencies connect intelligently. Standards developed in 2019 include the supply chain delivery process, [eQuality certificates](#), [purchase-order financing](#), [Smart Containers](#) and [Data Pipeline](#) (capturing data earlier in the supply chain in order to improve data quality in electronic messages). A Recommendation on [Single Submission Portals](#) will help scale up private sector successes in streamlining international trade.
- UN/CEFACT supported Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises to access international trading markets through guidance on [eServices portals](#). There are over 160 million MSMEs worldwide, employing more than 500 million people.
- UNECE adopted the [first ever international standard for dried melons](#), improving access to export markets and opening new employment opportunities, especially for producing communities in Central Asia, including many women. UNECE has adopted over 100 international Agricultural Quality Standards.
- UNECE approved a [new regulatory framework on Cyber-Security](#) that can be used by authorities and policymakers especially in sectors where no dedicated regulation currently exists. It identifies standards that can be useful reference in regulatory documents and includes an analysis of conformity assessment and market surveillance options.
- UNECE launched a [portal to identify standards to support the SDGs](#). It maps more than 1,000 standards developed by UNECE and over 30 partner organizations, and contains [case studies](#) and training materials.

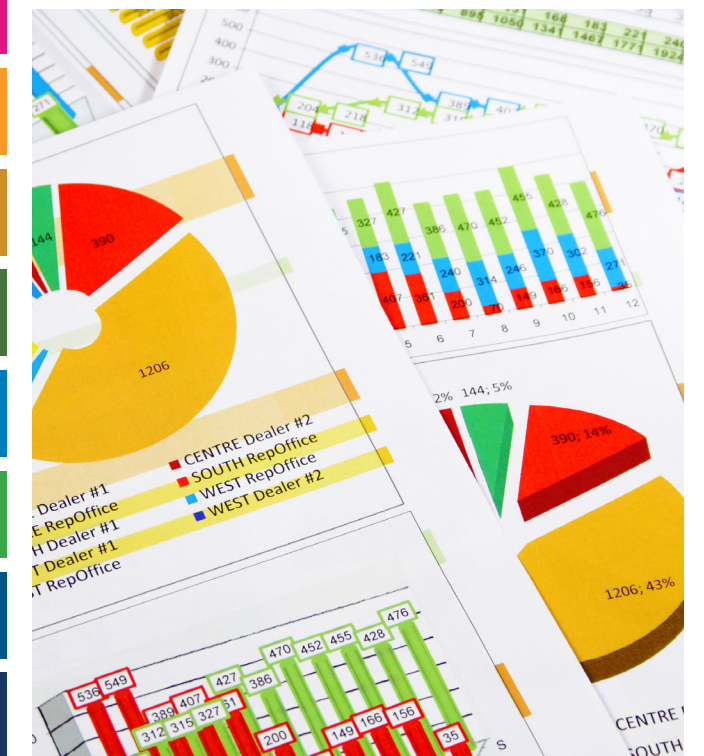


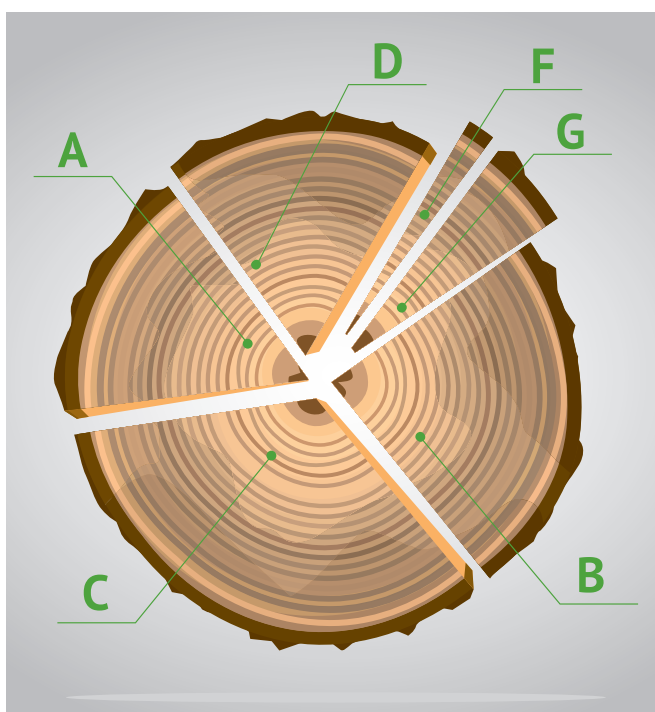
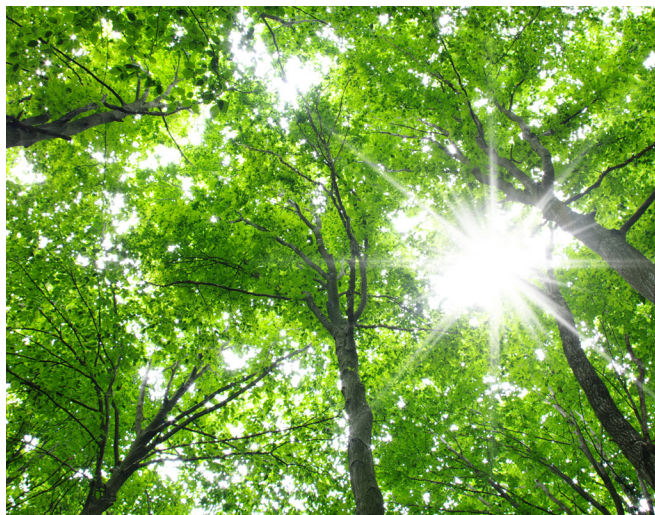
Achieving the SDGs requires robust monitoring and timely, reliable, accurate and disaggregated data. This is key to tracking progress on challenges and provides the foundation for informed decision-making and effective policy responses.



- [Member States underscored the value of UNECE's integrated support for 2030 Agenda implementation in the region](#). Intergovernmental discussions of the 68th session of the Commission focused on the impact of UNECE's normative work, its demand-driven technical assistance to countries, and its role in facilitating the exchange of expertise and best practices to help address core sustainability challenges in the region.
- From the UNECE region, eleven countries presented their Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2019 High-level Political Forum. It is expected that [54 of 56 UNECE member States will have undertaken a VNR by 2020](#) – proof of the strong efforts of countries in the region to translate the SDGs into policy actions.
- The [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) for the UNECE Region provided a unique regional platform to share policy solutions and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than 850 policymakers and other key stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector gathered in Geneva for interactive peer-learning on SDG implementation, including the exchange of over 50 [best practices](#) to accelerate progress in the UNECE Region and beyond.
- For the first time, all UNECE countries have committed to conduct a census in the 2020 round, following [UNECE Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations](#). Uzbekistan will conduct its first census since 1989, responding to a strong call made in the 2019 UNECE/EFTA/Eurostat [Joint Overview of the country's statistical system](#).
- Twenty-six UNECE countries are using the techniques for integrating migration data sources recommended in [2019 UNECE Guidance](#). Tajikistan has piloted the [UNECE survey module for harmonized data collection on migration and remittances](#) for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and produced the first national statistics making use of it.
- Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are already using the [UNECE survey module for harmonized data collection on poverty](#) developed in 2019, to produce national poverty statistics.
- By 2019 eight countries have modernized their publication of gender statistics with support from UNECE, in line with the recommendations of the UNECE gender statistics [manual](#) and [toolkit](#).
- By working closely with UN Women, UNECE has added the SDG indicator on [women in local government](#) (5.5.1b) to its [gender statistics database](#) and guided countries in collecting the required data. In 2019, 36 countries produced the indicator using the new harmonized definition.

- Twelve countries are using the CES [core set of climate change-related indicators](#) to develop their national sets.
- UNECE's [Practical Guide to National SDG Reporting Platforms](#) has enabled countries to better coordinate and communicate SDG indicators: the number of countries which have or are currently building a national SDG reporting platform has grown to 35.
- The UNECE [statistical framework for measuring quality of employment](#) is in use in at least 15 countries across 3 continents. Germany, Israel, Italy and Switzerland have based their statistical publications on the framework; in 2019 Germany restructured the employment statistics on its website in line with the framework and Canada made plans to do the same.
- Fifty countries across the globe intend to use the 2019 [UNECE Guidelines on leading, composite and sentiment indicators](#) to develop or improve their indicators.
- A European Commission project to help EU countries apply the recommendations of the [UNECE Guide to Measuring Global Production](#) has meant that by 2019 at least 15 UNECE countries have established a special unit in their national statistical office to focus on data from multinational enterprises. Even more have designated staff to work as part of a global network of experts on such data co-organized by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD.
- The [Generic Statistical Business Process Model](#) (GSBPM) has become a global reference for understanding and modernizing statistical production and by 2019 is being used by more than 45 countries worldwide as well as several international organizations.
- Nine countries from the UNECE region and beyond have revised their statistical laws based on the CES [Guidance on Modernizing Statistical Legislation](#): Albania joined this list in 2019, while Kyrgyzstan and Albania have adopted national versions of the [Generic Law on Official Statistics](#) (GLOS). Further afield, Zambia, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zanzibar have used it to draft new or revised statistical laws.
- The [Global assessments and joint overviews of statistical systems](#) undertaken by UNECE, Eurostat and EFTA have contributed to adoption in 2019 of new National Strategies for the Development of Statistics in [Georgia](#) and [Uzbekistan](#).
- National summary [reports on water and sanitation submitted by 33 countries](#) under the Protocol on Water and Health showed improvements in drinking water quality and access to water and sanitation. They highlighted climate change adaptation as a key emerging issue.



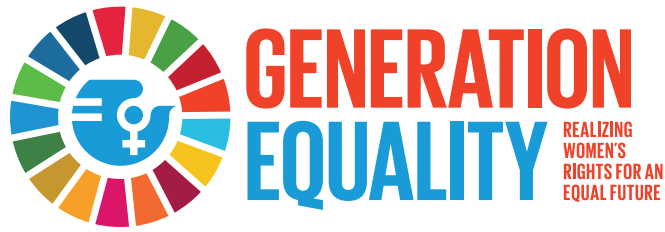


- UNECE supported Belarus in assessing equity challenges related to access to water and sanitation, and helped Armenia to carry out legislative reforms to further support equity in access.
- UNECE developed a [practical guide to support countries in the implementation of SDGs 3 and 6](#). Belarus, Portugal, Luxembourg, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan set targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.
- UNECE and UNESCO helped build capacities of countries in [Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Central Africa](#) and [Central America](#) on the reporting methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2, which measures the proportion of transboundary basins with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- UNECE carried out or published Environmental Performance Reviews for [Kazakhstan, North Macedonia](#) and [Uzbekistan](#). Each review covers between 40 and 65 SDG targets.
- UNECE supported data collection and analysis for the 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment, led by FAO. Almost 90% of UNECE member States submitted national reports - the highest share to date.
- UNECE/FAO published [Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management](#), supporting the development of national forest monitoring systems. The guidelines are used in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and could also provide a practical tool for other countries.
- UNECE and FAO published the [first ever study on the state of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia](#). Strengthening the knowledge base for sustainable forest management. It provides eight country profiles (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).
- The [Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation](#) for the UNECE region assessed the performance of 42 member States. According to the Survey, [the average implementation of trade facilitation measures in the region is above the global average](#), reaching 72%, and marking a 5% increase since 2017.
- A UNECE [assessment on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade provided Armenia with recommendations](#) to bolster supply chain efficiencies, strengthen the contribution of trade to structural transformation, and increase the participation of female-owned enterprises in export activities.

- UNECE issued [Guidelines for evidence-based housing and urban development policies](#). They offer specific recommendations for more effective data collection and analysis.
- Member States adopted the [mid-term review on establishing a Shared Environmental Information System](#) (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia, which demonstrates that many countries are continuing to harmonize environmental data flows and improve their readiness to report on the state of the environment and the 2030 Agenda.
- UNECE, through its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), supported countries' [concrete measures to enhance transparency in reporting](#) by industry and to make this information available to decision-makers and the public, supporting the SDGs and the shift to the circular economy. Kazakhstan developed its PRTR system and finalised national procedure on the Protocol's ratification. The Protocol is the only global legally binding treaty on this subject.
- The UNECE project [Pathways to Sustainable Energy](#) strengthened the knowledge and capacities of countries to develop, implement and track national policies, supporting the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy.
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine advanced their [Innovation Policy Outlook](#) assessments, based on a composite index to review the scope and quality of innovation policies and institutions. UNECE also piloted a concerted sub-regional strategy on Innovation for the SDGs involving all SPECA member states.
- UNECE mobilized stakeholders to operationalize People-first Public-Private Partnerships for the SDGs, leveraging cooperation between UN Regional Commissions. Activities in 2019 included training on PPPs for ports, and on the role of PPPs in efficient, resilient and sustainable infrastructure.
- UNECE continued to advance the role of women in People-First PPPs through the development of a recommendation targeting concrete gender equality commitments from 200 companies involved in PPPs by the end of 2020.



Beijing+25



- UNECE assists its member States in monitoring progress towards international commitments on gender equality. The [Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting](#) (29-30 October 2019) provided a forum for UNECE member States to review progress and identify challenges in the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995](#), the most ambitious road map for the empowerment of all women and girls.
- More than 850 participants, including policy makers and non-governmental stakeholders, gathered in Geneva to showcase policy approaches that can help remove the structural barriers to gender equality. The meeting was jointly organized by UNECE and the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in cooperation with the Regional Offices of UNESCO, UNDP and FAO. The outcome of this regional review in the form of co-chairs conclusions will constitute the contribution of the UNECE region to the 25th anniversary at the global level, [global Beijing+25 review in 2020](#).
- UNECE and UN Women also prepared a [regional review report](#) on the basis of the [national reports](#), which informed the discussions at the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting.

Budget

Budget Resources
(in thousands of US Dollars)

Type of budget resources		2018-2019 Appropriation/ Allotment
A	Regular Budget (Section 20)	
	Post items	59,423.0
	Non-Post items	3,661.2
	Total	63,084.2
B	Regular Programme Of Technical Cooperation (Section 23)	
	General Temporary Assistance Staff (Regional Advisers)	2,583.8
	Non-Post items	1,010.1
	Total	3,593.9
C	United Nations Development Account (Section 35)	
	Non-Post items (Note: Unspent project balances rephrased into 2018-19)	5,321.8
	Total	5,321.8
D	Extrabudgetary - Technical Cooperation & General Trust Funds	33,874.1

UNECE Member States

 ALBANIA	 ESTONIA	 LIECHTENSTEIN	 SAN MARINO
 ANDORRA	 FINLAND	 LITHUANIA	 SERBIA
 ARMENIA	 FRANCE	 LUXEMBOURG	 SLOVAKIA
 AUSTRIA	 GEORGIA	 MALTA	 SLOVENIA
 AZERBAIJAN	 GERMANY	 MONACO	 SPAIN
 BELARUS	 GREECE	 MONTENEGRO	 SWEDEN
 BELGIUM	 HUNGARY	 NETHERLANDS	 SWITZERLAND
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	 ICELAND	 NORTH MACEDONIA	 TAJIKISTAN
 BULGARIA	 IRELAND	 NORWAY	 TURKEY
 CANADA	 ISRAEL	 POLAND	 TURKMENISTAN
 CROATIA	 ITALY	 PORTUGAL	 UKRAINE
 CYPRUS	 KAZAKHSTAN	 REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	 UNITED KINGDOM
 CZECHIA	 KYRGYZSTAN	 ROMANIA	 UNITED STATES
 DENMARK	 LATVIA	 RUSSIAN FEDERATION	 UZBEKISTAN

Strengthening cooperation in the regional UN system

More than 20 [UN entities in Europe and Central Asia](#) keep forging ahead in better connecting their expertise and capacities to support the 2030 Agenda in the region. Cooperation among the entities of the regional UN system in the Europe and Central Asia region has intensified significantly over the past years, largely in response to the more integrated policy and country support required by the 2030 Agenda.

The Regional UN Systems Meetings in 2019 (20-21 May, Istanbul, and 10-11 December, Vienna) agreed on further enhancing collaboration in line with the ongoing [reform of the UN Development System](#).

The existing collaboration platform, co-chaired by the UNECE Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group (R-UNSDG), is considered a well-functioning basis for further improvements. [Issue-based Coalitions](#) that were pioneered by the regional UN system to tackle cross-cutting issues will continue to play a major role in steering joint activities.

Successful cooperation of the regional UN system in intergovernmental processes was visible in the [2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#), in which almost 20 UN entities were closely involved, as well as the [Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting](#), jointly organized by UNECE and UN Women from 29-30 October 2019. The [Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality](#) was an important vehicle to coordinate UN system contributions.

The [Issue-based Coalition on SDG Data and Monitoring](#) is instrumental to better align statistical capacities at the regional level, scale up country support, and contribute to intergovernmental discussions on statistics at the [Conference of European Statisticians](#).



Cooperation with UN organizations



- Cooperation with UN partners is a fundamental feature of how UNECE supports countries towards achieving the SDGs. Examples include:
- UNECE contributes to providing a regional dimension to the work of the UN through regional inputs to UN global processes. In this role, it coordinates with its sister **UN Regional Commissions (RCs)**, through regular meetings of the Executive Secretaries. Cooperation with the RCs covers a wide range of initiatives, including regional review processes, water, energy, environment, economic integration, public-private partnerships, statistics, trade facilitation, transport and road safety, in particular the UN Road Safety Fund. As part of wide-ranging support to member States, UNECE and UNESCAP jointly support the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).
- UNECE contributes to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** in 17 countries in its region, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinators and respective **UN Country Teams**. UNECE also supports UN Common Country Analysis for the Cooperation Framework.
- UNECE's wide-ranging cooperation with **UNDP** helps to strengthen countries' capacities to address a range of sustainable development challenges.
- UNECE has been working with **FAO** through their Joint Forestry and Timber Section for over 70 years. Cooperation also covers food loss and waste, sustainable fisheries (including UN/FLUX) standards, issues of security of tenure and land governance, and the implementation of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, with FAO and UNEP.
- UNECE works closely together with **WHO/Europe** through the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), the joint Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention, the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution under the Air Convention, the European Environment and Health Process, on Environmental Performance Reviews, and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- UNECE works closely with **UNEP** on a wide range of initiatives, as well as for policy dialogue under the Environment for Europe process and in the context of the United Nations Environment Assembly. UNECE and the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** work jointly on traceability.
- UNECE works closely with **UN-Habitat** on developing sustainable urban development and housing policies in the region.

- UNECE works closely with **UNITAR** on promoting pollutant release and transfer registers and public environmental rights.
- UNECE contributes to various activities under **UN DESA**, including the work of the **UN Statistical Commission** and the preparation of the annual World Economic and Social Prospects report. UNECE also contributes to the **United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT-STI)**.
- UNECE cooperates with **United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management** on land administration, management and governance, and through UN-GGIM Europe as its regional committee.
- UNECE works closely with **UN Women** on regional reviews of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as on gender statistics.
- UNECE and **UNFPA** work closely together on ageing. UNFPA also provides long-standing support for UNECE's work on population and housing censuses.
- UNECE cooperates with **WMO** on water and air pollution-related monitoring and modelling, climate-change mitigation and adaptation measures, including for inland transport infrastructure.
- **UNFCCC** contributes to UNECE's work on climate change-related statistics, together with **WMO** and **FAO**.
- UNECE supports multi-agency coordination including through **UN WATER**; on road safety; on sustainable energy, through **UN-Energy** and **SE4ALL**; on industrial and chemical safety; on air pollution; on environmental assessment; on environmental monitoring; and on ageing.
- UNECE and **ITU** work hand in hand to promote the use of ICTs in city planning and service provision, within the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative, as well as on eBusiness standards.
- UNECE and **IAEA** work together to promote the use of UNFC to map uranium and thorium resources and cooperate in the field of assessment of environmental impacts of nuclear power related programmes and plans.
- UNECE contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework of Action in partnership with **UNDRR**.

- UNECE works with **UN OCHA** on disaster recovery.
- UNECE supports the work of 6 **Special Rapporteurs** appointed by the **Human Rights Council**: Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment; on the situation of human rights defenders; on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.
- UNECE and **ILO** work together to address a range of safety and decent work issues, such as in the transport, industrial and trade sectors, as well as to ensure that economic and social statistics align with labour-related international standards and definitions. Collaboration also covers green jobs in the forest sector and in transport.
- UNECE partners with **IOM** in developing concepts and statistical capacity for measuring migration.
- Cooperation between UNECE, **UNCTAD** and **ITC** covers a wide range of sustainable trade issues. UNECE and UNCTAD's close collaboration covers areas including trade facilitation, standardization, sustainable resource management and statistics.
- UNECE works with **UN-OICT** to develop innovative ICT-based solutions including to reduce food loss and waste.
- UNECE and **UNESCO** are co-custodians of SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. Cooperation also supports the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development at the national level.
- UNECE and **UNICEF** co-chair the Issue-based Coalition on SDG Data and Monitoring. UNICEF and UNECE are also working together to develop new work on statistics on children and youth.
- UNECE and **UNOPS** work together on Distributed Ledger Technologies – an area which also covers cooperation with **WIPO** - and Blockchain for the SDGs.
- UNECE and **ICAO** work closely on trade facilitation, while UNECE is assisting **IMO** with the dematerialization of their data needs for the FAL Convention.

Leveraging cooperation beyond the UN system



UNECE cooperates with a wide range of other institutions, from the public and private sector, academia and NGOs. These include:

Other regional organizations

- The **European Commission** contributes to the development and implementation of UNECE's normative work, standards and Conventions across a wide range of areas.
- The EU supports, in particular, the accession of non-EU countries to the Water Convention, the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (through the EU4Environment programme), the Air Convention and the 1958 Agreement on vehicle regulations.
- **Eurostat** works alongside UNECE in all statistical areas.
- The **European Environment Agency (EEA)** is a strong partner in the UNECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programme. Collaboration also covers work on climate change-related statistics, on open data and e-government and environmental information sharing and dissemination.
- The **EU Committee of Regions** and the **Council of Europe Development Bank** cooperate with UNECE to promote national and local policies in Europe for affordable housing.
- Cooperation with the **Eurasian Economic Commission**, the **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**, the **Economic Cooperation Organization** and various bodies of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, covers areas including trade facilitation, transport connectivity, standardization and risk management.
- The Statistical Office of the Commonwealth of Independent States (**CIS-Stat**) collaborates with UNECE on capacity development activities.
- UNECE cooperates with the **Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of Central Asia** to support environmental protection.
- UNECE collaborates with the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** to support statistical work in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
- UNECE and the **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)** work on the localization of the SDGs in the region.
- UNECE cooperates with the **African Union Commission** on the application of UNFC for sustainable resource management.
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council** contributes to UNECE work on statistical modernization, dissemination and communication and measuring the value of official statistics.

Other international organizations

- UNECE cooperation with the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** covers a wide range of activities including on environment, trade, innovation, sustainable development in Central Asia, and urban development. OECD is a close partner of UNECE in all statistical domains.
- UNECE works with the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** on a range of economic, trade, energy and environmental development issues. OSCE's network of 60 Aarhus Centres in 14 countries supports the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.
- Partnerships with **Multilateral Financial Institutions** include the **World Bank** (on water cooperation, road safety, environmental assessment under EU4Environment and economic statistics), the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** - on PPP legal and regulatory frameworks), the **Islamic Development Bank** (on transport connectivity) the **Asian Development Bank** (on SPECA and water cooperation), the **African Development Bank** and the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** on water cooperation. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** contributes to UNECE work on national accounts, employment and price statistics, and participates in statistical decision-making bodies.
- The **Aarhus Convention** is applied in projects of a number of **Multilateral Financial Institutions** including the **World Bank, EIB, EBRD**, and the **Asia Infrastructure Development Bank**. EIB and EBRD also apply the principles of the Espoo Convention. EIB financially supports activities under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA.
- Collaboration with the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** supports the increased use of electronic standards for **trade facilitation** and **cross-border transport of goods**.
- UNECE collaborates with **World Economic Forum (WEF)** on issues including urban development and sustainable trade.
- UNECE works closely with the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** including on trade facilitation, e-Commerce and to support smaller businesses to engage in international trade.
- UNECE cooperates with **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** on forest landscape restoration, including together

- with the World Resources Institute (WRI), FAO and the World Bank on ECCA30.
- UNECE cooperates with the **International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)**.
- UNECE works with the **World Energy Council** in the context of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project.

Private sector

- UNECE and the **International Road Transport Union (IRU)** have a longstanding partnership on the **TIR Convention**.
- UNECE and the **Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors** work together on issues of Land-value capture and Fire Safety Standards.
- Representatives from a variety of industries for which UNECE produces norms and standards actively participate in the work of the respective working parties, including the motor, energy, minerals, chemical, logistics, and agricultural sectors. The private sector is also actively involved in UNECE's work on trade facilitation and electronic business (UN/CEFACT mobilizes more than 1000 experts), and standardization.

Academia

- Collaboration between UNECE and many leading academic institutions helps to bridge science-policy gaps for sustainable development.
- Partners include: Boston University, Columbia University, Harvard School of Design, Pennsylvania State University, Glasgow School of Art, University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Berlin University of Technology, IESE business school in Barcelona, Rotterdam School of Management, University of Belgrade, Politecnico di Milano, Bocconi University, Moscow State University, Plakhanov Russian University of Economics, Russia's Academy for Standardization, Metrology and Certification, Kazakh National Research Technical University, Kedge Business School in Marseille, the University of Oxford's Poverty and Human Development Initiative, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia, City University of Hong Kong, Tsinghua University and Jiliang University in China, Toyo University in Japan, the Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore and United Nations University.



15 leading academic and research institutions form the consortium board of the Generations and Gender Programme. UNECE is also a partner of the EUROAGEISM network.

NGOs

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council can participate in the work of UNECE. Other NGOs also participate in selected activities.
- Partners include: Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), the European Youth Forum, the Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, Housing Europe, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety; Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP), the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), a network of environmental NGOs - European ECO Forum, Association Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie, ECOS (European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation), EDGE Certified Foundation, the Ellen McArthur Foundation, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Find out more



[WEBSITE](#)



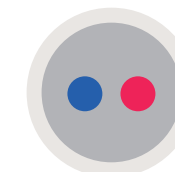
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