

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

21-22 March 2019  
International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)



THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2019

DRAFT PROGRAMME

13:00 – 14:30 SIDE EVENTS



<b>15:00 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>OPENING</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu</b> <i>Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Minister of Health and Social Protection of Albania</i></p> <p><b>Special Address: Ms. Amina J. Mohammed</b> <i>Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Olga Algayerova</b> <i>UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger</b> <i>Chair of the Regional UNSDG Team for Europe and Central Asia and Assistant Secretary-General</i></p>	<b>Room 2 (plenary hall)</b>
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<b>16:00 – 18:00</b>	<p><b>HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT:</b> Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in the UNECE region</p> <p><b>HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as Drivers of SDG Implementation? National Experiences from UNECE countries. (16:00-17:00)</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Liu Zhenmin</b> <i>Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith</b> <i>Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development and Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Ecological and Solidary Transition, France</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Larysa Belskaya</b> <i>Director General of the Department for Multilateral Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Christina Baritaki</b> <i>Secretary General for the Environment, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Emin Sadik Aydin</b> <i>General Director Sectors and Public Investments, Strategy and Budget Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey</i></p> <p><b>PLENARY DEBATE (17:00-18:00)</b></p>	<b>Room 2 (plenary hall)</b>
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<b>18:30 – 20:00</b>	<p><b>RECEPTION</b> for participants offered by Albania and Switzerland</p>	<b>Entrance area</b>
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## FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2019

8:30 – 9:45 **SIDE EVENTS**

<p><b>10:00 – 13:00</b></p>	<p><b>FOCUS EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>Focus Event 1 (10:00-11:25):</b></p> <p><b>Technology, Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence – <a href="#">Curse or Blessing for Sustainable Development?</a></b></p> <p><b>Focus Event 2 (11:35-13:00):</b></p> <p><b>How to Measure Progress? <a href="#">Data and Statistics for SDGs</a></b></p> <p><i>Room 2 (plenary hall)</i></p>	<p><b>PEER LEARNING SEGMENT</b></p> <p>First set of round tables (10:00-11:25)</p>  <p>Second set of round tables (11:35-13:00)</p>  <p><i>(Please find thematic focus and room allocation of round tables on next page.)</i></p>
<p><b>13:00 – 15:00</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH BREAK</b> <b>SIDE EVENTS (13:15 – 14:30)</b></p>	
<p><b>15:00 – 17:30</b></p>	<p><b>CONNECTING THE DOTS:</b> <i>Room 2 (plenary hall)</i> Moving Ahead Towards Empowerment, Inclusion and Equality in the Region</p> <p><b>Keynote address: "Towards sustainable development: Interlinkages calling for systems transformations" by Ms. Eeva Furman</b> <i>Director of the Environmental Policy Centre at the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE Member of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report Team</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Nadia Isler</b> <i>Director of the SDG Lab in the Office of the Director-General of United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)</i></p>	
<p><b>17:30 – 18:00</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING</b> <i>Room 2 (plenary hall)</i> <b>Civil Society Representative</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Michael Møller</b> <i>Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Olga Algayerova</b> <i>UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General</i></p> <p><b>H.E. Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu</b> <i>Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Minister of Health and Social Protection of Albania</i></p>	

## DESCRIPTION OF SESSIONS

**High-level Dialogue** (21 March, 16:00-17:00): High-level representatives from past and 2019 VNR countries from the region will engage in a moderated dialogue and an interactive discussion with the floor on the national experiences from the VNR process. A particular focus will be on the impetus the VNR process may have provided to SDG implementation, national ownership, stakeholder involvement and SDG awareness in the country. The discussion will also reflect on overall lessons from the VNR exercise so far and possible ways forward.

**Plenary Debate** (21 March, 17:00-18:00): Interventions from high-level participants from the floor, highlighting policy experiences and challenges related to SDG implementation, with a particular focus on the theme of the High-level Policy Segment and the SDGs under in-depth review.











**Round tables** (22 March, 10:00-13:00): The Peer Learning Segment will facilitate practical exchange of experiences and best practices in SDG implementation between governments and other stakeholders. Two sets of five parallel round tables will take place on the SDGs that are under in-depth review at the 2019 HLPF. To enable effective peer learning in smaller groups, participation in round tables is upon nomination or invitation.

**Focus events** (22 March, 10:00-13:00): Two focus events on cutting-edge topics affecting overall SDG implementation will take place in the plenary room. Panellists will provide introductory inputs followed by an interactive discussion with the floor.

**Connecting the Dots** (22 March, 15:00-17:30): The plenary will hear key messages from the round tables and the focus events and engage in an interactive panel discussion that stresses interlinkages between the reviewed SDGs and pathways for integrated policy-making. A keynote speaker will provide input to the discussion.

## PEER LEARNING ROUND TABLES

Friday, 22 March 2019

10:00-11:25: First set of round tables		11:35-13:00: Second set of round tables	
	<b>Learning without Limits</b> <i>Lifelong Learning and Inclusive Education</i>		<b>The Power of Knowledge for Change</b> <i>Education and Learning as Drivers of Sustainable Development</i>
	<b>The Growth We Want</b> <i>Solutions for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth</i>		<b>The Future of Work</b> <i>Productive Employment and Decent Work for All</i>
	<b>Bridging the Gap</b> <i>Achieving Greater Income and Economic Equality</i>		<b>Towards a World of Equal Opportunity</b> <i>Tackling inequality caused by exclusion and discrimination</i>
	<b>Acting for Climate</b> <i>Stepping Up Climate Change Policies, Action and Awareness in the Region</i>		<b>Coping with Climate Change</b> <i>Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation</i>
	<b>Strengthening Institutions for Change</b> <i>Fostering Effective and Inclusive Governance for Sustainable Development</i>		<b>Empowering People to Protect the Planet</b> <i>The Environmental Dimension of SDG 16</i>

## REGISTRATION

Please register for the Regional Forum at <http://www.unece.org/rfsd2019.html>, preferably by 15 March 2019. Registration is required to be issued a conference badge and be granted access to the conference venue.

## INPUTS

**Case studies:** Governments and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide case studies from their experience in SDG implementation. The case studies will be compiled in a document and shared with participants in advance of the Forum. Selected case studies will be presented during the peer learning segment at the Regional Forum. To contribute a case study, kindly fill in [this form](#) (*submission deadline was 31 January 2019; late submissions might still be considered*).

## CONTACT



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*The Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the Regional UN System.*