

ADVANCE COPY
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68th Commission Session

High-level Segment | 9 April 2019

DRAFT PROGRAMME



UNECE

10:00 – 13:00

Opening and welcome

H.E. Mr. Janis Karklins, Chair of the Commission

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE

Mr. Michael Moeller, Director-General, UNOG

High level segment

Statements by Heads of Delegations

(Speakers' List under preparation)

Mr. Xavier Cadoret, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of the Council of Europe

The role of local authorities in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), video message

Ms. Olga Algayerova, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The work of UNECE on smart sustainable cities

Dr. Stefano Marta, Coordinator, Territorial Approach to SDGs, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Mr. Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director, ICLEI - Global network of 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future

Local Governments for Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities in working towards the 2030 Agenda

Key issues and outcomes from the Day of Cities

Ms. Elena Szolgayova, Director General, Ministry of Transport and Construction, Slovakia, and Chair, Committee on Housing and Land Management

Roundtable 1: Improving the Quality of Life of People

Ms. Ingvild Gundersen Little, National Coordinator, The Norwegian WHO Healthy Cities Network

Roundtable 2: Improving efficiency of Urban Operations, Services and Competitiveness

(Subject to the length of the speakers' list, the first segment of the afternoon roundtable may be advanced to the morning session.)



UNECE exhibition on smart sustainable cities

14:15 – 14:45 Walk about: UNECE exhibition on smart sustainable cities, incl. remarks by the Executive Secretary (2nd floor Mezzanine, E building).

Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

15:00 – 18:00 **Roundtable: “Regional and national solutions towards smart sustainable cities and the impact of UNECE instruments”**

Discussions will focus on practical examples and success stories that demonstrate the benefits of integrated planning and comprehensive solutions for smart, sustainable and resilient cities and highlight the impact of relevant UNECE instruments that support this approach. Further, the roundtable will seek to identify emerging issues that need to be addressed to advance smart sustainable practice in urban environments.

Session 1: Measuring Performance in the Transition to Becoming a Smart Sustainable City

Session 2: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Smart Cities

Session 3: Increased Road Safety and Sustainable Transport in Cities

Session 4: Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cities

Session 1: Measuring Performance in the Transition to Becoming a Smart Sustainable City

Measuring, monitoring and assessing performance is an essential step of urban planning and management. Performance evaluation has become an important tool in planning and in project assessment, including in assessing cities' strengths and comparing the performance of cities vis-à-vis different criteria.

UNECE and ITU led the development of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), within the framework of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative. The U4SSC is a global platform for smart cities stakeholders, which advocates for public policies to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities. The initiative is supported by 16 UN agencies and programmes. Over 50 cities were already measured by KPIs and the experience demonstrates that such work supports sustainable urban development; cross-sectoral cooperation as well as the cooperation between local and national governments, the involvement of the private sector and economic development.

The panel will discuss experiences and practices of measuring the performance of cities, including collecting and processing city data, analysing them, including through the KPIs evaluations; as well as taking steps to follow up on evaluation recommendations by developing and implementing plans of actions which supported sustainable urban development and the transformation into smart and sustainable cities.



Moderator:

Ms. Kari Aina Eik, Secretary General, OiER; Co-ordinator of the United Smart Cities Programme and Head of the UNECE Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Vienna, Austria

Speakers:

Mr. Robert Dijksterhuis, Head of Division, Spatial Policy Division, Ministry of Interior and Kingdoms Relations, The Netherlands

Mr. Bilel Jamoussi, Chief of the Study Groups Department, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Dag Olav Tennfjord, Mayor Skodje, Norway

Session 2: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Smart Cities

Innovation is a central enabler for progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Innovative ideas, new business models and advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain technology and the internet of things, will drive the transition to “smart” and sustainable cities.

The concept of the circular economy is a system that maximizes resource use and reduces future economic, environmental and social costs – while also strengthening competitiveness. Innovation and the use of advanced technologies are already driving the shift towards a circular economy model, but its potential is far from fully exploited.

The transition requires an enabling framework, including efficient regulation that provides the right incentives and eliminates barriers. To compensate for the inherent risk in innovative solutions and revenue models, we also need innovative ways of financing projects – through private, public, and blended finance.

This roundtable will showcase success stories of smart cities from UNECE member states, showing progress using a circular economy approach. It will further discuss prospects and good practices at national and regional level. Participants will then examine how these practices could work in other member countries, including less advanced ones, and how UNECE and other international and regional players could contribute to continued, productive dialogue towards achieving a circular economy approach for smart cities.

Moderator: Mr. Roland Hunziker, Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Ciprian Lucian-Rosca, Secretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania
Circular Economy and Innovation: The case of Romania

Mr. Marco Grossmann, Member of the Board, Ecos Consultants
Swiss Circular Cities: Challenges and Opportunities



Ms. Marie Yeroyanni, Senior Expert, Innovating Cities, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Innovation for Smart Cities: Driver for Circular Economy in the EU

Session 3: Increased Road Safety and Sustainable Transport in Cities

Cities need a wide range of transport solutions to function correctly, sustainably and safely. These solutions draw on a mixture of transport modes that are the best fit for different city environments. This panel seeks to cover public transport, autonomous vehicles and policies aimed at providing integrated mobility solutions through the activities of the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE and the tools developed by the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme.

At the same time, transport solutions need to ensure that people who live in cities are safe in their everyday movements. This requires robust road safety solutions built on the UN legal instruments managed by UNECE.

Moderator: Mr. Kristof Schockaert, Chair, UNECE Inland Transport Committee

Speakers:

Ms. Hornung-Soukup, Chair of the Board of TPG in Geneva

Bringing sustainable transport solutions through public transport

Mr. Robert Thaler – Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism; Austria

The contribution of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) to facilitating sustainable transport

Mr. Ignacio Lafuente, from IDIADA, Expert in WP.29

Strengthening road safety

Session 4: Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cities

Cities are the places where most of today's people live, work, produce, consume, where they enjoy education, health care, leisure and recreation. To fulfil all these functions, mobility is needed. Many of the human activities in urban areas have impacts on the environment. Examples are: pollution of air, water, soil, greenland and forests; over-use of natural resources and consumption of land for food, energy, mobility, settlement development for housing and industry; and waste production.

Urban environmental planning and management needs to take the environmental footprint into account. Integrated land-use planning, based on strategic environmental assessment, and including public participation is crucial to overcome existing environmental challenges in cities and to avoid new ones.

This roundtable will discuss the link between related UNECE environmental instruments, such as the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention, the Aarhus Convention, and the Industrial Accidents Convention; and their application in a holistic planning approach at city level. Panellists will showcase good practices from cities from UNECE member states.



Moderator:

Ms. Maia Bitadze, Vice Mayor of Tbilisi (Georgia) and Chair of the Aarhus Convention
The role of public participation to reduce urban environmental challenges

Speakers:

Ms. Marie-Pierre Meganck, Adviser Environment - Transport, Permanent Mission of France to the UN
"Integrated land use planning for industrial safety"

Mr. Andrei Isac, NGO Eco-Contact (Moldova)
Strategic environmental assessment in cities

Mr. Jan Zeitler, Mayor of Überlingen (Germany)
"The concept of the Regional Garden Show Überlingen as an opportunity to improve the ecological footprint of cities"

Roundtable wrap-up

Mr. Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director, ICLEI

H.E. Mr. Janis Karklins, Chair of the Commission

18.15

Reception at the invitation of the Chair of the Commission,

H.E. Mr. Janis Karklins, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia, on the occasion of the 68th session of the Economic Commission for Europe, Delegates Dining Room, 8th floor, Palais des Nations.

