



Achieving SDGs by participation of all

in the light of SEA/EIA procedures

Perspectives of the Czech Republic, Georgia, EU and UNECE



1 March, 2018, 13:15 -14:30

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), room 4

*Side-event of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
for the UNECE Region 2018*

organised by the Czech Republic

Opening remarks

H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York, President of the UN ECOSOC

Ms. Tea Aulavuo, Secretary to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, UNECE

Panelists

Mr. Hugo-Maria Schally, Head of Unit – Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission

Mr. Martin Smutný, Consultant, UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention

Mr. Lukáš Pokorný, Head of International Organizations Unit, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Ms. Nino Latsabidze, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

Moderator

H.E. Mr. Jan Kára, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in Geneva

Buffet lunch for participants will be served in front of the room 4 from 13:00

Objective

*"Participation" is one of the most important preconditions of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That's why the Czech Republic decided to focus its Presidency in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the theme **"Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all"**.*

"Participation" is also at the core of several environmental conventions, most notably of the UNECE Aarhus and Espoo conventions, and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This side-event seeks to elaborate on these premises on both conceptual and practical levels. The event will highlight the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) as tools for preventing and mitigating damage to environment and health through inclusive and participatory decision-making and international cooperation.

*The event builds on experience of the Czech Republic and Georgia respectively, as well as on their emerging cooperation in this particular area. We want to demonstrate that **participative SEA and EIA can play an important role in helping countries to achieve the SDGs and support sustainable development**, while promoting good governance, evidence-based decisions, public trust, efficiency and transparency in decision-making.*

The debate is expected to encourage the exchange of experience and inspire countries of the region towards exploring possibilities of extending the use of SEA and EIA for implementation of SDGs – including through examples such as SEA pilots that UNECE has facilitated in Eastern Europe and Caucasus under the EU funded regional programme "Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN).