



## Preliminary Programme

Wednesday, 17 March 2021, Hybrid meeting

10:00 - 12:00

### Opening and High-level Policy Segment

**Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region**

**OPENING** (10:00-10:30 CET)

**Mr. Francisco André**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal

**Mr. László Borbély**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania

**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed** (video message)

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Mr. Munir Akram** (video message)

President of the Economic and Social Council

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General

**HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT** (10:30-12:00 CET)

**Keynote address by Mr. Hans Kluge**

WHO Regional Director for Europe

**PLENARY DEBATE**

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00

### Plenary Session

**Key actions and accelerators to tackle the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and to promote a sustainable recovery**

The session will take into account key messages from the virtual peer learning sessions (thematic clusters: People, Prosperity, Planet and cross-cutting issues).

Guiding questions: Which are the key actions and accelerators of member States to tackle the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and move towards a sustainable recovery? What are the key take-aways for member States and other stakeholders from the peer learning sessions?

**Mr. László Borbély**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PANEL** (14:10-14:40 CET)

**Ms. Odeta Barbullushi**

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Albania  
National Coordinator for Regional Cooperation of Albania

**Mr. Thomas Wagner**

Deputy Head of Delegation, EU Delegation to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva

**Mr. Mark Wheatley**

European Union of the Deaf (Civil Society Representative)

**Mr. Christoph Steck**

Director of Public Policy and Internet, Telefónica S.A. (Spain)

**PLENARY DEBATE** (14:40-15:30 CET)**INTERACTION WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL** (15:30-16:00 CET)

Guiding question: What support for a sustainable and resilient recovery do member States expect from the UN system at national and regional levels?

**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General

**Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger**

Vice-Chair of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

Thursday, 18 March 2021, Hybrid meeting

10:00 - 12:00

**Plenary Session and Closing****Experiences from the region with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**

Experiences from UNECE member States that have presented or will present VNRs at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including linkages between multiple VNRs and the inclusion of SDG implementation at the local level.

Guiding questions: What are the experiences of member States with the VNR process? If member States have prepared more than one VNR, what are the linkages between these VNRs? How has the local dimension of SDG acceleration and implementation been reflected in VNRs? How could the VNR process further evolve in the future?

**Mr. Francisco André**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal

**Mr. Liu Zhenmin**

Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

**Mr. Martin Chungong**

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**Mr. Alexander Marschik** (video message)

Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York  
Co-facilitator for the intergovernmental negotiations for the review process of the ECOSOC and HLPF

**Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid** (video message)

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PANEL** (10:15-10:45 CET)**Mr. Vladislav Smrž**

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic

**Ms. Mia Crawford**

Coordinator 2030 Agenda, Deputy Director Global Agenda, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

**Mr. Anton Czvetov**

Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects,  
Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation

**Mr. Peter Erik Danielsson**

Mayor of Helsingborg, Sweden  
Report from the pre-meeting “Local Governments: The role of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews”

**Ms. Nelya Rakhimova**

Open School of Sustainable Development, Openshkola (Civil Society representative)

**PLENARY DEBATE** (10:45-11:40 CET)

**CLOSING** (11:40-12:00 CET)

**Ms. Tatiana Valovaya**

Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General

**Mr. Francisco André**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal

**Mr. László Borbély**

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania

## Peer learning round tables

10-16 March 2021, Virtual sessions

### Cluster 1: PEOPLE



### Strengthening health, food and social protection systems towards COVID-19 recovery and resilience

**Session 1-1**

10 March 2021, 14:00-16:00 CET

The impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development: strengthening health system and social protection [Read More](#)

**Session 1-2**

10 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Accelerating SDG progress in the time of a pandemic: improving food systems to make healthy diets accessible to all [Read More](#)

**Session 1-3**

16 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Road safety - Changing gear [Read More](#)

### Cluster 2: PROSPERITY



### Building back innovative, inclusive and sustainable economies and providing decent and productive jobs for all

**Session 2-1**

11 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Recovering from COVID-19 through a sustainable and human-centred approach to the future of work [Read More](#)

**Session 2-2**

12 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Young people and COVID-19: Impact and Solutions [Read More](#)

**Session 2-3**

11 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Transforming Tourism for a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive post COVID-19 world

[Read More](#)

### Cluster 3: PLANET



#### Pathways to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery for climate and the environment

##### Session 3-1

16 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Partnerships for a sustainable recovery: Initiatives to accelerate the achievement of the environment and climate goals of the 2030 Agenda [Read More](#)

##### Session 3-2

15 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Making sustainable production and consumption work for the circular economy of tomorrow [Read More](#)

##### Session 3-3

15 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET

Building back better through Climate-Resilient Recovery [Read More](#)

##### Session 3-4

15 March 2021, 15:00-17:00 CET

Snapshot on Boreal forests' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals [Read More](#)

### CROSS-CUTTING SESSIONS



##### Session 4-1

12 March 2021, 15:00-17:00 CET

SDGs and COVID-19 – how can data and statistics help building back better? [Read More](#)

##### Session 4-2

15 March 2021, 10:00-12:30 CET

Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the Wake of COVID-19 [Read More](#)

## Contact

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The Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the UN Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia.