

## **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region**

### **Closing Remarks by**

**Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary**

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

We come now to the end of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have. And that you have been able to benefit from many of the multiple spaces for discussion that have been offered.

It is now the time to say thank you to all of you for your participation and varied contributions.

Thank you to our co-chairs, for leading us so ably through yesterday's and today's plenary sessions.

The Forum is an eloquent expression of the ongoing cooperation among the entities of the UN regional system. I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to all their staff who have contributed to the preparation of the Forum.

Thanks to the generous support of the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, we have been able to provide additional language interpretation, strong platforms for virtual meetings and improved communication. Our colleagues at ILO and ITU have also contributed to meet the interpretation and platform needs of the Forum. For the first time, we have also been able to offer sign language interpretation. All these have been critical contributions to increase the reach and accessibility of the Forum, for which we are deeply grateful.

And thanks also to the interpreters and technical staff that have been working with us relentlessly.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to say thank you to my staff at UNECE who, once more, have pulled out a fantastic event. Please allow me to be proud for a moment.

You will shortly disconnect from this virtual meeting – but we want to remain connected to you through the year and continue to hear your proposals and ideas.

I look forward to seeing you again in a year from now – hopefully welcoming many of you in person in Geneva.