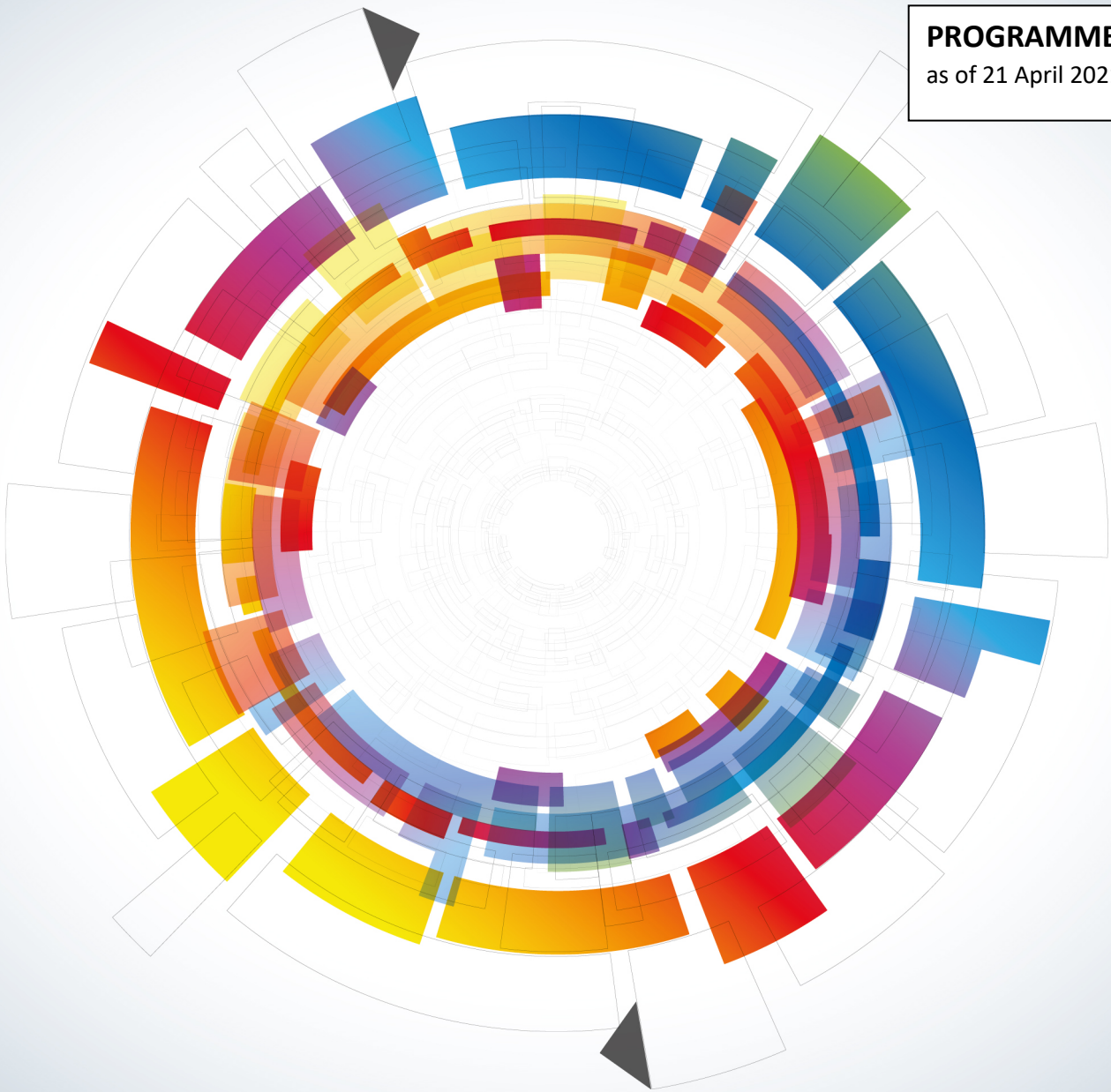


**PROGRAMME**  
as of 21 April 2021



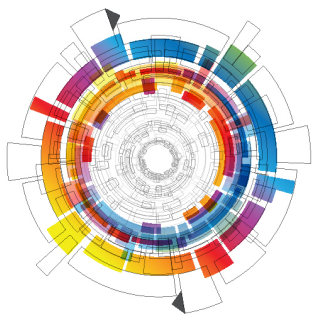
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# 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

## PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE UNECE REGION

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20 APRIL 2021 | VIRTUAL/ROOM XVII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

(Remote participation is encouraged due to the current health situation)

10:00 – 10:20

### Agenda item 1: **Opening and adoption of the agenda**

**H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich**, Chair of the Commission

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

**Ms. Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, UNOG

### **HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT:**

**Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe**

10:20 – 10:50

### Agenda Item 2: **High-level dialogue**

Keynote addresses

**Mr. Frans Timmermans**, Executive Vice-President, European Commission

**Ms. Odile Renaud-Basso**, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Mr. Dominic Waughray**, Managing Director for International Global Goods, World Economic Forum

10:50 – 13:00

### Interventions by Heads of delegation

*(Kindly observe time limit of 3 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of views.)*

### World Circular Economy Forum + Climate Forum 2021: a readout

**H.E. Ms. Stientje van Veldhoven**, Minister for the Environment (The Netherlands) and host of the WCEF + Climate Forum

### Presentation by the Executive Secretary

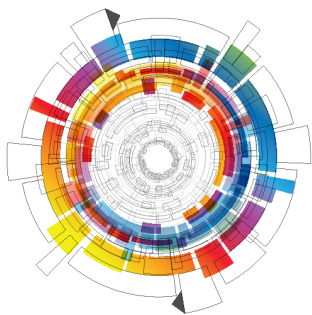
13:00 – 15:00

*Lunch break*

15:00 – 18:00

### Agenda item 3: **Roundtables: Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources**

The roundtable session will be dedicated to the topic “Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources.” Discussions will focus on practical solutions to challenges in shifting to circular approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources, how these solutions could be



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scaled and how existing gaps that prevent further progress be addressed, including through strengthened international cooperation. The discussions will be informed by the context created by the COVID-19 crisis, including new needs, constraints and emerging opportunities to “build back better”. The role of ECE activities and instruments in this transformation will also be considered.

*(Each roundtable will be followed by a Q&A session. Kindly observe time limit of 2 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of views.)*

15:00 – 16:45

### Roundtable 1 - Circular Energy, Mobility and Digital Transformation: Towards Cradle -to-Cradle Models.

A series of green transformations, energy, e-mobility, and digital transformations are reshaping society. While energy is aspiring to be low or negative carbon, e-mobility is taking over at all scales – city and long-distance transport. Technology is at the core of the fourth industrial revolution, which is embracing all aspects of life and work. This transformation has a significant bearing on how natural resources are used, moving away from the past linear models to new sustainable, service-focused and circular economy business models. This roundtable will explore how new policies and industry best practices can leverage synergies between energy and natural resources, mobility and technology sectors.

**Moderator:** Mr. Julian Hilton, Chair, UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management, Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group

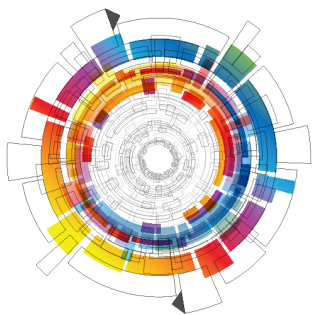
#### Participants

- Mr. Denis Deryushkin, Deputy Head, Federal State Budgetary Institution “Russian Energy Agency”, Ministry of Energy (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Peter Handley, Head of Unit, Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials, Directorate-General for the Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (European Commission)
- Ms. Sarah Forbes, Division of Minerals Sustainability, Department of Energy (United States of America)
- Mr. Christoph Wolff, Head of Shaping the Future of Mobility, World Economic Forum
- Mr. Thomas Deloison, Director, Mobility, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
- Mr. John Batten, Global Cities Director, Arcadis

16:45 – 18:00

### Roundtable 2 - Supply Chain Traceability and Sustainability

The production of traded goods from raw materials to final goods often requires collaborations among various industries and companies across the world. This makes supply chains complex and difficult to manage. Improved supply chain traceability can drive progress towards circularity and greater sustainability; trade can play a role by providing the scale and global reach required for an efficient circular economy and can help distribute more widely the benefits arising from such solutions. This roundtable will provide an opportunity for experience-sharing on traceability across various sectors.



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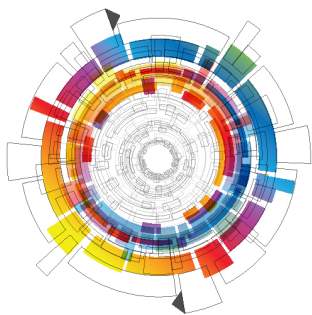
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**Moderator:** Mr. Joss Blériot, Executive Lead, Institutions & Governments, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

### Participants

- **Textiles:** Ms. Maylis Souque, Secretary General of the French OECD NCP for Responsible Business Conduct (NCP for RBC), Senior Advisor on Corporate Social Responsibility and RBC, Directorate General of the Treasury, Ministry for Economy, Finance and Recovery, (France)
- **Forestry products:** Mr. Greg Rampley, Chief, Bioproducts and Supply Chain Economics, Natural Resources Canada (Canada)
- **Waste:** Mr. Gernot Lorenz, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Austria)
- **Agri-food** Mr. Bartosz Zambrzycki, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- **Services** Ms. Alice Tipping, Lead, Sustainable Trade and Fisheries Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD
- Ms. Elisa Tonda, Head, Consumption and Production Unit, Economy Division, UNEP



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10:00 – 11:30

### HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (continued)

#### Agenda item 3 (continued) **Roundtable 3: Business perspectives**

While governments shape policy in the pursuit of circularity, businesses are main drivers of economic growth and thus a core stakeholder in a circular economy transition. They are well-placed to develop innovative sustainable systems that will make a real difference in the journey towards circularity. There are opportunities to create value, resulting, for example, from by-products of recovered waste or resource-efficient design, which can open up new markets and sales. Additional sources of revenue can be tapped by offering new operation services i.e. repairs, refurbishing, remanufacturing, reselling and sharing. However, there are also challenges to overcome. This roundtable explores what it takes to unlock the potential of business towards a circular economy and the more sustainable use of natural resources.

**Moderator:** Mr. Jyrki Katainen, President, Finnish Innovation Fund, SITRA

Mr. John W. H. Denton AO, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce

#### Participants

- Ms. Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, Deputy-Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany)
- Mr. Pär Larshans, Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Ragn-Sells
- Ms. Ardita Seknaj, Secretary General, ICC Albania
- Mr. László Borbély, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister (Romania)
- Mr. Stephan Sicars, Managing Director, Environment and Energy Directorate, UNIDO
- Ms. Natalia Stapan, Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development (Russian Federation)
- Ms. Shakhlo Turdikulova, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Innovative Development (Uzbekistan)

11:30 – 11:45

Agenda item 4: **Consideration of the high-level statement**

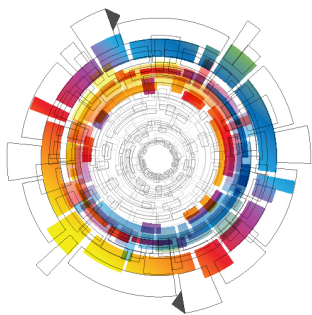
### GENERAL SEGMENT

Agenda item 5: **Report on activities on the high-level theme of the sixty-eighth session; “Smart Sustainable Cities: Drivers for Sustainable Development” and update on the work in the nexus areas**

11:45 – 12:00

**Introductory presentation** by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1498)

The secretariat will brief on the work done since April 2019 on the cross-cutting theme of the previous Commission session, highlighting in particular related cross-sectoral collaboration among ECE subprogrammes.



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12:00 – 12:30

### Circular Cities: Local action towards a circular economy

The sixty-eighth Commission session discussed how cities could become smarter and more sustainable. Since then, cities had to face not only environmental and social challenges, but also address the health emergencies and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A growing consciousness of the importance of planning with nature stemmed from the 'recovering better' approach at the local level. The need for urban systems to become more circular, avoid waste of resources, recycle and share services is becoming a priority in many agendas of small as well as larger cities. As 'smart' means 'circular' as well, this panel will connect the discussions held at the previous Commission session to the theme of this session. After a short video on how UNECE is addressing circularity at the city level, the session will hear from the cities of Grodno, Belarus; Lisbon, Portugal; and Athens, Greece; will discuss different aspects of circularity they are promoting and working on (e.g. water recycling, solid waste recovery, use of renewable energy, local and urban food).

#### Participants:

- Mr. Mechislav Goi, Mayor of City of Grodno (Belarus)
- Mrs. Eleni Myrivili, Senior Advisor to the City of Athens (Greece), Chief Resilience Officer, and Former Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Victor Vieira, Director of Lisbon City Urban Environmental Department, City of Lisbon (Portugal)

12.30 – 13:00

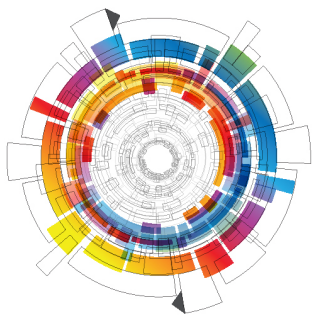
### The work of the UNECE Nexus Teams

In the high-level statement adopted at the sixty-eighth session, member States *inter alia* decided that "ECE will leverage its in-house expertise to achieve a greater impact on sustainable development in the region. Working across the eight subprograms, cross-sectoral teams will engage in areas where multiple SDGs converge (nexus areas): (a) sustainable and smart cities; (b) sustainable use of natural resources; (c) sustainable mobility, and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. This nexus approach will enable the development of integrated solutions to clusters of interrelated SDGs and deepen partnerships, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). In line with the four nexus areas, ECE will expand and strengthen its network of knowledge partnerships with a wide range of actors, including with other organizations in the United Nations system." The secretariat will provide an update on the work in the nexus areas.

#### Introduction: Executive Secretary, UNECE

- Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy (Ukraine)
- Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of Division Active Mobility and Mobility Management, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Austria)
- Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Head, Trade Logistics Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Q&A, exchange of views.



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13:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

*(For each agenda item in the afternoon segment,  
kindly observe time limit of 2 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of view.)*

15:00 – 15:20

Agenda Item 6: **Report on activities of the Executive Committee**

15.20 – 15.40

Agenda Item 7: **Other issues calling for decision by the Commission**

15.40 – 15.55

Agenda Item 8: **Election of officers**

15:55 – 16:00

Agenda Item 9: **Other business**

*The meeting will be suspended to allow for review of the draft report of the sixty-ninth session.*

17:00 – 18:00

**Adoption of the report of the session**

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