

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Remarks by

Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary

during the Interaction with the Deputy Secretary-General, 15:30-16:00

Plenary session, 17 March 2021

Dear Deputy Secretary-General,

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome the Deputy Secretary-General to the plenary of the Regional Forum. The DSG has always been a strong supporter of the Regional Forums. During her term, she has been leading the reform of the UN Development System with a view to ensuring that the UN at all levels provides support that responds to the needs and priorities of countries.

As a result of the reform, we can see clearly that the interlinkages between regional and country levels have been strengthened. Collaboration at the country level is centered around the enhanced Resident Coordinator system, the UN Country Teams, and a new generation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). We are pleased that a number of Resident Coordinators as well as our colleagues from the regional Development Coordination Office (DCO) are connected for this segment.

At the regional level, the newly-established Regional Collaborative Platform is generating synergies and fostering collaboration between over 30 UN entities in the region. UN cooperation in this region has been very advanced for a number of years, which has helped us to transition smoothly to the new architecture. As a case in point, many of our UN partners are co-organizing parts of this Regional Forum, often via our regional Issue-based Coalitions, as you have seen over the past days.

Since the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the start of the reform of the UN Development System, UNECE has been undertaking continuous efforts to enhance collaboration with the Resident Coordinator system and the UN Country Teams. It has been our goal to offer integrated policy solutions and comprehensive technical cooperation to support progress towards the SDGs. At

UNECE, our Regional Advisers play an important role to link operational activities in the programme countries of the region with UNECE's normative work.

We look forward to hearing your views, experiences and expectations regarding UN support and the reform of the UN Development System in this segment.

Thank you.