

ECTD's Contributions to UNECE's Convening Function: International PPP Forum and Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)

5th International PPP Forum: "Building Back Better through People-first Public Private Partnerships"

UNECE's 5th International Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Forum, with more than 300 registered participants. The Forum took place in hybrid mode from 22 April – 26 April 2021, and focused on the theme "[Building Back Better.](#)" The Forum's international debate is helping to raise the profile of the people-first approach to PPPs among key stakeholders and to mainstream the Building Back Better objective into PPP-related policy making. The Forum also provided a platform for local authorities to identify priority projects in infrastructure and PPPs that can build community resilience. Finally, participants to the Forum selected the ultimate winner of the UNECE Building Back Better infrastructure award, choosing from the top 5 of 66 submitted projects. A total of 881 electronic votes were cast. The winner is Brazil, Piauí State, for its fruit and vegetable market project. The joint runners up are Spain, Tenerife light railway project, and the Philippines, regional development programme in Caraga. [Videos of the projects are available online.](#) The competition helped to test and obtain feedback on UNECE's draft [People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)

UNECE's 2021 Regional Forum on "[Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region](#)" was held during 9 days with rich and stimulating discussions focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 across 12 peer learning roundtables, over 20 side events and 7 Voluntary National Reviews. The results were presented at the Global High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 5-16 July this year.

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

[Regional Forum on Sustainable Development >](#)

10 March (10:00) - 18 March (12:00) 2021

Virtual meeting, Geneva, Switzerland



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

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[Information for delegates](#)



ECTD contributed by co-organizing six webinars in partnership with several international organizations and member States. Please find below further information on substance and the links to the recordings.

1. Peer learning round table – Cluster 1 – People

Session 1-2: Accelerating SDG progress in the time of a pandemic: improving food systems to make healthy diets accessible to all

Video [English](#) [Russian](#)

Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Lead Organizers: UN Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems (FAO, IFAD WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNECE, UNDP, WMO) | **Contributors:** UNEP, ITU

Short Description: Promoting healthy diets is key for preserving human health and preventing diseases. Unhealthy diets can lead to conditions such as obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that are leading causes of illness and death in the UNECE region. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that people affected by pre-existing medical conditions (including NCDs) have an increased mortality risk. Among other topics, this round table

will discuss policies that governments can put in place to ensure that all people have access healthy diets. Learn more [here](#).

2. Peer learning round table – Cluster 2 – Prosperity

Session 2-1: Recovering from COVID-19: a sustainable and human-centred approach to the future of work

Video [English](#)

Date: Thursday, 11 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Lead Organizers: UNECE/ECTD, ILO | **Contributors:** FAO, UN Women, IOM

Short Description: Efforts to deal with and contain the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted economies, including labour markets and trade patterns in the UNECE region. At this peer learning session, policymakers will exchange experiences on how they are advancing towards SDG 8, bearing on the challenges of recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and what measures they envisage to build innovative, sustainable and inclusive economies based on a human-centred approach to the future of work. Learn more [here](#).

3. Peer learning round table – Cluster 3 – Planet

Session 3-2: Making sustainable production and consumption work for the circular economy of tomorrow

Video [English](#) [Russian](#)

Date: Monday, 15 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Lead Organizers: UNECE/ECTD, UNEP | **Contributor:** UN Women

Short Description: The world continues to use natural resources unsustainably. More than ever, there is a need to enhance resource efficiency and embrace practices to reduce. The pandemic offers an opportunity to reverse current unsustainable trends and build a better future. This session will highlight effective policy measures to create incentives for behavioural change, to strengthen regulations and standards, and to redirect financial flows towards sustainable production and consumption. Learn more [here](#).

4. Cross-cutting session

Session 4-2: Digital transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the wake of COVID-19

Video [English](#)

Date: Monday, 15 March 2021, 10:00-12:30 (CET)

Lead Organizers: ITU, UNECE/ECTD | **Contributors:** CITES, FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WIPO, WMO, WHO

Short Description: As an immediate response to COVID-19, there is an urgent need for accelerating digital transformation across different sectors. This session will highlight a series of actions, initiatives and partnerships that advance digitalization in capacity building and skills development in different sectors and the importance of equal access to ICTs. Learn more [here](#).

5. Side event

Title: COVID-19 impact on trade, innovation and sustainable development in ECE member States with economies in transition

Video [English](#) [Russian](#)

Date: Friday, 12 March 2021, 9:00-10:30 (CET)

Lead Organizers: UNECE/ECTD, Geneva Trade Platform

Short Description: Innovation and trade are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Both have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in transition economies. Join this side event for a discussion on how to harness the power of innovation and trade for building more productive, sustainable and resilient economies post-COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

6. Side event

Title: Building back better: unlocking the potential of advanced technologies for circular and sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector

Video [English](#)

Date: Tuesday, 16 March 2021, 12:15-13:45 (CET)

Lead Organizers: UNECE/ECTD, ITC | **Contributors:** UNEP, European Commission

Short Description: Join industry insiders, campaigners and policy specialists for a discussion about the role that advanced technologies can play to advance sustainability and circularity in a critical sector for the green transition: the garment and footwear industry. Learn more [here](#).