



## UNECE Youth Dialogue: Shaping the Future of the Region

Tuesday, 20 December 2022, 10:00-15:45 (CET)

Convened via the Zoom platform

10:00 – 10:05	<p><b>Introduction and icebreaker</b>  <b>Moderator: Mr. Simon Herteleer, Coordinator, UNECE Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Youth Platform</b></p>
10:05 - 10:10	<p><b>Welcome</b>  <b>Ms. Olga Algayerova, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNECE</b></p>
10:10 - 10:20	<p><b>Opening remarks</b>  <b>Ms. Dunola Oladapo, Generation Connect, International Telecommunication Union</b></p>
10:20– 10:30	<p><b>Introducing parallel breakout sessions: Addressing the challenges and opportunities for the UNECE region in the years ahead</b>  <b>Moderator: Mr. Simon Herteleer, Coordinator, UNECE ESD Youth Platform</b></p>
10:30 – 11:40	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Round of Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Breakout Session 1A: The future of environment</b>  <b>Facilitator: Ms. Ecem Öcüsler, UNICEF Youth Climate Envoy</b>            In this session, young people will participate in an interactive foresight activity. Foresight is the capacity to anticipate and plan for possible futures critically and creatively. Young people will develop their preferred visions for an environmental and ecological future and then work back through the steps required to get there. In doing so, they will propose the ways in which policymakers can bridge the gap between our current reality and the future they would like to live in.</p> <p><b>Breakout Session 1B: The future of mobility and road safety in the region</b>  <b>Facilitator: Ms. Oliva Nalwadda, Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety</b>            Transport ensures freedom, development and growth for individuals, businesses, and governments. Addressing the issues of road safety and access, advancement (Intelligent Transport), and environmental impact (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), is complex. However, they are key concerns that need to be in focus to achieve a sustainable future. The sessions 1B and 2B explore these issues in depth.</p> <p><b>Breakout Session 1C: The future of cities</b>  <b>Facilitator: Ms. Anya Magotra, Forest, Land and Housing Division, UNECE</b>            Today's youth have tremendous potential to work together with cities and local governments to develop more effective and efficient policies. There are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24 globally. However, many are unable to participate fully in society as they are often left behind - economically, socially, spatially, and/or politically. This session gives young people the opportunity to brainstorm what qualities or features make a city attractive to them.</p> <p><b>Breakout Session 1D: The future of the economy: Zooming into Fashion - Cushioning our Future: Can fashion be sustainable?</b></p>

**Facilitator: Ms. Francesca Romana Rinaldi, Bocconi University (author of Fashion Industry 2030: Reshaping the Future Through Sustainability and Responsible Innovation)**

Did you know that 10% of the world's total carbon footprint comes from the apparel industry? As youth around the world are drastically shaping new sets of consumer behaviors and new economic landscapes, we question how, if at all, the apparel industry can sustainably be a part of such a revolution.

#### **Breakout Session 1E: The future of digitalization and data**

**Facilitators: Ms. Tiffany Sprague, STEM4ALL Platform Coordinator, UNDP and Ms. Haley Powers, Gender Programme Officer, UNICEF**

While digitalization plays an important role in transforming society and accelerating sustainable development, it can be a catalyst for an increase in inequality and exclusion if disadvantaged groups do not have capabilities to harness the benefits that technologies offer. This discussion aims to explore ways to promote inclusive development of digitalization, while accounting for the needs of different groups to ensure that no one is left behind.

#### **Breakout Session 1F: The future of energy**

**Facilitator: Mr. Walker Darke, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE**

Current national actions and international climate targets fall short of delivering carbon neutrality and limiting global warming to 1.5–2°C. While the energy sector is the greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, we believe [carbon neutrality is still achievable](#). In this session youth will discuss what a future energy system should look like, and contemplate ideas for innovative low and zero-carbon solutions for reducing carbon emissions.

**11:40 – 12:00 Summary presentations of breakout sessions**

***Presented by rapporteurs of each breakout group***

**12:00 – 13:15 Lunch break**

**13:15 – 13:20 Welcome back and icebreaker**

***Moderator: Mr. Simon Herteleer, Coordinator, UNECE ESD Youth Platform***

**13:20 – 14:30 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Breakout Sessions**

#### **Breakout Session 2A: The future of environment**

**Facilitator: Ms. Ecem Öcüsler, UNICEF Youth Climate Envoy**

In this session, young people will participate in an interactive foresight activity. Foresight is the capacity to anticipate and plan for possible futures critically and creatively. Young people will develop their preferred visions for an environmental and ecological future and then work back through the steps required to get there. In doing so, they will propose the ways in which policymakers can bridge the gap between our current reality and the future they would like to live in.

#### **Breakout Session 2B: The future of mobility and road safety in the region**

**Facilitator: Ms. Judith Schübl and Ms. Katja Ruzsicska, Austrian Energy agency**

Transport ensures freedom, development and growth for individuals, businesses, and governments. Addressing the issues of road safety and access, advancement (Intelligent Transport), and environmental impact (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), is complex. However, they are key concerns that need to be in focus to achieve a sustainable future. The sessions 1B and 2B explore these issues in depth.

#### **Breakout Session 2C: The future of cities**

**Facilitators: Zeljko Mitkovski, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Serbia and Maria Pihura, Ukraine**

Building on the primary discussion on what young people want their cities to look like, this session gives participants the opportunity to explore how they can contribute to and shape cities, as well as possible avenues and mechanisms to increase youth participation in planning and management of cities.

**Breakout Session 2D: The future of the economy: Zooming into Innovation - Generation Innovation: Youth as transformative agents**

**Facilitator: Ms. Nadine Hakizimana, Youth Engagement Facilitator, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

In the polycrises that the UNECE region and the world is facing, innovation and technology possess transformative power to shaping a future catering to the future generation. This session will discuss what innovation means for youth and how we can ensure that transformative innovation can tackle critical challenges of the future.

**Breakout Session 2E: The future of digitalization and data**

**Facilitators: Ms. Tiffany Sprague, STEM4ALL Platform Coordinator, UNDP and Ms. Haley Powers, Gender Programme Officer, UNICEF**

Data is the new oil of the digital economy. During our daily life, we generate data when we interact with others through social media, when we buy things online, when we use our phone, etc. Given the rapid boom of data, this session will look at ways of collecting data accurately and effectively, as well as addressing the challenges of using it wisely and responsibly to inform decision making.

**Breakout Session 2F: The future of energy**

**Facilitators: Mr. Ghadi Sabra, Economic Affairs Consultant, UNECE, and Ms. Jodi-Ann Wang, Canada G20 Youth Delegate 2022 and Senior Climate Policy Analyst, UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment**

A just and equitable energy transition relies on scaling-up renewable energy and low-carbon alternatives. Solar panels, electric cars and batteries need increased amounts of critical raw materials (CRMs) like lithium, nickel, copper, cobalt, manganese, graphite, and rare earth elements. This session aims to explore how we can create resources while keeping in line with the SDGs.

**14:30 – 14:50 Summary presentations of breakout sessions**

***Presented by rapporteurs of each breakout group***

**14:50 – 15:30 Reflections on the day and Q&A: A short dialogue with the rapporteurs, followed by Q&A from the participants**

***Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE and rapporteurs of the breakout groups***

**15:30 – 15:35 Next steps: Youth engagement from a UN-wide perspective**

***Ms. İdil Üner, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth***

**15:35-15:45 Closing session**

**Piano recital**

***Ms. Jannat Khuseinzoda, Tajikistan***

**Closing remarks**

***Ms. Olga Algayerova, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNECE***