Draft Programme, 23 March 2023

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

8:30 – 9:45 Virtual Side Events

10:00 – 13:00 OPENING AND HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

Ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE Region in times of multiple crises

Opening (10:00 - 10:30)

Mr. Miloš Prica  
Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Ambassador and Chair of the Council on the Implementation of SDGs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Markus Reubi  
Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Ambassador and Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed (Video Message)  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Video Message)  
President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York

Ms. Olga Algayerova  
UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Ms. Ivana Živkovic  
Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS  
Co-Vice-Chair of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Europe and Central Asia

High-level policy segment (10:30 - 13:00)

The 2023 Regional Forum will take place against the background of multiple crises. The High-level Policy Segment will take stock of the current status and shortcomings of SDG progress in the region. It will be informed by the UNECE Annual SDG Progress Report to be launched in early March 2023. A snapshot of SDG progress in the region will be provided at the beginning of the High-level Policy Segment to set the scene for the discussions. Thereafter, high-level government representatives will have an opportunity to share policy actions that have been taken domestically to preserve SDG progress and regain lost ground. Delegations may wish to particularly highlight measures of crisis response and how these can be effectively aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The High-level Policy Segment will also include reporting back from the preparatory civil society and youth consultations.
Snapshot of SDG Progress in the UNECE Region

Ms. Lidia Bratanova
Director of the UNECE Statistical Division

Mr. Andres Vikat
UNECE Statistical Division, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section

Interventions from the floor and discussion

Guiding Questions:

1. What is the status of SDG progress in your country and how have the multiple crises affected SDG implementation?
2. What crisis response actions did you take that aligned with the 2030 Agenda?
3. What were the main challenges you had to face in responding to crises while trying to preserve SDG progress?

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch

Virtual Side Events

15:00 – 18:00 PEER LEARNING ROUND TABLES

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<td>Affordable and clean energy</td>
<td>Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure &amp; Partnerships for the goals</td>
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<td>Room XVII</td>
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Accelerating the energy transition and enhancing energy system resiliency through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy

Cities leading the transformation: SDGs in action and the new multilateralism

Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable digital development

18:30 – 21:00 RECEPTION

For all participants jointly offered by the Swiss Confederation, the Canton and City of Geneva, Restaurant Vieux Bois
At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the region is facing setbacks towards achieving the SDGs. Greater scale and momentum is needed to accelerate the full implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years until 2030. The second plenary session of the Regional Forum will therefore look ahead and identify the stakeholders and actions that will help drive progress. The discussion will take into account action areas and key messages from the peer learning round tables, which will be introduced at the outset by the Chair of the session.

The panel will attempt to highlight priority areas and explore innovative ideas for transformative action to achieve the SDGs in the region. The panel will comprise a member of the Independent Group of Scientists for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and representatives from civil society/youth, the private sector and member States from different parts of the region – many of which are presenting Voluntary National Reviews in 2023.

Transformative action areas highlighted in the 2023 GSDR may inform the plenary debate following the panel discussion. In addition to forward-looking policy actions, member States and other stakeholders are particularly encouraged to share and announce high-impact initiatives that help preserve and accelerate SDG
progress. The outcome of this session will provide a contribution from the region to the second SDG Summit under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in September 2023.

Opening (with reporting back from round tables by Co-Chairs)

Mr. Li Junhua (Recorded Statement)
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA

Multi-stakeholder Panel

Dr. Åsa Persson
Research Director and Deputy Director at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Member of the Independent Group of Scientists for the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

Mr. László Borbély
State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania

Mr. Dušan Čarkić,
Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia

Mr. Patrick Odier
President of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF)
Chairman of the Board of Directors at Bank Lombard Odier & Co. Ltd.

Panellists from civil society/youth to be confirmed

Interventions from the floor and discussion

Guiding Themes:

- Financing the push to achieve Agenda 2030
- Examples of High Impact Initiatives to accelerate SDG progress
- Priority Areas for transformative action

Closing (17:45 - 18:00)

Ms. Olga Algayerova
UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Miloš Prica
Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Ambassador and Chair of the Council on the Implementation of SDGs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Markus Reubi
Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
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Registration

Registration to participate in the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region is open under the following link.

Format of the sessions

The Regional Forum will take place as a hybrid meeting. However, we encourage in-person participation as much as possible. Side Events will take place in the period 27 – 30 March 2023 as virtual sessions, please find the timetable here.

Join the conversation on social media at #RFSD2023

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Website of the 2023 Regional Forum: https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2023
e-mail: regionalforumunece@un.org
The Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the UN Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia