



# “The city of the future is a green city: why we need trees in our cities for the SDGs”

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region 2023

Thursday, 30 March 2023  
8h00 to 9h45 CET

Location: H Building Amphitheatre (H-200), Palais de Nations, Geneva; and via Teams

Organizer: UNECE

## Background and Rationale

Urban forests are a proven, cost-effective solution to develop greener, healthier, and more resilient cities and deliver the SDGs and climate action. Vibrant communities are rooted in trees that promote health benefits for all city dwellers and help mitigate the effects of a changing climate, keeping cities livable and safe on the way to reaching SDG 11.

These benefits can be maximized by increasing urban forest cover access for all through inclusive planning, enabling civil society engagement for integrative, customized local solutions. Green neighborhoods foster economic development, making an investment in trees a prerequisite for harvesting multi-level benefits.

To optimize the provision of urban ecosystem services, stakeholders on local and national, public and private level need to collaborate on sustainable stewardship of urban greening strategies, to future-proof our cities and contribute to achieving global goals.

## Session Objectives & Expected Outcomes

In this context, the Side Event will explore:

1. How urban trees help to foster vibrant communities
2. How planning ensures the benefits of urban trees to be inclusive and sustainable
3. How local implementation links into national and global goals

## Registration

Please register for this event here: <https://forms.office.com/e/96BkJFcW1h>



## Draft Agenda (ENG)

30 March 2023

8h00

### Breakfast

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8h30

### Opening Segment

#### Opening Remarks

Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

#### Keynote Address: The City of the Future is a Biodiversity Metropolis

Mr. Stefano Boeri, Stefano Boeri Architetti

#### "Why Trees?"

Video Premiere, UNECE

8h50

### Panel Discussion

#### Moderator's welcome

Ms. Stefania Romano, ICLEI

#### What we harvest: the benefits of investing in trees for all neighborhoods

Ms. Ana Luisa Soares, University of Lisbon

#### Setting our cities up for an inclusive green future

Mr. Thomas Randrup, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

#### Mobilizing city action for local and national goals

Mr. Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov, City of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

#### Moderated Discussion (15 minutes)

9h40

### Closing

#### Moderator

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