

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

Draft Programme, 21 March 2023

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

8:30 – 9:45 **Virtual Side Events**

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

*Palais des Nations,
Room XIX*

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.

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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**

<p>SDG 7</p>  <p><i>Room XVII</i></p> <p>Affordable and clean energy</p> <p><i>Accelerating the energy transition and enhancing energy system resiliency through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy</i></p>	<p>SDG 11</p>  <p><i>Room XIX</i></p> <p>Sustainable cities and communities</p> <p><i>Cities leading the transformation: SDGs in action and the new multilateralism</i></p>	<p>SDGs 9 and 17</p>   <p><i>WMO Building, Press Room</i></p> <p>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure & Partnerships for the goals</p> <p><i>Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable digital development</i></p>
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18:30 – 21:00 **RECEPTION**

For all participants jointly offered by the Swiss Confederation, the Canton and City of Geneva,

Restaurant [Vieux Bois](#)

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Thursday, 30 March 2023

8:30 – 9:45 **Virtual Side Events**

10:00 – 13:00 **PEER LEARNING ROUND TABLES**

SDG 9  <i>Room XVII</i> Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure <i>Green and resilient infrastructure and transformative innovation</i>	SDG 6  <i>Room XIX</i> Clean Water and Sanitation <i>Water and Sanitation for all</i>
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13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch**

Virtual Side Events

15:00 – 18:00 **PLENARY SESSION AND CLOSING**

*Palais des Nations,
Room XIX*

Plenary session (15:00 - 17:45)

Halfway towards 2030 – accelerating transformations to achieving the SDGs in the ECE region

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

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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

Serbia (tbc)

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

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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

Sustainable Development Unit

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

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