

**Draft Agenda:**  
**UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Armenia**  
**High-level Launch Event, 7 June 2023**

### Context

Since gaining independence in 1991, Armenia has made noteworthy progress towards achieving innovation-led, sustainable development. Despite the challenges posed by regional and geopolitical instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia retains a competitive information and communication technology (ICT) sector and a thriving entrepreneurship scene. Pockets of innovation excellence in ICT are complemented by well-developed tourism, mining, food processing and agriculture sectors.

Despite these successes, Armenia still faces challenges to sustain economic growth and social development. Innovation, or systematic experimentation with new ideas, processes, and products, can be the catalyst in solving these challenges and bolster Armenia's sustainable development. Improvements in innovation policy through intergovernmental coordination, greater use of evidence and evaluation in policymaking, involvement of the diaspora and reevaluation of the current innovation infrastructure mechanisms are necessary to foster innovation.

The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Armenia (I4SDR), a UNECE flagship initiative, aims to address these constraints and support Armenia on its journey of economic development. The I4SDR assesses innovation policy governance, institutions, processes, and mechanisms providing concrete policy recommendations for innovation-led, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Funded by the Government of Sweden, the I4SDR research process involved hundreds of innovation stakeholders and will feed into reform efforts and strategies of the Government of Armenia and forthcoming capacity-building programmes.

### Objective

The high-level launch event for the I4SDR of Armenia will bring together three ministerial-level government representatives, the Ambassador of Sweden, the Executive Secretary of UNECE, the Interim UN Resident Coordinator, as well as other high-level speakers and dozens of national and international innovation stakeholders for a presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the report, as well as a policy discussion and a networking lunch.

### Date, Time, and Venue

**Date:** Wednesday, 7 June, 2023

**Time:** Registration and welcome coffee at 9:00, Meeting time: 9:30 – 13:30

**Venue\*:** Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan, Tigran Mets Ballroom - 1 Amiryan St, Yerevan 0010, Armenia

*\*The venue provides wheelchair access; please contact the UNECE team for further information on accessibility arrangements.*





## Provisional Agenda

Venue: Tigran Mets Ballroom at the Marriott Hotel

9:00-9:30	<p><b>Registrations And Coffee</b> Attendees are advised to arrive earlier to register and enjoy coffee, cold beverages, and a selection of light refreshments provided by the Marriott Hotel.</p>
9:30-10:15	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> The event will commence with opening remarks delivered by high-level representatives of the government ministries, agencies, and international organisation that have supported the I4SDR review process.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Jakob Fexer, Officer-in-Charge, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Olga Algayerova</b>, UN Under-Secretary-General, UNECE Executive Secretary</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Robert Khachatryan</b>, Minister of High-Tech Industry, Armenia (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Vahan Kerobyan</b>, Minister of Economy, Armenia</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Sargis Hayotsyan</b>, Chairman of the Armenia Science Committee</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Patrik Svensson</b>, Ambassador of Sweden to Armenia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Niels Scott</b>, Interim United Nations Resident Coordinator, Armenia</li> </ul>
10:15-10:45	<p><b>Presentation of the Results of the I4SDR</b> In this session, the UNECE Secretariat will elaborate on the main findings and recommendations of the I4SDR of Armenia.</p>
10:45-11:15	<p><b>Coffee Break</b> Guests will be invited to enjoy a selection of hot beverages and breakfast foods, provided by the Marriott Hotel, during this networking coffee break.</p>
11:15-12:15	<p><b>High-level Roundtable Discussion</b> International and national partners will comment on the findings of the UNECE I4SDR of Armenia and discuss the outlook for the country.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Arevik Anapioosyan, Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Natia Natsvlshvili</b>, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Armenia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ashot Hovanesian</b>, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ilona Terminasyan</b>, Head of Office International Organization for Migration</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ruben Vardanyan</b>, Co-Founder of the FAST Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bagrat Yengibaryan</b>, Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Carolin Geginat</b>, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia</li> </ul>
12:15-12:30	<p><b>Conclusion and Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jakob Fexer</b>, Officer-in-Charge, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE</li> </ul>
12:30-13:30	<p><b>Buffet lunch for meeting participants</b> After the close of the substantive segment of the event, participants are invited to join for networking lunch. The lunch will be provided by the Marriott Hotel and meet member of the UNECE secretariat, experts, and ministry representatives in person.</p>

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