

# Civil society forum

ECE-RCEM.EU

Organised by the ECE Regional Civil society Engagement Mechanism

## *Civil society forum ahead of the Regional Sustainable Development Forum of the UNECE region*

**5 April 2022 at 8:30 - 18:00 CEST**  
**Tempus Room 1, UN Palais de Nations, Geneva**

Translation into Russian and English for online participants  
Organised by the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)

### Register now

1. Attending online via Zoom? Register here (deadline 3 April): <https://forms.gle/evgTjDYf5AovPPFT6>
2. Attending in person? Register here (deadline 4 April 2022): <https://indico.un.org/event/36315/>

### Goals and objectives

3. Engage civil society stakeholders from across the UNECE region in the SDG process
4. Share experience on national/sub-regional VNRs
5. Include Emerging Issues
6. Strengthen Civil Society cooperation
7. Share independent CSO positions
8. Prepare speakers and statements for the official forum
9. Solidarity and movement-building

### Key expected outputs of the event

1. Shared lessons on progress at national level on progress on women's rights by Civil Society
2. Recommendations for the review and implementation of Beijing Platform for Action
3. Agreed statements and positions to be presented to member states at the review session

Leave no one behind!

## ECE-RCEM

Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism – a platform with official status of MGoS aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Economic Commission for Europe are heard in all stages of follow up and review of the SDG implementation.

## Preliminary agenda

<b>8:30-10:00</b>	<b>Registration, Coffee and Networking</b>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Opening</b> - Moderated by Rashima Kwatra (RFSL) and Sylvia Beales (Grey Panthers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary opening</li> <li>• <u>Opening address</u> - Ms Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE</li> <li>• <u>Civil society address</u> - Svitlana Slesarenok, NGO Black Sea Women's Club</li> <li>• Introduction of the agenda</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-11:30</b>	<b>SDG priority themes for HLPF 2022</b> - Moderated by Nelya Rakhimova (Open School of Sustainable Development) Introductions by CSO experts to key issues for the UNECE region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG 4 - Ernestine Ngo Melha, PhD (Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé)</li> <li>• SDG 5 - Valentina Bodrug-Lungu (Gender-Centru)</li> <li>• SDG 14 - Elena Zharkova (the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia)</li> <li>• SDG 15 - Patrizia Heidegger (European Environmental Bureau)</li> <li>• SDG 17 - TBC (Giulia Massobrio, ITUC, alternate)</li> </ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Key messages</b> - Moderated by Nelya Rakhimova & Sascha Gabizon (rapporteur) Drafting key messages for the CSO statement to the official RSDF
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>Discussion with UN Agencies and Member states</b> - Moderated by Marianne Haslegrave (Commonwealth Medical Trust) and Sylvia Beales (rapporteur) Discussion with all participants and invited UN agencies and members states on key issues of the SDG priority themes 2022 and our roadmap to Stockholm+50 and HLPF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruno Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme</li> <li>• Wondwosen Asnake Kibret, Programme Officer, civil society liaison, UN Environment Programme</li> <li>• Paramita Dutta, Research Analyst, UNRISD</li> <li>• Giulia Vallese, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia of UNFPA</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Agencies are requested to include in their comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How they engage with civil society in VNR processes - good practice and challenges</li> <li>● Working with civil society in the European regions' SDG issue-based coalitions - <a href="https://unece.org/issue-based-coalitions-and-groups">https://unece.org/issue-based-coalitions-and-groups</a> - and in furthering the aims of the Secretary General's 'Our Common Agenda' - how, where, who?</li> <li>● Research innovations with civil society and generating and using citizen generated data for SDG policy-making, implementation and reporting</li> <li>● Human rights defence and support of participation and voice of civil society to leave no one behind</li> </ul> <p>Presentations to be followed by interactive discussion with civil society representatives. (20 mins)</p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b> - constituencies will self-organise meetings
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>Voluntary National Reviews</b> - Moderated by Sehnaz Kiymaz Bahceci (Women's Major Group)</p> <p>Analysing the country reports, positions and alternative CSO reports. Short presentations on processes and main challenges from VNR countries</p> <p><u>Segment 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Belarus - Eugeny Lobanov, Ecoidea (Online)</li> <li>● Kazakhstan - Bulat Yessekin, Senior Expert and Team Leader on Water, Environment and Climate Change in Central Asia (Online)</li> <li>● Latvia - Inese Vaivare, Lapas &amp; Natalia Preisa, European law and policies expert, Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) (online)</li> <li>● Montenegro - Biljana Ginova, ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey.</li> <li>● <u>Responding</u>: Henrike Beckmann, Office of the Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Switzerland</li> <li>● Opening up to the floor for comments</li> </ul> <p><u>Segment 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greece - Christina Theochari, Head of Environment and International Relations Department, Athens Labour Unions Organization, GSEE (Online)</li> <li>● Italy: Marco Corsi, Department on Environment and Sustainability, Italian Union of Labour (UIL) (Online)</li> <li>● Netherlands - Sascha Gabizon, Women Engage for a Common Future</li> <li>● <u>Responding</u>: Sandra Pellegrom, SDG Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (TBC)</li> <li>● Opening up to the floor for comments</li> <li>● Other countries: Andorra &amp; Switzerland &amp; Luxembourg</li> </ul>

	<u>Way forward</u> Oli Henman, A4SD
<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	<b>Combining priorities</b> - Moderated by Sehnaz Kiymaz Bahceci and Sascha Gabizon Report and outline common priorities for joint statements to UN member states at RFSD.
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Next steps and closing</b> - Moderated by Valentina Bodrug-Lungu and Anton Martinov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Alia El-Yassir</b>, Regional Director, UN Women’s Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</li> <li>● Appoint drafting group to finalise interventions with speakers during the evening</li> <li>● Invitation to our online side event - <a href="#">register here</a></li> </ul>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>End</b>

Contact person: RCEM secretariat, Hanna Gunnarsson, WECF( [hanna.gunnarsson@wecf.org](mailto:hanna.gunnarsson@wecf.org))

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