

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

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



Peer Learning Round Table

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

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

The round table will take place on 29 March 2023 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will be organized in a hybrid format both in presence at conference room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online, with interpretation into English, French and Russian.

Background

Approximately 75% of emissions originate from cities, whilst by 2050, urban areas are expected to house over two-thirds of the global population. Cities will therefore play a critical role in the push to achieve sustainable development. Cities are also the site of tackling local complex issues such as housing, energy, transportation, waste and water management, disaster risk reduction, air pollution, population aging, urban mobility, urban food systems and many others, while also forging innovative, inclusive, people centered planning models, harnessing local cultural and natural resources. Returning the famous phrase “Think Global, Act Local” to its origin in urban planning, this session will highlight the multiple levels at which cities operate, from urban planning policies and action at the local level driving forward solutions and positive change, to forging strategic international partnerships to increase their relevance and impact in global matters. The session will include senior representatives from governments and municipal bodies across the region who will share experiences on specific urban planning action and projects undertaken to meet the relevant SDG 11 targets, as well as representatives from international strategic partnerships who will speak to this city-based ‘new multilateralism.’

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1-2

For cities: Has your city developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

For countries: Has your country developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

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Question 3

For UN system/NGOs: Has your organization developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

For private sector: Has your company developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve target 11.3 ("to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management")? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

How is your city acting at the international level to implement SDG 11? In particular, which partnerships, alliances and strategic actions are already in place and are effective?

Question 4

How can city governments help revitalise the multilateral system to build a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive future?

Scenario

15:00 - 15:05 **Welcome** (moderator)

15:05 - 15:10 **Introductory remarks by the co-organizers**

- Ms. Paola Deda, UNECE
- Mr. Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat

15:10 - 15:20 **Part 1 – Panel composed of multi-stakeholders, Setting the scene**

Presentation of current urban planning challenges by Ms. **Paola Deda**, UNECE

15:20 - 16:20 **Questions to presenters**

For cities: Has your city developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

For countries: Has your country developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

For UN system/NGOs: Has your organization developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve SDG 11? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

For private sector: Has your company developed and implemented a strategy/action/project to achieve target 11.3 ("to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management")? Can you describe it? Why do you consider it successful?

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List of presenters

Mr. **Nicolas Gharbi**, Principal Advisor, City Diplomacy and International Affairs, City of Madrid, Spain

Mr. **Stefan Wagner**, Head of International Affairs & Global Sustainability, City of Bonn, Germany

Mr. **Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov**, Head of International Cooperation and Protocol Department, Bishkek City Municipality, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. **Jose Reis**, Principal Policy Officer, Economic Strategy, Greater London Authority, United Kingdom

Mr. **Tassos Kriekoukis**, Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Athens, City of Athens, Greece

Mr. **Genci Kojdhesi**, Director General of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, City of Tirana, Albania

Mr. **Dmitry Shlapachenko**, UN Resident Coordinator for Turkmenistan

Ms. **Aša Rogelj** (Slovenia), Deputy Director General, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Mr. **Giampiero Bambagioni** (Italy), Vice-chair Committee UNECE Bureau of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Mr. **Adrian Băluțel** (Moldova), State Secretary, State Chancellery of the Government of the Republic of Moldova

Ms. **Laura Lima**, Head of Global Programmes, Cities Alliance

Ms. **Sorcha Edwards**, Secretary General, Housing Europe

Ms. **Anh Thu Duong**, Co-Director, Policy and Partnerships, Geneva Cities Hub

Mr. **Giulio De Carli**, Founding Partner, OneWorks on Mykolaiv

16:20 - 16:40 ***Interactive Discussion***

16:40 - 16:50 ***Part 2 – Panel composed of cities representatives only***

Presentation on City Diplomacy, Dr. **Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi**, City Diplomacy Lab at Columbia Global Centers | Paris

16:50 - 17:35 **Questions to presenters**

1. How is your city acting at the international level to implement SDG 11? In particular, which partnerships, alliances and strategic actions are already in place and are effective?
2. How can city governments help revitalise the multilateral system to build a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive future?

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Mr. **Dmitry Shlapachenko**, UN Resident Coordinator for Turkmenistan

Ms. **Gunn Marit Helgesen**, Congress Vice President and Rapporteur on SDGs, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr. **Giulio De Carli**, Founding Partner, OneWorks on Mykolaiv

17:35 - 17:55 **Interactive Discussion**

17:55 - 18:00 **Conclusions and wrap up of the Peer Learning Round Table**

Dr. **Achim Wennmann**, Director for Strategic Partnerships, Geneva Graduate Institute

Moderator(s)

Dr. **Achim Wennmann**, Director for Strategic Partnerships, Geneva Graduate Institute

Organizers

Lead organizers: **UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, UN Habitat Geneva Liaison Office**

Contributing Agencies: **FAO, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, UNOPS, UNDP**