

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

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



Peer Learning Round Table

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Part 2: Transformative innovation to accelerate sustainable development

Thursday, 30 March 2023 from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in presence at conference room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online, with interpretation into English, French, Russian and international sign language.

Background

The world is not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Accelerating progress becomes more urgent by the day. Incremental changes to the ways we consume and produce will no longer be enough. We need to truly transform entire systems, such as the built environment, energy generation and distribution, industry, or transport. This peer learning roundtable will showcase new policy approaches for catalyzing truly transformative innovation. It will bring together policy makers and innovators from the UNECE region to share success stories and challenges on how to rally researchers, innovators, businesses and users around societal challenges and missions, how to create space for experimentation not only with new technologies and business models, but also with new policy approaches, how to coordinate the development of complementary innovations in many different fields that cumulatively have a transformative effect, and how to rapidly deploy them at scale. The session will also feature the gender dimension of innovation.

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1	What are possible policy pathways and approaches to catalyze truly transformative innovations? What are opportunities and potential pitfalls, and what are criteria for success?
Question 2	What opportunities do businesses see for transformative innovation, and what support do they need to seize these opportunities? How can they balance the need to cooperate across sectoral or technological boundaries with the need to create competitive advantages?
Question 3	How can science, business and government partner to accelerate the development and deployment of transformative innovations? What role

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for cross-border cooperation in creating and diffusing transformative innovations?

Scenario

11:30	Welcome Kjell-Hakan Närfelt, Chief Strategy Officer, Swedish Innovation Agency VINNOVA (moderator)
11:35	Introductory remarks by the co-organizers
11:40	Round Table Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Kirsten Dunlop, CEO, Climate KIC○ Morteza G. Eftekhar, CEO, PurCity, Denmark○ Farkhod Jumaev, Director General, National Office for Implementation of Innovation and Technology Transfer under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan○ Jernej Salec, Director, Internationalization, Entrepreneurship and Technology Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, Slovenia○ Nicola Yates, CEO, Connected Places Catapult, UK
12:35	Q&A with the audience <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Representatives of key stakeholder groups and other entities
12:55	Wrap up of the Peer Learning Round Table and concluding remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Moderator○ Co-organizers

Organizers

Lead organizer	UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
Contributor	UNIDO