



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

Preliminary Programme

Last updated: 19 February 2024

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

8:15 – 9:45 | **Side Events**

10:00 – 13:00 | **Opening and High-level Policy Segment**

Palais des Nations, Room XIX

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

OPENING

Mr. Vahan Kostanyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Armenia

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Mr. Radim Sršeň, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Tatiana Molcean

UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary General

Ms. Ivana Živkovic

Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

High-level speakers will engage in a policy debate on accelerating SDG progress and delivering transformative solutions. The debate will be informed by the UNECE Annual SDG Progress Report launched in February 2024 ([full report webpage](#)).

High-level government representatives will have the opportunity to share policy actions that have been taken domestically. Other stakeholders will join the debate and report back on their preparatory consultations.

Guiding questions:

- Building on the impetus of the SDG Summit, what needs to be done to put the 2030 Agenda on the right track?
- What are the critical elements that need to be addressed as matter of priority to unlock bottlenecks and accelerate the necessary transformations? How can investment in key transition areas be scaled up?
- With the forthcoming Summit of the Future in mind, what is the role of international cooperation and strengthened multilateralism in advancing SDG progress?

PLENARY DEBATE

13:00 – 15:00 | **Lunch Break**

13:15 – 14:45 | **Side Events**

15:00 – 18:00 | **Peer learning Round Tables**

Palais des
Nations

SDG 1
Room XXVI

Preparing social protection systems to respond to the poverty impacts of the climate crisis and green transitions

[Outline](#)



SDG 13
Room XIX

Solving the Rubik's cube of the planetary crisis: lining up policy solutions for climate risks and biodiversity loss

[Outline](#)



SDG 16
Room XXI

Accelerating policies, partnerships and innovation for just, peaceful and inclusive societies in the UNECE region

[Outline](#)



18:15 – 19:30 | **Reception**

Palais des
Nations,
Bar Serpent

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

Thursday, 14 March 2024

8:15 – 9:45 | **Side Events**

10:00 – 13:00 | **Peer Learning Round Tables**

Palais des
Nations

SDG 2
Room XXI

Healthy and sustainable diets: enhancing the resilience of food systems in the face of climate change impacts

[Outline](#)



SDG 17
Room XIX

Building Effective Partnerships for Digital Transformation

[Outline](#)



13:00 – 15:00 | **Lunch Break**

13:15 – 14:45 | **Side Events**

15:00 – 18:00

Plenary Session and Closing

Palais des
Nations,
Room XIX

Advancing key transitions and cooperation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region

Sustainable development brings the promise of a better future, but to build this future, we need to imagine it, to remove obstacles that undermine the necessary cooperation to make it possible, and to harness all the levers that contribute to progress. And we need to ensure that all the actors are involved in a meaningful way. The future does not only belong to us. The commitment to safeguard the interest of future generations is a key component of sustainable development.

A panel discussion will bring together diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, financial institutions, science and academia, local authorities, youth representatives and other civil society actors. Panellists will share with member States their perspectives on SDG acceleration with particular focus on the main issues to be addressed by the Summit of the Future.

PLENARY DEBATE

Moderator: Mr. Laszlo Borbely (tbc)

State Councilor, Government of Romania

Ms. Imme Scholz (remotely)

Co-Chair, Independent Group of Scientists, Global Sustainable Development Report

Mr. Grégoire Haenni

Board Member, Sustainable Finance Geneva
Member, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)
Chief Investment Officer, Geneva State Pension Fund (CPEG)

Mr. Dominique Foray

Professor, Chair of Economics & Management of Innovation (EPFL)
Member of the Swiss Science Council

tbc

Representative of the UNECE Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)

tbc

Youth representative

tbc

Representative of local governments

CLOSING

Ms. Tatiana Molcean

UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary General

Mr. Vahan Kostanyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Armenia

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Mr. Radim Sršeň, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic

Co-Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Format of the sessions

The Regional Forum on **13 - 14 March 2024** will take place as in person and online meeting (with exact modalities under discussion with UNOG) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Side events will take place in the period of **11 - 14 March** as **virtual sessions**.

Contact

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The Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the UN Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia.