



# REGIONAL FORUM

## ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

### Preliminary Programme

Last updated: 8 March 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 Sršen, 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 Zivkovic**

Vice-Chair of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Europe and Central Asia  
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.

#### Snapshot of SDG Progress in the UNECE Region

**Mr. Andres Vikat**

Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE Statistical Division

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	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:15 – 14:45	<b>Side Events</b>
15:00 – 18:00	<b>Peer learning Round Tables</b>

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	<b>Reception</b>
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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	<b>Side Events</b>
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10:00 – 13:00	<b>Peer Learning Round Tables</b>
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Palais des Nations

**SDG 2**  
Room XXI

**Healthy and sustainable diets: enhancing the sustainability 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	<b>Lunch Break</b>
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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.

The plenary session will open with reporting back from the five peer learning round tables, followed by a segment on the Summit of the Future. The Co-Facilitators of the Summit will offer insights on the state of play of Summit preparations, listen to interventions and react to questions from the floor.

A panel discussion will subsequently bring together diverse stakeholders, including financial institutions, science and academia, youth and civil society. 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. A debate with interventions from the floor concludes the plenary session.

#### Reporting back by round table rapporteurs

#### Presentation by the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future

##### **Amb. Antje Leendertse**

Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations in New York

##### **Amb. Neville Gertze**

Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations in New York

#### Interventions from the floor

##### **Multi-stakeholder Panel**

##### **Moderator: Mr. Laszlo Borbely**

State Counsellor, Government of Romania

##### **Ms. Imme Scholz (remotely)**

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

##### **Mr. Dominique Foray**

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

##### **Mr. Grégoire Haenni**

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

##### **tbc**

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

##### **tbc**

Representative of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) ECE Regional Caucus

#### **Plenary Debate**

## CLOSING

### **Ms. Tatiana Volovaya**

Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

### **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 meeting at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, with the possibility to follow via UN Web TV.

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

## Contact

### **Sustainable Development Unit**

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

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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.