



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## Peer learning round table on SDG 17:

*Closing the gap: Regional priorities for more diversified and resilient financing for sustainable development*

*Thursday 3 April, 10:00 – 13:00*

*Palais des Nations, Room VII*

*Languages: English, French and Russian*

## Background

The UNECE region faces a considerable gap between current investment levels and the financial needs required to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Substantial financing by both public and private sectors needs to be mobilized to bridge this gap, with public mechanisms frequently paving the way for the flow of private resources.

In public finance, more coherence in public policies and the efficient and well-governed use of public resources will contribute to greater impact in times of competing political and budgetary priorities. Environmental taxation can help enhance domestic resource mobilization while at the same time encouraging sustainable behaviour. Gender-responsive budgeting plays a critical role in ensuring that public expenditures address gender inequalities.

Regulatory and policy measures also play a crucial role in aligning financial flows with the SDGs. Consistent and transparent standards, regulations, reporting and taxonomies across national markets will help drive progress and improve investor confidence.

The private sector can be more actively engaged, with clearer frameworks for investment in sustainability and greater incentives for financial institutions and companies to integrate environmental, social and governance criteria into their operations and to shift to more sustainable business models.

Furthermore, climate finance and transition finance are major areas of concern. Transition finance, aimed at supporting industries shifting towards greener practices, faces difficulties in attracting sufficient capital due to perceived risks and the lack of a bankable project pipeline. Mobilizing financing for social development remains a challenge as well. Good practices exist in the area of financing for gender equality and gender-sensitive budgeting.

To foster SDG-oriented financing, greater availability of innovative and sustainability-oriented financial products and broader green financial markets are essential. Expanding green bond markets and introducing more sustainable investment vehicles can help direct capital towards sustainable projects. Similarly, sustainable insurance products remain underdeveloped, with insurers facing challenges in incorporating elevated climate and other risks into their offerings. Public-private partnerships can also be an effective means of promoting investments in sustainability.

These interventions and tools can better align the existing or mobilize new financial resources towards sustainable development. They will be more targeted and effective if the private and public sector actors coordinate their planning, implementation and assessment efforts. The outcome of this regional discussion will inform preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development.



## Guiding Questions

1. How can public and private sectors, as well as other stakeholders, work together more effectively to close the financing gap for sustainable development in the region?
2. What are some of the best practices in environmental taxation, climate and transition finance and financing for social development?
3. How can accountability for gender-responsive public finance be strengthened through audits, tracking mechanisms, and policy reforms, and what innovative financing mechanisms can be leveraged to support gender equality in different sectors?
4. What steps can be taken to engage the private financial sector more effectively in sustainable development efforts, and what role should regulators and policy-makers play in incentivizing private sector investment?
5. How can green and SDG-oriented financial products be scaled up?

## Programme

10:00-10:30	<p><b>Introduction:</b> <i>Setting the scene – Prospects and challenges of financing for sustainable development in the UNECE region</i></p> <p><b>Opening:</b> <b>Ms. Tatiana Molcean</b>, UNECE Executive Secretary</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Paul Ladd</b>, Director Sustainable Development Unit, UNECE</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Joana Fisher</b>, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN in Geneva <i>Perspectives from Portugal as Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)</i></li> </ul>
10:30-11:30	<p><b>Part 1:</b> <i>Enhancing public finance and collaboration of public and private sectors for sustainable development</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Paul Ladd</b>, Director Sustainable Development Unit, UNECE</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. László Borbély</b>, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister of Romania on Sustainable Development <i>National strategies and innovative initiatives: unlocking diversified financing for sustainable development</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Igor Janushev</b>, Secretary General of the Government of North Macedonia <i>The National Development Strategy as key tool to align national spending and investments with the SDGs</i></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Kali Taylor</b>, Managing Director, Sustainable Finance Geneva <i>Channelling capital flows to sustainable development through collaborating with capital providers and seekers</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Grégoire Haenni</b>, Chief Investment Officer, Geneva State Pension Fund <i>Encouraging sustainability through impact investments and public-private partnerships</i></li> </ul>
11:30-13:00	<p><b>Part 2:</b> <i>Engaging the private sector and diversifying financial products</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Daniel Bouzas Luis</b>, Regional Lead, Europe, UNEP Finance Initiative</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Yusuf Majidi</b>, First Deputy Minister of Finance of Tajikistan, and <b>Ms. Parvathy Ramaswami</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan <i>Diversification of financing instruments and development of green bonds market in Tajikistan</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Anna Pot</b>, National SDG Coordinator, Netherlands <i>Opportunities for private sector engagement</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Arslan Umut Ergezer</b>, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) <i>Sustainable insurance, insurance schemes and disaster risk insurance in the context of the SEE 2030 Strategy and the role of public-private partnerships</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Roberto Rando</b>, Senior Climate Officer, European Investment Bank (EIB) <i>Innovative financial instruments and the mobilization of private investment</i></li> </ul>