

# **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region**

## **Closing Remarks by**

**Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

We come now to the end of the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

Our region is undergoing difficult moments, as the war continues to rage in Ukraine. But I have been heartened by the renewed commitment to sustainable development in these challenging circumstances. And by the continued value that you place on international cooperation.

It is now the time to say thank you to all of you for your participation and varied contributions.

Thank you to our Chair for leading us so ably through yesterday's and today's plenary sessions.

The Forum is the result of the close collaboration with the entities of the UN Regional System. I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to all their staff who have contributed to the preparation of the Forum.

We are very grateful for the support received by multiple donors, which has allowed us to increase the reach and accessibility of the Forum. For the second year, we have been able to offer sign language interpretation – this time, more widely.

And thanks also to the interpreters and technical staff that have been given us all the support we needed.

Finally, I would also like to thank my own staff at UNECE, who have been working relentlessly to make this event possible.

I hope you have developed interesting new contacts and rekindled existing ones. For us, the Forum is the annual culmination of the multiple engagements we have had and aim to develop with you through the year. Our

work on sustainable development does not end today, it has been reinvigorated by the discussions that have taken place at the Forum.

I look forward to meeting you in Geneva next year in the new edition of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

In a region in peace.