

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

6 – 7 APRIL 2022 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

Programme

Wednesday, 6 April 2022, Hybrid and virtual (side events) sessions

8:30 – 9:45

Side events

10:00 - 13:00

Opening and High-level Policy Segment

Venue: Geneva,
Palais des
Nations, Room
XVII

Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region

OPENING

H.E. Mr. Edil Baisalov

Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed (pre-recorded message)

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Olga Algayerova

UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

Vice-Chair of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

Keynote address by Dr. Åsa Persson

Research Director and Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute

Member of the Independent Group of Scientists for the 2023 UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

The keynote speech will set the scene for the high-level debate and highlight the latest scientific findings on the SDGs, taking into account the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related recovery measures. In addition, the process to prepare the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and its preliminary framework will be introduced to the audience.

PLENARY DEBATE

Statements by high-level representatives of member States and reporting of key messages from pre-meetings (Forum of Mayors, Civil Society Forum, Youth Consultation, Joint IPU/ECE webinar with parliamentarians)

13:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

Reception for all participants offered by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the WTO and EFTA, Restaurant Vieux Bois

Side events

15:00 – 17:00

Peer learning round tables

Venue: Geneva,
Palais des
Nations, Tempus
Rooms 1, 2 and 3

SDG 4 (hybrid)
Tempus 1

Quality education

Quality education and lifelong learning in the context of COVID-19: sharing best practices and lessons learnt for enhancing inclusion policies and strategies
[Session page with outline](#)



SDG 14 (hybrid)
Tempus 2

Life below water – oceans, seas and marine resources

Enhancing ocean literacy and the sustainable development of regional seas
[Session page with outline](#)



SDG 17 (hybrid)
Tempus 3

Partnerships for the goals (I)

Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development
[Session page with outline](#)



SDG 17 (online – 15:00-17:30)

Partnerships for the goals (II)

Accelerating digital development through multi-stakeholder partnerships
[Session page with outline](#)



17:15 – 18:30

Side events

8:30 – 9:45

Side events

10:00 – 12:00

Peer learning round tables

Venue: Geneva,
Palais des
Nations, Tempus
Rooms 1, 2 and 3

SDG 5 (hybrid)

Tempus 1

Gender Equality

Accelerators of gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

[Session page with outline](#)



SDG 15 (hybrid)

Tempus 2

Life on land – terrestrial eco-systems, forests, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity (I)

Action to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems

[Session page with outline](#)



SDG 15 (hybrid)

Life on land – terrestrial eco-systems, forests, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity (II)

Tempus 3

Urban forests for future proof cities

[Session page with outlines](#)



SDG 4 (online)

Quality education

Rebalancing people, planet and prosperity: ESD as key enabler for the 17 SDGs and Agenda 2030.

[Session page with outlines](#)



13:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

Side events

Special Event (13:00 - 14:30): [Gender and Business \(virtual\)](#)

15:00 – 17:00

Plenary Session and Closing

Forward-looking policies for a sustainable COVID-19 recovery

H.E. Mr. Edil Baisalov

Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan

The session will discuss forward-looking policies to promote a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the key messages from the peer learning sessions on the SDGs under in-depth review (4, 5, 14, 15, and 17).

Particular attention will be given to policy coherence and addressing trade-offs in SDG policies and COVID-19 recovery measures at regional, subregional, national and local levels. In this context, experiences from UNECE member States that have presented or will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable

Development will be discussed, with emphasis on VNRs as a means to promote policy coherence and multi-level collaboration. Lessons from Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and from the regional and subregional levels will also be considered.

OPENING

The session will be opened by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Edil Baisalov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan. The Chair will summarize key messages from the peer learning sessions and introduce the multi-stakeholder panel.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PANEL

The session will continue with a multi-stakeholder panel, composed of two representatives from member States and a representative of civil society.

Moderator:

Mr. Octavian Bivol

Regional Chief for Europe and Central Asia of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Panellists:

Mr. Andrea Innamorati

Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry for Ecological Transition, Directorate General for Sustainable Growth and the Quality of Development, Italy

Ms. Aneta Kankaras

Head of Office for Sustainable Development, Secretariat-General of the Government of Montenegro

Biljana Ginova

Advocacy Manager ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey

PLENARY DEBATE

In the second part of the plenary session, the floor will open for a plenary debate of approximately 45 minutes. Forum participants may wish to ask questions to the panellists, provide examples of forward-looking policies for a sustainable COVID-19 recovery, and reflect on the key messages from the peer learning sessions. Length of statements 2-3 minutes.

CLOSING

Ms. Olga Algayerova

UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Edil Baisalov

Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan

17:15 – 18:30

Side events

Registration

Registration to participate in the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region (plenaries and peer learning round tables) is open under the following link:

<https://indico.un.org/event/36313/registration>

The **deadline** for registrations is 31 March 2022, 23:59 (CET).

Please register separately for each side event you are interested in. You can find the list of side events under the following [link](#).

Format of the sessions

The Regional Forum on **6-7 April 2022** will take place as a **hybrid meeting**, with the possibility to participate either online or in-person (at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland – subject to potential COVID-19 restrictions).

Starting on 31 March, the bulk of the side events will take place in the core period of **4-7 April** as **fully virtual sessions**.

Contact

**Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 14 88

Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

e-mail: regionalforumunece@un.org

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