



Power of civil society

What is ECE-RCEM?

Holding decision-makers accountable at the regional UN level. In Central Asia, Caucasus, Europe and North America.



ECE-RCEM
ece-rcem.eu

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A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blazer over a white shirt, speaking at a conference. She is positioned in the middle ground, looking slightly to her right. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible, out of focus. The background is a dark, textured wall with several microphones on stands. Large, bold, white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Regional Civil society Engagement Mechanism

About us

Self-governed civil society space. Set up in 2016, formalised in 2018.

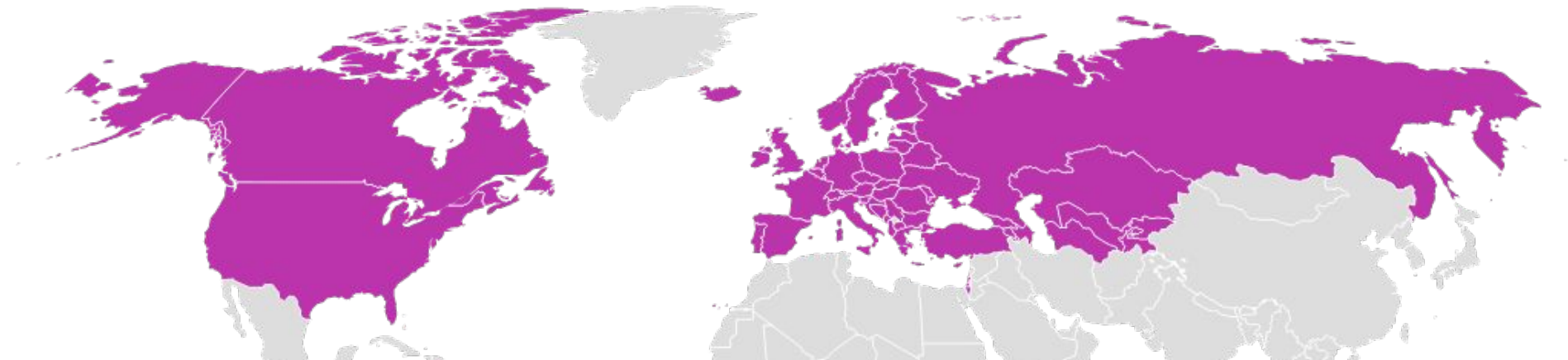
Facilitates civil society participation in all stages of follow-up and reviews of the 2030 Agenda at UNECE.

Mission: A network working to enable stronger cross-constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all these constituencies in each sub-region of UNECE are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global level.

Takes a human-rights based approach to advocacy

- **Governing body:** 2 rep per constituency, elections
- **Members:** Currently 362 listserv members, but many more (each constituency has their own sub-regional membership)
- Member of the **MGoS** coordination mechanism
- **Concept note** - [download here](#) (Updated Feb 2023)

UN ECE countries



UN ECE is one of United Nation's five official regions, which we as civil society adhere to. The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development hosted by UN ECE, is for partners either living/working in these countries.

Countries: Albania Andorra Armenia Austria Azerbaijan Belarus Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Canada Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Georgia Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Israel Italy Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Monaco Montenegro Netherlands Norway Poland Portugal Republic of Moldova North Macedonia Romania Russian Federation San Marino Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland Tajikistan Turkey Turkmenistan Ukraine United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Uzbekistan

About

Sub-regional constituencies:

Region 1:

Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia,
Kazakhstan, Belarus, Republic of
Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan

Region 2:

Balkan States

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

Region 3:

European Union

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of
Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia,
Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,
Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania,
Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Region 4:

Others

Andorra, Canada, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco,
Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey, United
Kingdom, United States



About

Thematic constituencies: Other interested constituencies can apply.

- Civil Society Financing for Development Group
- Education & Academia Stakeholder Group
- Farmers' Major Group
- Indigenous Peoples' Major Group
- LGBTI Stakeholder Group
- Major Group for Children & Youth
- Migrants
- NGO Major Group
- Persons with Disabilities Stakeholder Group
- Science & Technology Major Group
- Sendai Engagement Mechanism
- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Stakeholder Group for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent
- Stakeholder Group on Ageing
- Urban Poor
- Volunteers Stakeholder Group
- Women's Major Group
- Workers & Trade Union Major Group.





Why is the regional work so important?

- Learning from each others national work
- Structural analysis, our constituencies brings a breadth of knowledge
- Safer to criticise on a regional level, than national level, for some human rights defenders
- Accountability -ensuring human rights are upheld at the UN
- Great opportunity to network with decision-makers



How we work

- **Speak with a collective voice**
- **Working groups**
 - Advocacy group & position paper
 - VNR group
 - Communications
 - CSO Forum & side event prep
 - Fundraising
 - Youth pre-meeting
- **How we influence RFSD**
 - Official interventions
 - Parallel events planning
 - Interventions at peer learning sessions
 - Side events
 - Campaigning online
 - Bilateral meetings with Member States





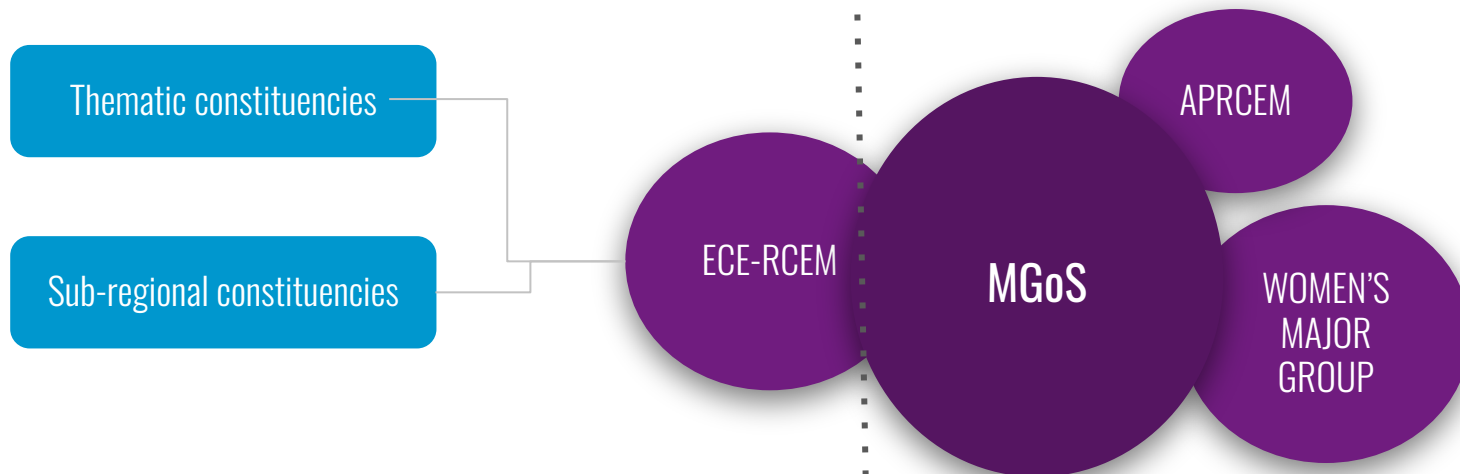
Regional vs global level

Regional level

- **Process** - UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Geneva
- **How civil society can engage** - through various constituencies as well as the umbrella network ECE-RCEM

Global level

- **Process** - UN High Level Political Forum, New York
- **How civil society can engage** - through the various major groups and other stakeholder constituencies, as well as the umbrella network combining all of these: MGoS. ECE-RCEM is one of MGoS's 21 constituencies.

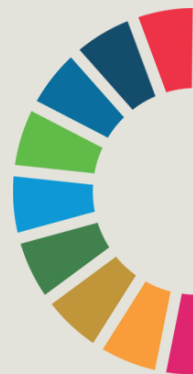


Please note that these are examples of constituencies and as we couldn't fit them all on the diagram. All of the constituencies have been listed on [mgos website](https://mgos.un.org/).

Global level

Our role on the MGoS coordination mechanism

- Major Group and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) - is a global civil society engagement mechanism, it facilitates civil society's meaningful participation at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the 2030 Agenda
- We have 2 seats at the MGoS coordination mechanism - there are regular meetings leading up to HLPF
- Advocacy opportunities - statements, working group participation, campaigning, civil society coordination and mobilisation at HLPF
- Visit their website: mgos.org



2023

UNECE's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development



About the Regional Forum

Theme: UNECE's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) theme this year is "Ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE Region in times of multiple crises,"

SDG's under review: 6 (water & sanitation), 7 (clean affordable energy), 9 (industry and innovation), 11 (cities), 17 (partnership and means for implementation)

Peer-learning tables: multi-stakeholder discussions strategizing on how to best implement the SDGs under review in our region. [Learn about this year's peer-learning discussions here.](#)

Where: UN Palais de Nations, Geneva & Online (Hybrid)

When: 29-30 Mar 2023 (civil society forum on 28 Mar 2023)

Interpretation: Russian, French and International Sign-Language

Register: [register on Indico](#) (deadline 15 Mar).

Apply for side event: deadline 31 Jan 20223. [Apply here](#)

Website: you can always check [UNECE's website](#) for updates.

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Voluntary National Reviews

Member States reporting on their 2030 Agenda implementation in 2023 (41 in total, 17 are from our region):

Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, European Union, France, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

[Visit UN's website to learn more.](#)

Tips for creating parallel reports

Also called spotlight reports & alternative VNRs:

- MGoS has a resource explaining VNRs and how civil society can engage with the process: [click here](#).
- How to create parallel reports: [view here](#).
- If you wish to join the working group preparing questions to member states, then you can sign up to this interest list: [MGoS: VNR engagement 2023](#)



Civil society forum

Every year, we host a civil society forum in the days leading up to the official UN meeting on the 2030 Agenda (RFSD).

The forum is essential, as it is a unique opportunity for us to come together and finalise our common positions ahead of the UN meeting. We strategize, mobilize and network. There is orientation for new people, strategic thinking with UN Agencies, policy demand development and selection of intervention speakers.

- **When** - 28 mar 2023
- **Where** - Palais de Nations (Geneva) & Online (Hybrid TBC)
- **Registration** - More info coming soon
- **Accessibility** - Russian, French and International Sign-Language

Youth pre-meeting

This is a safe space for youth to learn how to engage and prepare and present joint advocacy demands.

This Youth consultation is organised in the frame of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region. Young people play a fundamental role in achieving the SDGs. The aim of the consultation is to provide an early opportunity for various stakeholders to share experiences as well as introduce and discuss issues on the agenda at the Regional Forum, and identify priorities and have a common vision to be presented at the Forum.

- **When & where** -27 March (TBC) at UN Geneva (in person)
- **Online consultation** -if you cannot join in Geneva, there might be an online consultation 23 Mar(TBC)



2023 Key events for ECE-RCEM

We have created an more advocacy roadmap with events that might be of interest to our members. [Click here for a more detailed timeline.](#)

Dec-Apr	28 Mar 2023	29-30 Mar 2023	Apr-Jul 2023	10-19 Jul 2023	20-21 Sep 2023
RFSD prep (online)	Civil society forum (online & Geneva)	UNECE RFSD (Online & Geneva)	RFSD follow-up & HLPF prep	HLPF (UNHQ, New York)	SDGs summit during UNGA
Mobilising civil society to attend the regional forum on the 2030 Agenda	Ahead of official UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable development (RFSD) 23 Mar (TBC) Online Youth consultation	We coordinate civil society's engagement in the official forum (RFSD)	Following up on the RFSD, giving input to the outcome document on the road to the HLPF 2023, submitting position paper.	Through our role in MGoS, we coordinate civil society's input to HLPF. We host side events and meet with UNECE	SDGs and the outcome of HLPF is reviewed under the UN General Assembly.

2023 HLPF and SDG SUMMIT TIMELINE*

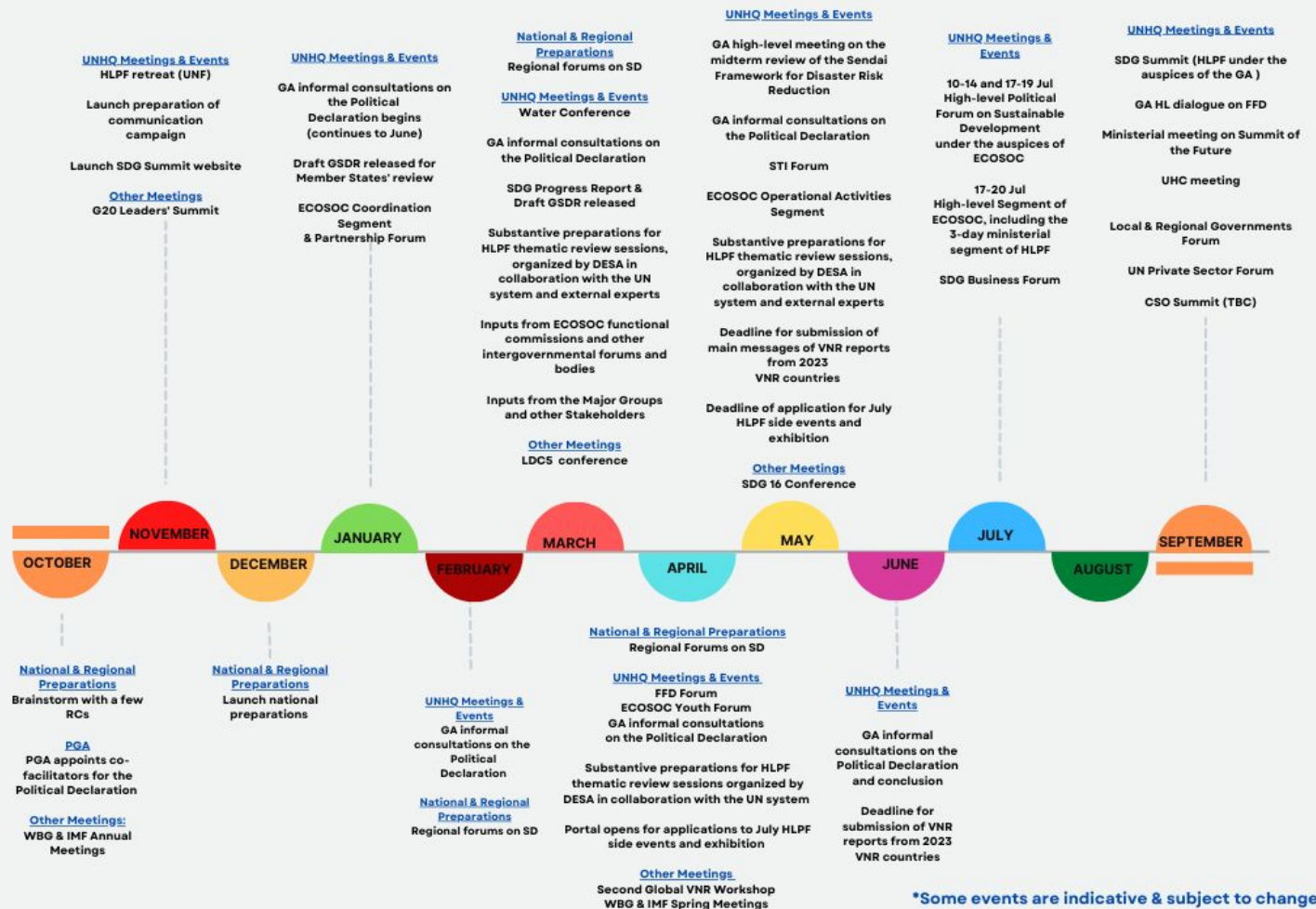




Photo: Antoine Tardy / UN Women

Working groups

01

CSO forum planning
& side event

- Lead on agenda drafting for the CSO Forum
- Liaise with UNECE and other stakeholders to ensure a robust and inclusive Forum
- Organize and support side events for RCEM & members

Hanna - Marianne,
Anton, Jackson, Chinara

02

VNR engagement
& mobilisation

- Reach out & guide CSO members from VNR countries on engagement & peer learning opportunities
- Host regular calls & prepare input to the CSO Forum and recommendations for the RFSD
- Coordinate w. MGoS VNR working group for HLPF

Lead coordinator ? - Oli,
Sylvia, Rashima,
Valentina, Almudena,
Inese, Nelya, Anton, TJK
Khayriniso, Chinara

03

Advocacy (incl
position paper)

- Coordinate advocacy meetings to set priorities
- Facilitate the drafting process of the our position paper
- Follow-up with organisers on peer learning tables
- Engage RCEM members on advocacy opportunities

Nelya - Gabriele, Anton,
Sylvia, Jeffrey, Vanessa,
Inese, Olga Djanaeva,
Valbona, Valbona

Working groups

04

Fundraising

- Organize meetings to coordinate fundraising strategy
- Map fundraising opportunities to support the work of RCEM as well as participation of members at events.
- Draft fundraising proposals and plans

Lead coordinator ? -
AHAD Kazimov, Anton

05

Communication

- Build RCEM communication and outreach strategy, and design material to support RCEM advocacy work
- Engage journalists, media, & influential stakeholders
- Maintain website, and upload statements

Lead coordinator ? - Liya Bayramova, Natasha

06

Youth pre-meeting

- Mobilise youth to engage in and create a youth pre-meeting
- Design and host a youth pre-meeting
- Liaise with UNECE and other UN Bodies

MGCY & ? - volunteers from last year's planning group

Elections

and updated Terms of Reference



Are you **our next** governing body representative?

Do you want to help lead the ECE-RCEM? Do you want to help us be more strategic? Or perhaps you have an idea of how we can mobilise more members from currently underrepresented groups?



Elections

Updated Terms of Reference

- [Link to updated ToR](#) (governing document).

What is new?

- New sub-regional clusters, mentioned on slide 8.
- More detailed description of the tasks of the governing body
- Principles of engagement has been elaborated on to explain what we mean by them.
- Simplified the election process

Elections timeline

- **9 Feb** - launch of election & launch of voting procedure. Each organisation has 2 votes: one thematic and one regional constituency
- **24 Feb** - deadline to nominate constituency representatives running for elections
- **24 Feb** - deadline to sign-up to the advocacy list used for voting
- **28 Feb** - voting starts
- **2 Mar** - voting ends
- **4 Mar** - or shortly thereafter we will announce the newly elected representatives

CIVIL SOCIETY

UNOG

UNODA

UNITED NATIONS

UNOPS

UNV

U

Join our listserv

Learn more about how you
can stay engaged, and join
our working groups.

bit.ly/join-ece-rcem





Thank you

Learn more about the ECE-RCEM - visit our
website ece-rcem.eu

Acronym cheat sheet

- [ECE-RCEM](#) - Economic Commission for Europe - Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism
- [ECOSOC](#) - Economic and Social Council
- [HLPE](#) - High Level Political Forum
- [RFSD](#) - Regional Forum for Sustainable Development
- [UNECE](#) - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- [MGoS](#) - Major Groups and other Stakeholders
- [SDGs](#) - Sustainable Development Goals
- [VNRs](#) - Voluntary National Reviews
- [WMG](#) - Women's Major Group
- [UNHQ](#) - United Nations Headquarters