

Civil Society Forum

Halfway there, but nowhere near

Civil society taking stock of the 2030 Agenda implementation in the UNECE region and formalising joint policy demands for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

When & where

28 March 2023 at 10:00-13:00 - 15:00 18:00 Geneva Time
Hybrid: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland & Online

Accessibility

Russian, French, English & International Sign Language (ISL) interpretation

Registration

In-person and online participants all have to [register through Indico](#). You do not need ECOSOC accreditation to access the Civil Society Forum.

Aim of Forum

To foster a safe space for civil society to network, online and offline, with each other but also with UN agencies and Member States. The critical analysis and outcomes of all discussions will feed into our joint policy positions which will be delivered as interventions or presented during the peer-learning tables and side events at the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 29-30 March 2023. The joint positions will also form the basis of our policy paper which we will submit to the High Level Political Forum 2023, in April.

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but nowhere near**

28 Mar '23
UN, Geneva

Ahead of UNECE RFSD

ECE-RCEM

#RFSD2023

ECE-RCEM

Regional
Civil society
Engagement
Mechanism
for the UN ECE region

Agenda

08:30 - 10:00 Registration, coffee and networking

10:00 - 11:00 Introduction and orientation

- Welcome by RCEM
- Ice-breaker to Involve everyone virtually and in the room
- Opening address by **Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary UNECE
- Remarks by **Mr Markus Reubi**, Ambassador and Delegate of Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland and **Mr Miloš Prica**, Ambassador and Chair of the Council on the implementation of SDGs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Regional Forum co- chairs.
- RCEM response to opening address
- Youth response – key demands from the Youth Assembly
- Setting common expectations for the meeting

Expected outcomes

- Clarity on the process
- Networking
- Building solidarity

11:00 - 11:45 Halfway there – Session on SDGs under review

Reflecting on the peer roundtables, see [full list of topics here](#).

- **SDG 6** Clean Water and Sanitation (including impact of war on supplies)
- **SDG 7** Affordable and Clean Energy
- **SDG 9** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- **SDG 11** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **SDG 17** Partnerships

Expected outcomes

- Forming joint recommendations, reflecting our wide expertise, to be used by civil society during the peer-learning tables.

11:45 - 12:00 Key messages

12:00 - 13:00 Building solidarity – Session with UN Agencies

Ensuring stronger allyship in times of shrinking space for civil society, rise of far right movements and anti-human rights agendas.

- Chaired by **Marianne Haslegrave**, Commat
- **Alia El-Yassir**, Regional Director for UN Women Europe and Central Asia
- Representative from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (TBC)
- Representative from United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) (TBC)
- Interactive panel discussion where civil society will get to hear from UN Agencies what they currently are doing to support civil society in getting their messages across.

Expected outcomes

- Networking opportunity with UN Agencies
- Building stronger allyship between civil society and UN Agencies

13:00 - 13:15 Group photo and constituency announcements

13:15 - 15:00 Lunch & networking

15:00 - 15:45 Halfway there – Session on multiple crises

Ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE Region in times of multiple crises - working for an equitable approach

- Interactive & reflective session where civil society will have the opportunity to share how the 2030 Agenda implementation has been hampered by our multiple crises in the region.
- This will be a space to learn from each other how to engage various stakeholders while getting to the roots of and tackling our multiple crises.
- Participants will get to form joint policy positions.

Expected outcomes

- Recommendations will be collected, and streamlined into our joint interventions

15:45 - 16:45 Halfway there – Session on VNRs from our region

Ensuring civil society engagement in national VNR processes

- Chaired by **Rashima Kwatra**, RFSL
- **Oli Henman**, A4SD, on global VNR engagement at the High Level Political Forum through Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)
- **Nelya Rakhimova**, Open School of Sustainable Development, on how to support country coalitions
- Representative from the **Irish Mission** in Geneva (TBC) on how Ireland have involved civil society in their VNR process
- Interactive session where civil society and Member States will share about: 1) Civil society engagement in VNR drafting process across the region; 2) Gap analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; 3) Challenges & recommendations

Expected outcomes

- Learning good practices from VNR Member States
- Recommendations will be included in our joint policy positions

16:45 - 17:30 Combining priorities

17:30 - 18:00 Closing session – What’s next?