

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

"The city of the future is a green city: why we need trees in our cities for the SDGs"

Background and Rationale

Urban forests are a proven, cost-effective solution to develop greener, healthier, and more resilient cities and deliver the SDGs and climate action. Vibrant communities are rooted in trees that promote health benefits for all city dwellers and help mitigate the effects of a changing climate, keeping cities liveable and safe on the way to reaching SDG 11.

These benefits can be maximized by increasing urban forest cover access for all through inclusive planning, enabling civil society engagement for integrative, customized local solutions. Green neighbourhoods foster economic development, making an investment in trees a prerequisite for harvesting multi-level benefits.

To optimize the provision of urban ecosystem services, stakeholders on local and national, public and private level need to collaborate on sustainable stewardship of urban greening strategies, to futureproof our cities and contribute to achieving global goals.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

In this context, the Side Event will explore:

1. How urban trees help to foster vibrant communities
2. How planning ensures the benefits of urban trees to be inclusive and sustainable
3. How local implementation links into national and global goals

Organizers

Lead organizers: UNECE

Contributors: Swiss Confederation, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

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Agenda and Structure

8h00

Breakfast

Generously supported by the Government of Switzerland

8h30

Opening Segment

Opening Remarks

Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

Keynote Address: The City of the Future is a Biodiversity Metropolis

Mr. Stefano Boeri, Stefano Boeri Architetti

8h45

Panel Discussion

Moderator's welcome

Ms. Stefania Romano, ICLEI

What we harvest: the benefits of investing in trees for all neighborhoods

Ms. Ana Luisa Soares, University of Lisbon

Setting our cities up for an inclusive green future

Mr. Thomas Randrup, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Mobilizing city action for local and national goals

Mr. Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov, City of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Moderated Discussion (15 minutes)

9h40

Closing

Moderator

List of Panellists

Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

Mr. Stefano Boeri, Stefano Boeri Architetti

Ms. Stefania Romano, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Ms. Ana Luisa Soares, University of Lisbon

Mr. Thomas Randrup, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Mr. Bekkul Dzhekshenkulov, City of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Sign-up / Registration Link

Location: H Building Amphitheatre (H-200), Palais de Nations, Geneva; and via Teams

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