**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 or 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

**Focal point:** Mr. Daniel Griswold, UNECE

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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
https://forms.office.com/e/96BkJFctW1h