



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Navigating Food Security in Times of Crises in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea Regions

Background and Rationale

In recent years, the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions have witnessed a confluence of challenges, including extreme weather events and armed conflicts, which have exacerbated concerns over food security. These phenomena directly impact agricultural productivity, disrupt supply chains, and exacerbate the vulnerability of communities dependent on agriculture for sustenance and livelihoods.

The Mediterranean and Black Sea regions are crucial hubs for agriculture and fisheries. Disruptions caused by the rising frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, and heatwaves as well as ongoing and historical armed conflicts in certain areas of the regions, directly affect the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food resources. The interconnectedness of these challenges necessitates a holistic approach addressing health, environmental sustainability, and strategic partnerships.

The relevance of this issue to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident. SDG 1 and SDG 2 underscore the urgency of addressing food security and poverty, while SDG 3 highlights the profound health implications of inadequate nutrition. Furthermore, the discussion aligns with SDG 13 as climate change exacerbates food insecurity, and SDG 17 underscores the importance of collaborative efforts to find innovative solutions.

In the context of this year's Forum theme, this speaking club aims to shed light on one of the areas at the core of sustainable development in the UNECE region. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, the event seeks to generate innovative solutions that reinforce the five SDGs at focus, promoting sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity regarding the food crisis.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The goal of this side event is to provide a platform for open dialogue on food security challenges in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions from the climate change and conflict perspectives. The event aims to engage participants in a multidisciplinary discussion, fostering the exchange of ideas, experiences and potential solutions to deepen understanding and awareness. Nonetheless, the goal is not only to raise awareness but also to cultivate a sense of shared responsibility and inspire actionable initiatives that align with the broader agenda of sustainable development.



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Expected Outcomes:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Participants will gain insights into the complexities of food security issues in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions and they will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and thoughts on the topic.
- **Brainstorming Solutions:** Collaborative discussions will generate innovative ideas and potential solutions to address challenges related to food (in)security.
- **Community Building:** The event will strengthen the network of youth activists and stakeholders committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Input for Future Initiatives:** The results and recommendations from this speaking club will serve as valuable input for future projects, initiatives, or policy discussions addressing food security in the region.

Organizers

Lead organizers: UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth Black Sea; UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth Mediterranean

Contributors: N/A

Focal points: Evangelia Savvidou (SDSN Youth Black Sea); Chiara Guazzini & Eleonora De Pirro (SDSN Youth Mediterranean)

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Agenda and Structure

Monday, Mar 11, 2024 19:30 - 21:00 CET (GMT+1)	
19:30-19:40	Welcome & Introduction
19:40-19:50	Speech: Food (in)security in the context of climate change
19:50-20:00	Speech: Food (in)security in the context of conflicts/displacement
20:00-20:30	Discussion (in breakout rooms)
20:30-20:35	Break
20:35-20:50	Presentation of the discussion outcomes (in the plenary)
20:50-21:00	Final remarks & Farewell



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List of Panellists

Evangelia Savvidou, SDSN Youth Black Sea

Eleonora De Pirro and Chiara Guazzini, SDSN Youth Mediterranean

Ruya Almushwat, SDSN Youth Mediterranean

Simone Cresti, SDSN Mediterranean

Dr. Apostolos Veizis, INTERSOS HELLAS

Sign-up / Registration Link

<https://bit.ly/SpeakingClubRFSD>