



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

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

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Cross-Sector Intelligence and Foresight to accelerate the SDGs

Background and Rationale

The heightened conditions of polycrisis triggered by wars, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste beg the need for creative solutions that draw on the knowledge, expertise, and resources of various sectors and organizations. Such solutions should go beyond addressing immediate needs to enabling the consolidation of resilient transformative development pathways, which decouple growth from resource consumption while driving economic and social progress.

Delays in consolidating such pathways will only aggravate environmental degradation and inequalities. This is the main take away message from the UNECE 2023 assessment of the region's progress on the 2030 Agenda.¹ The report paints a worrisome picture: there is not a single Goal on track. Further, with only 18% of the 105 measured targets met, the region could only achieve 21 SDG targets by 2030, down from 26 targets found on track the year before.

Globally, 2024 will be a year where the stark questions on the future will come into focus at the Summit of the Future and in the run-up to it. This will include looking at how the multilateral system can respond to the polycrisis and support transformative change.

International Geneva has a special role to play in this context, with several players in the ecosystem already playing a key role in shaping the future of multilateral action for 2030 and beyond.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

Leading experts will present a blueprint for the Geneva track of the UN Futures Lab; showcase new models and scalable platforms to harness cross-sector collective intelligence and propel the SDGs' progress, and highlight the potential for cross-sectoral intelligence and strategic foresight as International Geneva's contribution to the upcoming Summit of the Future.

¹ <https://w3.unece.org/sdg2022/progress-assessment.html>



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Organizers

Lead organizers: University of Geneva, UNECE

Contributors: World Economic Forum, UN Futures Lab, Swiss government

Focal points: Monica Patry

E-Mail: Monica.Patry@unige.ch

Agenda and Structure

13:15 – 13:25	Welcome address Mr. Markus Reubi, Swiss Envoy for the Agenda 2030
13:25 – 13:30	Event run-down & speakers introduction Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi, University of Geneva
13:30 – 14:35	Roundtable discussion Mr. Chris Earney, UN Futures Lab. Mission and vision of the UN Futures Lab Dr. Dmitry Mariyasin, UNECE. The Geneva track of the UN Futures Lab Prof. Tina Ambos, University of Geneva. New models of cross-sector collaboration and rapid innovation as the way to achieve the goals. Ms. Özge Aydoğan, SDG Lab. Foresight to accelerate the SDGs Moderated by Dr. Stephan Mergenthaler, World Economic Forum
14:40 – 14:45	Closing remarks Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi, University of Geneva

List of Panellists

Moderator: Dr. Stephan Mergenthaler, World Economic Forum

Prof. Tina Ambos, University of Geneva

Ms. Özge Aydoğan, SDG Lab

Mr. Chris Earney, UN Futures Lab

Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi, University of Geneva

Dr. Dmitry Mariyasin, UNECE

Mr. Markus Reubi, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



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Sign-up / Registration Link

On-site Registration: Limited places available on-site at the Campus Biotech Auditorium, Chemin des Mines 9, Geneva. First-come first served.

<https://formulaire.unige.ch/outils/limesurvey3/index.php/554235?lang=fr>

Online registration: <https://unige.zoom.us/j/68811647552>