



# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

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

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## VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

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## YOUTH AS DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

**14 MARCH 2024, 13:15 – 14:45**

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### CONCEPT NOTE

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Referred to as the “torchbearers” of the Sustainable Development Goals, youth played a major role in the process to secure agreement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With some 90 Sustainable Development Goal indicators deemed to be youth-related, youth have a vested interest in the realization of the Goals and play a major role as partners and participants in the Goals implementation.

Youth are key to identifying new solutions that will secure the breakthroughs that our world urgently needs. As future custodians of the planet, they also stand to lose the most if societies become more insecure and unequal and if the triple planetary crisis continues unabated. In recent years, young people have become a driving force for societal as well as innovative change in a host of arenas, such as in business, technology and science, climate and gender, etc.

Many Governments have taken steps towards ensuring meaningful youth participation in national Sustainable Development Goals architecture. This takes many forms, including engagement through national youth councils or national Sustainable Development Goal councils, the appointment of a Youth Ombudsperson for the Sustainable Development Goals, the establishment of Youth Ambassadors for the Sustainable Development Goals, the participation of young people in national delegations attending the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Youth have strong knowledge on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increased capacity in communications and advocacy for sustainable development, and their meaningful engagement in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial for a more inclusive system of governance and strengthen intergenerational partnerships.

The side event will serve as a platform connecting the different Governments, UN agencies and youth to share ideas, successes, challenges and lessons learned to convey through an interactive exchange how to ensure meaningful, diverse and effective engagement of youth in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants will be able to share their own insights and experiences and discuss the role and contribution of youth to the SDG progress and innovative solutions for building a better world as well as their vision of the Pact for the Future and Declaration on Future Generations.



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## PROGRAMME

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### WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

H.E. Ms. Larysa Belskaya, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UNOG

### MODERATOR

H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus

### SPEAKERS

*UNECE Secretariat (name tbc)*

Mr. Erol Arduç, UN Resident Coordinator a.i in Belarus

Ms. Elizaveta Anishchenko, SDG Youth Ambassador in Belarus

*Delegations of the CIS countries (name tbc)*

### DISCUSSION | Q&A

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus

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## ORGANIZERS

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## LANGUAGE

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ENGLISH