

# REGIONAL FORUM

## ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

GENEVA | 1-2 March 2018

### International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

#### Preliminary Programme

#### DAY 1: THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2018

10:00 – 11:00

#### OPENING

**Ambassador Michael Gerber**

*Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development of Switzerland*

**Ambassador Marie Chatardová**

*President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)  
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York*

**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed** (via video message)

*Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations*

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

*UNECE Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary-General*

**Ms. Cihan Sultanoğlu**

*Chair of the Regional UNDG Team for Europe and Central Asia*

<p><b>11:00 – 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT</b></p> <p><b>TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN THE UNECE REGION</b></p> <p>The focus of the High-level Policy Segment will be on SDG progress and challenges in the region. High-level participants from governments and other stakeholders will share experiences on SDG implementation. This will include countries that have already presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). They are invited to speak about the impact of VNRs on SDG implementation in their country. The discussion will also include the science perspective on SDG implementation in terms of evidence-based identification of bottlenecks and involving the science community in policy-making. The segment will include keynote addresses and interventions from high-level participants from the floor.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i>  <b>Ambassador Michael Gerber</b>  <i>Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development of Switzerland</i></p> <p><i>Keynote speaker:</i>  <b>Mr. Peter Messerli</b>  <i>Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Bern  Co-Chair of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report</i></p>
<p><b>12:30 – 13:00</b></p>	<p><b>INTRODUCTION OF THE PEER LEARNING SEGMENT</b></p> <p>The Introduction of the Peer Learning Segment will provide an overview of the organization of the round tables in the subsequent Peer Learning Segment, the expectations towards their outcomes and the modalities of the reporting back to the plenary.</p>
<p><b>13:00 – 15:00</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH BREAK – Side and special events</b></p>
<p><b>15:00 – 18:00</b></p>	<p><b>PEER LEARNING SEGMENT</b></p> <p><b>- PARALLEL ROUND TABLES -</b></p> <p>The Peer Learning Segment will promote voluntary and more in-depth peer learning and practical exchange of experiences and best practices in SDG implementation. Participants will break out in two sets of five parallel Round Tables centered around the SDGs that are under in-depth review at the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 9-18 July 2018). Informal concept notes will be available for all Round Tables.</p>

	<b>Round Tables – first set: 15:00-16:30</b>				
	<b>SDG 6</b> <i>(Water)-1</i>  <i>Making universal access to water and sanitation a reality in the UNECE region</i>	<b>SDG 7</b> <i>(Energy)-1</i>  <i>Improving the efficiency of the energy system</i>	<b>SDG 11</b> <i>(Cities and Communities)-1</i>  <i>Financing the transition to sustainable cities and communities: challenges and opportunities</i>	<b>SDG 12</b> <i>(Consumption &amp; Production Patterns)-1</i>  <i>Successful approaches to delivering on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2030</i>	<b>SDG 15</b> <i>(Forests and Ecosystems)-1</i>  <i>Sustainable Forest Management and the SDGs</i>
	<b>Round Tables – second set: 16:30-18:00</b>				
	<b>SDG 6</b> <i>(Water)-2</i>  <i>Sharing water: balancing competing needs in a context of declining resources</i>	<b>SDG 7</b> <i>(Energy)-2</i>  <i>Transforming energy in support of the 2030 Agenda</i>	<b>SDG 11</b> <i>(Cities and Communities)-2</i>  <i>Promoting resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements</i>	<b>SDG 12</b> <i>(Consumption &amp; Production Patterns)-2</i>  <i>Towards a circular economy: innovation for sustainable value chains</i>	<b>SDG 15</b> <i>(Forests and Ecosystems)-2</i>  <i>Biodiversity at the heart of sustainable development</i>
<b>18:30</b>	<b>RECEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS OFFERED BY SWITZERLAND</b>				
<b>DAY 2: FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2018</b>					
<b>8:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Side and special events</b>				
<b>10:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>CONNECTING THE DOTS:</b>  <b>Sustainable Resource Management and Lifestyles in the Region</b>  The plenary will hear reporting back from the round tables in an interactive panel discussion. The discussion will stress interlinkages between the respective SDGs and pathways for integrated policy-making.				
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>				

## Further Information and Registration:

**Website:** [www.unece.org/rfsd2018.html](http://www.unece.org/rfsd2018.html)

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