

96TH MEETING OF EXCOM, 30 JANUARY 2018

REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION, 1-2 MARCH 2018

Registration:

Online registration by 16 February 2018 is encouraged (www.unece.org/rfsd2018.html). Registration is required to enter the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG). Kindly contact the Secretariat (sdgu@unece.org), if there are any difficulties with registration.

Financial support:

We have funds available for participants of countries eligible for financial support. Priority is given to presenters of case studies or rapporteurs in round tables. If further funds are available, we will try to accommodate as many participants as possible.

Opening:

- Confirmed high-level speakers:
 - Marie Chatardová**, President of the Economic and Social Council
 - Amina J. Mohammed**, UN's Deputy Secretary-General (*via video message*)
 - Cihan Sultanoğlu**, Chair of the Regional UNDG Team for Europe and Central Asia
- Invited high-level speaker (not yet confirmed):
 - Jayathma Wickramanayake**, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth






Policy segment:

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. The segment will include keynote addresses and interventions from high-level participants from the floor.

- Keynote speaker: **Peter Messerli**, Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Bern and Co-Chair of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report

Round tables:

The peer learning round tables will promote in-depth peer learning and practical exchange of experiences in SDG implementation. Further information on each round table, including concept notes and guiding questions, is available online (www.unece.org/rfsd2018.html).

					
Round table Set 1 1 March 2018, 15:00 – 16:30	Making universal access to water and sanitation a reality in the UNECE region	Improving the efficiency of the energy system	Financing the transition to sustainable cities and communities: challenges and opportunities	Successful approaches to delivering on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2030	Sustainable Forest Management and the SDGs
Round table Set 2 1 March 2018, 16:30 – 18:00	Sharing water: balancing competing needs in a context of declining resource	Transforming energy in support of the 2030 Agenda	Promoting resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements	Towards a circular economy: innovation for sustainable value chains	Biodiversity at the heart of sustainable development

Side event and booths:

Side events will take place during the Regional Forum at lunchtime on 1 March 2018 and in the morning of 2 March 2018.

Thursday, 1 March 2018, 13:15 - 14:30

- **Fashion and the SDGs: what role for the UN?** (*organiser: UNECE*)
- **Including Youth and Citizen voices in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the HLPF** (*organisers: Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UN SDG Action Campaign, European Youth Forum, UNFPA EECA Regional Office, UN Youth Delegates of Sweden and the Netherlands*)
- **Achieving the SDGs by participation of all - experience by SEA/EIA** (*organiser: Czech Republic*)
- **Rural women, migration and agriculture** (*organisers: FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the International Organization for Migration*)

Friday, 2 March 2018, 8:30 - 9:45

- **Global Water Architecture** (*organiser: Federal Republic of Germany*)
- **Gender Equality as an Accelerator for SDGs Implementation** (*organiser: The United Nations Issue-Based Coalition on Gender Equality for Europe and Central Asia Region*)
- **EAEU sustainable development and its experience of the SDG implementation at sub-regional level** (*organiser: Eurasian Economic Commission*)
- **Mechanisms for citizen engagement and measurement for the implementation of Agenda 2030** (*organiser: UN Volunteers*)
- **Sustainable infrastructure** (*organiser: International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD*)

Several booths will give organisations the opportunity to present their SDG-related work (e.g. Geneva 2030 Ecosystem, SDG lab, UNECE, SDG Action Campaign).

Pre-meetings:

Civil Society Pre-Meeting (28 February 2018, Geneva)

The Regional Forum will be preceded by a civil society pre-meeting on 28 February 2018 at the Palais des Nations.

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2018 VNR countries (28 February 2018, Geneva)

The Division for Sustainable Development of UN DESA organises a Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 15 VNR countries of the UNECE region on 28 February 2018 at the Palais des Nations. Invitation letters were sent on 17 January 2018 by UN DESA to Permanent Missions in New York.