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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 6

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**Sixty-eighth session
of the Economic Commission for Europe
High-level Segment, 9 April 2019
Draft Programme**

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68th Commission Session

High-level Segment | 9 April 2019

DRAFT PROGRAMME



UNECE

10:00 – 13:00

Opening and welcome

H.E. **Amb. Janis Karklins**, Chair of the Commission

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE

Mr. Michael Moeller, Director-General, UNOG

High level segment

H.E. **Mr. Valentin Rybakov**, Vice-President, Economic and Social Council (tbc)

Statements by Heads of Delegations

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Mr. Xavier Cadoret, President, Chamber of Local Authorities, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

The role of local authorities in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

The work of UNECE on smart sustainable cities

Ms. Aziza Akhmouch, Acting Head, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

N.N. ICLEI - Global network of 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future

Local Governments for Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities in working towards the 2030 Agenda

N.N., Rapporteur

Key issues and outcomes from the Day of Cities

13:00 – 15:00

UNECE exhibition on smart sustainable cities

(Time tbc) Walk about: UNECE exhibition on smart sustainable cities incl. remarks by the Executive Secretary



15:00 – 18:00

Roundtable: “Regional and national solutions towards smart sustainable cities and the impact of UNECE instruments”

Discussions will focus on practical examples and success stories that demonstrate the benefits of integrated planning and comprehensive solutions for smart, sustainable and resilient cities and highlight the impact of relevant UNECE instruments that support this approach. Further, the roundtable will seek to identify emerging issues that need to be addressed to advance smart sustainable practice in urban environments.

Session 1: Measuring Performance in the Transition to Becoming a Smart Sustainable City

Session 2: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Smart Cities

Session 3: Increased Road Safety and Sustainable Transport in Cities

Session 4: Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cities

Session 1: Measuring Performance in the Transition to Becoming a Smart Sustainable City

Measuring, monitoring and assessing performance is an essential step of urban planning and management. Performance evaluation has become an important tool in planning and in project assessment, including in assessing cities’ strengths and comparing the performance of cities vis-à-vis different criteria.

UNECE and ITU led the development of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), within the framework of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative. The U4SSC is a global platform for smart cities stakeholders, which advocates for public policies to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities. The initiative is supported by 16 UN agencies and programmes. Over 50 cities were already measured by KPIs and the experience demonstrates that such work supports sustainable urban development; cross-sectoral cooperation as well as the cooperation between local and national governments, the involvement of the private sector and economic development.

The panel will discuss experiences and practices of measuring the performance of cities, including collecting and processing city data, analysing them, including through the KPIs evaluations; as well as taking steps to follow up on evaluation recommendations by developing and implementing plans of actions which supported sustainable urban development and the transformation into smart and sustainable cities.

Moderator:

Ms. Kari Aina Eik, Secretary General, OiER; Co-ordinator of the United Smart Cities Programme and Head of the UNECE Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities in Vienna, Austria

Speakers:

Mr. Andrey Chibis, Vice-Minister on Digitalisation, Ministry of Construction and Public Utilities of the Russian Federation



The establishment of the network of smart cities and UNECE Centre of Excellence on smart cities in the Russian Federation – experiences and lessons

Mr. Raymond W. Knops, State Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Kingdoms Relations, The Netherlands (tbc)

Mr. Chaesub Lee, Director, International Telecommunication Union

Session 2: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Smart Cities

Innovation is a central enabler for progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Innovative ideas, new business models and advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain technology and the internet of things, will drive the transition to “smart” and sustainable cities.

The concept of the circular economy is a system that maximizes resource use and reduces future economic, environmental and social costs – while also strengthening competitiveness. Innovation and the use of advanced technologies are already driving the shift towards a circular economy model, but its potential is far from fully exploited.

The transition requires an enabling framework, including efficient regulation that provides the right incentives and eliminates barriers. To compensate for the inherent risk in innovative solutions and revenue models, we also need innovative ways of financing projects – through private, public, and blended finance.

This roundtable will showcase success stories of smart cities from UNECE member states, showing progress using a circular economy approach. It will further discuss prospects and good practices at national and regional level. Participants will then examine how these practices could work in other member countries, including less advanced ones, and how UNECE and other international and regional players could contribute to continued, productive dialogue towards achieving a circular economy approach for smart cities.

Moderator: tbc

Speakers:

Ms Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie, Partnership for a green economy of Slovenia, Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia (tbc)

Ms. Marie Yeroyanni, Senior Expert on Innovating Cities, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Mr. Roland Hunziker, Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Session 3: Increased Road Safety and Sustainable Transport in Cities

Cities need a wide range of transport solutions to function correctly, sustainably and safely. These solutions draw on a mixture of transport modes that are the best fit for different city environments. This panel seeks to cover public transport, autonomous



vehicles and policies aimed at providing integrated mobility solutions through the activities of the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE and the tools developed by the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme.

At the same time, transport solutions need to ensure that people who live in cities are safe in their everyday movements. This requires robust road safety solutions built on the UN legal instruments managed by UNECE.

Moderator: **Mr. Kristof Schockaert**, Chair, Inland Transport Committee (tbc)

Speakers:

Mr. Laurence Batlle, President of the Executive Board, RATP (tbc)

Bringing sustainable transport solutions to cities around the world

Mr. Robert Thaler – Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism; Austria

The contribution of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) to facilitating sustainable transport

Mr. Olivier Fontaine, Technical Director, International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

The challenges related to sustainable mobility and the automotive sector

Session 4: Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Cities

Cities are the places where most of today's people live, work, produce, consume, where they enjoy education, health care, leisure and recreation. To fulfil all these functions, mobility is needed. Many of the human activities in urban areas have impacts on the environment. Examples are: pollution of air, water, soil, greenland and forests; over-use of natural resources and consumption of land for food, energy, mobility, settlement development for housing and industry; and waste production.

Urban environmental planning and management needs to take the environmental footprint into account. Integrated land-use planning, based on strategic environmental assessment, and including public participation is crucial to overcome existing environmental challenges in cities and to avoid new ones.

This roundtable will discuss the link between related UNECE environmental instruments, such as the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention, the Aarhus Convention, and the Industrial Accidents Convention; and their application in a holistic planning approach at city level. Panellists will showcase good practices from cities from UNECE member states.

Moderator:

Ms. Maia Bitadze, Vice Mayor of Tbilisi (Georgia)

The role of public participation to reduce urban environmental challenges

Speakers:

Mr. Andrei Isac, NGO Eco-Contact (Moldova)

Strategic environmental assessment in cities

Ms. Maria do Carmo Figueira, Environment Agency (Portugal)

Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment as a tool for land-use planning and the relevant integration of industrial safety considerations



Ms. Katrien Debeuckelaere, Environment Department – Flemish region, (Belgium)
Integrated land use planning for industrial safety

Further Information:

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