

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION  
29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



**UNLEASHING THE POWER OF YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION:  
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

# UNLEASHING THE POWER OF YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

## SPEAKERS

By order of intervention



**UNESCO**



UNESCO



**António MARQUES PINTO**

Association of Young Doctors  
of Portugal



**Simon HERTELEER**



Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth  
Platform



**Emily MORRIS**



The Brookings Institution, Center for  
Universal Education



**Luise HEIDENREICH**



Co-Head Education and Learning, Climate-KIC



**Bahar ÖZAY**



Coordinator, Sustainable Development  
Network Turkey (SDSN)



**Sylvie MOTARD**



Acting Director, Europe Office,  
UN Environment Programme



**Jessica GILL**



UN Youth Delegate for Ireland 2022/23



**Diana RIZZOLIO**



Coordinator, Geneva Environment  
Network



**Samia KASSID**



World Future Council



**Deirdre HODSON**



European Commission



**Wondwosen ASNAKE KIBRET**



Policy and Partnerships Coordinator,  
Europe Office, UN Environment  
Programme | Moderator



**UNECE**



UNECE



**David GILES**



UN Youth Delegate for Ireland 2022/23



**Vladislav KAIM**



UN SG's Youth Advisory Group on  
Climate Change



**Michaela KRÖMER (TBC)**

Attorney-at-Law



**Aravella ZACHARIOU**



Chair of the UNECE Steering  
Committee for ESD

**REGIONAL FORUM**

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION  
29 - 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



**UNECE**



<p>10h15 - 10h35</p> <p>[20 min]</p>	<p><b>Engagement of youth in SD policies (lessons from community/organizational involvement)</b>  <b>Dr. António Marques Pinto</b>, Association of Young Doctors of Portugal [<b>seeing invisible impact of climate change and pollution on children and youth daily</b>]  <b>Ms. Jessica Gill</b>, UN Youth Delegate for Ireland 2022/23 [<b>Amplifying the needs, priorities and voices of youth in the implementation of the 20230 agenda</b>].  <b>Simon Herteller</b>, Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform.</p>
<p>10h35 - 10h55</p> <p>[20 min]</p>	<p><b>Commitments to accelerate 2030 agenda</b>  <b>Mr. Daniel Dubas</b>, Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland, [Halfway to 2030 – Where does Europe stand and how does it move forward with youth and education]?  <b>Ms. Diana D. Rizzolio</b>, Coordinator, <b>Geneva Environment Network</b>, [promoting education and youth involvement through environmental negotiations and meetings]  <b>Mr. Nathan Metenier</b>, <b>UN SG's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change</b> [young people ]</p>
<p>10h55 - 11h15</p> <p>[20 min]</p>	<p><b>Promising collaborative actions to advance the interest of young people</b>  <b>Ms. Emily Morris</b>, The Brookings Institution, Center for Universal Education, <b>Purpose of education - solution [the silver bullet] to all issues?</b>  <b>Ms. Samia Kassid</b>, The <b>Rights of Children and Youth</b>, World Future Council  <b>Michaela Krömer</b>, Attorney-at-Law, [Defending the rights of young people against climate crisis]</p>
<p>11h15 - 11h40</p> <p>[25 min]</p>	<p><b>Good practices of youth engagement through education</b>  <b>Ms. Luise Heidenreich</b>, Co-Head Education and Learning, Climate-KIC [ <b>How to empower the next generation of climate innovators and entrepreneurs?</b>]  <b>Ms. Deirdre Hodson</b>, European Commission [<b>Learning for environmental sustainability and readiness for the green transition</b>].  <b>Ms. Aravella Zachariou</b>, Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD [empowering youth through ESD framework 2020-2030 ]  <b>Ms. Bahar Özey</b>, Coordinator, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Turkey (SDSN)</p>

# AGENDA

## Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- Wondwosen ASNAKE KIBRET | Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, Europe Office, UNEP | Moderator
- UNESCO
- Sylvie MOTARD | Acting Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme
- UNECE

## Engagement of youth in SD policies (lessons from community/organizational involvement)

- António MARQUES PINTO | Association of Young Doctors of Portugal
- Jessica GILL and David GILES | UN Youth Delegates for Ireland 2022/23
- Simon HERTELEER | Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform

## Commitments to accelerate 2030 agenda

- Diana RIZZOLIO | Geneva Environment Network
- Vladislav KAIM | UN SG's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

## Promising collaborative actions to advance the interest of young people

- Emily MORRIS | The Brookings Institution, Center for Universal Education
- Samia KASSID | World Future Council
- Michaela KRÖMER (TBC) | Attorney-at-Law

## Good practices of youth engagement through education

- Luise HEIDENREICH | Co-Head Education and Learning, Climate-KIC
- Deirdre HODSON | European Commission
- Aravella ZACHARIOU | Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD
- Bahar ÖZAY | Coordinator, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Turkey (SDSN)

## Q&A

## Closing



UNECE

**Growing Challenges  
for Sustainable Development:  
Can the UNECE Region Turn the Tide in 2023?**



UNITED NATIONS

Based on this assessment, **the region will achieve only 21 targets** (18 per cent of measurable targets) by 2030. This is down from 26 targets assessed as on track last year.

**For 79 targets** (up from 64 last year), **progress has to accelerate**, and **for 15 targets** (as last year), **the current trend needs to be reversed**.

## Progress in the UNECE region

How many targets are on track?



UNECE

# Growing Challenges for Sustainable Development: Can the UNECE Region Turn the Tide in 2023?



UNITED NATIONS

Progress in the UNECE region 2023

## Which SDG targets are on track for 2030?

MAINTAIN progress to achieve target		ACCELERATE progress to achieve target		REVERSE trend to achieve target		Insufficient data																													
<b>GOAL 1 NO POVERTY</b>	1.1 Extreme poverty 1.4 Access to basic services 1.2 National poverty 1.3 Social protection 1.5 Resources for poverty programmes 1.a Resilience to disasters 1.b Poverty eradication policies	<b>GOAL 2 ZERO HUNGER</b>	2.1 Undernourishment and food security 2.2 Malnutrition 2.3 Small-scale food producers 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture 2.a Investment in agriculture 2.4 Sustainable agriculture 2.b Agricultural export subsidies 2.c Food price anomalies	<b>GOAL 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	3.1 Maternal mortality 3.2 Child mortality 3.3 Communicable diseases 3.4 NCD & mental health 3.5 Substance abuse 3.6 Road traffic accidents 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health 3.8 Universal health coverage 3.9 Health impact of pollution 3.a Tobacco control 3.b R&D for health 3.c Health financing & workforce 3.d Management of health risks	<b>GOAL 4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b>	4.8 Education facilities 4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.2 Early childhood development 4.3 TVET & tertiary education 4.4 Skills for employment 4.5 Equal access to education 4.c Qualified teachers 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy 4.7 Sustainable development education 4.b Scholarships	<b>GOAL 5 GENDER EQUALITY</b>	5.b Technology for women's empowerment 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work 5.5 Women in leadership 5.2 Violence against women & girls 5.3 Early marriage 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights 5.a Equal economic rights 5.c Gender equality policies	<b>GOAL 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b>	6.1 Safe drinking water 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene 6.3 Water quality 6.4 Water-use efficiency 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation 6.6 Water-related ecosystems 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.	<b>GOAL 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b>	7.1 Access to energy services 7.2 Share of renewable energy 7.3 Energy efficiency 7.a Int. cooperation on energy 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure	<b>GOAL 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b>	8.b Strategy for youth employment 8.4 Material resource efficiency 8.5 Full employment & decent work 8.6 Youth NEET 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env. 8.9 Sustainable tourism 8.10 Access to financial services 8.a Aid for Trade 8.1 Per capita economic growth 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation 8.3 Formalization of SMEs 8.7 Child & forced labour	<b>GOAL 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet 9.3 Small-scale industries access to finance 9.5 Research and development 9.b Domestic technology development 9.1 Infrastructure development 9.a Resilient infrastructure	<b>GOAL 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>	10.c Remittance costs 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & political) 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies 10.5 Regulation of financial markets 10.7 Safe migration & mobility 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO) 10.b Resource flows for development 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%) 10.3 Eliminate discrimination 10.6 Inclusive global governance	<b>GOAL 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	11.1 Housing & basic services 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt. 11.b Disaster risk management policies 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage 11.5 Resilience to disasters 11.2 Public transport systems 11.3 Sustainable urbanization 11.7 Urban green & public spaces 11.a Urban planning 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings	<b>GOAL 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION &amp; PRODUCTION</b>	12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes 12.5 Reduction in waste generation 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring 12.1 Programmes on SCP 12.3 Food waste & losses 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices 12.7 Public procurement practices 12.8 Sustainable development awareness 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD	<b>GOAL 13 CLIMATE ACTION</b>	13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity 13.2 Climate change policies 13.3 Climate change awareness 13.a UNFCCC commitments 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.	<b>GOAL 14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b>	14.6 Fisheries subsidies 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing 14.1 Marine pollution 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs 14.a Research capacity & marine technology 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems 14.3 Ocean acidification 14.4 Sustainable fishing 14.c Implementing UNCLOS	<b>GOAL 15 LIFE ON LAND</b>	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems 15.6 Utilization of genetic resources 15.8 Invasive alien species 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems 15.b Resources for forest management 15.5 Loss of biodiversity 15.3 Desertification and land degradation 15.7 Protected species trafficking 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)	<b>GOAL 16 PEACE AND JUSTICE</b>	16.5 Corruption and bribery 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths 16.3 Justice for all 16.7 Inclusive decision-making 16.10 Public access to information 16.a Capacity to prevent violence 16.2 Human trafficking 16.6 Effective institutions 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows 16.8 Inclusive global governance 16.9 Legal identity 16.b Non-discriminatory laws	<b>GOAL 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b>	17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation 17.8 Capacity building for ICT 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries 17.4 Debt sustainability 17.7 Transfer of technologies 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO) 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs 17.17 Partnerships (public, private, CSO) 17.18 National statistics availability 17.19 Statistical capacity 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs	<b>GOAL 18 GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC STABILITY</b>	17.13 Global macroeconomic stability 17.15 Respect country's policy space 17.3 Additional financial resources 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs 17.11 Exports of developing countries 17.14 Policy coherence for SD 17.16 Global partnership for SD

Progress in the UNECE region 2023



## Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet.’

It warns that “many of the SDGs are moderately to severely off track” and offers five recommendations to “rescue” the Goals by the 2030 deadline.

The report reveals that according to a preliminary assessment of around 140 targets with data, only about 12% are on track.

Nearly 50% of the targets are moderately or severely off track

and approximately 30% have either stagnated or “regressed below the 2015 baseline.”



It offers **five broad recommendations** and specifies a number of actions governments could take to support each:

1. **Recommit to** “accelerated, sustained and transformative action” at the national and global level “to deliver on the promise of the SDGs”;
2. Advance “**concrete**, integrated and targeted **policies and actions** to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and “**end the war on nature,**” while promoting the rights women and girls and empowering the most vulnerable;
3. **Improve national** and subnational **capacity**, accountability, and public institutions to accelerate SDG progress;
4. To support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, recommit to deliver on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and **mobilize the resources and investment** needed, particularly for countries in special situations and those “experiencing acute vulnerability”; and
5. Continue **strengthening the UN development system** and boost the capacity of the multilateral system to tackle emerging challenges and SDG-related gaps in the international architecture that have emerged since 2015.





The report **calls on world leaders** to come together at the **SDG Summit** and “**deliver a Rescue Plan for People and Planet**” around **three breakthroughs**:

- 1) **equipping** governance and **institutions** for sustainable and inclusive transformation;
- 2) **prioritizing policies and investments that have multiplier effects** across the Goals; and
- 3) **securing a surge in SDG financing** and an enabling global environment for developing countries.



# UNCRC

Create and build safe **spaces** to allow meaningful engagement of youth in projects and decision making.

Young people think not only of themselves but also their communities and future generations. We have a responsibility to **support** them to apply their agency.

Must **change** social norms attitudes towards young people (seen and not heard), (social problems not solutions) .

3Ps —————> 3Ss

PROTECTION - - - -> SPACE

PROVISION - - - -> SUPPORT

PARTICIPATION - - - -> SYSTEM CHANGE

*Accelerating action  
for healthier people,  
a thriving planet, a  
sustainable future*



**The triple crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss poses the greatest threat to the health and well-being of current and future generations. These three interlinked issues reinforce each other, amplifying the threats to our health and well-being and calling for urgent action to change course and steer humankind back to safety.**

- 1) take stock of the most recent developments in [understanding the health impact of the triple environmental crisis](#) and of major trends and current and future concerns in the Region, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 2) enhance the commitment of the [health sector to tackle the impacts of climate change](#), including by making health systems more environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient;
- 3) reaffirm the need [for urgent efforts to reduce the health effects of pollution](#), addressing both established and [emerging](#) environmental risk factors (including [plastics](#));
- 4) [integrate nature, biodiversity and health considerations](#) in environment and health policies, and in the implementation of the One Health approach;
- 5) [adopt a roadmap](#) as an integral part of the Budapest Declaration, with a set of concrete actions and commitments to prevent and **address the health effects posed by the triple crisis**;
- 6) agree on a series [of accelerators](#) for achieving the environment and health-related Sustainable Development Goals, at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, and a transition towards resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable communities; and
- 7) launch the [EHP Partnerships](#) as a new and flexible mechanism to support the implementation of commitments on specific topics of common interest at the national and international levels.



## **UN Cooperation in the UNECE Region**



**Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change**



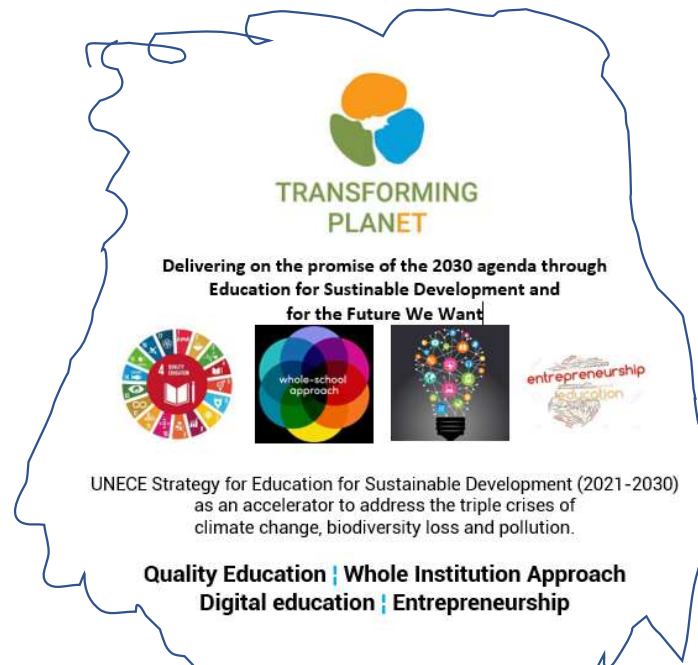
**Issue-based Coalition on Adolescent and Youth**



**Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being**

**SCORECARD**





**Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, and Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development**  
*adoption of the framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030*

**Ministerial Declaration of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**  
*strengthening and scaling up education for sustainable development*



## TRANSFORMING PLANET

**Delivering on the promise of the 2030 agenda through  
Education for Sustainable Development and  
for the Future We Want**



UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)  
as an accelerator to address the triple crises of  
climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

**Quality Education ; Whole Institution Approach  
Digital education ; Entrepreneurship**

## Explanatory Note

This draft document is submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office after consultations with the Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and the secretariats of UNECE and UNESCO.

The document aims to apply the Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 as an accelerator to address the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

While at the mid-way point towards 2030, the current trends based on regional and global assessments of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are moderately to severely off track.

The Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 and its four strands in focus can be used as a tool to accelerate transformative action to deliver on the promise of the SDGs, tackle the triple crises, deliver more for young people and succeeding generations, and equip and empower them to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.

This document by no means is intended to duplicate existing work but shared as a **Zero Draft** or a **Thought Starter** for elaboration of a possible **product/tool/tip** that could look like a guidance to address the triple crises by using the four strands of the strategy: **Quality Education, Whole Institution Approach, Digital education, and Entrepreneurship**.

Furthermore, the images used in the document are strictly for illustration and not meant to be a visual representation of the four strands.

## Explanatory Note

This draft document is submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office after consultations with the Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and the secretariats of UNECE and UNESCO.

The document aims to apply the Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 as an accelerator to address the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

While at the mid-way point towards 2030, the current trends based on regional and global assessments of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are moderately to severely off track.

The Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 and its four strands in focus can be used as a tool to accelerate transformative action to deliver on the promise of the SDGs, tackle the triple crises, deliver more for young people and succeeding generations, and equip and empower them to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.

This document by no means is intended to duplicate existing work but shared as a **Zero Draft** or a **Thought Starter** for elaboration of a possible **product/tool/tip** that could look like a guidance to address the triple crises by using the four strands of the strategy: **Quality Education, Whole Institution Approach, Digital education, and Entrepreneurship**.

Furthermore, the images used in the document are strictly for illustration and not meant to be a visual representation of the four strands.

Issue	Page
Critical role of Education in addressing and tackling environmental crises	..... 5
Crucial role of Education for Sustainable Development in tackling the triple crisis	..... 6
<b>The four strands</b>	
Quality Education and Climate Change	..... 7
Quality Education and loss of biodiversity	..... 8
Quality Education and Pollution	..... 9
Whole Institution Approach and Climate Change	..... 10
Whole Institution Approach and loss of biodiversity	..... 11
Whole Institution Approach and Pollution	..... 12
Digital education and ICT and Climate Change	..... 13
Digital education and ICT and loss of biodiversity	..... 14
Digital education and ICT and Pollution	..... 15
Entrepreneurship and ICT and Climate Change	..... 16
Entrepreneurship and ICT and loss of biodiversity	..... 17
Entrepreneurship and ICT and Pollution	..... 18



TRANSFORMING  
PLANET

