

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

21-22 March 2019
International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2019

13:00 – 14:30 *SIDE EVENTS*

OPENING

15:00 – 16:00

H.E. Ms. Senida Mesi

*Chair of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania*

High-level UN speakers

16:00 – 18:00

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

*“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality
in the UNECE region”*

- **High-level Dialogue** (16:00-17:00): Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as Drivers of SDG Implementation? National Experiences from UNECE countries.

High-level representatives from past and 2019 VNR countries from the region will have a moderated dialogue and an interactive discussion with the floor on the national experiences from the VNR process. A particular focus will be on the impetus the VNR process may have provided to SDG implementation, national ownership, stakeholder involvement and SDG awareness in the country. The discussion will also reflect on overall lessons from the VNR exercise so far and possible ways forward.



- **Plenary Debate** (17:00-18:00)

Interventions from high-level participants from the floor, highlighting policy experiences and challenges related to SDG implementation, with a particular focus on the theme of the High-level Policy Segment and the SDGs under in-depth review.

FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2019

8:30 – 9:45

SIDE EVENTS

	<p>FOCUS EVENTS</p> <p>Two focus events on cutting-edge topics affecting overall SDG implementation will take place in the plenary room. Panellists will provide introductory inputs followed by an interactive discussion with the floor.</p>	<p>PEER LEARNING SEGMENT</p> <p>The Peer Learning Segment will facilitate practical exchange of experiences and best practices in SDG implementation between governments and other stakeholders. Two sets of five parallel round tables will take place on the SDGs that are under in-depth review at the 2019 HLPF. To enable effective peer learning in smaller groups, participation in round tables is upon nomination or invitation.</p>
<p>10:00 – 13:00</p>	<p>Focus Event 1 (10:00-11:25):</p> <p>Technology, Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence – Curse or Blessing for Sustainable Development?</p>	<p>First set of round tables (10:00-11:25)</p>  <p><i>(Please find thematic focus of round tables on next page.)</i></p>
	<p>Focus Event 2 (11:35-13:00):</p> <p>How to Measure Progress? Data and Statistics for SDGs</p>	<p>Second set of round tables (11:35-13:00)</p>  <p><i>(Please find thematic focus of round tables on next page.)</i></p>
<p>13:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>LUNCH BREAK SIDE EVENTS (13:15 – 14:30)</p>	
<p>15:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>CONNECTING THE DOTS: Moving Ahead Towards Empowerment, Inclusion and Equality in the Region</p> <p>The plenary will hear key messages from the round tables and the focus events and engage in an interactive panel discussion that stresses interlinkages between the reviewed SDGs and pathways for integrated policy-making. A keynote speaker will provide input to the discussion.</p>	
<p>17:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>CLOSING</p>	

PEER LEARNING ROUND TABLES

Friday, 22 March 2019

10:00-11:25: First set of round tables

	Learning without Limits <i>Lifelong Learning and Inclusive Education</i>
	The Growth We Want <i>Solutions for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth</i>
	Bridging the Gap <i>Achieving Greater Income and Economic Equality</i>
	Acting for Climate <i>Stepping Up Climate Change Policies, Action and Awareness in the Region</i>
	Strengthening Institutions for Change <i>Fostering Effective and Inclusive Governance for Sustainable Development</i>

11:35-13:00: Second set of round tables

	The Power of Knowledge for Change <i>Education and Learning as Drivers of Sustainable Development</i>
	The Future of Work <i>Productive Employment and Decent Work for All</i>
	Towards a World of Equal Opportunity <i>Tackling inequality caused by exclusion and discrimination</i>
	Coping with Climate Change <i>Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation</i>
	Empowering People to Protect the Planet <i>The Environmental Dimension of SDG 16</i>

REGISTRATION

Please register for the Regional Forum at <http://www.unece.org/rfsd2019.html>, preferably by 22 February 2019.

INPUTS

Case studies: Governments and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide case studies from their experience in SDG implementation. The case studies will be compiled in a document and shared with participants in advance of the Forum. Selected case studies will be presented during the peer learning segment at the Regional Forum. To contribute a case study, kindly fill in [this form](#) (submission deadline: 31 January 2019).

Side events: Governments and other stakeholders are kindly asked to submit their side event requests via [this form](#) (submission deadline: 31 January 2019).

Booths at SDG fair: At the entrance area of the venue, a fair with booths will showcase the SDG-related activities of different stakeholders. If you wish to request a booth, please submit [this form](#) (submission deadline: 31 January 2019).

CONTACT



**Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 14 88

Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

e-mail: regionalforumunece@un.org

website: <http://www.unece.org/rfsd2019.html>

The Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the Regional UN System.