

Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) presents the program for the:

## Civil Society Pre-Meeting to UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

20-21st March 2019, Geneva

Palais des Nations and International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

### Goals and objectives

1. Engage civil society stakeholders from across the UNECE region in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Strengthen Civil Society cooperation and their role in United Nations processes on the SDGs, including the HLPF, the UN General Assembly and related processes
3. Discuss and provide recommendations for improved implementation, monitoring and accountability processes and mechanisms; including on reporting models, VNRs, the Regional Forum and HLPF
4. Sharing good practices and case studies
5. Increase visibility of the Regional Civil society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)
6. Development joint advocacy messages from civil society / RCEM and strengthen RCEM

### Key expected outputs of the event

1. Shared lessons on progress at national level of Agenda2030 and the role of Civil Society
2. Recommendations on Agenda2030 monitoring and accountability including on reporting models; VNR
3. Agreed statements and positions to the official RFSD including focus and peer learning sessions
4. Joint advocacy messages for better implementation of the Agenda 2030
5. Recommendations to strengthen the role of civil society
6. Mapping inter-linkages with related processes in UNECE region
7. Follow up action for RCEM
8. Civil Society speaker(s) for the official RFSD 'connecting the dots' session

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Time	
	<b>Wednesday 20th March 2019</b> <b>Where: Room XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva</b>
9:00-10:00	Registration and networking
10:00-10:30	<b>Opening by co-moderators</b> Plenary opening, introduction of the agenda, Forum objectives, and introduction of new facilitating committee, constituency groups and participants ( <u>Opening address</u> Olga Algayerova, executive secretary, UNECE <u>Civil society address</u>
10:30-11:30	<b>Introduction to the 5 SDGs under review, SDG17 as well as crosscutting inter-linkages</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</li> <li>• SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</li> <li>• SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</li> <li>• SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</li> <li>• SDG17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</li> </ul>
11:30-12:20	<p><b>WORK GROUPS on thematic SDGs</b> to prepare input to the Peer Learning Round Tables during the RFSD</p> <p><u>Key points for opening statement from all groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we want to contribute to the discussion session</li> <li>• What are the crosscutting dimensions that we want to bring in</li> </ul>
12:20-13:00	<p><b>INTRODUCTIONS by UN agencies and convention secretariats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AARHUS convention – update on implementation within Agenda 2030</li> <li>• Human Rights processes and their link to the 2030 Agenda</li> <li>• 1325 Women and Peace process</li> <li>• UNFPA monitoring framework</li> <li>• UNFCCC - PA &amp; GAP</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>
14:00-14:30	<p><b>HLPF Review including improving accountability mechanisms in countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations for improving the HLPF process, accountability processes and mechanisms including on reporting models, VNRs, Regional official forums</li> <li>• Lessons from positive cases of accountability, institutionalization of CSOs' participation</li> <li>• Update on PPPs and on regional inputs to reviewing SDG</li> <li>• Capture key points for the opening statement</li> </ul>
14:30- 15:00	<p><b>Status of Voluntary National Reviews from CSOs of VNR countries</b></p> <p>Fifty-one countries will conduct Voluntary National Reviews (<u>VNRs</u>) for HLPF 2019 of which 11 countries from our region:</p> <p><u>First time VNRs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina,</li> <li>• Croatia</li> <li>• Iceland,</li> <li>• Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Liechtenstein,</li> <li>• Serbia,</li> <li>• Turkmenistan,</li> <li>• UK</li> <li>• Moldova</li> </ul> <p><u>Second time VNRs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azerbaijan</li> <li>• France</li> </ul>

15:00-16:00	<p><b>WORKING GROUPS on VNRs – improving the VNR processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VNR countries EECCA (Russian speaking)</li> <li>• VNR countries EU (English speaking)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key points for opening statement from all groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we want to contribute to the discussion session</li> <li>• What are the crosscutting dimensions that we want to bring in</li> </ul>
16:00-17:00	<p><b>WORKING GROUPS Inputs to the session on CONNECTING THE DOTS</b></p> <p><u>Key points for opening statement from all groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we want to contribute to the discussion session</li> <li>• What are the crosscutting dimensions that we want to bring in</li> </ul>
17:00-17:30	<p><b>FEEDBACK SESSION: Key points from the working groups for CSO statement</b></p>
	<p><b>Evening: Informal get-together</b></p>
	<p><b>Thursday 21st March 2019</b>  <b>Where: International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) (TBC)</b></p>
9:30-10:00	<p><b>RECAP of Day 1</b></p>
10:00-11:30	<p><b>DISCUSSION: Agenda 2030- Challenges and Perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicator frameworks: Agenda 2030 indicator process</li> <li>• UNGA 74th session</li> <li>• UNEA4, Beijing+25; Financing for Development process</li> <li>• Regional CSO engagement mechanism, how can we strengthen our role in the HLPF process. How can we make this space more strategic</li> </ul>
11:30-12:30	<p><b>RCEM CSO engagement mechanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and TOR</li> <li>• Current status: governing body</li> <li>• Mobilise sub-regional representatives and other stakeholder groups</li> <li>• Short presentations by working groups</li> <li>• Way forward</li> </ul>
12:30-13:00	<p><b>Closing session - GROUP PHOTO</b></p>