



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development

Geneva, 15 to 16 January 2004

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Thursday, 15 January 2004 from 9.00 a.m. to 18:00 and

Friday, 16 January 2004*, from 9:00 to 1 p.m.

1. Opening of the forum and introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Keynote speech by the Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.
5. Human settlements.
6. Water.
7. Sanitation.
8. General discussion
9. Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form, which is also available from the web site of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (http://www.unece.org/env/wgso/Sustainable%20Development/sd_forum.jan2004.htm) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest three weeks prior to the Forum, either by fax (+41-22-917-0107 or 917 0630) or by e-mail: (subashini.narasimhan@unece.org). Prior to the Forum, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (extension 72468).

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development took place on 9 May 2003. It was its first session since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa). The Commission concluded its session with an agreement on its programme and organization of work for the next 15 years.

The Commission will now function on the basis of two-year "implementation cycles", including review and policy years. In the review year it will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while in the policy year it will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints.

The Commission also took a range of decisions on other practical issues relating to its future programme and methods of work, including enhancing the role of regional and subregional inputs.

It was agreed that for the first two-year cycle (2004-2005), the Commission would focus on water, sanitation and human settlements. Thus, at its twelfth session, scheduled for 16-30 April 2004, the Commission on Sustainable Development will review the progress achieved in the implementation in these thematic areas.

In line with the above, the Economic Commission for Europe at its ad hoc informal meeting on 2 September 2003 decided to hold the first Regional Implementation Forum to provide substantial inputs to the review year and contribute to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Item 1: Opening of the Forum and introduction by the Executive Secretary of UNECE

Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, will deliver the opening speech.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 3: Election of Officers

Delegates are invited to elect a chair and three vice-chairs. It is expected that each Vice-Chair will chair one of the three sessions.

Item 4: Keynote speech by the Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

Mr. Børge Brende, Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and Norway's Environment Minister, will deliver the keynote speech.

Item 5: Human Settlements

The session on human settlements will be opened by one of the Vice-Chairs who will introduce the item.

A round table will be organized to address the regional and subregional issues, including trends and challenges for the sustainable development of human settlements in the ECE region; policy areas and actions in urban planning, housing and land administration; achievements and assessments of progress following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992), the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21 (New York, 1997) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002); and future directions for the development of human settlements in the region. Four representatives from governments and three representatives from stakeholders will be invited to participate in the round table.

The round table will be followed by a general discussion on governments' and stakeholders' experiences with the implementation of sustainable development in the area of human settlements. It is expected that delegates will address relevant obstacles, challenges, achievements, good practices and partnerships.

To conclude the session, the Vice-Chair will summarize the discussions and may also wish to outline the key points of concern for the region and possible recommendations for future work.

Document: Implementation report on human settlements (ECE/AC.25/2004/4 and Add.1)

Item 6: Water

The session on water will be opened by one of the Vice-Chairs who will introduce the item.

A round table will be organized to address the regional and subregional issues, including trends and challenges in the sustainable use of water; relevant international legal and policy instruments; achievements and assessments of progress following the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1997 General Assembly's Special Session and the 2002 World Summit; and future directions for development in the area of water in the region. Four representatives from governments and three representatives from stakeholders will be invited to participate in the round table.

The round table will be followed by a general discussion on governments' and stakeholders' experiences with the implementation of sustainable development in the area of water. It is expected that delegates will address relevant obstacles, challenges, achievements, good practices and partnerships.

To conclude the session, the Vice-Chair will summarize the discussions and may also wish to outline the key points of concern for the region and possible recommendations for future work.

Document: Implementation report on water and sanitation (ECE/AC.25/2004/5 and Add.1)

Item 7: Sanitation

The session on sanitation will be opened by one of the Vice-Chairs, who will introduce the item.

A round table will be organized to address the regional and subregional issues, including trends and challenges in sanitation in relation to sustainable development; relevant international legal and policy instruments; achievements and assessments of progress following the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1997 General Assembly's Special Session and the 2002 World Summit; and future directions for development in the area of sanitation in the region. Four representatives from governments and three representatives from stakeholders will be invited to participate in the round table.

The round table will be followed by a general discussion on governments' and stakeholders' experiences with the implementation of sustainable development in the area of sanitation. It is expected that delegates will address relevant obstacles, challenges, achievements, good practices and partnerships.

To conclude the session, the Vice-Chair will summarize the discussions and may also wish to outline the key points of concern for the region and possible recommendations for future work.

Document: Implementation report on water and sanitation (ECE/AC.25/2004/5 and Add.1)

Item 8: General discussion

Participants are invited to address the interlinkages among the three substantive issues, human settlements, water and sanitation. They may also wish to discuss the role of the UNECE region in the global context, with particular reference to the support given by UNECE member States to developing countries in their progress toward sustainable development.

Item 9: Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing

The Chair may wish to summarize the main issues raised at the Forum and identify the key points to be presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session.



Please send it by fax to: +41 22 917 0107 or e-mail: subashini.narasimhan@unece.org
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Conference Registration

Please Print

Title of the Conference

Date

UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Thursday, 15 January to Friday, 16 January 2004

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency

Participant

Date

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Family Name

First Name

Participation category

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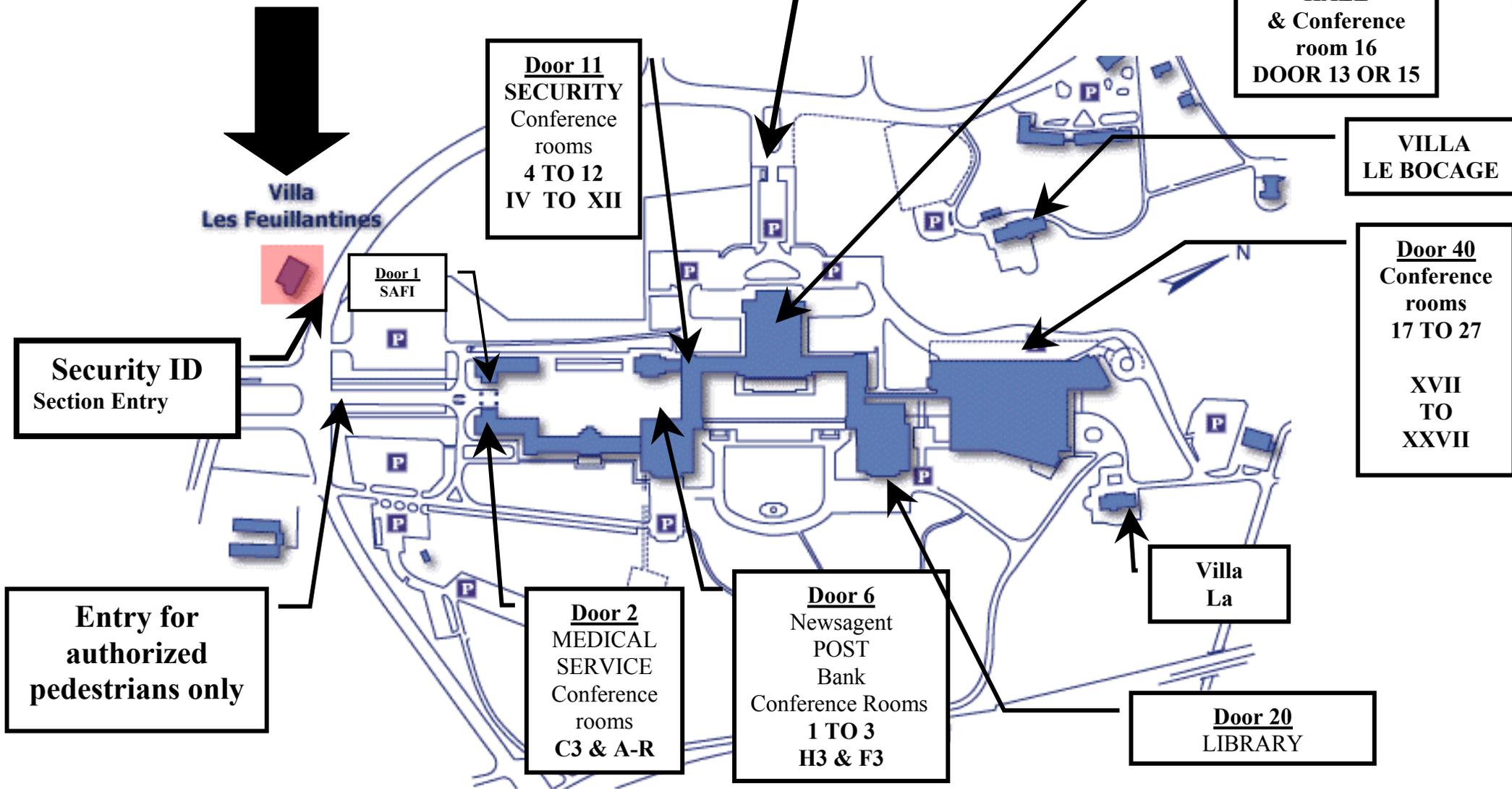
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TO
XXVII

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