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Economic Commission for Europe

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region

First session

Geneva, 25 April 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the first session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy Segment: The Second Year of the SDGs in the Region - Knowing Where We Stand and Moving on to Prosperity and Well-Being for All.
3. Peer Learning Segment
 - (a) Regional Round Table I: Nationalization and Localization of SDGs;
 - (b) Regional Round Table II: Subregional Cooperation for SDG Implementation;
 - (c) Regional Round Table III: Data and Monitoring.
4. Reporting Back and Closing.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair will open the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and will suggest to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. The detailed programme is contained in an informal document (ECE/AC.25/2017/INF1).¹

¹ The informal document will be made available on the website of the Regional Forum at:



2. Policy Segment: The Second Year of the SDGs in the Region – Knowing Where We Stand and Moving on to Prosperity and Well-Being for All

2. The Policy Segment will be organized as an interactive and cross-sectoral panel discussion in the plenary. Within the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the broader theme of the 2017 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), it will focus on a set of key themes as agreed by UNECE member States in informal consultations: prosperity, health and well-being, and gender (hence, particularly SDG 3 on health and well-being, SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, and SDG 9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation). Through the lens of prosperity, health and well-being, and gender, other SDGs that will be reviewed in-depth at the 2017 HLPF will also be covered, in particular poverty and social protection (SDG 1), nutrition and agriculture (SDG 2), and oceans (SDG 14).

3. The Policy Segment aims at a cross-sectoral exchange and discussion among key policy makers and non-governmental actors (United Nations system, other regional and international organizations, civil society, private sector, academia) with an integrated perspective on the SDG agenda. A synthesis of substantive background materials will be contained in an informal document (ECE/AC.25/2017/INF2).²

3. Peer Learning Segment

4. The Peer Learning Segment will promote voluntary and more in-depth peer learning and practical exchange of experiences and best practices in SDG implementation. Participants will break out in three parallel Regional Round Tables. Informal concept notes will be available for all three Regional Round Tables (ECE/AC.25/2017/INF3, ECE/AC.25/2017/INF4 and ECE/AC.25/2017/INF5).³

(a) Regional Round Table I: Nationalization and Localization of SDGs

5. Round Table I will focus on the ongoing process of adapting the global SDGs to national and local circumstances. Reviewing and adjusting national strategies, plans and instruments is a major first step taken by governments in the region to start SDG implementation. The Round Table will discuss challenges, exchange different approaches, and collect preliminary lessons from devising national and local SDG strategies and programmes, benefitting from a wealth of country experiences, including from the countries from the region that participated or will participate in the National Voluntary Reviews at the HLPF.

(b) Regional Round Table II: Subregional Cooperation for SDG Implementation

6. The subregional level is important in a multi-layered system of SDG implementation and follow-up. Neighbouring countries working together can help address issues of common concern, including those of transboundary nature. The subregional level connects the local and national levels on the one hand and the regional and global levels on the other hand. With regard to the key themes for the Regional Forum, this applies in particular to cross-border infrastructure and trade. The Round Table will share experiences and discuss

www.unece.org/rfsd2017.

² The informal background document will be made available on the website of the Regional Forum at: www.unece.org/rfsd2017.

³ The informal concept notes will be made available on the website of the Regional Forum at: www.unece.org/rfsd2017.

how cooperation within the different UNECE subregions can help advance the SDGs. The Round Table will encourage participation by governments, subregional organizations and bodies, and non-governmental actors engaged in subregional cooperation.

(c) **Regional Round Table III: Data and Monitoring**

7. Improving the data situation and building statistical capacities for SDG monitoring remains a significant challenge for all countries in the region and beyond. Statisticians are working at the global and regional levels, including in the Conference of European Statisticians, to develop methodologically sound SDG indicators. The Round Table will provide an opportunity for dialogue between policy-makers and statisticians on the needs, feasibility and limitations of SDG data.

4. Reporting Back and Closing

8. The plenary will hear reporting back from the Regional Round Tables. The Chair will close the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. A draft Chair's summary of the discussions will be prepared after the meeting and will be made available to meeting participants for comments. The final version of the Chair's summary will constitute the input from the UNECE region to the 2017 High-level Political Forum.
