REGIONAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

2020 Regional Forum

Peer Learning Segment:
Leveraging Data and Statistics for SDG progress

The year 2020 marks the beginning of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development, which was launched by world leaders at the UN Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2019. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has triggered progress in many areas. However, with only 10 years to go, the speed and scale of implementation is not sufficient yet to achieve the required sustainability transformation. Decisive action is needed to accelerate progress, including in the UNECE region with its mostly high- and middle-income countries.

The 2020 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, in particular the peer learning segment, will therefore adopt an action-oriented and forward-looking approach. It will focus on ambitious and impactful actions, commitments and multi-partner initiatives that will help speed up SDG implementation and deliver the necessary transformations across different areas.

The identification of the themes for the round tables has drawn on the entry points presented in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report, which has also informed the possible range of issues that could be considered in each round table.

The description of the themes and some potential questions presented below aims to broadly characterize the potential space for discussion. In practice, the contribution of specific acceleration actions by governments and other actors will determine the actual content of each round table.

Round Table 7
Leveraging data and statistics for SDG progress
How the available data is used to trigger policy action

Friday, 20 March 2020, 10:00-12:30
Room 14, International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)

Worldwide commitment to the 2030 Agenda cannot be fulfilled without relevant and timely statistics to track progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and targets: on the one hand, to identify the areas, groups or regions that are "left behind", and on the other hand, to help monitor the results and impact of policy interventions. The discussions will focus on the availability and use of statistics and data for evidence-based decision-making, on the need for coordination and partnerships at sub-national, national, regional and international levels, and other related questions coming from participants.

The round table will provide input and seek answers to the following questions:

• • •

- Which are the processes to support dissemination and communication of SDG indicators?
- What partnerships are in place to coordinate the effective and efficient production and communication of SDG indicators, at the national and regional levels?
- How can policymakers take maximum advantage of the data produced and disseminated on SDG implementation, including from "Leave No One Behind" perspectives?
- Which are the challenges faced by the national statistical offices to coordinate production of quality data and statistics for global and national SDG indicators?

Objectives and organization of the round table
Acceleration actions

The discussion of challenges, solutions and best practices at the round table on "Leveraging data and statistics for SDG progress" has three purposes:

1. Facilitate mutual learning to enhance knowledge and improve decision-making and policy formulation by using quality data in line with SDGs related disaggregation.

2. Encourage further engagement from different actors to deliver concrete change on Agenda 2030 implementation.

3. Promote partnerships that may result in further actions or the enhanced impact of existing ones.

Challenges and solutions discussed at the round table can either be ongoing; they can scale up or complement existing actions; or they can be actions that are new or in the planning stage.

The actions, commitments and initiatives should contribute to SDG acceleration through their impact, scale or level of ambition. In the case of production and dissemination of statistics for SDGs, the acceleration actions should reflect the processes, partnerships and cooperation settings among national statistical offices and other national, regional and international stakeholders and replicate and take maximum advantage of best practices in the region. They will be presented for discussion at the round table by the representatives of national statistical offices, governments, but also other stakeholders (international organizations, private sector, civil society, academia etc.).

Reflecting the mandate of the Regional Forum to create a space for UNECE member States for peer-learning and the exchange of policy experiences, the main focus of the discussions would be on drawing actionable lessons for policy-makers and other stakeholders of data and statistics for SDGs, including from the perspective of integration "Leave No One Behind" approach.

Structure of round table

Following an initial brief introduction in the topic, the discussions will be structured in two sub-sessions:

- How the data are pooled together on national reporting platforms.
- How the data are used for policy-making for sustainable development.

The round table will be organized as a knowledge sharing platform for country representatives to present their experiences and challenges in the production, dissemination and use of data and statistics for SDGs, followed by discussions and interactive engagement with participants.

Member States are encouraged to contact the secretariat and indicate their willingness to introduce issues or challenges on the topic. The presented challenges and solutions actions will then be discussed, supported by a moderator/facilitator. Government representatives and participants with an interest in a specific topic could act as discussants. There will also be space for a free-floating interactive discussion.

The round table will finish with take-aways and follow-up actions that may have been identified in the discussion as reflected in the tentative scenario below.

5 min	**Welcome**
15 min	**Setting the scene** **Introduction and brief presentation of the report on regional SDG indicators and data availability**
20 min	**Discussion**
30 min	**Session 1:** How the data are pooled together on national reporting platforms
20 min	**Discussion**
30 min	**Session 2:** How the data are used for policy-making for sustainable development
20 min	**Discussion**
10 min	**Wrap-up**

Organizers

This round table is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster

Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Training And Research (UNITAR) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).