

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)

to be held as a special segment of the 84th meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee

Tuesday, 10 May 2016, 10:00 to 13:00

Salle IX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Questions for discussion

Introduction

This paper provides a set of questions for each of the areas to be discussed at the RFSD. Governments might want to consider them as guidance in preparing for the discussions. However, the questions suggested do not preclude any other issues to be raised at the meeting.

First session: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region: first steps and challenges

Replies to the Regional SDG Survey show that most countries in the region have begun to examine the implications of the SDGs for their national policies and planning.

1. Which have been the positive experiences and the obstacles your government has encountered so far in this process of integrating SDGs into national policies and planning?
2. Has your government taken concrete steps to involve non-state actors as well as sub-national and local authorities in this process? What do you see are the most effective ways to have citizen engagement in the process to ensure transparency and accountability for SDG implementation?
3. What are the needs and expectations of your government regarding the role of the UN system in the region in assisting with SDG planning and implementation?

Second session: Possible elements of a future regional review mechanism for the 2030 Agenda

While details of the global follow-up and review architecture for the 2030 Agenda are still under discussion in informal consultations in New York, governments have committed in the 2030 Agenda to systematic follow-up and review at national, regional and global levels. The 2030 Agenda, in recognition of “the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level”, encourages “all

Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage” and “United Nations Regional Commissions are encouraged to continue supporting Member States in this regard” (para 81¹).

1. What is your government’s preliminary thinking on possible elements of a regional review mechanism? What should be the focus of regional reviews?
2. How should such a regional review mechanism be linked to national review processes? What is seen by your government as critical to ensure effective SDG review and follow-up at national level?
3. Where do you see the added value of regional reviews in the overall review architecture?
4. How can the regional reviews be developed in synergy with existing regional processes (Environment for Europe, the WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, the ILO European Regional Meeting etc).

¹ [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)