

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**  
**Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships**  
**Twelfth Session**  
**Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XII**  
**26-27 March 2018**

**High-Level Substantive Segment**

**“Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Consumption and Production”**

Sustainable development requires changes in how we produce and consume.

Consuming and producing sustainably – doing more and better with less - increases welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, depletion and pollution along the whole product lifecycle, while increasing the value we extract from those resources and, ultimately, our quality of life. In a sustainable production and consumption system, or a circular economy, the value of products, materials and resources expands and remains in the economy as long as possible, gradually decoupling global economic development from the consumption of finite resources.

Innovation and public-private partnerships are central to drive such a transition. Creating and spreading new technologies, processes, services and business models is essential to re-shaping product life cycles from design through production and usage on to disposal and re-cycling. Partnerships around production, infrastructure, and public service delivery can serve to develop the right market incentives and regulations, create and monitor more ambitious standards, and design and finance sustainable infrastructures. They embrace a systemic approach that engages multiple stakeholders – from suppliers and lead producers to consumers and communities. They can catalyze a range of initiatives that build on the knowledge accumulated in wealthier ECE member countries and bring new technologies, approaches, and business models to transition economies.

Much of this development can take place at a subnational level. Cities, regions, and municipalities often have the flexibility, proximity to surrounding communities, and the democratic accountability to drive innovative initiatives. These can link closely to initiatives around production clusters and set examples that national policy makers can use to design national programming. There are also circular economy initiatives that link cities and regions across borders.

The High-Level Substantive Segment explores how better to promote and use innovation and partnerships to achieve sustainable production and consumption. It features a range of good policy practices in circular production and consumption at regional, national and city level in the ECE region, with the aim to encourage peer learning and transferring of best practices.

**Monday 26 March 2018**

### **15:30- 17:00 Session 1**

#### **Setting the stage – doing more with less: why Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

The economic opportunities inherent in the notion of sustainable production and consumption offers a myriad of opportunities for partnerships among governments, business, academia, and civil society to find and develop practical solutions.

Despite these opportunities several obstacles remain. These include regulation with a negative impact, market failures, lack of institutional capacities, social factors (e.g. lack of knowledge and experience) and unaccounted externalities (e.g. pollution or resource depletion). Policy makers should not only create the right enabling conditions for such initiatives, but also address market failures and help create new markets by partnering with the private sector to reduce the risks inherent in innovative pilot projects. This session introduces the role of innovation and partnerships at national and regional level to facilitate the transition to a circular economy.

#### *Speakers*

- **Antonia Gawel**, Head of the Circular Economy Initiative, *World Economic Forum* (tbc)
- **Andrea Brown**, Director Safe and Sustainable Material, *World Business Council on Sustainable Development* (tbc)
- **Pavel Misiga**, EU Commission, DG RTD (tbc)
- **Simona Scarpaleggia**, CEO of IKEA Switzerland and co-chair of the UN SG's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (tbc)
- **Sharon Kedmi**, Managing Director, Alstom, *Israel*

### **17:00 – 18:00 Session 2**

#### **Innovation for Sustainable Consumption and Production**

The circular economy transition requires innovation and innovative business practices overall – in design, production, delivery models, and life cycle management. Policy makers, entrepreneurs and innovators need continuous, multi-level dialogue to understand these opportunities, remove bottlenecks, and ensure that incentives are fit for purpose. Based on case studies from across the ECE region, this session presents successful examples on innovation and innovative partnerships for a circular economy and it draws conclusions on best practices.

#### *Speakers:*

- **Harri Kallio**, Tampere – Eco Innovation System, *Finland* (tbc)
- **Lloyd Broad**, Birmingham – Industrial Symbiosis, *United Kingdom* (tbc)

- **Erik Asph Hiernerdal**, Business Developer, Swedish Energy Agency, *Sweden* (tbc)
- **Olzhas Sartayev**, Chair of Astana Innovation, *Kazakhstan* (tbc)

## Tuesday 27 March 2018

**10:00 – 11:00 Session 2 Cont.**

### **Innovation for Sustainable Consumption and Production**

- **Tareq Emtairah, Director**, Department of Energy, *UNIDO* (tbc)
- **City of Yakutsk**, *Russian Federation* (tbc)
- **Gulnara Roll**, Head of Housing and Land Management Unit, *UNECE*

**11:00 - 13:00 Session 3**

### **Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Consumption and Production**

#### **Innovative Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Consumption and Production**

A people-first approach to PPPs for sustainable production and consumption is critical for the overall achievement of the SDGs. Such innovative partnerships involve *inter alia*:

- Women’s empowerment;
- Green growth;
- Poverty alleviation;
- Resilience; and
- A bottom up approach to partnerships formulation.

#### *Speakers*

- **Pedro Neves**, Member of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board
- **Rose-Lourdes Elysee**, Head of the PPP Unit, *Haiti*
- **Sonia Mezzour**, Secretary General, National Agency for Energy Efficiency, *Morocco*
- **Ziad Hayek, Secretary Geneva**, Higher Council for Privatization, *Lebanon*
- **David Dodd**, Founding President and CEO, International Resilience Center, New Orleans, *USA*

**End of High level Segment**

## Registration

Participation is free of charge. To register online, please click [here](#).

The conference is the substantive segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (UNECE TOS-ICP). TOS-ICP is an intergovernmental group promoting knowledge sharing, network-building and good practices leading to better innovation policies. Please visit our [website](#) to find out more about our activities and publications.

## Entrance and accreditation (see map overleaf)

Meeting participants need to pick up their security badges at the Pregny Gate. Please bring the registration form with you. With a valid piece of identity and the security badge you will receive at the Pregny Gate, entry will also be possible subsequently through the Place of Nations Gate.

## Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation English-French-Russian will be provided throughout the conference.

## Conference Venue

The [Palais des Nations](#) is an outstanding testimony to twentieth century architecture, situated in a beautiful park overlooking Lake Geneva, with a splendid view of the Alps.



## Accommodation

Geneva is the world's leading international conference center. There is a large choice of hotels of all categories. However, hotels can fill up quickly during peak times, so it is a good idea to book early. The Geneva Tourist Office maintains a [search engine](#).

## Geneva

Birthplace of the Red Cross movement and seat of the European headquarters of the United Nations, Geneva's exceptional history and international vocation make it a cosmopolitan and lively city. Geneva is uniquely set on the shores of Western Europe's largest lake with a magnificent view of Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in Western Europe.



## Getting there

Geneva International Airport is located about 6 km from the Palais des Nations. Taxis are readily available. There are also free public transport tickets available from a machine in the luggage collection area (on the left hand side just before passing customs). Bus 28 goes from the airport to the Pregny Gate entrance (“Appia” stop), which is the point of entry for conference participants.

## Moving around

Details on public transport links can be found in the website of Transports Publics Genevois, which includes a useful route planner in English.

## For further information, please contact:

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