

Programme on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Tuesday, 25 April – Thursday, 27 April 2017 | Geneva | Palais des Nations

As of 24.4.2017

Side Events and Exhibits Programme

Tuesday, 25 April 2017

9:00 – 18:00

Foyer
(1st Floor)

Exhibit: Startup Finalists for the 2017 UNECE Ideas4Change for the SDGs Award

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is now time to take action and find concrete solutions that can help countries to deliver on their commitments. In parallel, there is a “startup revolution” underway that generates innovations with impact on our daily lives and the way the world does business. UNECE is at the front lines of both processes, working to simultaneously implement the 2030 Agenda and harness the powerful startup engine to transform our work on sustainable development and the green economy. In 2017, UNECE hosts the second iteration of the Ideas4Change Award, which showcases and awards entrepreneurial talent and groundbreaking ideas related to the SDGs. Chosen from a broad field of applicants, 5 finalists start-ups will exhibit their innovative ideas for participants to learn about and interact with.

13:00 – 15:00

Room XXII

Side Event: Threats to Our Oceans: Common Problems, Joint Solutions

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with a number of governmental partners is organizing a side event during the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to discuss SDG14 in more detail. The side event will present the key role Oceans play for human well-being and discuss some of the most critical threats to our Oceans, including the emerging threat of microplastics. It will be an opportunity to look at some of the important work the global community is doing to tackle these issues and provide a platform for discussion of the necessary national, regional and international policy framework.

13:00 – 15:00

Room XXI

Side Event: Pitches by Startup Finalists for the 2017 UNECE Ideas4Change for the SDGs Award

The finalists for the Innovation Prize will present their business ideas in front of a high-level jury and an audience of delegates during this lunchtime session, showcasing their innovative solutions for the SDGs and competing for the 2017 Ideas4Change Award. After this presentation, the jury will deliberate, and delegates will be invited to cast ballots for their favorite idea to win the Award and start-up prize. The jury is comprised of well-known experts from a variety of backgrounds including business, academia and policy: Ms. Buke Cuhadar, Vice President of the Global Entrepreneurship Network; Mr. Sharon Kedmi, Managing Director, Alstom Israel, entrepreneur Ms. Isabelle Andrieu, Ms. Wendy Singer, Executive Director of Start-Up Nation Central, international business lawyer Ms. Olga Larionova; lawyer and entrepreneur Ms. Linda Grieder; and Mr. Charles Vaslet, Partner with Emerald Technology Ventures; as well as Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE.

18:00 – 18:30

Room XVII

Special Event: Announcement of the Winners of the 2017 UNECE Ideas4Change for the SDGs Award

After the deliberation of the Expert Jury and the tallying of the votes of delegates from member States, winners will be announced during the Ideas4Change Award Ceremony, which will take place immediately after the close of the Regional Forum. The winners will receive an official award certificate and participate in the MassChallenge Israel global accelerator where they will be among 48 highly-vetted teams gaining access to a world-class program, mentors, investors, multinational corporations and other stakeholders.

Wednesday, 26 April 2017

8:30 – 9:45
Bar Escargot
(3rd Floor)

Side Event: Breakfast Discussion: Potential for Cross-Sectoral Cooperation in Support of Mainstreaming SDGs in the Work of UNECE (By Invitation Only)

The Chairs of the Sectoral Committees of the Economic Commission for Europe join the Executive Secretary to discuss how the SDGs can be further mainstreamed in the work of the Committees, and how cross-sectoral collaboration among the Committees and with other subsidiary bodies can be deepened. The aim of the meeting is to share good practices and identify opportunities for further joint action, while also noting requirements and potential obstacles that need to be addressed. It is hoped that this meeting will be the beginning of a larger dialogue process within UNECE to strengthen joint action in support of SDG implementation.

9:00 – 17:00
Foyer
(1st Floor)

Exhibit: Farmers' Market: Agricultural Standards, Sustainable Quality Production and Food Security

Visit the farmers' market to experience the impact of UNECE's work in the area of agricultural standard setting. The Fergana Valley project for sustainable quality production, spreading across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, illustrates the benefits for small farmers, women, and the impact on environmental and water issues. A hands-on-perspective on the role of agricultural and trade standards on food loss and consumer demands allows delegates to see, handle, taste and classify fresh fruit and vegetables. A sampling of nuts and dried fruit from around the world will explain the impact of UNECE standards within and beyond the region.

9:00 – 17:00
Gallery
(3rd Floor)

Exhibit: Bicycles for Personal Mobility and Cargo Delivery

Cycling is a green and healthy mode of transport, with its potential to significantly improve health through activity, to lower local air pollution caused by motorised traffic, and to connect people with their urban environment. Cargo delivery bikes and motorized bikes are a rising trend in urban lifestyles and logistics. As bicycles become more sophisticated so do safety challenges, so the use and quality of helmets for two-wheelers is paramount but continues to vary across countries and regions. An exhibit of delivery bikes and helmets will allow you to gather more information on the various types of equipment available on the market, as well as bicycle delivery services, bicycle types, and the importance of helmet safety on the road. You can even get advice on the safety of your own cycling helmet if you bring it along. On Thursday from 13:00-16:00 (outside Door 40, weather-permitting), there will also be a demonstration and test-drive of the bicycles, as an illustration of the work of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP).

9:00 – 17:00
Gallery
(3rd Floor)

Exhibit: Building Fair: Principles-Based Energy Efficiency In Buildings Guidelines

Buildings are central to meeting the sustainability challenge. In the developed world, buildings consume over 70% of the electrical power generated and 40% of primary energy, and are responsible for 40% of CO₂ emissions from combustion. While developing countries will need to accommodate 2.4 billion new urban residents by 2050, in Europe 75-90% of buildings standing today are expected to remain in use in 2050. Economic growth and the quality of indoor environments still largely depend on primary energy resources, and shifting that reliance to renewables requires a holistic, systems approach to building design, delivery and operation and a paradigm that envisions buildings as energy generators and not solely or primarily as energy sinks. This multi-part exhibition will showcase the materials, designs and other tools necessary for making this transition towards buildings which meet the highest standards of health, comfort, and sustainable energy use.

13:15 – 14:30
Room XIV

Side Event: Lunchtime Conversation with Former Executive Secretaries of UNECE

The history of UNECE comes to life in the recollections of former Executive Secretaries of UNECE, who will look back on special moments in the history of the organization, and discuss their visions for the future of the region. The former Executive Secretaries will offer insights on how UNECE can help in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Panellists include Former Executive Secretaries Mr. Yves Berthelot (1993-2000), Ms. Brigita Schmögnorová (2002-2005), Mr. Ján Kubiš (2009-2011), and the current Executive Secretary, Mr. Christian Friis Bach. The event will be moderated by the editor-in-chief of the UN Special, Mr. Alexander Mejia.

14:30 – 15:00
Room XVII

Side Event: Meet the Winners and Finalists of the 2017 UNECE Ideas4Change for the SDGs Award

In 2017, UNECE hosts the second iteration of the Ideas4Change Award, which showcases entrepreneurial talent and ground-breaking ideas related to the SDGs. This year's startup winners and finalists will present their innovative ideas, providing food for thought on the future of innovation for sustainable development.

18:15 – 20:00
Bar Serpent

Special Event: Reception

Join us to celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNECE and raise your glass to toast our organization.

Thursday, 27 April 2017

9:00 – 9:45
Room XVII

Side Event: Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through Action on Green Economy and Clean Air

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy. This tool supports countries in their efforts to transition to the green economy and, at the same time, contributes to the implementation of the SDGs. To make the Strategic Framework a reality, Ministers also launched the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E), consisting of voluntary commitments to operationalize the Strategic Framework until 2030. At present, 115 commitments have been submitted by 25 countries and 12 organizations. These commitments specify concrete actions for moving towards greener and more inclusive economic patterns. With regard to air quality, ministers reconfirmed their commitment to reduce air pollution and protect public health and ecosystems by endorsing the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA). So far, 26 countries and 3 organizations have submitted 88 voluntary commitments to this initiative. The BIG-E and BACA initiatives remain open for stakeholders to join. Countries are invited to announce their new commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air in a talkshow format.

9:00 – 17:00
Foyer
(1st Floor)

Exhibit: Publications Fair: UNECE in Print

The breadth of knowledge and expertise generated in UNECE will be centre stage at the publications fair that displays current publications, brochures, and other information materials. Browse the wealth of materials that span the different areas of UNECE's work. For further reading, free reference copies are available to take away.

9:00 – 17:00
Foyer
(1st Floor)

Exhibit: Tracing Sustainable Trade

Traceability for Sustainable Trade is a recurrent theme in trade facilitation, and UN/CEFACT is developing standards in support of more responsible producers' and consumers' choices and trade patterns in fishery, agriculture and textile sectors. The information stand illustrates the use of electronic reporting of sustainable fishery management (FLUX). Electronic permits and certificates for endangered and protected species (eCITES) are on display and approaches to traceability in trade of agricultural products (RASFF) are explained. Finally, traceability in clothing, including for environment and health is showcased. This stand is a collaborative effort between UNECE and UNCTAD on the occasion of eCommerce Week and UNECE's Commission session.

13:00 – 16:00
Door 40

Side Event: Bicycles for Personal Mobility and Cargo Delivery

In addition to the two-day exhibit of cargo bikes and helmets prepared by the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), a live demonstration of the cargo bikes will provide an opportunity to try out some of the latest models of these bicycles on the grounds outside the Palais des Nations, weather-permitting. Regardless of the weather, from 13:00-13:30, UNOG's Director-General, Mr. Michael Møller, and UNECE's Executive Secretary, Mr. Christian Friis Bach, will join delegates in checking out the bicycles. Come for a ride and see the nexus of health, environment and transport in action.

13:30 – 14:15
Room XVII

Side Event: Managing Resources Strategically: A Tool to Attain the 2030 Agenda

As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement pass from policy into practice, the world's focus is increasingly turning to the availability of clean and affordable energy, responsible production and consumption patterns, decarbonizing the economy and mitigating climate change. Those tasked with the management of natural energy and mineral resources need an array of new and refurbished tools to help and guide them to their goals. While the "Mitigation/Transition" change management strategy is set out in the Paris Agreement, other tools, notably the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) predate SDGs and need to be aligned to be fit for purpose. This panel discussion will address the challenges of transition and open up a debate on how to proceed, based on four complementary perspectives: resource-centred; customer and service-centred; security-centred and value-centred challenges and opportunities.

14.20-15.45
Gallery
(3rd floor)

Side Event: Building Fair: Principles-Based Energy Efficiency in Buildings Guidelines Presentation

Panelists:

Tom Richard, Penn State University
Tom Enright, County Wexford, Ireland
Tomas O'Leary, Passive House Academy

Helge Schramm, Danfoss
Martin Gonzenbach, EPFL
Moderator: Scott Foster, UNECE

Topics to be presented:

- Buildings and the 2030 Agenda: Opportunities and Challenges
- Policy objectives for improving the efficiency of energy use in buildings

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- Development of high performance buildings through the application of specific architectural designs and building materials
 - Role of systems in improving the energy performance of buildings
 - Bringing it all together with *Framework Principles for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings*
 - Capacity Building and Dissemination

Ongoing

April – May
Pregny Gate

Exhibit: Photos on Connecting Countries, Driving Progress, Improving Lives for 70 Years

As delegates, visitors and staff enter the Palais des Nations grounds at the Pregny Gate, they will be greeted by this UNECE photo exhibition. The temporary installation of a dozen panels will illustrate key areas of UNECE's mandate over the last 70 years. One panel is dedicated to each programme of work, and presents an example of the impact of UNECE's work on people's everyday life, in the region and beyond. Welcome and story posters give a holistic overview of UNECE's work, and link the past with the work that lies ahead in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24-28 April
E Building Foyer
(2nd Floor)

Exhibit: History Timeline: UNECE@70 - Economic Integration and Cooperation

A visual timeline of UNECE's history and accomplishments will be on display in the Palais des Nations during the proceedings of the Commission Session. It will contextualize UNECE's institutional development, sectoral achievements, and important milestones in the context of global historical eras and events. A video illustrating UNECE's achievements and contributions to regional and global economic development will be on display in the Palais, as well as on the UNECE website to commemorate UNECE's history.

