



## 2020 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region

### SDG Challenge session – Background Note

#### OBJECTIVE

Reaching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development successfully requires talking not only about good implementation practices but also about challenges we must collectively overcome.

Building on the experience of member States, including the voluntary national review (VNR) process, the SDG Challenge session will provide an opportunity for UNECE member States to share challenges identified in their VNRs and receive input and ideas of solutions that have been tried in other contexts and that may be helpful to inform future implementation.

The session will be part of the peer-learning segment of the Regional Forum and is being organized by the SDG Lab and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), in collaboration with UNECE.

#### FORMAT

This session will enable constructive peer learning in a dynamic and inclusive format:

- Five UNECE member States will present an overview of a challenge they are currently facing in implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- The audience will be made up of UNECE Regional Forum participants, as well as carefully curated experts from the Geneva international ecosystem with expertise related to the challenges. This will allow countries to tap into the knowledge and experience of other member States and thematic experts.
- After the presentations, a facilitated open exchange will uncover ideas and solutions.

#### PROPOSED TIMELINE

- 13 January 2020 – Official call for SDG Challenges from UNECE member countries.
- 3 February 2020 – Deadline for challenge submissions.
- 17 February 2020 – List of selected challenges released.
- Early March 2020 – Challenge summaries and background released for pre-reading.
- 19 March 2020 (15h-18h) – Challenge session takes place as an official side event.

#### SDG CHALLENGE SUBMISSION

- Submit a challenge through the following form: <https://bit.ly/2X1boOK>
- For further information on the Regional Forum: <https://www.unece.org/rfsd2020.html>
- Any questions about this session can be directed to: [sdg-lab@un.org](mailto:sdg-lab@un.org)