



## Regional SDG Coordination Leaders Forum: Building a Partnership to Underpin National Sustainable Development Solutions

Minsk, Belarus, 21-22 February 2018

### ***Background***

Partnership is vital for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Coordination and sharing of experience between nations is a pre-requisite to boost the capacity of countries and regions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the National Coordinator on Implementation of SDGs in Belarus with the support of the United Nations in Belarus are organising a regional forum to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

The forum will gather senior national decision-makers from around the region responsible for coordinating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

The event will seek to identify national experience, best practices and lessons learned on the way to accomplish the 2030 Agenda. The discussion will enable participants to develop a better understanding of common problems and obstacles encountered in the process of SDGs implementation and to consider policies, structures and processes to overcome them. The event could lay the foundation for the regional network of national SDG coordinators as a practitioners' partnership to assist the achievement of SDGs.

In terms of its content, while keeping in mind the interdependent nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, – the forum will focus on several specific cross-cutting issues.

First, it will address strategies to fight inequalities throughout the whole spectrum of countries: low- and middle-income as well as development partners.

Second, the participants will discuss the gender perspective to identify proposals to empower women in sustainable development.

Finally, the forum will examine the issue of financing for inclusive development as well as of capacity to monitor output of such investments.

### ***Organisers***

The forum is organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the National Coordinator on Implementation of SDGs with the support of the United Nations in Belarus.

**Participants**

- Senior officials responsible for coordinating national implementation of SDGs in the countries of Europe and Central Asia
- United Nations (Deputy Secretary-General, TBC)
- UN entities
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Eurasian Economic Commission

**Time, venue and format**

The two-day event will take place on 21 and 22 February 2018 in Minsk, Belarus, Beijing Hotel Minsk (36 Krasnoarmeiskaya Str.).

Plenary and informal panel sessions will allow for the exchange of views and experience among SDG coordination leaders. Participants will share their vision on the cross-cutting issues of inequalities, gender and monitoring and assessment.

The detailed programme of the forum will follow.

**Interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and Russian.

**Expected outcome**

The forum is expected to facilitate the establishment of close personal and institutional ties among the participants. It could be a step in advancing partnership among SDG coordinators in the region and could serve as a touchstone for similar events and processes in other parts of the world.

An informal summary of the event will be produced to serve as reference for its participants. They might also wish to agree on recommendations for a follow-up action.

The results of the forum will be presented at the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in March 2018.

**Contact information**

For further information please contact Mr Mikalai Dzivakou, MFA of Belarus, [uesur@mfa.gov.by](mailto:uesur@mfa.gov.by), +375 17 226-15-30.