



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

Minsk, Belarus, 21-22 February 2018
Beijing Hotel Minsk

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 21 February

- 8.30 – 10.00** Registration
- 10.00 – 11.30** **Introductory session “Global and National Solutions for Reporting on Progress in the SDG Era”**
- Moderator: Elena Kukharevich**, Deputy Chairperson, National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus
- Global architecture of support to SDG monitoring.** Mark Hereward, UNICEF Associate Director for Data and Analytics, DRP|HQ
- MAPS approach to SDGs.** Shelley Inglis, Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster Leader, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
- National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”.** Adrian Ermurachi, Deputy Secretary General of the Government, Republic of Moldova
- Implementing, reporting and monitoring the SDGs in Belgium.** Dieter Vander Beke, Director of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development
- Roadmap for SDG Statistics in Belarus.** Elena Kukharevich, Deputy Chairperson of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, member of IAEG-SDGs
- Pre-launch of the global UNICEF report “Progress for Children in the SDG Era”.** Mark Hereward, UNICEF Associate Director for Data and Analytics, DRP|HQ
- 11.30 – 12.00** Coffee break
- 12.00 – 12.45** **High-level welcoming ceremony**
- Master of Ceremonies: Marianna Shchotkina**, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
- Opening Remarks**
- Welcoming address by **Alexander Lukashenko**, President of the Republic of Belarus, delivered by **Andrei Kobyakov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus (tbc)
- Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Vladimir Makei**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Ceremony of cancellation of an envelope issued by the National Postal Service of Belarus to commemorate Sustainable Development Goals

Andrei Kobyakov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus (tbc)

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Marianna Shchotkina, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 “National policies and institutions: advancing SDGs through sharing of experiences and mutual learning”

Participants from the countries of Europe and Central Asia will be invited to present their unique perspectives in mainstreaming Agenda-2030 into national policies, and to indicate what they see as priorities requiring special attention in the context of multi-level architecture to support implementation of SDGs. Experts from the UN system will introduce an overview of the most important policy and institutional trends that could affect ability of countries to achieve SDGs and present tools available to assist governments in this context.

Moderator: Marianna Shchotkina, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Lead discussants:

1. Marianna Shchotkina, National Coordinator of **Belarus** for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

2. Tatyana Valovaya, Member of the Board – Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, **Eurasian Economic Commission**

3. Franciscus August Godts, Executive Director, **World Bank Group**

4. Alexander Pankin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the **Russian Federation**

5. Franc Matjaž Zupančič, Deputy Minister for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, Governmental office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, **Slovenia**

6. Galymzhan Koishybayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Kazakhstan**

7. Sahib Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Economy of **Azerbaijan**

8. Rastislav Vrbensky, Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, **UNDP**

9. Erik Gyulazyan, Director, SDG National Innovative Lab, **Armenia**

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 “Cooperation and coordination in achieving SDGs: innovative solutions to combat inequalities”

The discussion will focus on a multi-dimensional approach to address poverty and inequalities in countries in different situations and on different levels of development. A special emphasis will be given to the ways and means to sustain mutually beneficial regional cooperation and foster coherence between institutions involved in the implementation of the Agenda-2030.

Moderator: Vinay Patrick Saldanha, UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Lead discussants:

- 1. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**
- 2. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**, Deputy Director General, **UNIDO**
- 3. Ala Bodak**, Chairperson of Parliamentary Group on SDGs, National Assembly of the Republic of **Belarus**
- 4. Vladimir Rakhmanin**, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, **FAO**
- 5. Nina Sarishvili**, Secretary General of SDGs Council of **Georgia**, Director of the Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination Department of the Administration of the Government of Georgia
- 6. Alanna Armitage**, Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund
- 7. Aneta Haimannová**, Head of the Government Council for Sustainable Development Secretariat, Office of the Government of the **Czech Republic**

Followed by statements by the participants

19.00 – 20.30 Reception on behalf of the National Coordinator of Belarus on SDGs

Thursday, 22 February

9.00 – 10.30 “Building bridges between sustainable development and gender equality”

The session will examine how successful multi-stakeholder regional, national and sub-national partnerships could contribute to accelerated gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs. The participants will also be invited to discuss how investing in women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship could contribute to sustainable future for all.

Moderator: Alanna Armitage, Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund

Lead discussants:

- 1. Francis Malige**, Managing Director for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, **EBRD**
- 2. Hugo Gorst-Williams**, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, International Relations Division, Department for International Development, **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

3. Irina Alkhovka, Chairperson of the Board, Gender Perspectives NGO, Belarus

Followed by statements by the participants

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30 “**Building national and regional capacities of investing into sustainable development**”

The discussion is supposed to build around the subject of financing inclusive sustainable development as well as of capacity to monitor output of such investments. Participants will identify challenges at the national and international levels and will propose integrated policy solutions.

Moderator: Iya Malkina, First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of **Belarus**

Lead discussants:

1. Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit “Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership”, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, **European Commission**

2. Gábor Bartus, Secretary of the Hungarian National Council for Sustainable Development, **Hungary (tbc)**

3. Ben Slay, Senior advisor, Regional Hub for Europe and CIS, **UNDP**

4. Peteris Vilks, Head, Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre of the Republic of **Latvia**

5. Aliaksandr Skrabowski, The Global Compact Network **Belarus**

Followed by statements by the participants

12.30 – 13.30 **Informal “speed dating” session**

Participants will be asked to have a sequence of short (up to 10 minutes) informal bilateral talks in order to build closer personal ties with their counterparts and exchange ideas on how to strengthen and promote a partnership of SDG coordination leaders. These ideas will be presented and summarised at the end of the session.

Moderators: Erik Gyulazyan, Director, SDG National Innovative Lab, **Armenia**

13.30 – 14.00 **Adoption of outcomes/recommendations. Closing of the Forum**

The summary of the discussions could contribute to the deliberations at the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development to be conducted in March 2018. Additional emphasis could be given to further activities to contribute to building a network of national SDG coordinators as a practitioners’ partnership to assist the achievement of SDGs.

Moderator: Marianna Shchotkina, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch

Partner of the Forum

