



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

Minsk, Belarus, 21-22 February 2018

Beijing Hotel Minsk

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 21 February

8:30-10:00 Registration

10:00-11:30 Introductory session “Mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on SDGs”

Moderator: Mr **Mark Hereward**, Deputy Director, Division of Policy and Planning, United Nations Children’s Fund (tbc)

Lead discussant: Ms **Inna Medvedeva**, Chairperson, National Statistical Committee of Belarus

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-12:45 High-level welcoming ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: Her Excellency **Marianna Shchotkina**, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Opening Remarks

Welcoming address by His Excellency Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, delivered by His Excellency **Andrei Kobyakov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus (tbc)

His Excellency **Vladimir Makei**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Welcoming address by Her Excellency **Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

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

Her Excellency **Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency **Andrei Kobyakov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus (tbc), His Excellency **Vladimir Makei**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Her Excellency **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: Her Excellency **Marianna Shchotkina**, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

- Lead discussants:**
1. Her Excellency **Marianna Shchotkina**, National Coordinator of **Belarus** for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
 2. Her Excellency **Tatyana Valovaya**, Member of the Board – Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, **Eurasian Economic Commission**
 3. His Excellency **Zoran Đorđević**, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, **Serbia**
 4. Mr **Franciscus August Godts**, Executive Director, **World Bank Group**
 5. His Excellency **Alexander Pankin**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the **Russian Federation**
 6. Mr **Brian Carroll**, Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Climate Action and Environment in the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, **Ireland (tbc)**
 7. Mr **Vladimir Rakhmanin**, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, **FAO**
 8. Mr **Franc Matjaž Zupančič**, Deputy Minister for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, Governmental office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, **Republic of Slovenia**
 9. His Excellency **Galymzhan Koishybayev**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Kazakhstan**
 10. Mr **Luiz Loures**, Deputy Executive Director, **UNAIDS**
 11. Mr **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 charged with the implementation of the Agenda-2030.

Moderator: Mr **Rastislav Vrbensky**, Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, United Nations Development Programme (tbc) or Mr **Vinay Patrick Saldanha**, Director, Regional Support Team for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, **UNAIDS**

- Lead discussants:**
1. Her Excellency **Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**
 2. Mr **Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**, Deputy Director General, **UNIDO**
 3. Ms **Ala Bodak**, Chairperson of Parliamentary Group on SDGs, National Assembly of the Republic of **Belarus**
 4. Ms **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**
 5. Ms **Elena Kukharevich**, National Statistical Committee of the Republic of **Belarus (tbc)**
 6. Ms **Aneta Haimannová**, Head of the Government Council for Sustainable Development Secretariat, Office of the Government of the **Czech Republic**

19:00-21:00 Reception on behalf of the National Coordinator of Belarus on SDGs, social programme

Thursday, 22 February

9:00-10:30 “Building bridges between sustainable development and gender equality”

The session will examine how successful multi-stakeholder partnerships at the regional, national and sub-national levels 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: Ms **Alanna Armitage**, Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund

- Lead discussants:**
1. Mr **Francis Malige**, Managing Director for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, **EBRD**
 2. Mr **Hugo Gorst-Williams**, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, International Relations Division, Department for International Development, **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
 3. Ms **Irina Alkhovka**, Chairperson of the Board, Gender Perspectives NGO, **Belarus**

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 will and propose integrated policy solutions.

Moderator: Mr **Aleksander Chervyakov**, Deputy Minister of Economy of **Belarus** (tbc)

- Lead discussants:**
1. Mr **Dieter Vander Beke**, Director of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, **Belgium**
 2. Mr **Vassilis Maragos**, Head of Unit 'Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership', Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, **European Commission**
 3. Mr **Gábor Bartus**, Secretary of the Hungarian National Council for Sustainable Development, **Hungary** (tbc)
 4. Mr **Ben Slay**, Senior advisor, Regional Hub for Europe and CIS, **UNDP**
 5. Mr **Peteris Vilks**, Head, Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre of the Republic of **Latvia**
 6. Mr **Aliaksandr Skrabowski**, The Global Compact Network **Belarus**

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: Ms **Shelley Inglis**, Regional Team/Cluster Leader, Regional Hub for Europe and CIS, **UNDP**; Mr **Erik Gyulazyan**, Director, SDG National Innovative Lab, **Armenia (tbc)**

13:30-14:00 Adoption of outcomes/recommendations. Closing of the Forum

The summary of the discussions during the event could contribute to the deliberations at the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development to be conducted in spring 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: Her Excellency **Marianna Shchotkina**, National Coordinator of Belarus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

14:00-15:30 Lunch