

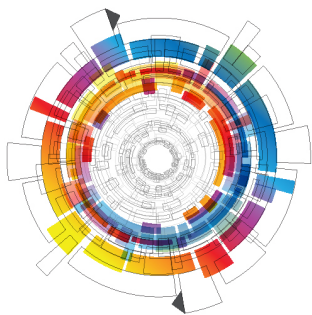
**UNECE**

[www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

# 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

## PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE UNECE REGION

20-21 APRIL 2021 | ROOM XVII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



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19 APRIL 2021 | CYBER MONDAY

### Side event programme in the lead up to the Commission

10:00 – 10:15

#### Opening and welcome

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE

10:15 – 11:30

#### Batumi Talkshow:

#### Scoring SDGs through Action on Green Economy and Clean Air

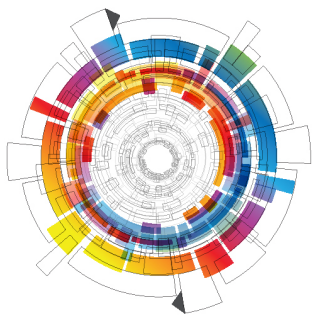
At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy. This tool supports countries in their efforts to transition to the green economy and, at the same time, contributes to the implementation 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. Countries are invited to update on progress related to their commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air in a talkshow format and/or propose new commitments.

Organized by UNECE and UNEP

**Co-moderators:** Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE,  
Mr. Bruno Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UNEP

#### Participants

- Mr. Jakhongir Talipov, Head of International Cooperation and Projects Department, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, (Uzbekistan)
- Ms Tatsiana Kananchuk, Head of the General Directorate for Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Belarus)
- Mr. Petrus Kautto, Director of the Programme for Sustainable Circular Economy, SYKE (Finland) tbc
- Ms. Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (Ukraine) tbc
- Ms. Elisabete Quintas Da Silva, Head of Department, PO SEUR - Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (Portugal) tbc
- Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (Georgia)



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11:30 – 13.00

### Nexus Publication Launch Event

UNECE supports its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through concrete and results-oriented activities in the areas of its eight sub-programmes. This multi-sectoral structure has allowed ECE to address SDG implementation in an integrated manner and to adopt a new way of working that cuts across sectoral boundaries. Four nexus areas have been defined where multiple SDGs converge:

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Sustainable and smart cities
- Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity
- Measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs.

In each of these areas, a cross-sectoral, inter-divisional team of ECE experts has undertaken an in-depth substantive analysis of current and future challenges and needs of ECE member States and identified ways and means to address them, thus assisting member States to design and implement integrated policies in these areas. The findings of these analyses and corresponding policy recommendations are set out in four flagship publications.

Following the presentation of the four publications, countries will have the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion on the findings and recommendations and on further steps required for integrated policies to accelerate SDG implementation.

**Moderator:** Ms. Monika Linn, Director, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE

### Opening statements

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE

Mr. Alexander Alimov, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

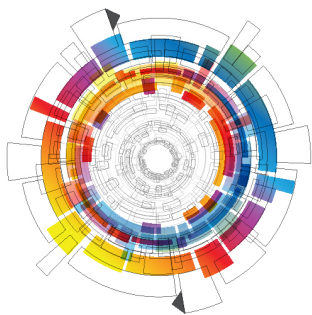
### Presentation of the nexus publications

#### *Natural Resource Nexuses in the ECE Region*

**Presenter:** Mr. Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

#### Discussants:

- Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Chair of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the UNECE Water Convention, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Finland)
- Ms. Maria Sokolenko, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, Federal Forestry Agency (Russian Federation)



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### *Sustainable Mobility and Smart Connectivity*

**Presenter:** Mr. Francesco Dionori, Chief, Transport Networks and Logistics Section, UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

**Discussant:** tbc

### *People-Smart Sustainable Cities*

**Presenter:** Mr. Tony Bonnici, Deputy Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

**Discussant:** Ms. Doris Andoni, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, Ministry of Finance and Economy (Albania)

### *Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards the SDGs*

**Presenter:** Mr. Alexander Blackburn, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Networks and Logistics Section, UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

**Discussant:** Mr. Michael Scrim, Chair of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics, Statistics Canada.

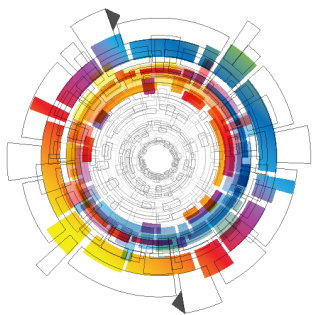
### **Q&A**

*Lunch break*

**14:00 – 15:00**

### **A framework for international cooperation on Sustainable Resource Management**

Sustainable development depends on the optimal and responsible production and use of natural resources. Extractive industries recover raw materials from the earth, process them, and turn them into products and services for use by consumers. Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) are particularly important in this regard to support green energy, e-mobility and digital transformations that are already underway. Today's resource patterns are unsustainable in terms of their environmental and societal impact and in terms of ensuring the availability of resources both now and in the future. Developments in the extractive industries, including the supply of CRMs, will determine the capacity of countries to attain the 2030 Agenda. There is a need for global, principles-based action to develop a coherent framework for resource industries if the world is to meet its climate objectives and deliver quality of life at the community level. Experts will describe the elements for a broad framework and the proposed collaboration among institutions. Countries will also be invited to support and encourage circular economy of CRMs through development of policies based on clear evidence, frameworks, and standards, as well as shaping standards to support and encourage relevant product re-use at end-of-life. This side event is organized by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in cooperation with UNECE.



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**Opening Statement:** Lord Mark Sedwill, G7 Envoy on Economic Resilience of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Chair of the independent G7 Panel on Economic Resilience

**Introduction to frameworks for international collaboration:** Dr. Danilo Türk, Former President (Republic of Slovenia)

### Open Discussion:

**Moderator:** Mr. Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

### Panellists:

- Mr. Peter Buchholz, Head, German Raw Materials Agency (DERA), Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) (Germany)
- Ms. Daniele La Porta, Senior Mining Specialist, World Bank
- Ms. Frances Wall, University of Exeter (UK Circular Economy Research Centre on Technology Metals)
- Ms. Eser Torun, Chief of Staff, Everledger
- Kazakhstan (Ministry of Natural Resources) (tbc)

### Q & A

15:00 – 16:00

### Methane Management in the Extractive Industries

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with more than 80 times the climate forcing effect of CO<sub>2</sub>. Global atmospheric concentrations of methane have grown nearly 150% from pre-industrial levels and is far above the natural range of the last 650,000 years. Global emissions from human activity are projected to increase another 20% by 2030. Reducing methane emissions offers significant climate change benefits, especially in the near term, as there is a large reduction potential and cost-effective mitigation technologies are readily available. Achieving a 50% reduction in methane emissions by 2050 and maintaining them through 2100 would reduce global temperatures 0.55°C. UNECE has developed best practice guidance related to methane management in the coal, oil, and gas sectors, and UNECE is working with partners to prepare a UNGA declaration of an International Decade for Methane Management. Countries will be invited to support the initiative.

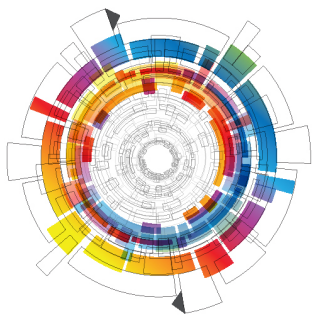
**Opening Statement:** Ms. Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change (Canada) (tbc)

**Moderator:** Ms. Pamela Franklin, Chief, Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Programs Branch, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USA)

### Panellists:

- Mr. Fiji George, Senior Director, Climate and Sustainability, Cheniere
- Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Head, Climate & Clean Air Coalition
- Mr. Mark Radka, Acting Director, Economy Division, UNEP (tbc)
- Mr. Michael Stanley, Global Leader Coal Decarbonization, Oil, Gas, Mining and Chemicals Department, World Bank Group

### Q & A



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16:00 – 17:00

### High-Performance Buildings

Buildings are central to meeting the sustainability challenge. In the developed world, buildings consume over 70% of the electric power generated and 40% of primary energy and are responsible for 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the energy services they require. UNECE has launched a programme known as the High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI) to disseminate and deploy its Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings worldwide. The objective is to improve health and quality of life within the built environment while simultaneously decarbonizing building-related energy requirements. Experts from the research and education consortium and from the international centres of excellence on high-performance buildings will set forth their activities and engage with countries on the path forward in 2021 and 2022.

**Moderator:** Mr. David Chikvaidze, Chef de Cabinet, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) (tbc)

#### Panellists:

- Mr. Werner Loscheider, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany)
- Ms. Vivian Loftness, Professor/Former Head of School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University
- Mr. Justin Schwartz, Dean of Engineering, Penn State University
- Ms. Jenna Cramer, Executive Director, Green Building Alliance
- Mr. Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division
- Mr. Vahram Jalalyan, Co-Chair UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Project Manager, Climate Change Programme, UNDP Armenia

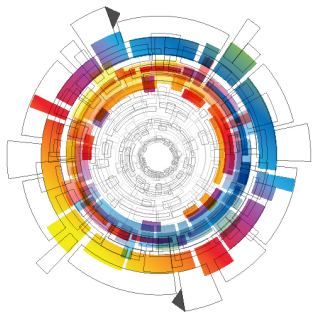
17:00 - 18:00

### Q & A

### Hydrogen and Sustainable Energy

Hydrogen is considered to have a potentially important role in decarbonizing the industrial sector and integrating a higher share of renewable energy sources. The gas is widely recognized as the key bridge to achieving carbon neutrality of the energy system, especially in hard-to-abate sectors. In a future sustainable energy system, hydrogen may be used in transport, homes, industry, and power generation. It will enable the creation of an integrated service-based society. However, hydrogen, although clean and versatile, is not an energy source but an energy vector: it must be produced, transported and stored before being converted to other forms of energy, such as electricity or heat, or to other feedstocks. Bearing in mind that a solution to achieving a carbon neutral energy system may be found within the triangle of “gas-renewable-energy efficiency”, the potential role of hydrogen cannot be overstated. Countries will be invited to provide their views on the potential role of hydrogen in a session moderated by experts in the field of hydrogen.

**Keynote:** Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy (Ukraine)



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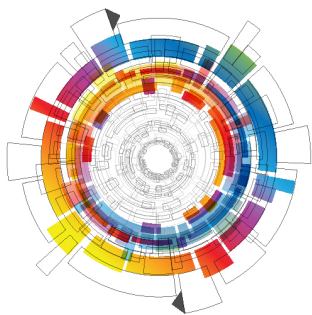
**Moderator:** Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Gas, and Enagas (Spain)

**Panellists:**

- Mr. José Miguel Bermúdez Menéndez, Energy Technology Analyst – Hydrogen and Alternative Fuels, International Energy Agency
- Ms. Barbara Jinks, Programme Manager, Green Gas Delivery & Use International Renewable Energy Agency
- Mr. Florian Marko, Policy Adviser, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (Austria)
- Ms. Tatiana Mitrova, Head of Research, Skolkovo Energy Centre (Russian Federation)

Q & A

**Closing remarks** by the Executive Secretary



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(Remote participation is encouraged due to the current health situation)

10:00 – 10:20

### Agenda item 1: **Opening and adoption of the agenda**

**H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich**, Chair of the Commission

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of UNECE

**Ms. Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, UNOG

### **HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT:**

**Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe**

10:20 – 10:50

### Agenda Item 2: **High-level dialogue**

Keynote addresses

**Mr. Frans Timmermans**, Executive Vice-President, European Commission

**Ms. Odile Renaud-Basso**, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Mr. Børge Brende**, President, World Economic Forum

10:50 – 13:00

### Interventions by Heads of delegation

*(Kindly observe time limit of 3 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of views.)*

### Presentation by the Executive Secretary

### World Circular Economy Forum + Climate Forum 2021: a readout

**H.E. Ms. Stientje van Veldhoven**, Minister for the Environment (The Netherlands) and host of the WCEF + Climate Forum

13:00 – 15:00

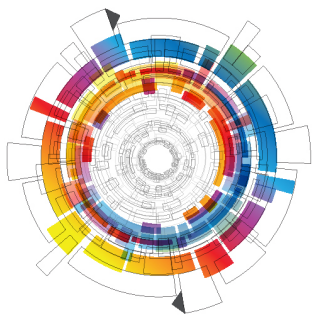
*Lunch break*

15:00 – 18:00

### Agenda item 3: **Roundtables: Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources**

The roundtable session will be dedicated to the topic "Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources." Discussions will focus on practical solutions to challenges in shifting to circular approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources, how these solutions could be scaled and how existing gaps that prevent further progress be addressed, including





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through strengthened international cooperation. The discussions will be informed by the context created by the COVID-19 crisis, including new needs, constraints and emerging opportunities to “build back better”. The role of ECE activities and instruments in this transformation will also be considered.

*(Each roundtable will be followed by a Q&A session. Kindly observe time limit of 2 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of views.)*

15:00 – 16:45

### **Roundtable 1 - Circular Energy, Mobility and Digital Transformation: Towards Cradle -to-Cradle Models.**

A series of green transformations, energy, e-mobility, and digital transformations are reshaping society. While energy is aspiring to be low or negative carbon, e-mobility is taking over at all scales – city and long-distance transport. Technology is at the core of the fourth industrial revolution, which is embracing all aspects of life and work. This transformation has a significant bearing on how natural resources are used, moving away from the past linear models to new sustainable, service-focused and circular economy business models. This roundtable will explore how new policies and industry best practices can leverage synergies between energy and natural resources, mobility and technology sectors.

**Moderator:** Mr. Julian Hilton, Chair, UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management, Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group

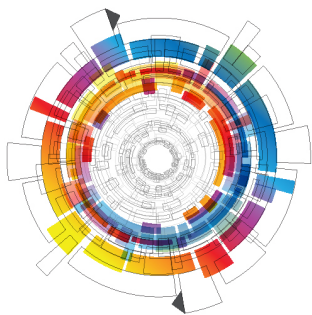
#### **Participants**

- N.N., Ministry of Energy (Russian Federation) (tbc)
- Mr. Peter Handley, Acting Director for Sustainable Industry and Mobility, Directorate-General for the Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- Mr. Christoph Wolff, Head of Shaping the Future of Mobility, World Economic Forum
- Ms. Sarah Forbes, Division of Minerals Sustainability, Department of Energy (United States of America)
- Mr. Thomas Deloison, Director, Mobility, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Mr. Aidan Davy, Deputy CEO, International Council on Mining and Metals
- Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
- Mr. John Batten, Global Cities Director, Arcadis

16:45 – 18:00

### **Roundtable 2 - Supply Chain Traceability and Sustainability**

The production of traded goods from raw materials to final goods often requires collaborations among various industries and companies across the world. This makes supply chains complex and difficult to manage. Improved supply chain traceability can drive progress towards circularity and greater sustainability; trade can play a role by providing the scale and global reach required for an efficient circular economy and can help distribute more widely the benefits arising from such solutions. This roundtable will provide an opportunity for experience-sharing on traceability across various sectors.



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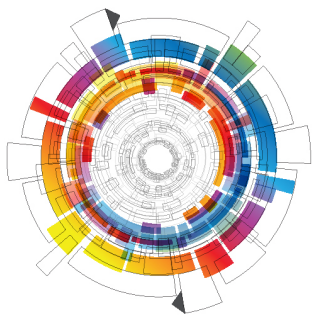
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**Moderator:** Mr. Joss Blériot, Executive Lead, International Institutions & Governments, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

### Participants

- **Agri-food:** Mr. Bartosz Zambrzycki, DG SANTE Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- **Forestry products:** Mr. Greg Rampley, Chief, Bioproducts and Supply Chain Economics, National Resources Canada (Canada)
- **Services:** Ms. Alice Tipping, Lead, Fisheries Subsidies International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD
- **Textiles:** Ms. Maylis Souque, Secretary-General of the OECD National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct & Senior Advisor on Corporate Social Responsibility, Ministry for the Economy and Finance (France)
- **Waste:** N.N., Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Austria)
- N.N., Member State Representative, SPECA (tbc)



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10:00 – 11:15

### HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (continued)

#### Agenda item 3 (continued) **Roundtable 3: Business perspectives**

While governments shape policy in the pursuit of circularity, businesses are main drivers of economic growth and thus a core stakeholder in a circular economy transition. They are well-placed to develop innovative sustainable systems that will make a real difference in the journey towards circularity. There are opportunities to create value, resulting, for example, from by-products of recovered waste or resource-efficient design, which can open up new markets and sales. Additional sources of revenue can be tapped by offering new operation services i.e. repairs, refurbishing, remanufacturing, reselling and sharing. However, there are also challenges to overcome. This roundtable explores what it takes to unlock the potential of business towards a circular economy and the more sustainable use of natural resources.

**Moderator:** Mr. Jyrki Katainen, President, Finnish Innovation Fund, SITRA

#### Participants

- Ms. Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, Deputy-Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany)
- Mr. Pär Lashans, Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Ragn-Sells
- Ms. Ardita Seknaj, Secretary General, ICC Albania
- Mr. Stephan Sicars, Managing Director, Directorate of Environment and Energy, UNIDO
- Ms. Natalia Stapran, Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development (Russian Federation)
- Ms. Shakhlo Turdikulova, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Innovative Development (Uzbekistan)

11:15 – 11:30

#### Agenda item 4: **Consideration of the high-level statement**

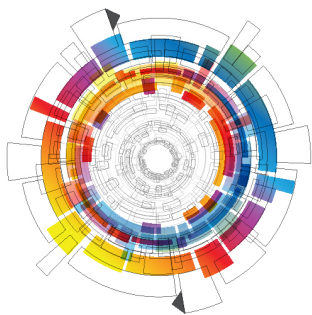
### GENERAL SEGMENT

Agenda item 5: **Report on activities on the high-level theme of the sixty-eighth session; “Smart Sustainable Cities: Drivers for Sustainable Development” and update on the work in the nexus areas**

11:30 – 11:45

**Introductory presentation** by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1498)

The secretariat will brief on the work done since April 2019 on the cross-cutting theme of the previous Commission session, highlighting in particular related cross-sectoral collaboration among ECE subprogrammes.



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11:45 – 12:15

### Circular Cities: Local action towards a circular economy

The sixty-eighth Commission session discussed how cities could become smarter and more sustainable. Since then, cities had to face not only environmental and social challenges, but also address the health emergencies and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A growing consciousness of the importance of planning with nature stemmed from the 'recovering better' approach at the local level. The need for urban systems to become more circular, avoid waste of resources, recycle and share services is becoming a priority in many agendas of small as well as larger cities. As 'smart' means 'circular' as well, this panel will connect the discussions held at the previous Commission session to the theme of this session. After a short video on how UNECE is addressing circularity at the city level, the session will hear from the cities of Grodno, Belarus; Lisbon, Portugal; and Athens, Greece; will discuss different aspects of circularity they are promoting and working on (e.g. water recycling, solid waste recovery, use of renewable energy, local and urban food).

#### Participants:

- Mr. Mechislav Goi, Mayor of City of Grodno (Belarus)
- Mrs. Eleni Myrivili, Senior Advisor to the City of Athens (Greece), Chief Resilience Officer, and Former Deputy Mayor
- Mr. José Sá Fernandes, Deputy Mayor, Environment, Green Structure, Climate and Energy, City of Lisbon (Portugal) (tbc)

12:15 – 13:00

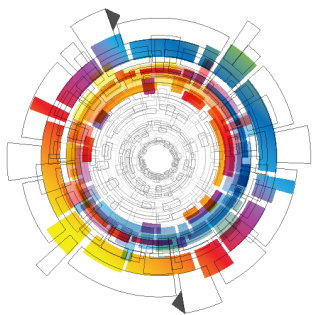
### The work of the UNECE Nexus Teams

In the high-level statement adopted at the sixty-eighth session, member States *inter alia* decided that "ECE will leverage its in-house expertise to achieve a greater impact on sustainable development in the region. Working across the eight subprograms, cross-sectoral teams will engage in areas where multiple SDGs converge (nexus areas): (a) sustainable and smart cities; (b) sustainable use of natural resources; (c) sustainable mobility, and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. This nexus approach will enable the development of integrated solutions to clusters of interrelated SDGs and deepen partnerships, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). In line with the four nexus areas, ECE will expand and strengthen its network of knowledge partnerships with a wide range of actors, including with other organizations in the United Nations system." The secretariat will provide an update on the work in the nexus areas.

#### Introduction: Executive Secretary, UNECE

- Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy (Ukraine)
- Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of Division Active Mobility and Mobility Management, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Austria)
- Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD (tbc)

Q&A, exchange of views.



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13:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

*(For each agenda item in the afternoon segment,  
kindly observe time limit of 2 min. per intervention to facilitate inclusive exchange of view.)*

15:00 – 15:20

Agenda Item 6: **Report on activities of the Executive Committee**

15.20 – 15.40

Agenda Item 7: **Other issues calling for decision by the Commission**

15.40 – 15.55

Agenda Item 8: **Election of officers**

15.55 – 16.00

Agenda Item 9: **Other business**

*The meeting will be suspended to allow for review of the draft report of the sixty-ninth session.*

17:00 – 18:00

**Adoption of the report of the session**