



Messages from the regions

Wednesday, 15 July 2020, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Session outline

The COVID-19 crisis has caused untold disruption to lives and economies. As the current patterns of globalization are being questioned, the regional level emerges as vital in dealing with cross-border problems, such as the impacts of COVID-19¹. Effective regional actions require reaching out to multiple partners.

As the regional platforms for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development are now fully recognized as an effective space for peer-learning, where countries, multiple stakeholders and UN entities in the regions address region and country-specific challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and share progress made, policy solutions and best practices.

In a post-COVID 19 context, the potential of regional collaboration should be fully leveraged to build back better and meet the promise of the 2030 Agenda. The Regional Commissions, in collaboration with the UN Development system in the regions, have set up regional COVID-19 observatories, policy monitoring and tracking tools, as well as dedicated knowledge hubs, that together with other online knowledge management hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals, have become regional public goods, fully accessible to countries, partners and the UN system at all levels.

In this session, regional spokespersons, including the Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, will report on the regional assessments on SDG progress in their respective regions, as well as on outcomes and recommendations emerging from the Forums and other regional activities. There will be a focus on policy solutions and regional collaboration efforts, including to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of the 2030 Agenda and long-term structural issues that prevent regions from fully realizing the promise of the Agenda and its SDGs.

¹ See [COVID-19: Building back better through regional cooperation, RCNYO, May 2020](#)



United Nations
Regional commissions
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Guiding questions

The session will address the following general questions:

- As we entered the Decade of Action and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were regions delivering on the 2030 Agenda aspirations? What were the critical gaps and opportunities for action at the regional level to make progress towards the achievement of the SDGs?
- What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the different regional trajectories towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the key opportunities and potential for building back better in the regions?