Implementation of the SDGs and Review of Progress

A Regional Perspective

Mr. Michael Kunz
Office of the Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Functions of the five UN Regional Commissions

- Mandates and areas of work differ
- Three core functions in common:
  - Convening function
  - Think tank function
  - Operational function
- Policy integrators of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level

**Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**
(54 mS* // Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

**Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**
(56 mS* // Geneva, Switzerland)

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**
(46 mS* // Santiago, Chile)

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**
(53 mS* // Bangkok, Thailand)

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**
(18 mS* // Beirut, Lebanon)

*ms: member States
Regional Commissions’ support to SDG implementation

**Examples:**

- **Intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings**
  (Regional Forums, meetings of parties to Conventions, technical working groups)

- **Policy research**
  (new publication on ‘promoting equality’ led by ESCAP; economic surveys, transboundary nexus approach in river basins led by ECE; SDG baseline and progress reports)

- **Operational activities**
  (SDG Help Desk in ESCAP, technical and advisory missions and training activities; capacity-building workshops)

- **Development of norms, standards and conventions in ECE**

- **Cooperation with partners at the national, regional and global levels**
UNECE’s role in SDG implementation

- Alignment of work programme with the SDGs
- Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- Technical cooperation in 17 ‘programme countries’
- Statistical methodologies for SDGs
- Coordination (subregional, regional, interregional)
- Creating new partnerships
SDG follow-up and review

- High-Level Political Forum
- Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- National review and monitoring
Initial steps and challenges in SDG implementation

- Institutional and coordination structures
  (National Sustainable Development Councils, interministerial structures)

- Integration in policy and legal frameworks
  (new or updated National Sustainable Development Strategies)

- Assessment of SDG gaps

- Challenges
  (SDG awareness, stakeholder engagement, policy integration and linkages, data, finance, structural challenges)
SDG performance in the UNECE region at a glance

Half of countries

Source: BertelsmannStiftung, Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Economic performance has improved but fragilities remain.

Source: IMF, UNECE
Economic growth brings increased CO2 fuel emissions

Source: International Energy Agency
A “circular economy” can reduce high resource intensity

Source: UN DESA, Global SDG Indicators Database, IMF
Examples

- **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**
  Collaboration with research centers for data and monitoring; space for further analytical work

- **Policy reviews (environment, innovation, housing)**
  Collaboration with National Research Institutes, scientific experts in intergovernmental working groups

**REGIONAL FORUM**

**ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION**

Participation of Major Group «Scientific and Technological Community»
Strengthening the science-policy interface in SDG implementation

- Improve availability and accessibility of scientific input to governments and UN at all levels (national, regional, global)
- Reduce complexity to overcome lack of scientific literacy
- Enhance multi-disciplinary dialogue and research
- Provide evidence for decision-making and solutions
- Enhance participation of scientists in intergovernmental discussions
Thank you!