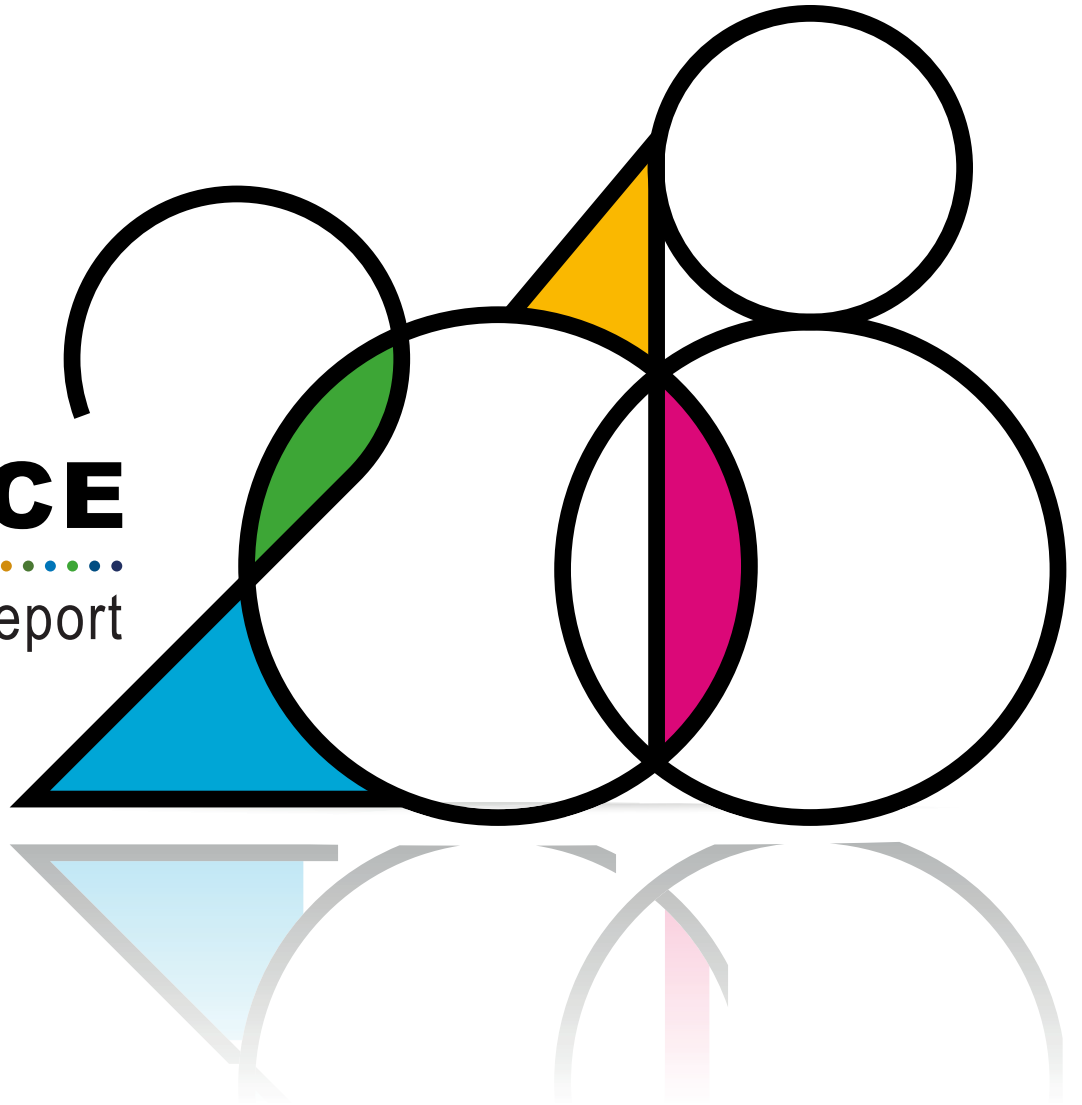




**UNECE**

Annual Report





**UNECE**



CONNECTING COUNTRIES  
DRIVING PROGRESS  
IMPROVING LIVES

# Table of Contents

1. Foreword by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
2. Supporting countries to achieve the SDGs: UNECE highlights 2018
  - a. Sustainable use of natural resources
  - b. Sustainable and smart cities for all ages
  - c. Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity
  - d. Measuring and monitoring SDGs
3. Reports of UNECE Committees covering activities in 2018
4. Budget
5. Gender equality
6. Nationalities of staff at Professional (P) level and above
7. Strengthening UN cooperation in the UNECE region
8. Cooperation with UN organizations
9. Leveraging cooperation beyond the UN system



# Foreword

UNECE is committed to supporting its member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I am proud to share with you a selection of examples of the impact of our work in 2018.

You will see how our policy advice, practical norms and capacity building activities have helped countries and the people in our region.

- The UN Road Safety Trust Fund has already mobilized US\$ 20 million in much-needed resources.
- Over 70 laws, strategies and action plans have now been developed or updated by UNECE member States based on our Country Profiles on urban development, housing and land management.
- UNECE supported the development of national strategies on energy efficiency, renewable energy or low-carbon development for 12 member States.
- The UN/FLUX standard now enables the monitoring of 85,000 fishing vessels in the EU and a growing number of countries worldwide, helping to manage 470 fish stocks and quotas sustainably.
- Over 50 cities are using the UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities, helping them to monitor local SDG implementation and attract investment.
- A UN regulation providing consumers with more realistic fuel economy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions figures now applies to all new cars sold within the EU and EFTA countries. UNECE produces binding legislation for the automotive sector, which in the EU alone represents 6.8% of GDP and employs 13.3 million people.
- Chad and Senegal joined the Water Convention, with 20 other countries announcing their intention to follow.
- Nigeria acceded to 5 key UN road safety Conventions, covering road traffic, the transport of dangerous goods and vehicle safety.

You will find many more examples in this brief report.

In 2018, we have continued to strengthen our cooperation across the Regional UN System, helping to ensure greater coordination of activities and sharpen our joint support to countries.

We have also leveraged collaboration with a growing network of partners including international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia and civil society.

I look forward to our continued cooperation in 2019 to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for all citizens in our region.

**Olga Algayerova**

Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



# Supporting Countries to Achieve the SDGs

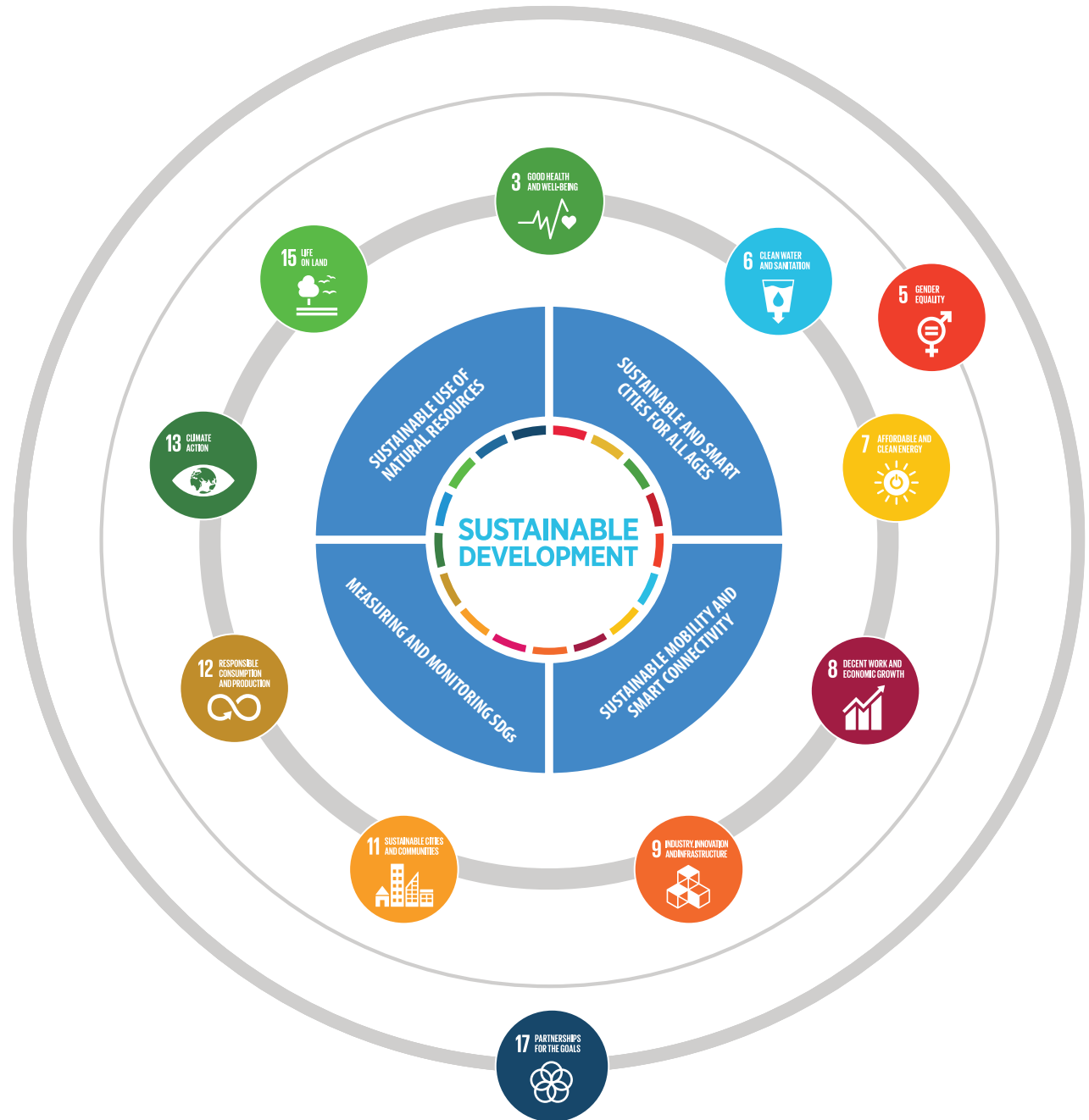
UNECE Highlights  
2018

UNECE is supporting countries to address some of the key sustainable development challenges facing the region.

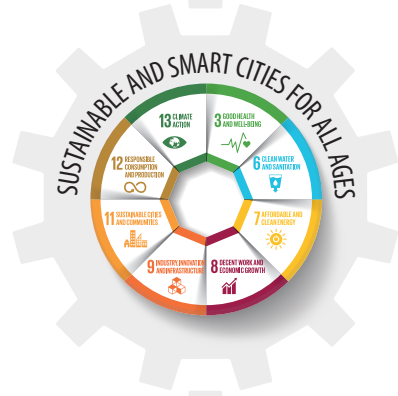
Through an integrated, multisectoral approach leveraging UNECE norms, standards and conventions, and by building capacities and policy assistance, UNECE is helping to accelerate countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This cross-cutting work is helping to drive progress towards 9 core SDGs where UNECE has particular strengths, namely SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15.

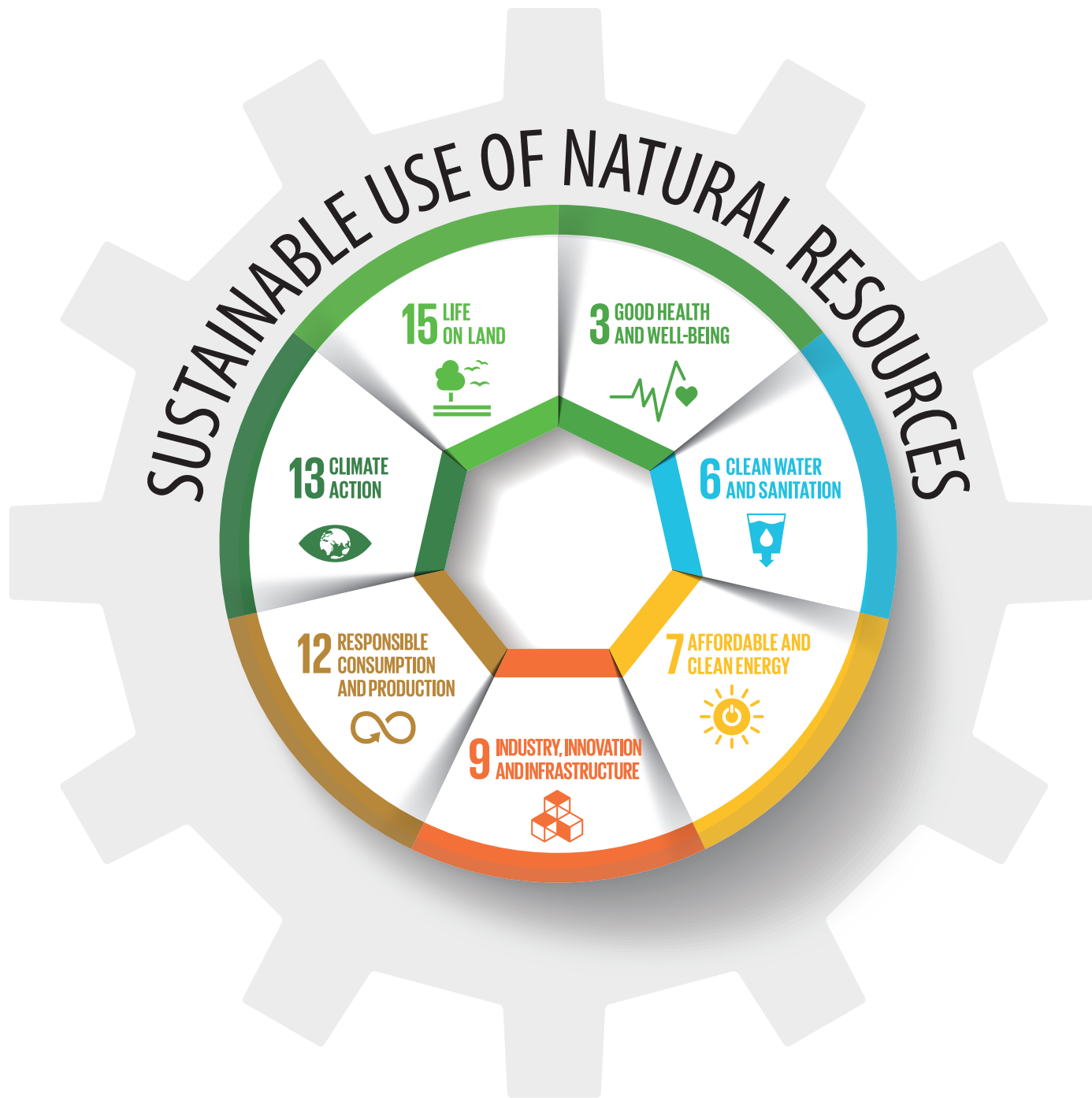
Partnerships (17) and gender equality (5) underpin all UNECE activities.



# High-impact Areas

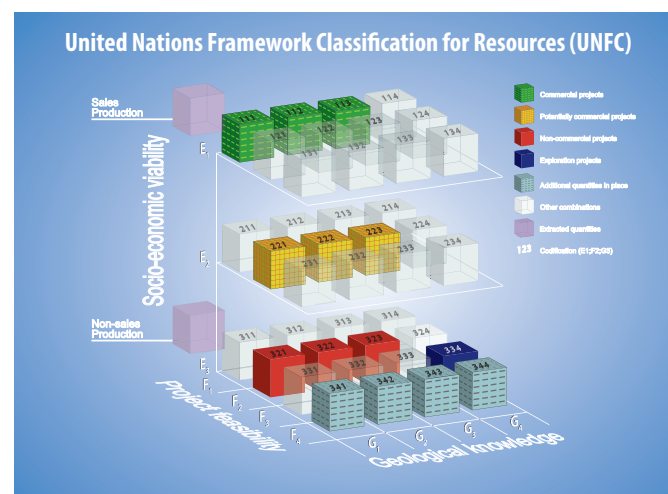


At the crossroads of all UNECE programmes and expertise, four high-impact areas have been identified where multiple SDGs converge.



Accelerating the transition to more efficient and cleaner economies is central to the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – unlocking benefits for people, planet and prosperity. This transition also represents a key source of economic dynamism and new opportunities for sustainable economic growth and green development.

- UNECE published [Environmental Performance Reviews \(EPRs\)](#) of [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [Mongolia](#), and undertook its 50<sup>th</sup> Environmental Performance Review with the 3<sup>rd</sup> assessment of [Kazakhstan](#). EPRs offer a comprehensive tool to help countries identify key environmental challenges and establish concrete recommendations to support environmental sustainability and SDG progress across all sectors.
- UNECE continued to broaden application of the [United Nations Framework Classification for Resources \(UNFC\)](#) to cover renewable energy (bioenergy and geothermal), injection projects (carbon dioxide storage), and [anthropogenic resources](#) for circular economy implementation. In 2018, UNECE initiated the development of a United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) based on UNFC to support the SDGs and ensure that resource management is socially, environmentally and economically coherent globally.
- UNFC is now used directly by Bulgaria, Finland, India, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Thailand, [Ukraine](#), and indirectly by the [European Union](#), Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mongolia, South Africa, and USA. In 2018, the [Russian Federation](#) and [China](#) opted to directly bridge UNFC to their national systems, and UNECE started several continent-wide initiatives to deploy UNFC – in Europe, led by the European Commission; in [Africa](#) – led by the African Union Commission; in Eurasia, through a pilot project in the Russian Federation; and in the Americas, led by [Mexico](#).
- A Ministerial Conference urged a [change in mindset and strengthened political will](#) to accelerate sustainable energy transformation at Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Kyiv, Ukraine.
- UNECE supported the development of national strategies on energy efficiency, renewable energy or low-carbon development in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Ukraine.
- A UNECE field project introduced a renewable energy solution in rural Kyrgyzstan through a [cost-effective green technology biogas model](#). The biogas plant produces 116,650 cubic metres of biogas for heating plus 200 tonnes of organic fertilizers annually, sufficient to fertilize 200 hectares of arable farmland and saving US\$ 14,000 annually. The methane produced will replace 6.4 tonnes of diesel fuel, which will save an additional US\$ 3,120 in heating costs every year.
- [Chad](#) and [Senegal](#) joined the Water Convention. As global momentum builds for water cooperation, more than 15 countries announced their intention to join the Convention at its historic [eighth Meeting of the Parties in Astana](#).





- UNECE supported Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Serbia in developing cross-sectoral assessments and action plans to improve [access to drinking-water and sanitation](#), addressing financial and affordability issues, urban-rural inequalities and access by vulnerable populations.

- UNECE helped to increase resilience to climate change in 7 major basins worldwide (Chu Talas, Danube, Dniester, Lake Victoria, Mekong, Neman, Rhine, with a total population of 300 million persons) through the Water Convention's global network of basins working on [climate change adaptation](#). This supported the development of transboundary adaptation strategies, built capacities and provided training on accessing climate finance to implement adaptive measures.

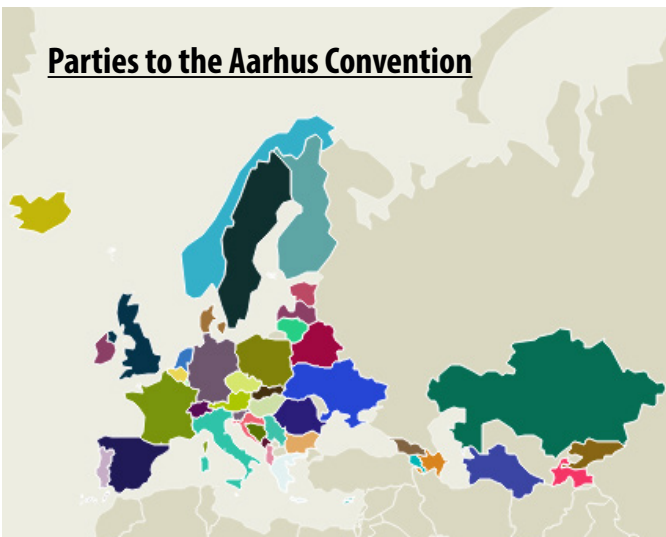
- Through [National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management](#) under the European Union Water Initiative, UNECE supported Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova for water sector reforms to promote intersectoral cooperation, modernize legal and institutional frameworks and improve water quality and access to water and sanitation.

- UNECE "nexus" assessments have, by the end of 2018, helped 20 countries in 7 shared basins to sustainably address the interconnected objectives of water management, energy and environmental protection. In the [Drina River Basin](#), shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, UNECE helped to bring energy, water and environmental actors together, supporting efforts to formalize river flow regulation, address erosion and sedimentation, and promote renewable energy investment.

- Governments, NGOs, international organizations and other stakeholders celebrated the [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Aarhus Convention](#), a unique legally binding instrument to protect people's rights to the environment across the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, countries strengthened efforts to ensure [access to justice](#), to harness technology to improve [access to information](#), to promote transparency and public participation in international decision-making on chemicals and waste, and to [enhance protection of environmental defenders](#).

- UNECE shared [40 years of experience under its Air Convention](#) at the first WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health. Thanks to measures taken under the Convention to cut harmful emissions, including particulate matter, average life expectancy in Europe is estimated to be 12 months higher than it otherwise would have been.

- UNECE assisted 11 member States in the development of national legislation or institutional capacity to assess and address environmental and health impacts of economic development: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

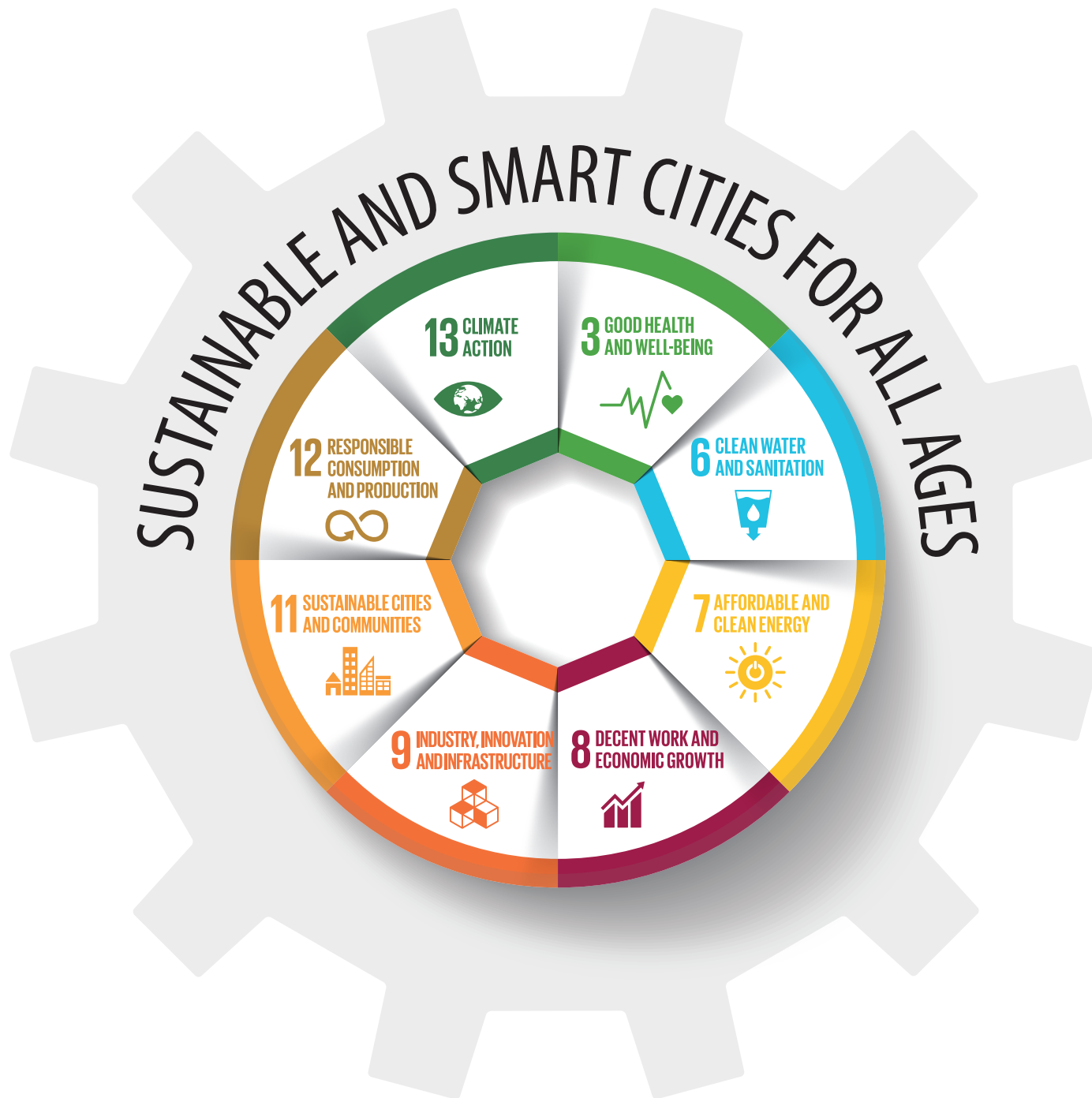


**Parties to the Aarhus Convention**



- UNECE and FAO supported Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in their [commitment to restore over 2.5 million hectares](#) from degraded land to healthy, productive forests by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge.
- UNECE and FAO launched the very [first database on forest ownership in the region](#), covering approximately 20 million forest owners and their forests in Europe, North America and Central Asia. The related study on the State of Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region addresses key knowledge gaps on forest ownership, how it is changing, and the implications for forest management and policy.
- UNECE and FAO began the first ever study on the state of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia, [helping to address critical knowledge gaps](#) to support sustainable forest management in the region.
- The international use and promotion of the [UN/FLUX fisheries data management standard](#) continued to expand. UN/FLUX, developed by UN/CEFACT, is the first communication tool to automatically collect and disseminate fishery catch data through a harmonized message standard. Used by the EU and a growing number of leading fishing nations in other regions, UN/FLUX enables the monitoring of 85,000 fishing vessels worldwide, concerning 5 million tonnes of fish landed annually, and helps manage 470 fish stocks and quotas sustainably.





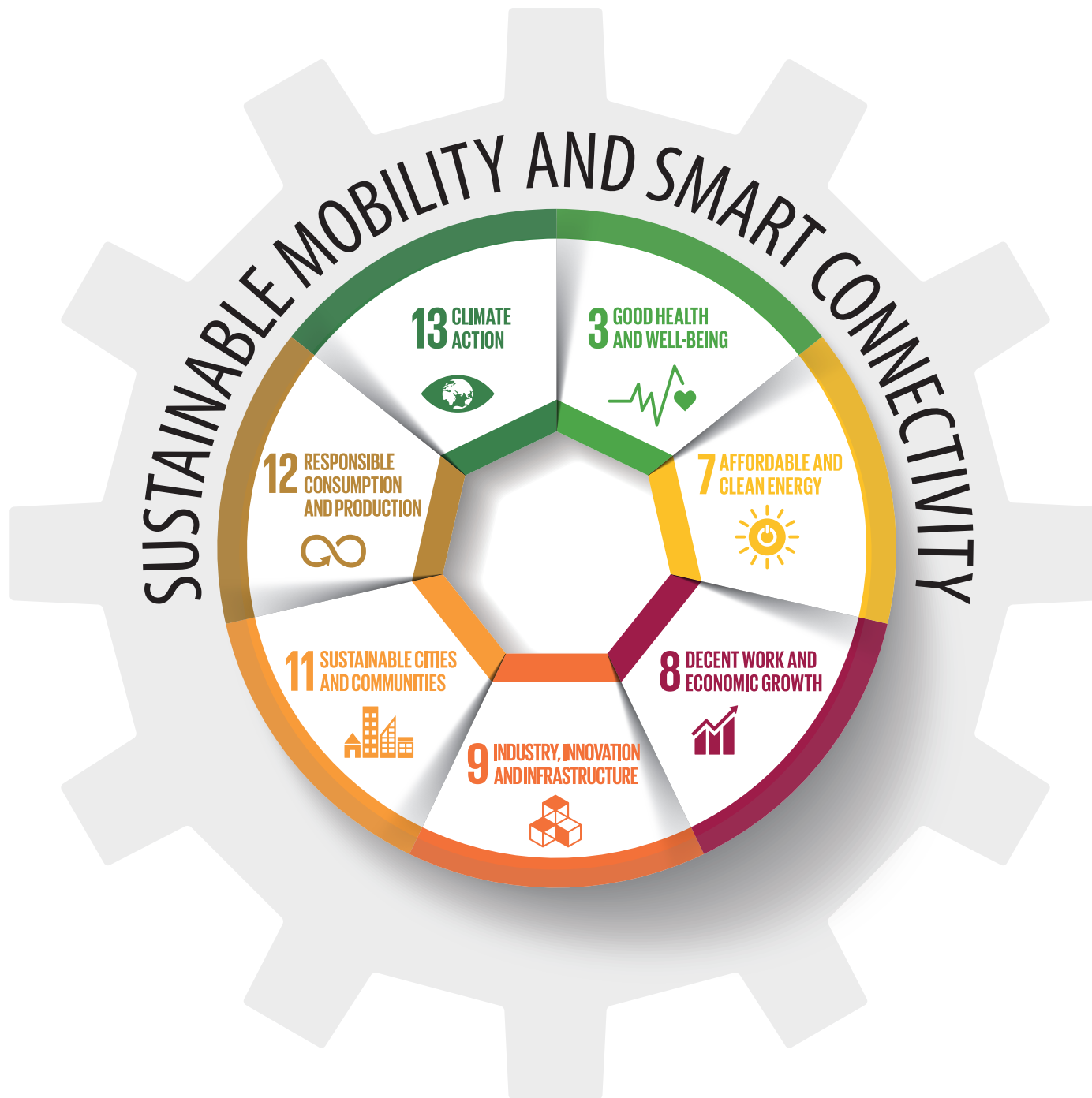
The UNECE region is one of the most highly urbanized regions in the world and this trend is projected to continue. Cities have emerged as increasingly key actors in addressing complex sustainable development challenges – in housing, energy, transport, environmental management, population ageing and many other areas.

- UNECE strengthened the knowledge base and cooperation for energy efficient buildings. Initiatives include studies [mapping the use of energy efficiency standards and technologies](#) in buildings in the region, and the launch of international networks and centres in USA, Canada, Ireland and Belgium to [advance research](#), education and [on the ground implementation](#) for high performance building materials, design, and construction.
- Over 50 cities worldwide are now using the UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities. Based on the KPIs, UNECE developed [smart sustainable city profiles](#) for Goris (Armenia) and Voznesensk (Ukraine), which will assist these cities in implementing priority measures for their development, attract investments and localize the SDGs.
- Ukraine developed [laws on rental housing and on housing relations](#) based on policy recommendations of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the study on Social Housing in the UNECE Region.
- UNECE's [Country Profile on the Housing Sector for Kazakhstan](#) provided practical recommendations to sustainable urban development, focusing on housing provision and affordability, management and maintenance of the housing stock, energy efficiency in housing, housing finance, smart sustainable cities, and the legal and institutional framework.  
By the end of 2018, over 70 national policy documents (laws, strategic programmes and action plans) have been developed and/or updated by UNECE member States based on UNECE Country Profiles on urban development, housing and land management.
- [The fourth UN Charter Centre of Excellence was established](#) in Vienna, Austria, joining centres in Tirana, Albania; Tallinn, Estonia; and Glasgow, UK. The centres support the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through training, studies and concrete projects on the ground to improve the quality of life in cities.
- Czechia, Italy and the Republic of Moldova aligned policy measures and strategies on ageing with the [Lisbon Ministerial Declaration](#). This will support countries' efforts to build a sustainable society for all ages and realize the potential of living longer.
- UNECE promoted the use of wood in construction as a renewable, low carbon material that can support the transition to the circular economy. Initiatives in 2018 included mobilizing government and forest industry stakeholder commitments to ["build the future with forests"](#), and highlighting the contribution innovative wood-based buildings can make to [climate action](#) in the context of COP 24.

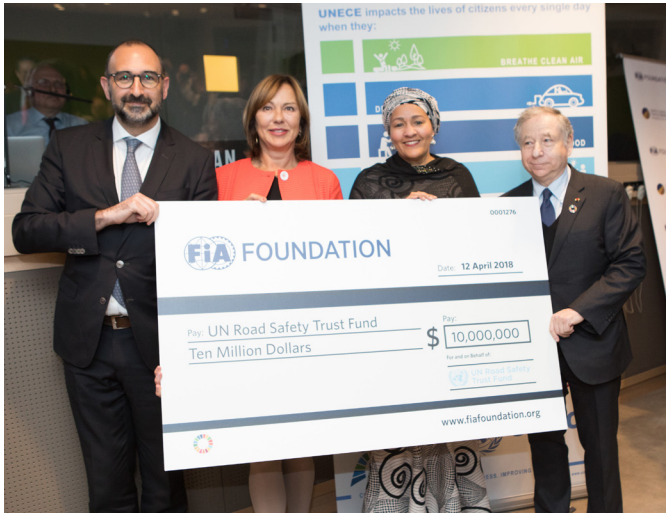




- UNECE strengthened capacities for the integration of transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies in Central Asian countries.
- Some 35 UNECE countries exchanged experiences and good practices on [land-use planning and industrial safety](#) and agreed on actions to strengthen the integration of procedures, including through environmental assessments, and to improve cross-sectoral cooperation, policy-making and governance.
- A number of cities have applied the [UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers \(PRTR\)](#) to help identify potential risks linked to projects. For example, [Israel used PRTR](#) air emission data to account for health risks at the planning stage of an industrial zone in Haifa.
- France and [Ukraine](#) established webportals to help people contribute to informed decision-making on urban development, infrastructure, energy and other projects that could affect the environment – putting the principles of the Aarhus Convention into practice. Aarhus Centres in [Albania](#), [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Georgia](#) and other countries helped to build capacities of local communities to effectively access information, participate in decision-making and access justice in environmental matters.



In an increasingly interconnected world, advancing mobility, trade and economic integration can be powerful catalysts for sustainable development. Nurturing innovation, mobilizing partnerships and capitalizing on the potential of new technologies are critical to driving cross-cutting SDGs progress.



- [The UN Road Safety Trust Fund was launched](#) (April 2018), gathered all road safety stakeholders to mobilize much needed resources for strengthened action. With UNECE hosting the Fund's Secretariat, the Fund [raised almost US\\$20 million](#) in international contributions, [established its governing bodies](#) and approved [5 pilot projects](#) by the end of 2018.

- UNECE Road Safety Performance Reviews provided [Albania](#), [Cameroon](#), the Dominican Republic, [Georgia](#), [Uganda](#) and Vietnam with key practical steps to improve their road safety situations.

- Nigeria acceded to [the key UN road safety Conventions](#), covering road signs and markings, road traffic, the transport of dangerous goods and vehicle safety - addressing the major causes of road crashes.

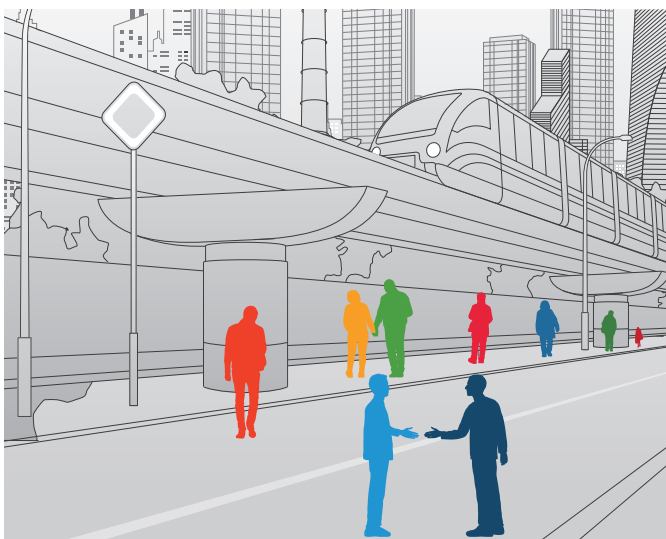
- UNECE adopted a [resolution on the deployment of highly and fully automated vehicles](#) in road traffic. UNECE also continued its work on the development of technical provisions for automated vehicles, establishing a Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles.

- Since 1 September 2018, the Worldwide harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP) applies to all new passenger cars sold within the EU and EFTA countries, providing consumers with more realistic and robust fuel economy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions figures. In 2018, UNECE started work on a [global methodology](#) to measure on-road car emissions which will further improve assessment. Under the auspices of the [World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations](#), a secretariat of 10 UNECE staff, leveraging a network of 2,600 experts, produces binding legislation for the automotive sector, which in the EU alone represents 6.8% of GDP and employs 13.3 million people.

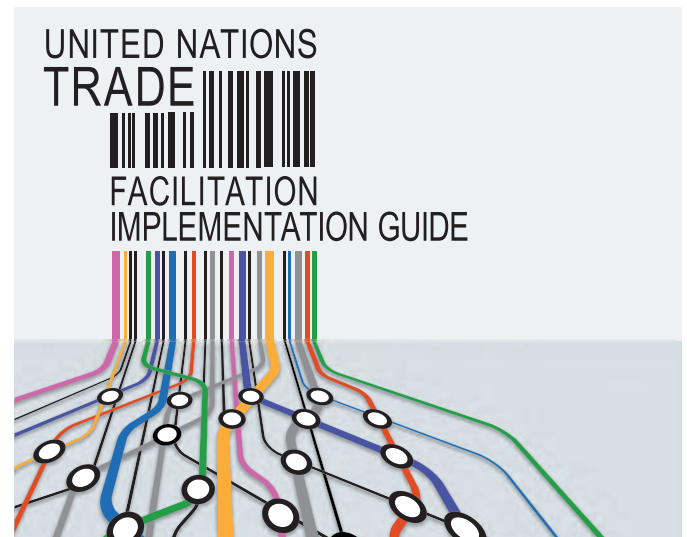
- UNECE and partners [trained 10,000 government officials on People-first PPPs](#), helping to bring governments and businesses together for the sustainable financing of key infrastructure developments and services, including in transport, energy and water management.

- UNECE launched a call for "Flagship" projects in infrastructure and public services for the SDGs.

- UNECE signed a partnership with Belarus to harness innovation for sustainable development, supporting reforms based on UNECE recommendations. Activities include [strengthening capacities for technology and innovation foresight](#).



- UNECE helped [Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan](#) to reach new markets for their agricultural produce through training on the use of its international standards. Uzbekistan adopted 80 UNECE agricultural quality standards – the largest single country adoption. UNECE also helped the [Dominican Republic](#) to enhance export quality of fruit and vegetables based on UNECE standards.
- UNECE supported [improved trade connectivity in the Western Balkans](#) by building capacity for the use of UN/CEFACT and EU standards and data models for international trade.
- With more than 1 million single users in 2018, the [UNECE Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide](#), available in 5 languages, proved to be a key knowledge platform for advancing sustainable and digital trade facilitation around the world.
- UNECE adopted a Recommendation on [Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development](#), providing guidance to countries on how to use risk management tools in regulatory frameworks to implement the SDGs. UNECE also adopted a Recommendation on [Gender Responsive Standards](#), calling on national standards bodies to strengthen gender equality in the standards development process.
- UNECE supported Kyrgyzstan's efforts to [strengthen women's economic empowerment](#) in the area of trade by building capacities for women entrepreneurs to better connect to regional and international value chains, and promoting women's engagement in all standard-setting and normative processes.
- UN/CEFACT supported the National Trade Facilitation Committee of Tajikistan in the development of its National Trade Facilitation Roadmap to enhance exports diversification and make business across borders easier and faster.
- UN/CEFACT launched a multi-stakeholder [initiative](#) with the European Commission and the International Trade Centre to enhance traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector.
- UNECE continued to support women's entrepreneurship in the Caucasus and Central Asia, [strengthening knowledge and building capacities](#) for women-led small businesses, and promoting the use Information and Communication Technologies.
- Women in energy: UNECE supported strengthened capacities and knowledge among officials and stakeholders from Central Asia, helping to [map gaps in women's participation](#) in energy-related decision-making and in the broader energy sector.

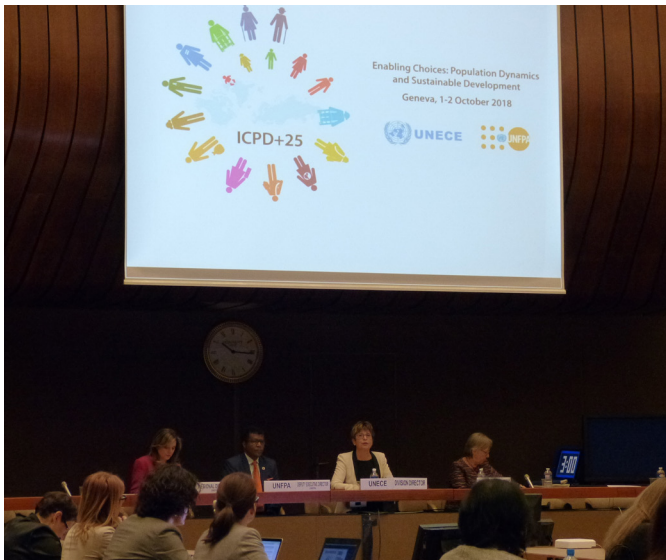




- Momentum continued to build for the TIR Convention, with particular expansion in the [Middle East](#) and Latin America and growing implementation in Eurasia. The only global customs transit system in existence, TIR facilitates trade and the seamless and secure movement of goods across borders. The TIR system, used by over 34,000 transport and logistic companies in its 76 Contracting Parties, reduces cross-border transport time by up to 80%, and costs by up to 38%.
- Ministers called for accrued efforts to [embrace the full potential of inland navigation for sustainable development](#) at Wroclaw international Ministerial Conference. Countries established main objectives and priority actions to reap benefits of inland navigation in terms of reduced logistics costs, improved safety, environmental protection and addressing road traffic congestion.
- The United Nations Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA) marked 20 years of supporting Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for regional integration. Countries outline steps to further strengthen SPECA as a [unique platform to harness cooperation](#) for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Achieving the SDGs requires high-quality statistics and robust monitoring. This is key to tracking progress on challenges and provides the foundation for informed decision-making and effective policy responses.



- The [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region](#) (1-2 March 2018) provided a springboard for future action in the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, mobilizing governments, civil society and international partners from across the region to drive SDG progress.
- Fifteen UNECE member States presented [Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNRs) at the High Level Political Forum, tracking progress made, challenges and sharing lessons learned in 2030 Agenda implementation. Since 2016, about half of UNECE member States have undertaken Voluntary National Reviews, exemplifying the strong commitment of governments in the region to the SDGs.
- Forty member States endorsed [review of population dynamics in the UNECE region](#) at the Regional ICPD+25 conference jointly organized with UNFPA, calling for increased efforts to ensure human rights and gender equality across the life course. Countries also endorsed a [new monitoring framework](#) on progress on the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action. Over half of the framework's indicators are SDG indicators.
- Chile, Malta, Norway, Rwanda, Slovakia and Switzerland are applying Guidance on Modernizing Statistical Legislation to revise their statistical laws. The guidance, [endorsed by more than 65 countries](#), provides a stronger legal basis for statistics in support of informed decisions to improve lives. Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Republic of Moldova have adopted [new statistical legislation](#) in 2018 based on the UNECE Generic Law on Official Statistics.
- Nearly half of UNECE member States have implemented the UNECE Generic Statistical Business Production Model to modernise their statistical production processes.
- UNECE supported improved public understanding of the essential role of reliable evidence for democratic decision-making, with its Recommendations for Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics. Seventeen countries (Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Cape Verde, Denmark, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Uganda and the United Kingdom) have volunteered to pilot test the measurement framework.
- UNECE fostered improved coordination and communication of SDG indicators, with its Practical Guide to National SDG Reporting Platforms: 34 countries have developed or are building platforms to disseminate and communicate SDG indicators.
- For the first time, all UNECE member States expressed their intention to conduct a [population census](#) in the 2020 round, in compliance with UNECE Recommendations.

- A UNECE assessment on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade provided [Georgia](#) with recommendations to monitor progress in increasing supply chain efficiencies and strengthening the contribution of trade to the achievement of the [SDGs](#).
- UNECE, jointly with its sister UN Regional Commissions, launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> [Survey for Sustainable and Digital Trade Facilitation](#) and e-platform, allowing more than 120 countries around the world to benchmark their performance and inform policy makers on priorities to advance their national strategies for trade facilitation and paperless trade.
- UNECE published [Inland Transport Statistics for Europe and North America](#), helping to track progress towards SDG targets related to all aspects of inland transport, from passenger and freight volumes to data improving understanding of road safety performance.
- UNECE and UNESCO launched the report on “Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation 2018 - Global baseline for SDG indicator 6.5.2” - the [first ever global report](#) on the status of transboundary water cooperation based on official data from countries. The report highlights the need to strengthen transboundary water cooperation worldwide.
- The first report on the implementation of the Water Convention provided clear evidence that [the Convention has improved cooperation on transboundary water resources](#) with positive impacts on their status and the health and well-being of populations, supporting economic development and regional integration.
- Tracking progress on the Batumi Declaration: the [mid-term review](#) on establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia demonstrated that many countries have continued to harmonize environmental data flows and improve their readiness to report on the state of the environment and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- UNECE and FAO helped to [advance reporting for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia](#). Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan established national forest monitoring systems, developing their first ever criteria and indicators sets for sustainable forest management.
- Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Armenia, and Ukraine agreed to pilot the new UNECE Innovation Policy Outlook – a composite index assessing the scope, quality, and performance of policies, institutions, and instruments promoting innovation for sustainable development.
- The United Nations Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA) supported the development of a comprehensive sub-regional strategy on innovation for sustainable development to guide and measure the impact of joint activities among Central Asian countries.



# Reports of UNECE Committees covering activities in 2018



[Committee on Environmental Policy](#)

[Inland Transport Committee](#)

[Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships](#)

[Committee on Sustainable Energy](#)

[Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards](#)

[UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management](#)

[UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry](#)

[Conference of European Statisticians](#)

# Budget

## Budget Resources (in thousands of US Dollars)

Type of budget resources		2016-2017 Appropriation/Allotment	2018-2019 Appropriation/Allotment
<b>A</b>	<b>Regular Budget</b> (Section 20)		
	Post items	66,151.6	59,423.0
	Non-Post items	3,591.5	3,661.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,743.1</b>	<b>63,084.2</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Regular Programme Of Technical Cooperation</b> (Section 23)		
	General Temporary Assistance Staff (Regional Advisers)	2,582.6	2,583.8
	Non-Post items	870.6	1,010.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,453.2</b>	<b>3,593.9</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>United Nations Development Account</b> (Section 35)		
	Non-Post items (Note: Unspent project balances rephrased into 2018-19)	2,707.3	5,321.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,707.3</b>	<b>5,321.8</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Extrabudgetary - Technical Cooperation &amp; General Trust Funds</b>	<b>28,571.5</b>	<b>33,874.1</b>

# Gender Equality



UNECE is committed to assisting member States to make gender equality a reality. We focus on women's economic empowerment, which sets a direct path towards inclusive economic growth. Our gender statistics database provides internationally-comparable gender-relevant and sex-disaggregated data to track progress and identify shortcomings.

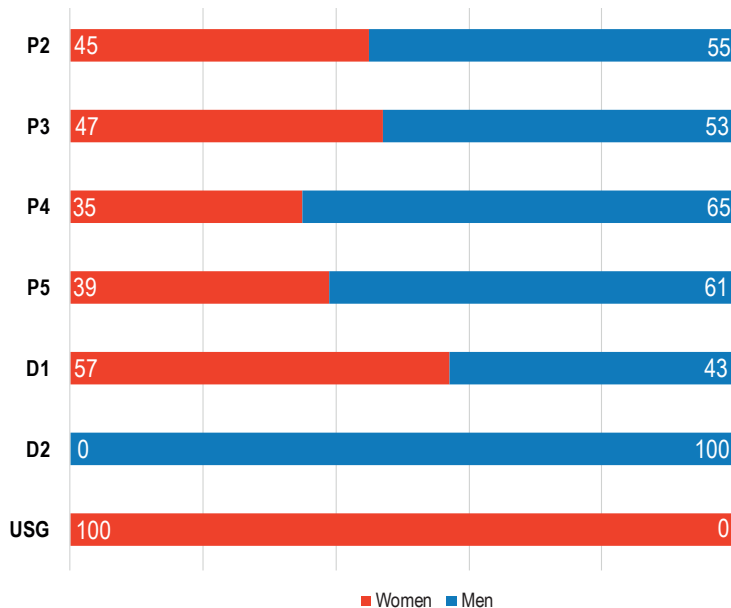
UNECE has strengthened its efforts to include a gender dimension across all its activities and cooperation with partners. All projects undergo gender assessment, and all publications and reports reflect gender considerations.

We mainstream gender equality within our own organization and join forces with UN and other partners to achieve gender equality in the UNECE region.

[UNECE's Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women \(2016-2020\)](#) provides guidance to mainstream gender in all UNECE activities and our organizational culture, in line with the priorities for the organization set by the UN Secretary-General.

UNECE is working to ensure gender parity within the organization as just one dimension of these efforts.

**Sex distribution of staff at professional level and above in UNECE, 2018**

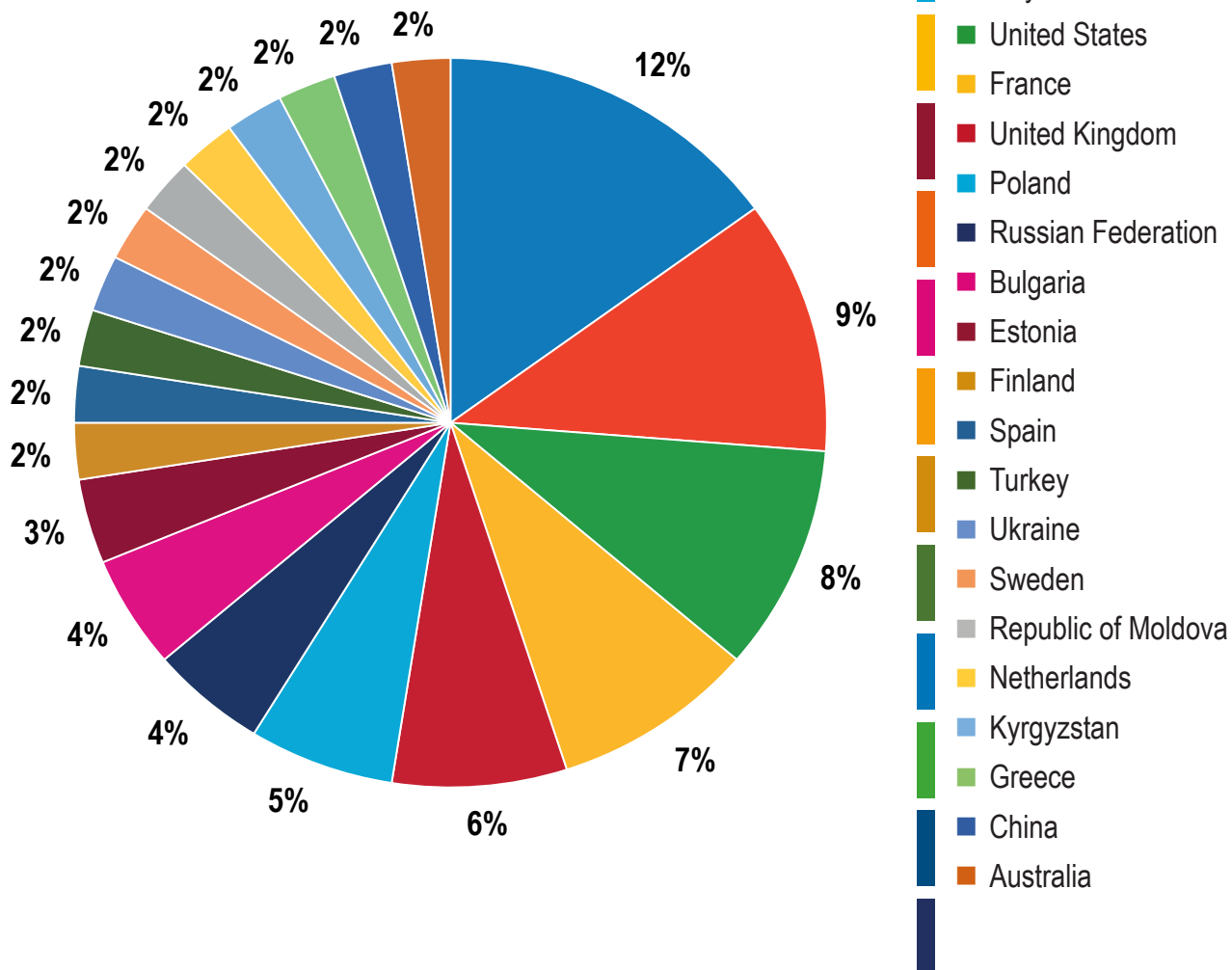


Number of posts at each level: USG (Under-Secretary-General): 1; D2: 1; D1: 8 ; P5: 23; P4: 35; P3: 36; P2: 21.

# Nationalities of staff at Professional (P) level and above

188 staff – 125 P posts and above

Nationalities of staff at professional level and above in UNECE, 2018



# UNECE Member States



ALBANIA



ANDORRA



ARMENIA



AUSTRIA



AZERBAIJAN



BELARUS



BELGIUM



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



BULGARIA



CANADA



CROATIA



CYPRUS



CZECHIA



DENMARK



ESTONIA



FINLAND



FRANCE



GEORGIA



GERMANY



GREECE



HUNGARY



ICELAND



IRELAND



ISRAEL



ITALY



KAZAKHSTAN



KYRGYZSTAN



LATVIA



LIECHTENSTEIN



LITHUANIA



LUXEMBOURG



MALTA



MONACO



MONTENEGRO



NETHERLANDS



NORTH MACEDONIA



NORWAY



POLAND



PORTUGAL



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



ROMANIA



RUSSIAN FEDERATION



SAN MARINO



SERBIA



SLOVAKIA



SLOVENIA



SPAIN



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



TAJIKISTAN



TURKEY



TURKMENISTAN



UKRAINE



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES



UZBEKISTAN



## Strengthening UN cooperation in the UNECE region

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs require joint action and strengthened [cooperation among United Nations organizations](#). In the UNECE region, more than 20 United Nations organizations are pooling their expertise and joining hands to maximize the impact of their work across Europe and Central Asia, through joint analysis, advocacy, policy coordination and country support on a number of cross-cutting issues. UNECE is actively supporting this work, through the following channels of cooperation:

- **Regional UN System Meetings** to coordinate interagency activities and ensure policy coherence of the regional United Nations system. These joint UN System Meetings bring together Regional Directors and Heads of Regional UN Offices. The meetings are jointly organized by the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group (R-UNSDG) and are co-chaired by the RCM Chair, the UNECE Executive Secretary, and the Chair of the Regional UNSDG Team for Europe and Central Asia.
- **Issue-based coalitions:** Regional taskforces, clustered around cross-cutting policy issues – gender equality, adolescents and youth, health and wellbeing, social protection, SDG data and monitoring and large movements of people – are helping to facilitate concerted action between different UN agencies and partners on the operational level.

In this context, the two Regional UN System Meetings held in Geneva in 2018 were an opportunity to renew the commitment to [further developing the successful model of UN collaboration in the region](#) by better linking up analytical, normative and operational work to maximize the concrete impact of UN activities on the ground, in line with the ongoing reform of the UN Development System.

The [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region](#) is organized in close cooperation with the regional UN system, providing a key platform for governments and other stakeholders to share expertise and solutions to catalyse countries' SDG implementation.

# Cooperation with UN organisations



Connecting expertise and know-how to achieve impact, cooperation with UN partners is a fundamental feature of how UNECE is supporting countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Examples include:

UNECE contributes to providing a regional dimension to the work of the United Nations through regional inputs to the UN global processes. In this role, it coordinates with its sister **UN Regional Commissions (RCs)**, through regular meetings of the Executive Secretaries. Cooperation with the RCs covers a wide range of initiatives, including regional review processes, water, energy, environment, economic integration, transport and road safety, in particular the UN Road Safety Trust Fund. UNECE and UNESCAP jointly support the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

UNECE contributes to United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (**UNDAFs**) in 17 countries in its region, in collaboration with the respective **UN Country Teams**.

UNECE's wide-ranging cooperation with **UNDP** helps to strengthen countries' capacities to address a range of sustainable development challenges.

UNECE has been working with **FAO** through their Joint Forestry and Timber Section for the past 70 years, strengthening sustainable forest management in the UNECE region, and supporting SDG indicator 15.1.1 (on forest area).

UNECE works closely together with **WHO/Europe** to protect human health, through the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), launched in 2002, the joint Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention, in force since 2005, the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution under the Air Convention, and the European Environment and Health Process.

UNECE works closely with **UNEP** on a wide range of initiatives, as well as for policy dialogue under the Environment for Europe process and in the context of the **United Nations Environment Assembly**.

UNECE works closely with **UNITAR** on promoting pollutant release and transfer registers and public environmental rights.

UNECE contributes to various activities under **UN DESA**, in particular the work of the **UN Statistical Commission**, and the preparation of the annual World Economic and Social Prospects report.

UNECE contributes to advancing gender equality through cooperation with **UN Women** on regional reviews of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and collaboration in development, compilation and communication of gender statistics.

UNECE and **UNFPA** work closely together on ageing, through the review of population dynamics in the UNECE region, holding in 2018 the ICPD+25 conference and launching a new monitoring framework on progress on the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA also provides long-standing support for UNECE's work on population censuses.

UNECE cooperates with **WMO** on water and air pollution-related monitoring and modelling, climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures.

UNECE supports multi-agency coordination in its areas of expertise, including on water-related issues under the **UN WATER** platform; on road safety with organizations including **WHO** and the **World Bank**; on sustainable energy, through **UN-Energy** and **SE4ALL**; on industrial and chemical safety with **UNEP**, **WHO** and **UNIDO**; on air pollution with **WHO** and **UNEP**; on environmental assessment and monitoring with **UNEP**.

UNECE and **ITU** work hand in hand to promote the use of ICTs in city planning and service provision, within the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative, as well as on eBusiness standards.

UNECE and **IAEA** work together to promote the use of UNFC to map uranium and thorium resources.

UNECE contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework of Action implemented by **UNISDR**, in particular on resilient housing and cities, and extreme water-related weather events.

UNECE supports the work of 5 Special Rapporteurs appointed by the **Human Rights Council**, relating to the rights of older persons; the environment; the management of hazardous substances; access to drinking water and sanitation; and access to housing.

UNECE and **ILO** work together to address a range of safety and decent work issues, such as in the transport, industrial and trade sectors, as well as in statistical capacity development and methodological work. The Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network works on green jobs in the forest sector.

Helping to make trade more efficient and sustainable, cooperation between UNECE, **UNCTAD** and **ITC** includes work on trade facilitation and eCommerce.

UNECE and **UNESCO** are co-custodians of SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation, and also work together on Education for Sustainable Development.

UNECE and **UN HABITAT** work closely together on a range of sustainable housing, smart city and urban development activities.

UNECE is part of the recently created **UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion**, which aims to strengthen cooperation among United Nations agencies and programmes on the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the fashion industry.



# Leveraging cooperation beyond the UN system



UNECE cooperates with a wide range of other institutions, from the public and private sector, academia and NGOs. These include:

## ■ Other regional organizations

The **European Commission** contributes to the development and implementation of UNECE's normative work, standards and Conventions across a wide range of areas.

The **EU** supports, in particular, the accession of non-EU countries to the Water Convention, the Espoo Convention, the Air Convention and the 1958 Agreement on vehicle regulations.

**Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union, works alongside UNECE in all statistical areas, participating in decision-making bodies and in technical areas such as migration statistics, economic statistics and environment statistics.

Through cooperation with the **Eurasian Economic Commission**, the **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**, the **Economic Cooperation Organization** and various bodies of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, UNECE is supporting efforts on subregional development priorities including trade facilitation and transport connectivity.

**CIS-Stat** regularly collaborates with UNECE on capacity development activities in areas ranging from gender statistics to modernization of statistical production.

UNECE collaborates with the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** to support statistical work in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through technical cooperation and capacity development activities.

## ■ Other international organizations

UNECE cooperation with **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** covers a wide range of activities including Environmental Performance Reviews, strengthening environmental assessment through EU4Environment, green economy, industrial and chemical safety, promoting Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative, agricultural quality standards, and statistics.

Collaboration with the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** supports the increased use of electronic standards for trade facilitation and cross-border transport of goods.

UNECE works with the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe** (OSCE) to address a range of economic, trade and environmental development issues.

Cooperation with **Multilateral Financial institutions** including the **World Bank** (on water cooperation and road safety), **Islamic Development Bank** (on transport connectivity), the **Asian Development Bank** (on SPECA) and the **African Development Bank** (on water cooperation) is helping to leverage resources for investment in a range of sustainable development initiatives.

The Aarhus Convention is applied in projects of a number of **Multilateral Financial Institutions** to ensure the public's effective engagement in environmental decision-making, including the **European Investment Bank** (EIB), the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** (EBRD), the **Council of Europe Development Bank** and the **Asia Infrastructure Development Bank**.

#### ■ Private sector

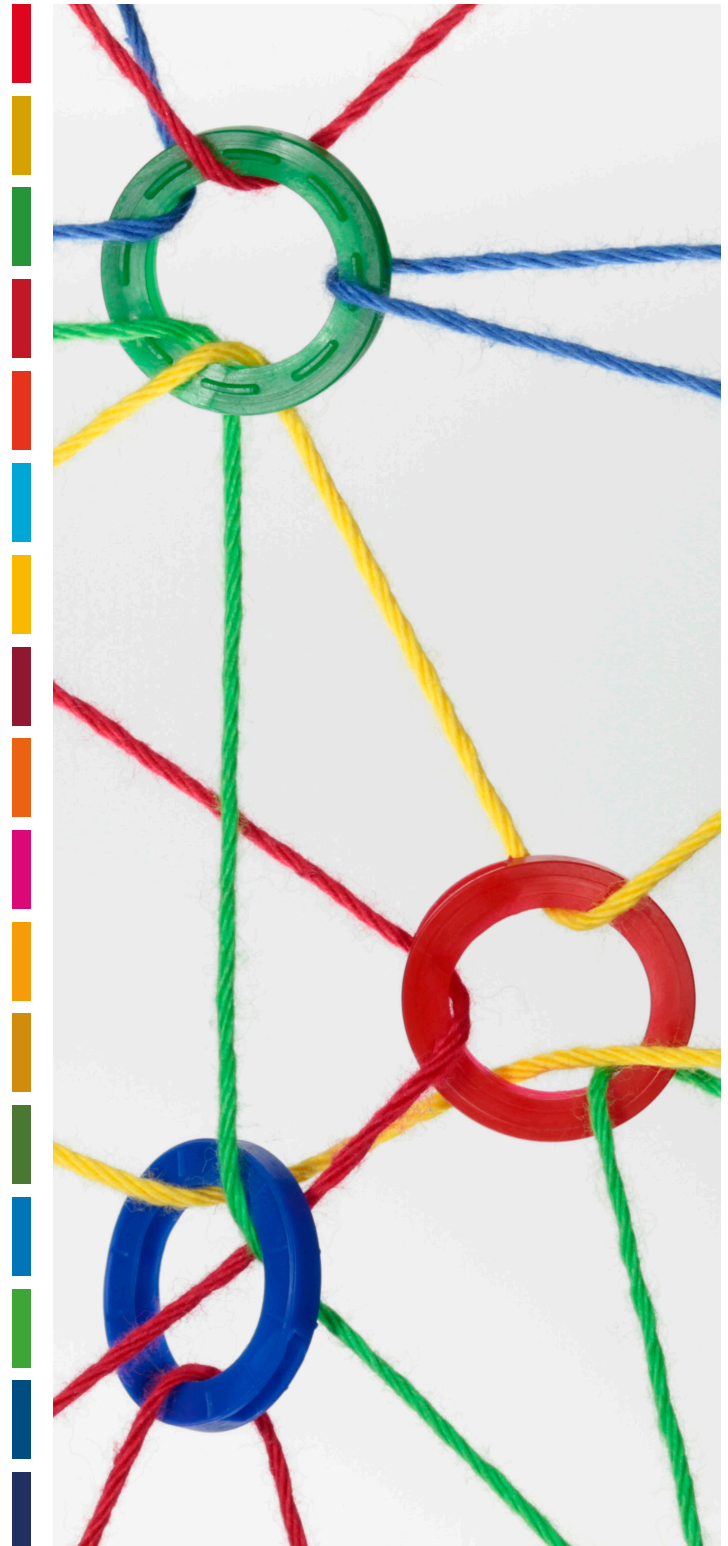
UNECE and **International Road Transport Union** (IRU) have a longstanding partnership on the TIR Convention. Representatives from a variety of industries for which UNECE produces norms and standards actively participate in the work of the respective working parties, including the motor, energy, chemical, logistics and agricultural sectors.

#### ■ Academia

Leveraging research collaboration between UNECE and many leading academic institutions helps to bridge science-policy gaps for sustainable development. Partners include: Boston University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Geneva, City University of Hong Kong, Tsinghua University and IESE business school in Barcelona.

#### ■ NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council can participate in the work of UNECE. Many do so actively, including: Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), the European Youth Forum, the Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety; Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP), the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) and the European ECO Forum.





**UNECE**



Information Service  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva10, Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 (0) 22 917 12 34  
E-mail: [unece\\_info@un.org](mailto:unece_info@un.org)  
Website: [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

