



Report on Participation at the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

From March 12th to 15th, 2024, as the President of the Youth Parliament of the Sava Basin, I had the honor of participating in the Youth pre-meeting (12 March) and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region (13-14 March). The event took place at the Palais des Nations, where representatives of Member States, experts, young activists, and representatives of civil society from the UNECE region gathered with the aim of focusing on strengthening the 2030 Agenda during the current multifaceted crises. The emphasis was on finding sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to the challenges before us.

The forum began with a ceremonial opening, where high political representatives highlighted the critical importance of finding effective solutions for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The urgency of collective action and the adoption of key measures were emphasized, as only seven years remain until the deadline for achieving these goals. This introduction laid a solid foundation for the continuation of discussions.

Before the opening event, we, the youth, had our roundtable. We started with important speakers who introduced us to the 2030 Agenda and its goals, allowing us to ask questions. Then, in the second part of the youth roundtable, we divided into groups based on the goals of the 2030 Agenda, where we collectively searched for solutions and ideas for achieving them. Personally, I was particularly involved in discussions on SDG 13, which focuses on combating climate change. Despite differences in age and nationality, we, the youth, found common ground and proposed solutions for achieving SDG 13.

When each group completed its work, we compiled the proposals for achieving all the goals into a joint document. This document was presented to the forum participants the next day. It is also worth mentioning that the youth roundtable was conducted online, which allowed those who could not attend in person to participate and express their opinions. The event was not only an opportunity for young people to express their opinions but also for mutual connection and the beginning of new friendships.

As a representative of the Sava Youth Parliament, I had the honor to participate on the second day of the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, where I actively contributed to the debate on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13), focusing on measures to combat climate change. In my speech, I highlighted the key role of connecting young people in decision-making processes and the importance of mentorship by older generations in protecting the environment and nature. The day ended with a pleasant reception, where I had the opportunity to meet many interesting and new people, share experiences, and ideas.

The next morning, I attended a debate on Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17), which emphasized the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals. Also, my last day in Geneva included a particularly interesting visit to the main premises of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), where I not only had the chance to tour but also enjoyed a pleasant lunch. This visit provided me with a deeper insight into the organization's work and its role in global efforts to understand and propose solutions to climate change's negative impact.

The forum concluded with a plenary session, summarizing the work and achievements of the three days. This summary was an opportunity for reflection on the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead, including for youth. This conclusion emphasized the importance of continuing dialogue and cooperation at all levels.

Participating in the forum brought me invaluable experiences, expanded my knowledge, and strengthened my commitment to sustainable development. The discussions and presentations further deepened my understanding of the importance of collective effort in the field of sustainable development and challenges such as climate change, poverty, and social and economic inequality. I am convinced that achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda is crucially dependent on cooperation between governments, civil society, youth, and the private sector. I thank the ISRBC and UNESCO for this exceptional opportunity, which has enhanced my personal and professional development and given me additional motivation to contribute to a better future for all of us.

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