

**Regional Commissions New York Office**  
Global Challenges, *Regional* Solutions

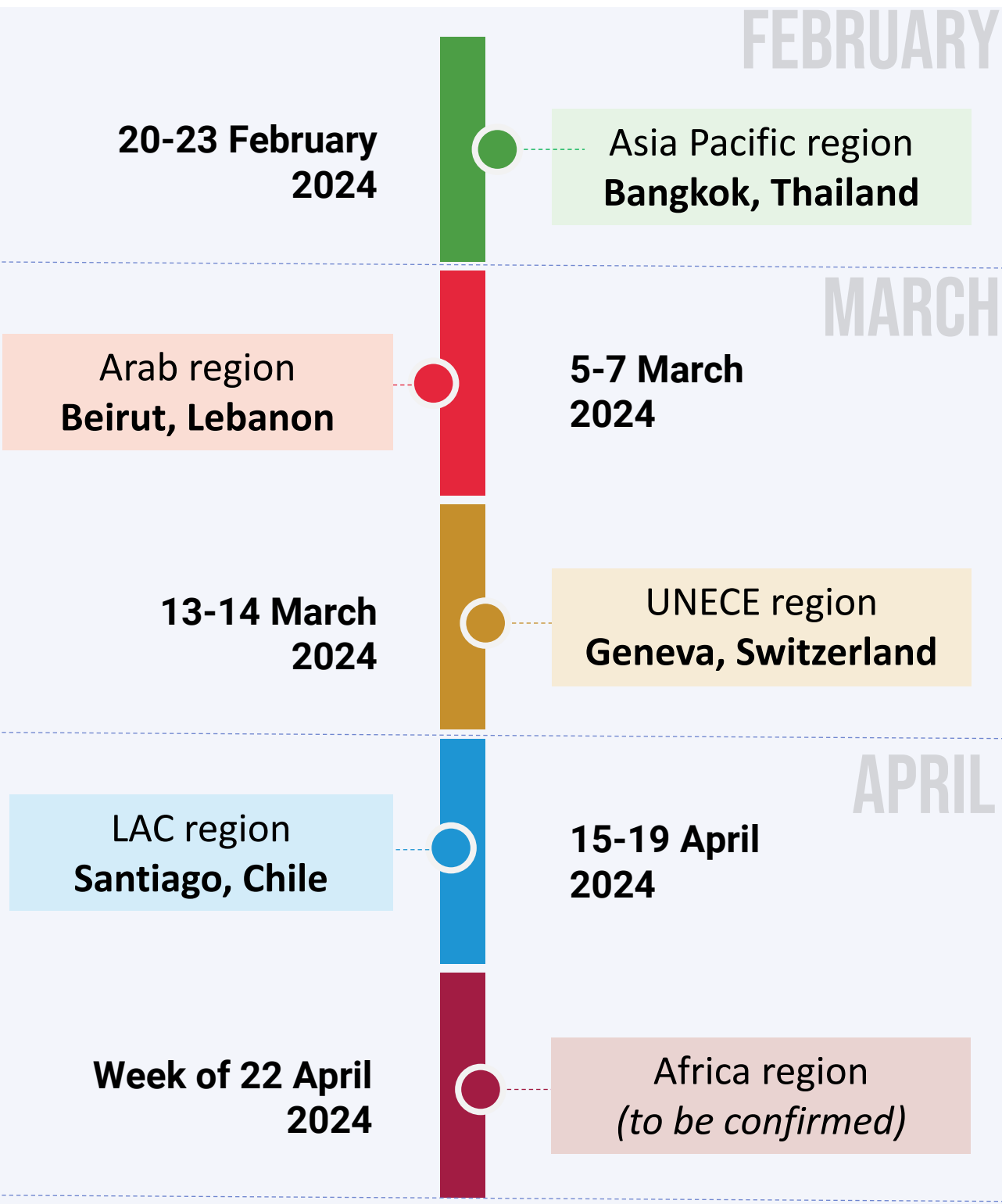
# **2024 Regional Forums on Sustainable Development & Dates, venues & themes of Commission Sessions in 2024/5**

Background note

November 2023

# A. 2024 REGIONAL FORUMS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Theme:**  
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and  
eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of  
sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions



# Asia-Pacific region

(11<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development)

Dates &  
Venue



20 - 23 February 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

Chair



TBC (potentially Minister from 2024 VNR-presenting country)

Theme



Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific

Focus



- Addressing the interlinked challenges of climate change, poverty, and hunger in times of multiple crises in Asia and the Pacific (Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report Launch)
- SDG Roundtables and side events on SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, 17
- Showcase SDG successes in the 6 transitions for systemic impact (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
- Regional Follow-up from the SDG Summit and actions/outreach toward the 2024 Summit of the Future including enhanced youth engagement
- Voluntary national and local reviews: follow-up and review to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific

Proposed  
modalities  
for DSG  
participation



In-person:

- Opening address
- Speaker in thematic high-level dialogue
- Chairing RCP and RCs Meeting

Dedicated  
engagements  
around the  
SoF



- Plenary session as part of Agenda item 2 (14:00-17:00) focusing on regional perspectives in the lead up to the Summit of the Future. Senior leadership (i.e., USG Ryder) expected to provide scene setting for the plenary session.
- Speaking opportunity(ies) for senior leadership (i.e., USG Ryder) on the SoF during the relevant roundtables and side-events.

# Arab region

(10<sup>th</sup> session of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development)

## Dates & Venue



5 - 7 March 2024

| Beirut

## Chair



TBC (Oman under consideration)

## Theme



In line with the global theme, AFSD-2024 will discuss sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in the Arab region in times of multiple crises.

## Focus



- The five SDGs under review in 2024 HLPF (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17)
- The contribution of the private sector to the SDGs in the region: The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Arab SDG Business Forum will be organized as a special half-day event of AFSD-2024. It will bring together business leaders and policymakers to discuss ways of improving public-private partnerships and private investment opportunities for the SDGs.
- Technology, innovation and digital cooperation with an outcome feeding into Summit of the Future, including digital governance and cooperation.

## Proposed modalities for DSG participation



The DSG is invited to open the Forum in person; and participate as a special guest in the High-Level Dialogue that will take place following the opening session.

As in previous editions, the High-Level Dialogue is expected to bring representatives of different stakeholders. It is proposed for the Dialogue to focus on the theme of Technology, innovation and digital cooperation with an outcome feeding into Summit of the Future, including digital governance and cooperation.

## Dedicated engagements around the SoF



The SoF will be mainstreamed across different AFSD sessions. The following segments are of particular relevance:

- The High-Level Dialogue with the DSG participation will focus on Technology, innovation and digital cooperation
- Special session on youth and future generations
- Special session on financing the SDGs
- Special session on education and links to peace
- Special session on women, peace and security

# UNECE region

(8<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development)

## Dates & Venue



13 - 14 March 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland

## Chairs



TBD (potentially Co-Chairs from Western and Eastern part of the region)

## Theme



“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”

## Focus



- a) Plenary sessions on SDG acceleration in times of crises; regional SDG status based on annual SDG progress report; key transition areas including climate change and food systems; follow-up to the SDG Summit; and regional contribution to the Summit of the Future.
- b) Peer learning multi-stakeholder round tables on SDGs under in-depth review (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17), co-organized with RCP partners and regional Issue-based Coalitions.

## Proposed modalities for DSG participation



- In-person participation to provide remarks at opening of UNECE Regional Forum on 13 March 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Geneva time.

## Dedicated engagements around the SoF



- Plenary session on 14 March (starting at 3 p.m. Geneva time) on advancing key transitions and cooperation, which will also serve to discuss the regional contribution to the SoF.
- Discussions on elements of the SoF throughout the Regional Forum, e.g., on digitalization, and with strong youth involvement.
- Opportunity for senior leadership to speak at plenary session on 14 March on the preparations of the SoF (e.g., USG Ryder), and, if appropriate, also to participate in the RCP meeting for the region.

# Latin America and the Caribbean region

(7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LAC Regional Forum on Sustainable Development)

Dates &  
Venue



15–19 April 2024 | Santiago, Chile (ECLAC HQ)

Chair



Argentina

Theme



“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.

Focus



- Panel discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the five Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2024 HLPF, which are Goals 1 on no poverty; Goal 2 no hunger; Goal 13 on climate action; Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions; and Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues with a subnational and local perspective to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels by 2030.
- Regional Consultation on the Summit of the Future

Proposed  
modalities  
for DSG  
participation



- 15 April: Annual Meeting of the RCP LAC with the Chair.
- 15 April: Regional Consultation on the Summit of the Future.
- 16 April: Participation in the opening ceremony.
- 16 April: Presentation of the 2023 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dedicated  
engagements  
around the  
SoF



- Plenary session in the RFSD.
- Other potential engagements in addition to the RFSD (tbc):
- Regional launch of the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (to be rescheduled)
  - Regional Seminar on Fiscal policy
  - Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies

# Africa region

(10<sup>h</sup> session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development)

Dates &  
Venue



Week of 22 April 2024 | (TBC)

Chair



Lead minister of focal ministry in host country (tbc)

Theme



A specific theme yet to be determined but will be aligned with that of the 2023 HLPF: "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions".

Focus



- a) To take forward and action the main commitments/outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit and COP28 and foster accelerated and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Second 10-year implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, with a focus on the selected SDGs: 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.
- b) Identify and advance interventions consistent with the 12 high-impact initiatives to accelerate SDG implementation at regional and national levels.
- c) Generate and articulate Africa's inputs to the Summit of the Future to be held in New York, on 22-23 September 2024.

Proposed  
modalities  
for DSG  
participation



The DSG is invited to participate in person in the Forum to among other activities address the opening of the Forum and to engage with the representatives of the youth in the Youth Forum to be organized on the margins of ARFSD-10; and the two high-level dialogues on the SDG Summit follow-up

Dedicated  
engagements  
around the  
SoF



- Two high-level dialogues on the follow-up to the 2023 SDG summit and Africa's perspectives and priorities
- Five background report entailing deliberations and insights on Africa's priorities
- Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies
- The Youth Forum
- The Major Groups Workshop and the VNR Workshop

# B. DATES, VENUES & THEMES OF COMMISSION SESSIONS IN 2024/5

Region	Commission session	Dates	Venue	Theme
Africa	Fifty-sixth Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	28 Feb to 5 March 2024	Harare or Victoria Falls (TBC) Zimbabwe	“Financing the transition to inclusive green economies in Africa: imperatives, opportunities, and policy options”.
Arab region	Thirty first session of session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	16-18 December 2023	Cairo, Egypt	Presentation of the draft Arab 2045 vision to be adopted by member states and the League of Arab States, proposing a vision for the Arab Region for the year 2045 on seven basic pillars of development.
Asia Pacific	Eightieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	22–26 April 2024	Bangkok, Thailand	Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
UNECE Region	Seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe	2025 (dates TBD)		
	131st meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) – Held every two months	2024 (dates TBD)		
LAC	Fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	9-11 October 2024	Lima, Peru	