



UNECE



Annual Report



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**



UNITED NATIONS

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CONNECTING COUNTRIES
RECOVERING BETTER
DRIVING PROGRESS
IMPROVING LIVES

Introduction by the Executive Secretary

The UNECE region has been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the devastating impact on lives and health, countries are suffering heavy socio-economic consequences: GDP in the region is projected to fall by 6-7% in 2020 with significant discrepancies across countries; unemployment has risen significantly despite support measures; trade, transport and mobility across borders have been severely hampered.

UNECE has been fully mobilized to support countries and 17 Resident Coordinators to address these unprecedented challenges, contributing to the coordinated response of the UN System in Europe and Central Asia, and leveraging our normative and policy tools.

These efforts are helping governments to facilitate connectivity, address transboundary and other risks, and support the green and digital recovery needed to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected women, both at work and at home. Without decisive action, the pandemic could undermine decades of progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. UNECE stepped up to support a gender-responsive recovery, including by strengthening gender statistics, analysing impacts on the care economy, building the ICT skills of women entrepreneurs, issuing recommendations to harness women's role in resource management and People-first Public-Private Partnerships, providing policy guidance to address gender gaps in ageing societies, and mobilizing 76 standard-setters through our Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative.

Supporting the shift to a more circular economy – a key priority in our region – was high on our agenda throughout the year. The 2020 Circularity Gap Report estimates that the global circularity rate stands at only 8.6%. From reducing natural resource use through proper resource management, to tapping waste as a resource, reusing materials in motor vehicles, managing the nitrogen cycle, recycling hazardous materials, tackling food waste, or through standards for traceability, UNECE offers a comprehensive Toolbox of practical instruments to help countries increase circularity. I look forward to our discussions on this crucial topic at our biennial Commission session in April 2021.

I am proud to share with you some examples of the impact of our work in 2020:

- The Protocol on Water and Health supported countries to step up efforts to uphold basic human rights to water and sanitation – a key defence against the pandemic. Between 2000 and 2017, it has contributed to 63 million people gaining access to drinking water and 84 million to sanitation services in the region.



- UNECE helped countries coordinate emergency measures under UN transport agreements to ensure delivery of medical supplies including oxygen.
- The cold-chain logistics developed by 50 countries to transport perishable foodstuff under our ATP agreement will be used for the global roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Countries adopted legal provisions for the full computerisation of the TIR Convention, enabling safe and secure cross-border movement of goods. This can help to limit COVID-19 disruption to supply chains. TIR already reduces cross-border transport time by up to 80%, and costs by up to 38% for its 77 Contracting Parties.



- UNECE issued policy guidance to support more age-inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Up to September 2020, nearly 9 out of 10 COVID-19 related deaths reported in the UNECE region were among adults aged 65 years and older.
- UNECE established an online platform to assist National Statistical Offices' key role for informed policy responses to the pandemic. The UNECE Dashboard for SDGs provided for the first time a regional perspective on the global indicators across all 17 Goals, while the first SDG Progress Report for the region pinpointed key progress and challenges for 49 indicators.
- A UNECE/ILO study under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) revealed that 15 million jobs could be created worldwide by greening the transport sector in the post-COVID-19 recovery. This includes 10 million jobs if half of all vehicles manufactured were electric. UN Vehicle Regulations developed at UNECE make this possible on a large scale.
- UNECE launched FeedUp@UN, a blockchain-enhanced system for identifying, quantifying, and tracing food lost and wasted along the supply chain, helping to unlock circular economy opportunities. An issue exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, every year an estimated 1.6 billion tonnes of food worth about USD 1.2 trillion are lost or wasted, accounting for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- UNECE's first Forum of Mayors paved the way for a more inclusive multilateralism, ushering in a new era for cooperation between national and local governments as the UN turned 75. Sharing experiences of COVID-19 response and recovery, it highlighted the critical need for resilient and sustainable cities.
- The UN Road Safety Fund marked 2 years of supporting low- and middle-income countries (where 90% of fatalities occur). 6 new donors joined the Fund, bringing the total number of public and private donors to 16. Support by all UN Member States to the UN Road Safety Fund and to the work of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, whose Secretariats are provided by UNECE, was encouraged by the UN General Assembly in its Resolution proclaiming a Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030.

You will find many more examples in this report.

As we enter the Decade of Action to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda, I look forward to redoubling our joint efforts to support the region's continued COVID-19 response and the sustainable and inclusive recovery needed to leave no one behind.

You can count on UNECE's support.

Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Supporting countries to achieve the SDGs

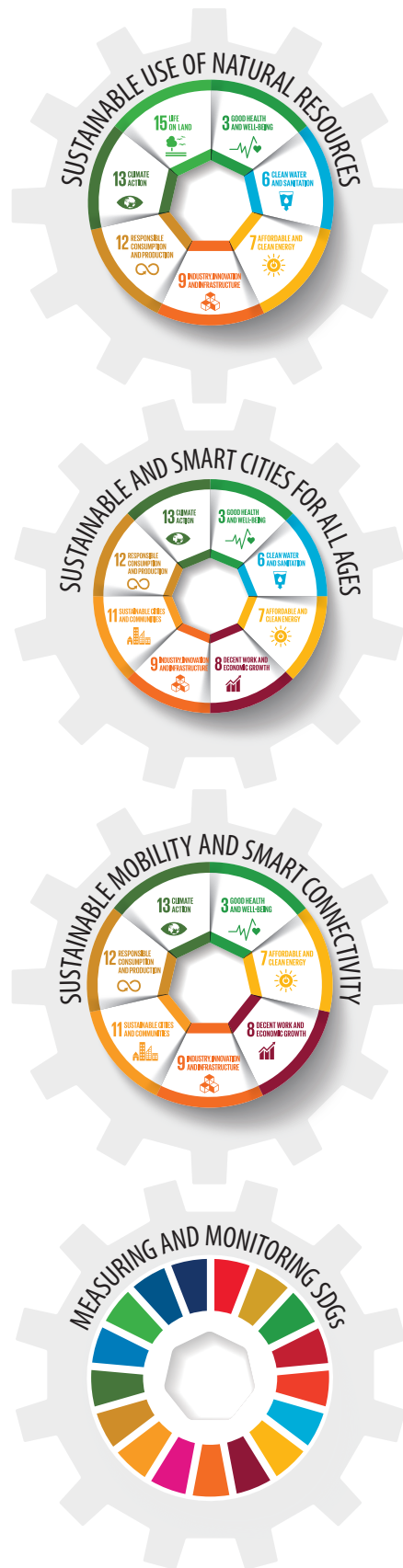
UNECE Highlights
2020

UNECE is supporting countries to address some of the key sustainable development challenges facing the region, which can help steer efforts for a green and inclusive socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Through an integrated, multisectoral approach leveraging UNECE norms, standards and conventions, and by building capacities and providing 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 (SDG 17) and gender equality (SDG 5) underpin all UNECE activities.

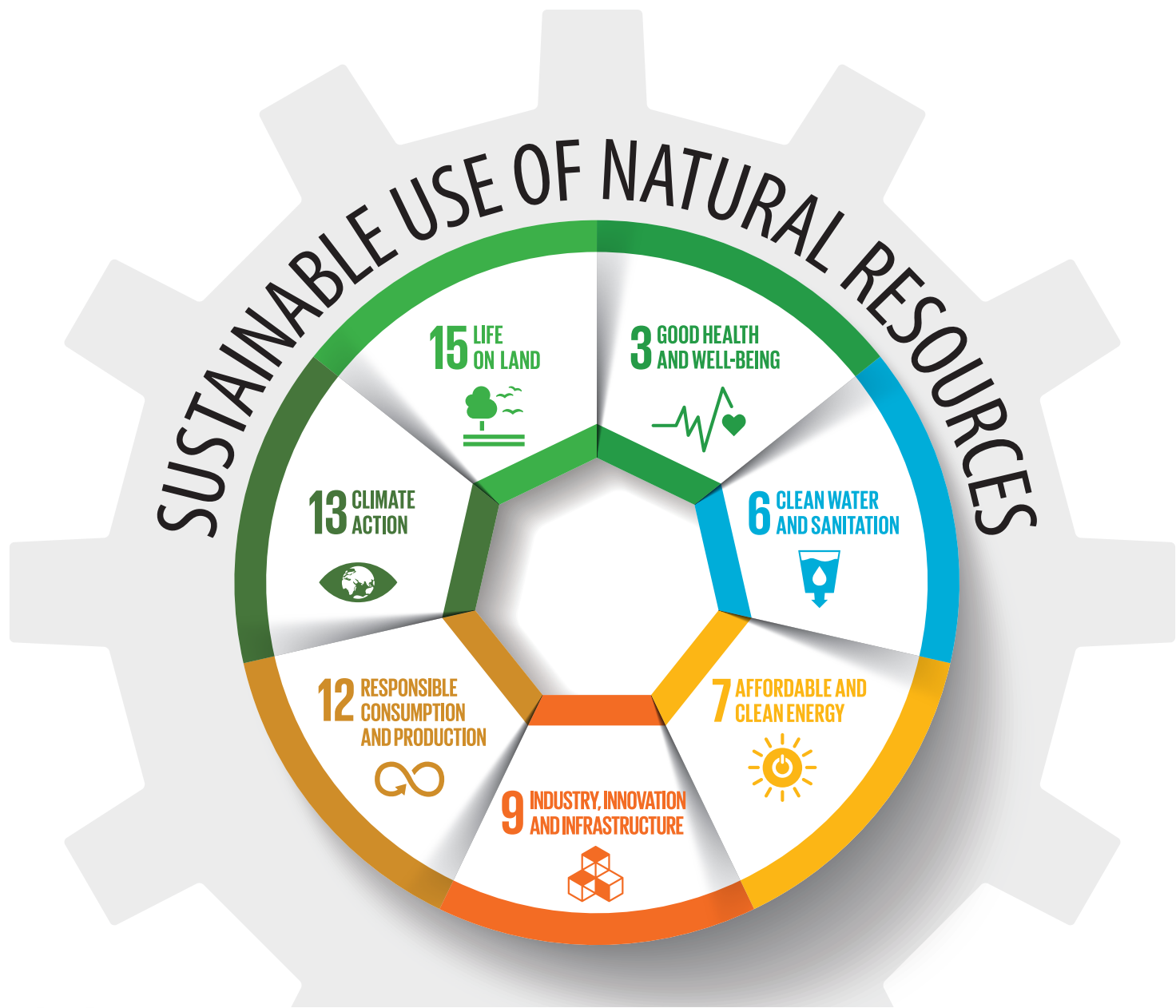




High-impact areas

At the crossroads of all UNECE programmes and expertise, this report is structured around 4 high-impact “nexus” areas where multiple SDGs converge.





预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_627

