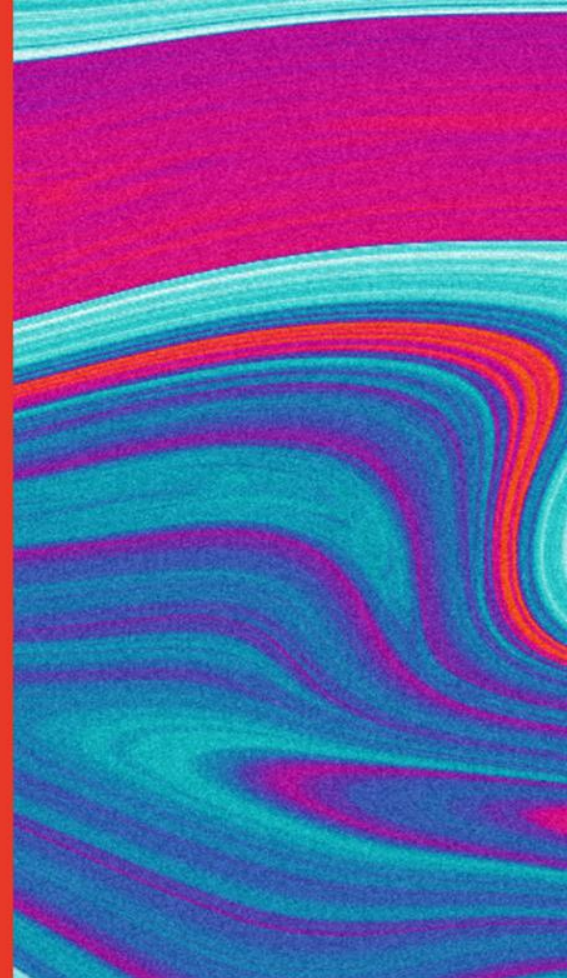


ABOUT

UNECE-RCEM

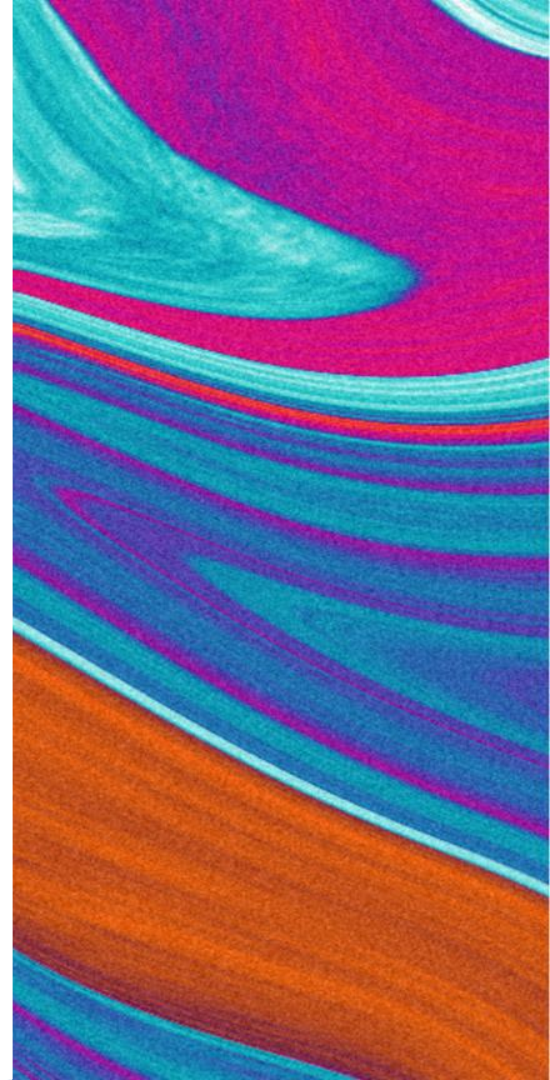
Hanna Gunnarsson, Women Engage for a
Common Future (WECF) & WMG

Regional Civil society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)  unece-rcem.eu



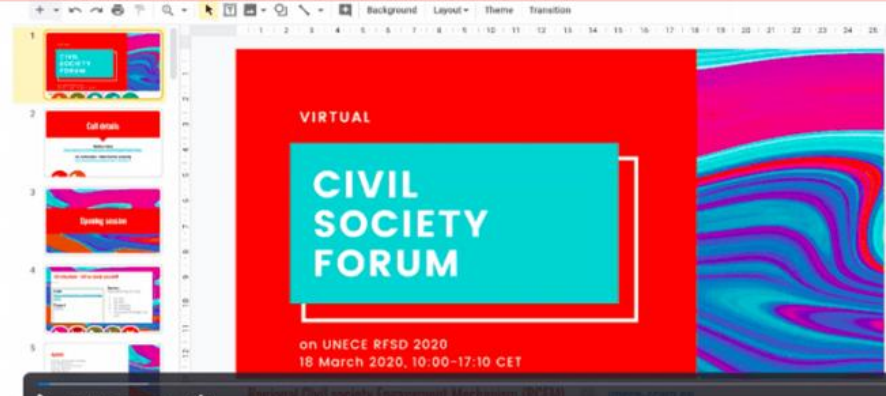
About

- **About:** Self-governed civil society space, Following the APRCEM structure. Officially set up in 2018, formalization process started in 2016
- **Mission:** facilitation of CSOs' participation in all stages of follow up and review of the SDG at UN ECE – Economic Commission for Europe. A platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all these constituencies in each sub-region of UNECE are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global level. Human-rights based approach
- **Governing body:** 2 rep per constituency, continuous process - still being formalised
- **Members:** Currently 287 list serve members, but in reality, much more (e.g. WMG-ECE has 420 members)
- **Thematic & sub-regional Constituencies**



Virtual CSO forum

- Short notice to organise (3 working days after we received answer to our letter to postpone)
- Interactive presentation & break-out groups
- 190 registered, and participants popping in and out throughout the day. 84 participants joined at the most simultaneously
- Lessons learned - full-day online engagement is too much, CSO is light-years ahead of the UN, need proper breaks and time to learn the software, important to have people dedicated as technical support

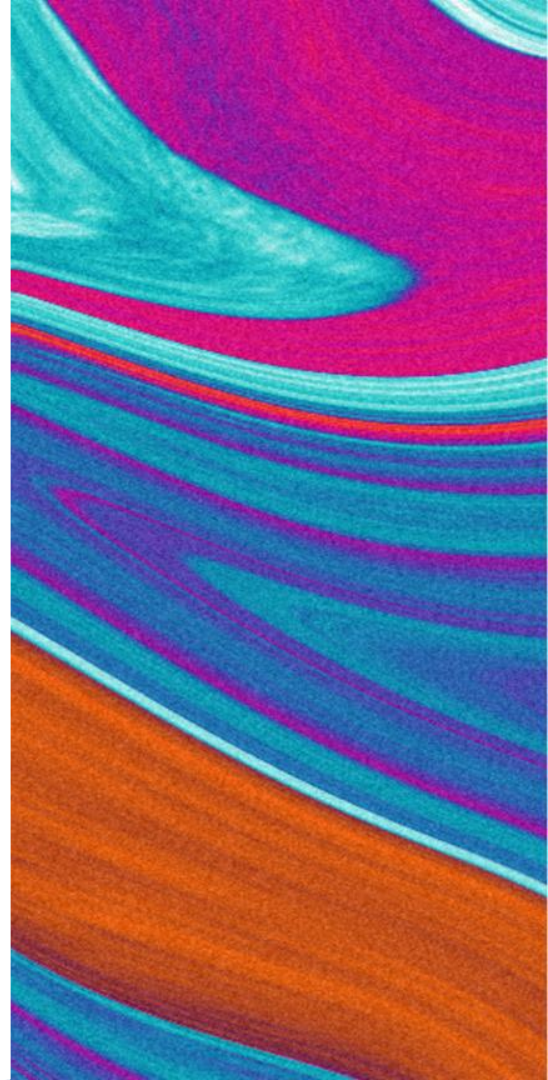


Links

- Outcome documents: [RFSD 2020 opening session intervention](#), [RFSD session 2 intervention on VNRs](#), civil society forum outcome document (coming soon).
- Best practices for hosting a successful virtual forum or consultation ([see link](#))
- View the livestreams of the [morning session](#) & [afternoon sessions](#)
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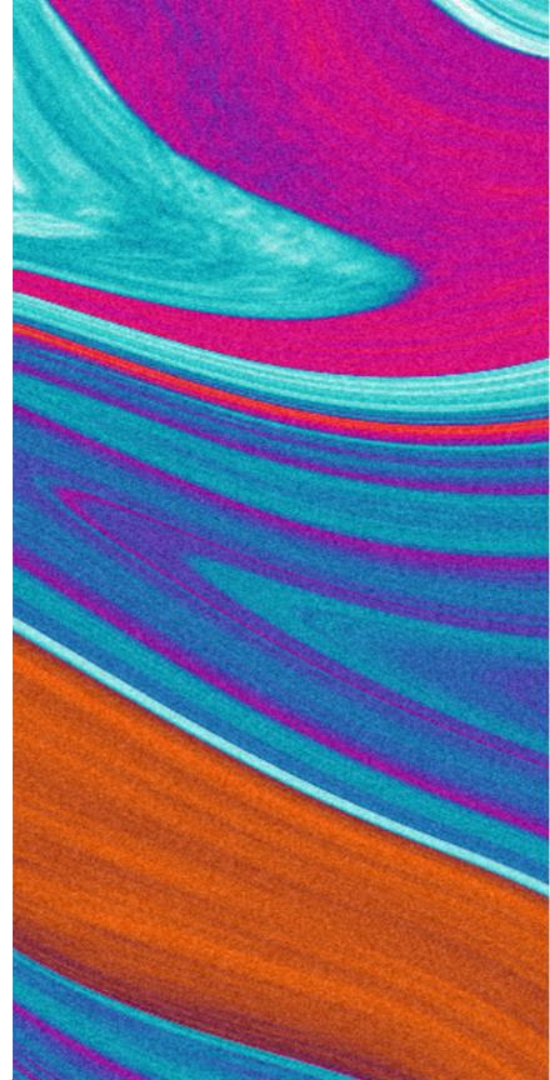
Main outcomes: thematic recommendations

- **Scale-down of process** - disappointment, and should not set precedence
- **Human rights based approach** - A crosscutting human-rights based approach to SDGs is essential to ensure no one is left behind and to reach the furthest behind first.
- **Social protection measures** and re-valuing growth (move beyond GDP), also in relation to climate action and trade
- **Decent Work Agenda** to implement a Just Transition
- Promote a rules-based multilateral trading and fiscal system tackling **tax avoidance** and illicit financial flow.
- Holding our governments accountable to their **historical responsibilities**



Main outcomes: VNR recommendations

- **Honest and real time** information about the latest conditions in each of our countries, including on the SDGs, rather than holiday commercials
- In some countries VNR processes are still very **centralized** and limited to government actors and do not engage broader civil society, remote regions and marginalised groups.
- In many countries strong civil society platforms now exist, often with 100s of organisations, who are monitoring SDG progress.
- One key element that our review of the VNRs showed as challenging is a lack of addressing the **human rights dimension**.



Regional forum

- Great networking opportunity for CSOs, decision-makers and UN Agency reps

Recommendations to strengthen CSO engagement

- More dialogue between CSO and decision-makers leading up to the RFSD, e.g. virtual consultations that are interactive
- VNRs to be presented on regional level
- Not siloing the youth engagement process

Thank you!

Learn more about the UNECE-RCEM - visit our website unece-rcem.eu

