

ECUMENE DISCUSSION CLUB

GENEVA ROUNDTABLES

March 22, 2024

Welcome Speeches:

- **Tatiana Valovaya** – Director-General, UN Geneva;
- **Gennadiy Gatilov** – Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.

Transition Towards Sustainable Economic Development

9:00–10:30 CET / 11:00–12:30 GMT+3

Moderator: **Sergey Rybakov** – Ecumene Programme Director;

Speakers:

- **Denis Domashnev** – Leading Expert of the Directorate for Relations with Governmental Authorities and International Activities, Uralchem JSC;
- **Michael Goddard** – President, Netley Group;
- **Evgeniy Khilinskiy** – Vice President – Head of Sustainable Development Hub, Gazprombank JSC;
- **Oleg Leonov** – Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vedomosti Business Publishing;
- **Svetlana Lukash** – Deputy Chief of Presidential Experts' Directorate, Executive Office of the President of the Russian Federation; Russian G20 Sherpa;
- **Dmitry Pristanskov** – State Secretary – Vice President for Relations with Authorities and Administration, Norilsk Nickel;
- **Svetlana Radionova** – Head, Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources;
- **Ekaterina Yakovleva** – Advisor to the Governor of the Krasnoyarsk Krai.

The world is facing a triple crisis: biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

The United Nations, states, businesses, scientific community and civil society are jointly looking for options for the future sustainable development of our planet. Special attention is paid to maintaining dialogue within the framework of UN conventions and programmes, and the creation of new initiatives of the organization is becoming critical.

The development of technologies, especially in the sphere of artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analysis, cloud computing, robotics, and blockchain technology are changing the economic, financial and political systems of the world.

Education, skills development, talent acquisition and retention remain key areas of development.

Heads of governments and businesses are becoming the main visionaries defining the most important tracks of the future universal sustainable development.

On the eve of the Ecumene Global Forum, as a follow-up to the Ecumene Discussion Club, to develop common, unified, long-term and systemic rules of the game, with the support of the UN Information Centre in Moscow, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, we are initiating a dialogue to shape new UN goals for the period after 2030.

Plastic Pollution: Polymer Science and Effective Recycling Systems for Plastics Waste Regulation (supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation)
11:00–12:30 CET / 13:00–14:30 GMT+3

Moderator: **Sergey Rybakov** – Ecumene Programme Director;

Speakers:

- **Tatyana Kuznetsova** – Deputy Head of the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources Management (Rosprirodnadzor);
- **Sergey Lyulin** – Doctor of Science, Director of the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds, Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member, Professor of RAS;
- **Rolph Payet** – Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
- **Maksim Remchukov** – Director for Sustainable Development, SIBUR Holding;
- **Inna Romanchenko** – Advisor to the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The round table is dedicated to the topic of plastic waste management, the role of science, government, business and civil society in building an effective system of plastic waste management and closed-loop economy.

Waste management is one of the mechanisms of global sustainable development, the participants of the round table will share the experience of best practices in this area.

The problem of environmental pollution by plastic waste requires increased attention most particularly from the scientific community and should unite not only environmentalists, but also scientists: specialists in the field of polymer science.

Within this roundtable we will touch upon the main characteristics of polymers and problems related to plastic waste pollution that remain behind the scenes, including the problem of terms, the relationship between the hazard and the size of plastic particles appearing in the process of plastic waste degradation, as well as the problem of microplastics.

With this roundtable, we continue preparations for the creation of a new UN convention on plastic.

Water: Time to Build Bridges (supported by International Association of Lake Regions)
13:00–14:30 CET / 15:00–16:30 GMT+3

Moderator: **Sergey Rybakov** – Ecumene Programme Director;
Co - moderator: **Aleksander Timchenko** – Director General, International Association of Lake Regions;

Opening message: **H.E. Dr. Danilo Turk** – Former President of the Republic of Slovenia,
Chairman Global High-Level Panel on Water Peace;

Speakers:

- **Mahir Aliyev** – Regional Coordinator at UNEP;
- **Natasha Carmi** – Lead Water Specialist, Geneva Water Hub;
- **Hwirin Kim** – Chief of the Hydrological and Water Resources Services Division, WMO;
- **Dmitry Kirillov** – Head of the Federal Agency for Water Resources (Rosvodresursy);
- **Sergey Kononuchenko** – Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- **Rukan Manaz** – Program Specialist, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF);
- **Lilia Naas** – Expert on the Maghreb, Member of the Maghreb Economic Forum, (Chief Office for the Middle East and North Africa at ITC);

The round table is dedicated to the World Water Day. The main topic of discussion will be the role of water in promoting peace, cooperation and stability, as well as identifying potential areas for sustainable investment in water projects.

We need to focus our joint efforts on achieving Goal #6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to provide water and sanitation for all by 2030.

We plan to discuss sensitive and complex issues related to the global water crisis and climate change, highlight new priorities for action to ensure sustainable development, propose new tools for science and water diplomacy, and focus on financial innovations that facilitate water cooperation.

The key factors become the need to take into account water diplomacy and its advantages as a tool for achieving peace and cooperation, demonstrating leading examples of overcoming barriers and strengthening business partnerships in the field of water and climate change, building youth initiatives for an inclusive sustainable future, and strengthening cooperation of international experts on issues related to water and climate agenda.

Era of New Technological Innovations
14:45–16:15 CET / 16:45–18:15 GMT+3

Moderator: **Sergey Rybakov** – Ecumene Programme Director;

Speakers:

- **Leonid Altukhov** – President, InterProCom;
- **Dominique Fernand Burgeon** – Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva;
- **Milos Jovanovic** – President, OpenLink Group (Serbia);
- **Jorge Laguna-Celis** – Head of the UN One Planet Network Secretariat;
- **Gabriella Marcelja** – CEO of the SG Impact Ventures AG (Switzerland), President of the SIRIUS GLOBAL;
- **Lydia Mikheeva** – Secretary of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Council (Head) of the Private Law Research Centre under the President of the Russian Federation Named After S.S. Alexeev;
- **Erik Solheim** – The Sixth UN Environment Programme Executive Director, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- **Reyna Ubeda** – Project Officer at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The introduction of artificial intelligence creates new jobs and opens up new opportunities for the younger generation. This approach helps businesses attract and develop talent and build a strong, smart, socially competent organization.

You need to invest in employee and team training, it's a whole new vision of workforce and talent attraction in which it's important to invest your own time, effort and financial resources. The era of artificial intelligence will require additional professional education. To meet these challenges, we need a young, talented generation that can become the most educated, most skilled and most productive workforce in the world.

We need to develop and implement technology. With the help of a technical solution, people's jobs will change and develop, creating new, additional professions, opportunities for work and creativity. Machines are human partners, they help us stay successful, give us more time and opportunities to be creative, find additional incredible things we can organize or do.

We need to understand the benefits of humans and machines working together, how to use artificial intelligence in business and gain strategic advantages, and how to create a smarter and more intelligent organization. This should be a collaborative effort in which machines and humans can be more effective together, addressing global threats that would probably not otherwise be addressed.

Global Leaders 2050 (supported by Friends for Leadership)
16:30–18:00 CET / 18:30–20:00 GMT+3

Moderator: **Milos Jovanovic** – President, OpenLink Group (Serbia);

Speakers:

- **John Aggrey** – Founder & CEO of HIRED Consult, Member of the Friends for Leadership;
- **Roman Chukov** – Chair of the Council, Centre for International Promotion Fund;
- **Regine Stephanie Borja Guevara** – Producer, Asia TV;
- **Sameh Kamel** – Organizing Partner, UN Major Group for Children and Youth;
- **Tomasz Malodobry** – Deputy Dean of the International Faculty, European University of Medical and Social Sciences in Warsaw;
- **Gabriella Marcelja** – CEO of the SG Impact Ventures AG (Switzerland), President of the SIRIUS GLOBAL;
- **David Okpatuma** – Co-Founder, DevCA Initiative (Nigeria);
- **Zekai Wang** – CEO, YouTHINK China.

The next generation of leaders in global sustainable development are those who are already implementing projects and programs aimed at building long-term and strong bridges between countries in order to establish cooperation and achieve synergy from working together at the intersection of different areas.

In the context of large-scale geopolitical changes, cooperation among young leaders who understand their responsibility for the fate of the world is becoming critically important. Representatives of Friends for Leadership and the UN Major Group on Children and Youth will share their best practices in achieving the 2030 SDGs, as well as ideas on the necessary global efforts to continue constructive, collaborative global development into 2050 and beyond.

In addition, the panelists will share plans for participation in key international events of the year, including Ecumene Global Forum and the Summit of the Future under the auspices of the UN.
