



FOREST TALK: Innovation 4 Climate

Marking the International Day of Forests

Date: 21 March 2024

Time: 10h00 – 14h00 CET

Hybrid event: Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. This year, 2024, the International Day of Forests will be celebrated on the theme “Forests and Innovation”.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will mark the International Day of Forests by raising public awareness about the significance of forests as a precious source of wood - a renewable, versatile, and eco-friendly alternative to polluting materials, especially in light of the urgent need for climate action.



PROGRAMME

FOREST TALK: Innovation 4 Climate (hybrid)

Auditorium (H.200, ground floor), Building H, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online

Opening:

- **Paola Deda**, Director, Forests, Land, Housing Division, UNECE

Moderator:

- **Florian Steierer**, Economic Affairs Officer, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Panelists:

10h00 – 11h30

- **Marjaana Suorsa**, Innovation Policy Manager, The Finnish Forest Industries Federation
Determined Innovation Policy Promotes Innovations in the Forest Bioeconomy
 - **Vanesa Baño**, EU Project Manager, InnovaWood
Fostering collaboration on innovative wood construction to decarbonise the built environment
 - **Frédéric Pichelin**, Head of Research & DL Department, Bern University of Applied Sciences
Industrial valorization of wood bark extracts
 - **Maria Persdotter Isaksson**, Industrial Policy Specialist, OnceMore/Södra
How can democratization of forests contribute to a sustainable textile industry?
 - **Shahriare Mahmood**, Chief Sustainability Officer, Spinnova
Inspired by nature: A way how nature makes fiber
 - **Krishna Manda**, Vice President Corporate Sustainability, Lenzing Group
Advancing Circularity
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GLACIAL THREADS: From Forests to Future Textiles

“Rebirth” sculpture, Ariana Park, Palais des Nations

12h00 – 13h00

- **Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
 - **Désirée Schweitzer**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office and specialized institutions in Geneva
 - **Vincenzo Grassi**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
 - **Michelangelo Pistoletto**, Italian Artist and designer of the “Rebirth” sculpture at the Palais des Nations
 - **Krishna Manda**, Vice President Corporate Sustainability, Lenzing Group
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13h00 – 14h00

Reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy
Bar Serpent, Palais des Nations



Please register for attendance at the event by visiting:

<https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/386484>

This is a public event. Please be advised that filming may occur during the day.

