Adapting support to pandemic challenges
Field projects to support governments’ COVID-19 response were launched, covering transport and trade connectivity, social protection, mobilizing financial resources for development, and supporting the resurgence of the MSME sector.

Ensuring a gender-responsive recovery
UNECE stepped up to support a gender-responsive recovery, by strengthening gender statistics, analysing impacts on the care economy, building the ICT skills of women entrepreneurs, providing policy guidance to address gender gaps in ageing societies, and mobilizing 76 standard-setters through our Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative.

Facilitating transport
The Observatory on Border Crossings Status facilitated the transport of critical goods.

Improving access to water and sanitation
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.

Monitoring SDGs progress in the region
UNECE’s SDGs report showed that if the region follows current trends, it will achieve only 23 of the 169 SDGs targets by 2030, calling for strengthened commitment.

Decarbonizing energy for climate action
To accelerate the decarbonization of energy intensive industries UNECE issued a technology brief on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage. This complements the new UNECE-led partnership to improve energy efficiency of the building supply chain in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and guidance to tackle emissions of methane from fossil fuels.

Promoting the circular economy
At the 69th session of the Commission, governments announced commitments to strengthen measures for circularity and sustainable resource use.

Engaging with cities
UNECE’s first Forum of Mayors shared experiences of COVID-19 response and recovery from 41 cities, highlighting the critical need for resilient and sustainable urban development to reach the SDGs.

Supporting green and healthy transport
The Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, aims to double cycling in the region by 2030 to prevent 30,000 premature deaths and generate indirect economic benefits of €78 billion per year.