

**Economic and Social  
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development  
Bureau  
(Fourth meeting, Geneva, 19 February 2007)

**ORGANISATION OF THE PLENARY SESSION ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” Belgrade 10-12 October 2007**

*Proposed date and time: 10 October 2007; from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

1. This session would be a joint session of environment and education ministers and high-level officials that adopted the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Vilnius (March 2005), and those from other interested member States.
2. The session with the title “Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward” would open with remarks by the Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by three keynote addresses<sup>1</sup>, one by an education minister, another by an environment minister and the third by a high-level representative from UNESCO (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD would be presented (up to 10 minutes).
3. Delegates would be invited to engage in interactive discussions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention). To have a practical discussion, the debates will be divided into two parts addressing (a) challenges and (b) the way forward, with a focus on the implementation of the Strategy in phases II and III. They would be expected to discuss the main concerns relating to the implementation of ESD with a focus on achievements, challenges and future steps in terms of reaching the six objectives of the UNECE Strategy. Points for discussion would include:
  - support of ESD by policy, regulatory and operational frameworks (including cooperation between the environment and education sectors and other relevant sectors);
  - promotion of sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
  - building the competence of educators;
  - ensuring the accessibility of tools and materials for ESD;
  - promotion of research on and development of ESD;
  - cooperation for the Strategy’s implementation (partnerships; regional and sub-regional; links with relevant initiatives in other regions and with global processes; needs of countries with economies in transition).
4. Ministers might wish to decide on the strategic direction for the continuation of the process after the Conference and adopt a statement on ESD (10 minutes)

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson

5. The Chairperson would summarize the discussion and present it in the form of a Chairperson's summary (10 minutes). The summary would focus on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made in implementation. The summary would also highlight ways to improve the effectiveness of ESD implementation in the UNECE region and globally.

Category I documents:

- Joint statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment (ECE/...)

Category II documents:

- First report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD based on responses from countries (ECE/...)
- Compilation of good practices in ESD (ECE/...)