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### Committee on Environmental Policy

### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

#### Fifth meeting

Geneva, 18 and 19 March 2010

## Report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development on its Fifth Meeting

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

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## Introduction

1. The fifth meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) took place on 18 and 19 March 2010 in Geneva.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates representing the education and the environment sectors from Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Uzbekistan.
3. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) also participated.
4. The following Regional Environmental Centres were represented: the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC); and the Regional Environmental Centre for Moldova (REC-Moldova).
5. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: the coalition of environmental citizens' organizations, European ECO-Forum; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); the World Wildlife Fund in the Russian Federation (WWF-Russia); and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE).
6. The full list of participants is available on the Steering Committee's website at: [www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm#5thMtg](http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm#5thMtg).
7. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Andreas Karamanos (Greece), assisted by Prof M. Scoullou (Greece/MIO-ECSDE).
8. Following the decisions by the third meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD and by its Bureau, the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and the Bureau, had prepared several documents for the Steering Committee meeting. All documents for the meeting are also available on the Steering Committee website (see para. 6).

## I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

9. The Chair opened the meeting. He reminded the delegates that the UNECE Strategy for ESD was adopted at the High-Level meeting in Vilnius on 18 March 2005, exactly five years ago. He noted that a lot of progress had been made in the first five years and that both the achievements and the challenges facing the Strategy would be discussed during the meeting. The Chair congratulated the meeting on its fifth anniversary and thanked the Government of Sweden for generously offering to host a reception on that occasion.
10. Mr. Marco Keiner, Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE, welcomed the meeting and highlighted the achievements of the process under the UNECE Strategy for ESD, as well as challenges that lay ahead as the third phase of the Strategy's implementation approached.
11. The Chair highlighted the meeting's main objectives, namely to consider: (a) progress made by countries in the implementation of the Strategy for ESD since the Committee's last meeting, including the status of development and implementation of the national action plans for ESD; (b) progress in the work of the Expert Group on

Competences in ESD; (c) the possibility of holding a side event on ESD at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; (d) the best ways to provide inputs to and highlight the role of ESD in the thematic areas of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (to be held in Astana in 2011); (e) progress made in the collection of good practices, initiated in 2009; (f) progress made in preparations for the reporting exercise under the Strategy; (g) preparation of the workplan for Phase III of the Strategy’s implementation; and (h) the current status of the trust fund and resources required for the implementation of the workplan.

12. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2010/1.

## **II. Progress by member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and interlinkages between education for sustainable development processes and activities**

### **A. Progress reported by member States**

13. The Steering Committee heard reports by Governments on activities undertaken to implement the Strategy since the Committee’s last meeting. To facilitate the exchange of experience in implementing ESD among Governments and stakeholders, the secretariat had prepared a regional overview of national action plans for ESD based on the information made available to it by the countries in advance of the meeting (information paper No. 1).

14. Considerable progress had been made by countries in integrating ESD into national policy and practice. At the policy level, a number of countries reported integration of ESD into their national sustainable development policies and introducing amendments to legislation in the sphere of education in that regard. Many had recently undertaken or were in the process of undertaking curricula reviews which allowed for practical integration of ESD into the curricula for various levels of education. Most of those reporting on progress noted the establishment of national coordinating bodies for ESD.

15. There had been a considerable increase in capacity-building activities focused on ESD at the subregional, national and local levels. Many countries had introduced programmes for teacher training on ESD or had incorporated ESD into the existing programmes of teacher-training institutions. A number of national ESD networks had been established to promote exchanges of experience and mutual support among educators and experts. National or regional conferences and workshops on ESD, organized in almost all the countries, had further facilitated experience-sharing. The whole-school approach was being promoted through earmarked funding for projects to support sustainable development in schools. A significant number of projects aimed at development of ESD materials for educators. Several countries noted the establishment of ESD project databases or databases of ESD information.

16. Active involvement of NGOs in promoting ESD policies and activities was noted and the increasing involvement of the private sector in supporting specific projects was seen as encouraging.

17. Despite the rather considerable progress made, a number of challenges and concerns were also noted. Unpredictability of funding and lack of donor support for ESD activities was emphasized by many countries, both from the Eastern and the Western parts of the region. That constraint was particularly felt in the countries of Eastern Europe, the

Caucasus and Central Asia, where ESD projects and activities depended heavily on external funding.

18. The Steering Committee noted with particular concern that while preparation of ESD national action plans was under way in most of the countries, there were few plans at the adoption stage and many were significantly behind the schedule set out in the Strategy. It urged countries to submit their national action plans for ESD, including web links and electronic copies for posting on the ESD website, to the secretariat. It requested the secretariat to write to the countries which had not adopted their national action plans to remind them of the relevant time frames and to urge them to finalize and adopt their plans by the end of 2010.

19. The Steering Committee also noted concerns that many countries had expressed with regard to difficulties experienced in moving away from environmental education towards the comprehensive approach of ESD. Lack of awareness and understanding among educators and decision-makers were among the main causes of that challenge. In some countries workshops and focused dialogues were being carried out to address that concern. More efforts were required, however, both to raise public awareness and to convince policymakers. In that regard, some countries saw a particular need to target Government officials in capacity-building efforts.

20. The Committee further noted that while there was a lot of progress in establishing national coordinating bodies for ESD, a number of coordination challenges remained, particularly in countries with federal structures.

21. The Committee invited countries to provide any updates to the table on the status of national action plans and policies (information paper No. 1) by 26 March 2010 for posting on the website.

## **B. Capacity-building activities of international and regional organizations**

22. The WHO Regional Office for Europe brought the meeting's attention to the potential for a close interaction between its capacity-building activities related to environment and health and the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD.

23. UNESCO reported on the preparations for the second part of the United Nations Decade on ESD (DESD), the strategy for which would be presented to the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2010. Preparations were also ongoing for the second monitoring and evaluation exercise under the Decade, which would be focused on learning and processes. UNESCO also pursued the link between its work on ESD and on teacher education, inter alia, at the upcoming meeting of the network of teacher education institutions to be held in May 2010.

24. IUCN reported on the work of its Commission on Education in the field of business and biodiversity aimed at reorienting key strategic goals of multinational corporations. It also pursued activities aimed at higher education focused on rethinking educational systems and working with the leadership of universities, including on integrating sustainable development in their curricula and activities.

25. MIO-ECSDE reported on the preparation, with UNESCO co-sponsorship, of material on ESD in protected areas in Greece and in the Mediterranean region, as well as the preparation of a "YouthXchange" Guide for Sustainable Consumption. MIO-ECSDE had also organized workshops for educators on a sustainable school approach and was co-organizing an event on sustainable universities in May 2010.

26. The European ECO-Forum proposed to focus its ESD-related work, among other things, on the ESD input to the Astana Ministerial Conference, particularly addressing the theme of greening the economy, including green jobs and green innovation.

27. CAREC informed the meeting of its activities related to two sustainability courses for Government officials from the Central Asian Region, one of which was implemented jointly with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). CAREC and REC also worked on the preparation of the Green Pack interactive education materials for the Central Asian Countries.

28. As agreed at the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/2, paras. 57–58), a coordination meeting for main ESD capacity-building partners, i.e., international, regional and non-governmental organizations involved in implementing ESD projects, was scheduled for the afternoon of 19 March 2010, immediately following the meeting of the Committee. The first coordination meeting aimed at the initial exchange of information on ongoing and planned capacity-building activities and identification of possible synergies between them. The attendees included representatives of UNECE, UNESCO, UNICEF, CAREC, REC-Moldova, the European ECO Forum, the Environment and Schools Initiatives Network, MIO-ECSDE, the United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise and WWF-Russia. In advance of the meeting and on the basis of the information provided to it by partner organizations, the secretariat had put together a matrix of capacity-building activities which was available on the website.<sup>2</sup>

### **III. Report on progress made by the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development**

29. The Chair introduced document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2010/3 containing the report of the Expert Group on the progress achieved in drafting a set of educator competences in ESD as well as relevant recommendations for policymakers. He invited Mr. Michael Scoullos (Greece), Chair of the Expert Group on Competences in ESD, to present the document and any further updates on the work of the Group, which the latter did with a PowerPoint presentation.<sup>3</sup> He noted, in particular, the intention of the Expert Group to divide the material it was drafting into three parts: a preamble, a general guidance for policymakers and a more detailed part on competences for educators. He also presented the timeline that the Group had developed for its own work, which included extensive consultations with the relevant stakeholder groups on various stages of the draft.

30. The Steering Committee welcomed the work of the Expert Group and noted with appreciation the timeline and methods of work that the Group had agreed on. It requested the Expert Group to ensure that any competences it developed were as concrete and practical as possible without being prescriptive. It also encouraged tailoring language of the various parts of the competences materials to their respective audiences.

31. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands for hosting the first two meetings of the Expert Group, and to the Government of Ireland for offering to host the third meeting in June 2010. It noted that the Group's work was dependent to a significant extent on its meetings being hosted by member States. It therefore invited countries to express their willingness to host the remaining two meetings of the Group in September and December 2010.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/5thMeetSC/Information%20documents/CBmatrix.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The presentation is available online (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm#5thMtg>).

## **IV. Good practices in applying education for sustainable development to address sustainable consumption, production and transportation in the context of climate change**

32. The Chair introduced the agenda item pointing out that there were three issues for the Committee to consider (a) the 2009 collection of good practices, (b) the possibility of holding a side event on ESD at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) (New York, 3–14 May 2010) built around some of the practices from the region; and (c) the role which ESD could play at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in Astana in 2011.

### **A. Collection of good practices in 2009**

33. The secretariat reported on the collection of good practices in applying ESD to address sustainable consumption, production and transportation in the context of climate change. The collection was carried out in May–September 2009 pursuant to the request of the Committee made at its fourth meeting. The collection was aimed at promoting education for sustainable consumption, production and transportation, ensuring experience-sharing among the countries of the region and providing input to the CSD-18 through the fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (RIM-4) organized by UNECE (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/2, paras. 27–30).

34. Some 60 good practices were collected from across the region. Available on the ESD website,<sup>4</sup> the collection demonstrated a number of successful examples in addressing sustainability through ESD projects, ranging from policy measures to individual school or community projects.

35. A selection of 14 good practices and an analytical document prepared on their basis were presented as background documents for the RIM-4 (ECE/AC.25/2009/5 and ECE/AC.25/2009/4). Both documents were also available as inputs for CSD-18. Following the discussion on cross-cutting issues at the RIM-4, the Chair’s summary of the RIM, which served as an input document for CSD-18, emphasized the importance of improving education, especially given its cross-cutting nature. It noted the important role of the ongoing national and regional work on ESD in addressing the issues under the CSD thematic clusters and stressed the important role of the United Nations DESD and the UNECE Strategy for ESD.

36. The Steering Committee welcomed the collection of good practices and thanked countries and organizations that had provided their input. It encouraged stakeholders to make use of the collection.

### **B. Side event at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18)**

37. The secretariat introduced the proposal for a side event at CSD-18, put forward by the Bureau (information paper No. 4). Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as well as Sustainable Transportation (ST) were among the thematic clusters of the current cycle under the current cycle of the CSD and would be among the key discussion topics at the upcoming session in May 2010.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/GoodPractices/index.html>.

38. The Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD considered that a side event at the upcoming CSD-18 would emphasize the role of education in promoting SCP and ST by:

- (a) Raising awareness of the CSD delegates as to the role which ESD could play in advancing SCP/ST;
- (b) Providing a venue to share the region's successful practices in ESD for SCP/ST;
- (c) Identifying further efforts which should be made to integrate SCP into ESD;
- (d) Discussing whether and how education could be integrated into the SCP/ST agendas at the regional and global levels;
- (e) Discussing ways in which different major groups could contribute to advancing the SCP/ST agenda through ESD.

39. The side event would build on international policy work in that area, as well on some of the good practices at the national and local levels collected by the secretariat in 2009.

40. The Steering Committee thanked the Bureau for its proposal. It requested the secretariat to explore the option for organizing a side event at CSD-18, while taking into account the need to avoid duplication of effort and to coordinate with other relevant events at CSD-18. Any good practice examples selected for presentation at the side event should fit the proposed criteria of geographical distribution, successful illustration of the impact of ESD, involvement of various major groups and stakeholders and illustration of formal, non-formal and informal education methods, as outlined in information paper No. 4 distributed by the secretariat.

41. The Committee noted that to ensure proper geographical balance in representation of good practices at the side event, a greater variety of practices from countries in South-East and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia should be encouraged. In that regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to invite ESD focal points, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to provide it with additional good practice examples from those regions by 26 March 2010 at the latest.

### **C. Astana “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

42. The secretariat informed the Committee about the discussions held at the recent Extended Bureau meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) with regard to the agenda of the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011.

43. CEP, as the convening body for the preparatory process, had agreed on two themes for the Conference: sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

44. The CEP Extended Bureau met in March 2010 to advance preparations of a draft outline for the Conference agenda with a view to submitting it to the Committee's seventeenth session in November 2010 for consideration and adoption. While the specific agenda for the Conference had not as yet been agreed on, there was a general understanding that the Conference should be of an interactive nature, relying to a large extent on round-table discussions, side events, fairs and other types of participatory activities allowing for active engagement of NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders. A number of proposals for sub-themes had also been made during the Extended Bureau meeting; however, no agreement had been reached as yet. The CEP Bureau, with support from the

secretariat, would prepare a draft conference agenda for the seventeenth session of CEP in November 2010.

45. One of the main background documents for the Astana Conference, a European Assessment of Assessments report, was being prepared under the general coordination of the European Environment Agency (EEA). The report would assess the regional needs, priorities and sustainable long-term mechanisms to keep the Pan-European environment under continuous review. It would include a section on the two main themes of the Astana Conference.

46. The Steering Committee noted that the scope of the Conference was limited to the two main themes agreed on by CEP. It however wished to emphasize the cross-cutting nature of ESD and its relevance for awareness-raising and capacity-building under the two Conference themes. The Committee also noted that there was substantial experience in the region with education related to water, both in connection with water management and with sustainable consumption. It further noted that such essential components of greening the economy as the development of green skills had a very strong link with the implementation of the ESD strategy at international and national level.

47. It also considered it important that ESD work was reflected in the Assessment of Assessments report being prepared for the Ministerial Conference.

48. The Steering Committee therefore requested the Bureau and other interested members of the Committee to explore various options for raising the relevance of ESD in the discussions at the Astana Conference and in preparation for the Assessment of Assessments report. In that regard, the Steering Committee particularly encouraged its members to liaise with their CEP focal points at national level.

## **V. Preparations for the first mandatory reporting cycle under the Strategy**

49. The Chair noted that in order to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Strategy, the countries participating in it had agreed on periodic national progress reviews and reporting. The reporting was to be done on the basis of an agreed reporting format (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/10), developed following the adoption of the Workplan for the Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development for 2005–2007 (CEP/AC.13/2005/8), which also contained the procedure for the review of implementation.

50. The first set of implementation reports had been submitted on a voluntary basis as part of a pilot exercise. Thirty-six countries had participated in that process and the reports, although varying in the level of detail, provided a wealth of information on the implementation of the Strategy. A synthesis of the reports had been presented at the Joint Session of Environment and Education Ministers during the Belgrade “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in October 2007.

51. In 2010, the first formal call for reporting required submission by all countries of national implementation reports (NIRs) addressing progress in the implementation of Phase II of the Strategy by 1 October 2010 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/5, part I.C, paras. 29–34, and annex II).

52. To facilitate the process, the Expert Group on Indicators prepared a comprehensive indicator-based Guidance for Reporting on the Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/5).

53. The Chair then invited the secretariat to present an information note on the reporting process in 2010 to further facilitate that process (information paper No.5).

54. Subsequently, the Steering Committee discussed some of the main issues related to reporting. It noted in particular that the value of the reporting process was not limited to the sharing of information among UNECE member States. It also benefited the implementation process at the national and local level by raising awareness, engaging all the relevant stakeholders and allowing for stock to be taken of the situation, identifying main successes and challenges.

55. The Committee emphasized the importance of timely reporting and noted that, for the reports to be prepared in a timely and participatory manner, the process at the national level would need to begin as early as May 2010.

56. The Committee particularly underlined the need for a participatory preparation of the reports with the involvement of and consultation with all the relevant sectoral authorities, as well as with educational institutions, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. For that process to be successful it was important to allocate sufficient time for consultations at the national level.

57. The Committee recalled the Reporting Format (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/10) and the Guidance on Reporting prepared by the Expert Group on Indicators (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/5) and encouraged members to make use of these in the preparation of their reports.

58. The Committee requested the secretariat to send official letters of reminder to all the countries concerning preparation of national implementation reports in 2010.

59. In that regard, the Committee noted that reporting under the UNECE Strategy was set up in a parallel time frame to the monitoring and evaluation exercise under the United Nations DESD led by UNESCO. It further noted information provided by the representative of UNESCO with regard to the time frame and nature of the DESD monitoring and evaluation exercise which, in its present phase, was focused on processes and learning and relied on case studies and analysis of information rather than extensive questionnaires.

60. The Committee recalled that taking into account numerous synergies and mutual benefits between the two assessment processes, the ministers of education and environment of the UNECE region had decided that a single national report on the implementation of the Strategy should serve also as a report on the implementation of the DESD (CEP/AC.13/2005/8, para. 8, and ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1, para. 4). It therefore requested the secretariat to emphasise that complementary nature of the two processes in the letters of reminder to be sent to the UNECE countries.

61. The Steering Committee also noted the strong request of the Central Asian countries for capacity-building to support reporting. It invited countries participating in the Strategy to explore ways to offer support and requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of organizing, in cooperation with CAREC, a training for the national focal points in that subregion. It noted, however, that given the very limited funds in the trust fund, only one subregional workshop could be organized at that stage.

## **VI. Development of the work programme for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation**

62. The Chair reminded the meeting that the implementation of the Strategy was a continuous process. In order to facilitate assessment of its progress three phases for implementation were proposed in the framework for implementation. Phase I (2005–2007)

was aimed at developing a good basis to start implementation and was focused on the review of existing policies, legal and operational frameworks, financial mechanisms and educational activities, and identification of any obstacles or gaps. At regional level, the Phase also focused on developing evaluation methods and indicators for the implementation of ESD and on political support for implementation (reaffirmed by ministers at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference). Phase II (2008–2010), which was currently in its final year, was focused on the implementation of the Strategy's provisions, which should be by now fairly advanced. During Phase II, any progress made in the implementation of national strategies should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised. Phase III (2011–2015 and beyond) would be aimed at making considerable concrete progress in implementing ESD.

63. As had been the case with the first two phases, Phase III would require a road map of the activities to be undertaken to further ESD implementation at the national and international levels.

64. It was the role of the Steering Committee to develop and adopt such a workplan. That would require evaluation of the progress made so far and identification of the main existing challenges and the best measures to address them — at the national level, but also within the workplan of the Committee itself.

65. The initial evaluation of the Phase II implementation on the basis of the national reports due in October would be an important factor in prioritizing possible activities for the Phase III Workplan. However, for the Workplan to be ready for adoption at the next Steering Committee meeting in 2011, the work on drafting it would have to begin earlier in 2010.

66. The Chair put forward the following proposal for the development of the Phase III workplan:

(a) The secretariat would request all the national focal points and relevant international and non-governmental organizations to submit, in June 2010, any additional ideas in writing concerning the main directions of work and priority activities. Those should concern (i) national implementation and (ii) regional level work (through the Steering Committee and any subsidiary bodies) aimed at facilitating national implementation;

(b) On the basis of inputs received, the secretariat would produce a draft outline of the workplan and would forward it to the Bureau for consolidation;

(c) The Bureau would finalize the draft Phase III workplan at its meeting in autumn 2010, taking into account any available outcomes of the Phase II evaluation and taking also into account the availability and predictability of funding for regional activities;

(d) The draft workplan would be circulated for comments to the Steering Committee members at the latest by December 2010;

(e) The Bureau would then finalize its draft through electronic means in time for submission as an official document for the next Steering Committee meeting. In finalizing the workplan, the Bureau would take account of comments and proposals received to the extent possible;

(f) The workplan would be put forward for adoption at the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee in 2011.

67. In discussing preparations of the Phase III workplan, delegates noted that it should ensure that members profited from the work of the Expert Group on Competences in ESD and use the outputs of its work, inter alia, through active dissemination and workshops.

68. Active participation of NGOs in formal and non-formal ESD activities was noted and a proposal was made that the workplan should facilitate exchange of experiences in that regard.

69. The development of a detailed electronic database of materials and information was also mentioned among possible activities.

70. The Steering Committee endorsed the process for the preparation of the draft workplan, as outlined above, and mandated the Bureau, with the support from the secretariat, to proceed with the development of the plan with a view to submitting it for adoption at the next Steering Committee meeting in 2011.

## **VII. Status of the trust fund and resources requirements for the third phase of the strategy's implementation**

71. The secretariat reported on the status of the ESD trust fund. Pursuant to the request of the Steering Committee made at its fourth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/2, para. 62), the secretariat made successful efforts to raise funds for the ESD trust fund. The active fund-raising throughout the year had resulted in funding sufficient to service activities under the Strategy, including the meeting of the Committee and the operation of the secretariat in 2009 and 2010. The funding, however, fell short of enabling the secretariat to engage in capacity-building activities foreseen in the workplan for Phase II. The secretariat noted that, while the fundraising effort had been successful overall, it had included the involvement of not only the Steering Committee members but also those of CEP and the Executive Committee of the UNECE which had resulted in diverting a disproportionately significant amount of staff time to raising funds for the programme's operation.

72. The secretariat presented its report on the operations of the trust fund in 2008–2009, as contained in the Annex to the present report. It drew to the Committee's attention that an absolute minimum of US\$ 95,400 should be raised in 2010 in order to ensure programme operation in 2011. A further US\$ 110,000 were required if the Committee pursued its intentions of carrying out capacity-building activities in the region. The secretariat noted that the \$95,400 sum had to reach the Trust Fund's account by October 2010.

73. Overall, in order to ensure that funds in the trust fund were sufficient to implement activities during Phase III of the Strategy, a more strategic approach was required to ensure sustainable funding. Such an approach should ensure predictability of funding through clear advance pledges from the member States. Because annual operations, including availability of staff, were approved in the fourth quarter of the preceding year, the funds had to reach the trust fund account at the latest by October of that year. A further option to ensure sustainability of the secretariat's operations was for one of the member States to provide a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) for the ESD programme.

74. The Steering Committee discussed the funding situation. It expressed its appreciation to countries that had made their contributions in 2009.

75. The Committee noted the particular importance of transparent and predictable funding and called on all countries to indicate their pledges for 2010 and 2011 as early as possible. It requested the secretariat to write to countries inviting their contributions. In that regard, it wished to particularly address those countries which had not contributed in 2009.

76. The Committee considered the JPO option to be particularly attractive, given that at present there were no regular budget funds were available for the programme. Some members noted, however, that while a JPO would significantly benefit the implementation of the activities in the work programme, appropriate supervision should be ensured. The

Committee requested the secretariat to approach countries with a view to securing a JPO for a maximum possible period.

## **VIII. Calendar of meetings**

77. The Steering Committee decided that its next meeting would be held in April 2011. Following the confirmation of the availability of a meeting room with interpretation, the next meeting of the Steering Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday and Friday, 7 and 8 April 2011.

## **IX. Other business**

78. No other business was brought to the attention of the Steering Committee.

## **X. Closure of the meeting**

79. The Bureau and the secretariat were requested to follow up on the Committee's decisions. The secretariat was asked to finalize the report and the list of participants for circulation to delegates after the meeting. These would also be posted on the UNECE website. The Chair thanked the Committee for its constructive and efficient work. He then closed the meeting.

80. The Bureau met after the Steering Committee meeting to agree on its own next meeting, with a view to preparing the draft workplan for Phase III of the Strategy's implementation, reviewing reporting by countries, identifying possible input into the Astana Ministerial Conference and preparing the sixth meeting of the Committee. The Bureau agreed to convene a meeting in Geneva on 17 November 2010 and to carry out prior consultations by e-mail.

## Annex

## Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for the period 2008–2010

### UNECE Education for Sustainable Development Programme

Contributions, incurred expenses and estimated resource requirements  
(in United States dollars; calculations are based on the United Nations scale of assessments)<sup>5</sup>

#### I. Report on the use of funds

##### A. Contributions received in 2008 and 2009 as of 31 December 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Donor/Expense category</i>	<i>Original currency and amount</i>	<i>Amount in United States Dollars</i>
<b>(A) Beginning balance as at 1.01.2008</b>				<b>181 650.96</b>
<i>Contributions 2008</i>				
33171/37816	2.01.2008	Lithuania (Ministry of Education and Science)	EUR 2 000	2 915.45
34692/39183	2.04.2008	Ireland (Department of the Environment, Heritage)	EUR 20 000	31 545.74
35017/39553	21.04.2008	Austria	EUR 2 000	3 154.57
36251/40887	13.06.2008	Slovakia	EUR 2 000	3 110.42
36256/40888	27.05.2008	Greece	CHF 3 203.03	3 065.10
36260/40941	24.06.2008	Croatia	EUR 2 000	3 110.42
37385/42409	26.08.2008	Canada	CAD 15 000	14 221.51
38207/43158	21.10.2008	Lithuania (Ministry of Education and Science)	EUR 2 000	2 695.42
38557/43435	3.11.2008	Hungary (Ministry of Environment)	EUR 3 000	3 880.98
38741/43673	14.11.2008	Netherlands (Ministerie Van Vrom)	EUR 2 000	1 293.66
38858/43929	24.11.2008	Netherlands (Ministerie Van Vrom)	EUR 10 000	12 936.61
39326/444307	12.12.2008	Sweden	EUR 18 007.80	23 326.17
39469/44436	23.12.2008	Czech Republic	EUR 5 000	6 476.68
39527/44481	24.12.2008	Austria	EUR 2 000	2 785.52
<b>Total contributions received in 2008</b>				<b>114 518.25</b>
<i>Contributions 2009</i>				
39468/44435	24.12.2008	Norway	NOK 100 000	13 091.29
46279/41188	07.04.2009	Croatia	EUR 2 000	2 635.05

<sup>5</sup> Figures are rounded up. They might change in accordance with the United Nations administrative regulation.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Donor/Expense category</i>	<i>Original currency and amount</i>	<i>Amount in United States Dollars</i>
42297/47475	09.06.2009	Estonia	EUR 1 000	1 394.70
42444/47666	17.06.2009	Armenia	EUR 200	278.94
42814/48120	07.07.2009	Slovakia	EUR 2 000	2 812.94
43006/48280	16.06.2009	Estonia	EUR 1 000	1 406.47
43024/48344	20.06.2009	Georgia	EUR 400	562.59
44034/49420	18.09.2009	Greece	EUR 7 000	10 071.94
44035/49421	18.09.2009	Austria	EUR 2 000	2 877.70
44440/49819	13.10.2009	Denmark	EUR 10 000	14 534.88
44717/50162	27.10.2009	Latvia	EUR 2 000	2 906.98
45239/50728	25.11.2009	Switzerland	CHF 60 000	58 823.53
45575/51150	10.12.2009	Italy	EUR 26 000	39 156.63
45676/51177	15.12.2009	Canada	USD 14 045.47	14 045.47
45828/51397	18.12.2009	Malta	EUR 800	1 204.82
45887/51428	24.12.2009	Ireland	EUR 2 000	3 012.05
45889/51430	24.12.2009	Kyrgyz Republic	EUR 250	376.51
45916/51447	30.12.2009	Sweden	EUR 15 000	22 590.36
<b>Total contributions received in 2009</b>				<b>224 740.79</b>
<b>Total Contributions (2008–2009)</b>				<b>339 259.04</b>
Plus: Interest Income in 2008–2009				15 586.89
Plus: Other/Miscellaneous in 2008–2009				2 260.03
<b>(B)</b>	<b>Total Contributions/Income (2008–2009)</b>			<b>357 105.96</b>
<b>(C) = (A) + (B)</b>	<b>Total funds available in 2008-2009</b>			<b>538 756.92</b>
<b>Other Adjustments</b>				
<b>33018/37252</b>	<b>Prior year adjustments (11.4.08)</b>			<b>36 683.93</b>
<b>Loss in Exchange rates</b>				<b>0.00</b>
<b>Transfer to/from other funds</b>				<b>0.00</b>
<b>Savings on prior period obligations</b>				<b>5 423.94</b>
<b>(D)</b>	<b>Subtotal:</b>			<b>42 107.87</b>
<b>(E)</b>	<b>Total net funds available in 2008–2009</b>			<b>580 864.79</b>

**B. Expenditures in 2008–2009**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Donor/Expense category</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>USD</i>
		<b>Total Expenditures (1.01.2008-31.12.2009)</b>		
		General Temporary Assistance (1 Staff at 80%)		211'826.16
		Consultants fees and Travel		0.00
		Travel of experts		-3'997.07
		Other official travel of staff		-6'211.24
		Staff Training		0.00
		Hospitality		0.00
		General Operating expenses		-297.72
		Acquisition of IT Equipment		0.00
		Participants in seminars/workshops		-42'232.05
<b>(F)</b>		<b>Total Expenditures (1.01. 2008- 31.12. 2009)</b>		<b>-264'564.24</b>
<b>(G)</b>		<b>13% Programme Support Costs of (F)</b>		<b>-34'393.35</b>
<b>(H) = (F)+(G)</b>		<b>Grand Total expenditures (1.01.2008-31.12.2009)</b>		<b>-298'957.59</b>
<b>(I)= (E) - (H)</b>		<b>Total unencumbered fund balance as on 31.12.2009</b>		<b>281'907.20</b>

*Note:* (a) expenditures for any collection of case studies at national level are estimated by the interested Governments and organizations involved in the exercise; (b) expenditures for the workshops can be alternatively covered directly by the host Governments and/or interested organizations; (c) expenditures for consultancy can be provided in kind by Governments and/or interested organizations.

**C. Funds received in 2010 under 2009 pledges**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Donor/Expense category</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>USD</i>
<b>In 2010 for 2009</b>				
46220/51967	14.01.2010	Portugal	EUR 2,000	2'886.00
46746-1	16.02.2010	United Kingdom	GBP 17,000	20'000.00
46921 - 2	22.02.2010	Belgium	EUR 7,000	10'071.94
<b>Total contributions received in 2010 for 2009</b>				<b>32'957.94</b>
<b>(J)</b>	<b>Total net funds available for 2010-2011</b>			<b>314'865.14</b>

**II. Estimated expenditures and fund requirements in 2010**

<i>Estimated Min. core Expenditures (1.01-31.12.2010)</i>		<i>United States dollars</i>
	General temporary assistance	117'128.64
	Consultants' fees and travel (preparation of the synthesis report for implementation of Phase II)	-35'000.00
	Travel of experts (side events, Expert Group meetings)	-10'000.00
	Other official travel of staff	-15'000.00
	Staff Training	0.00
	Hospitality	0.00
	General Operating expenses	-500.00
	Acquisition of IT Equipment	0.00
	Participants in seminars/workshops (Steering Committee, Bureau)	-35'000.00
<b>(K)</b>	<b>Total Estimated Minimum Core Expenditures (1.01–31.12. 2010)</b>	<b>212'628.64</b>
<b>(L)</b>	<b>13% Programme Support Costs of (K)</b>	<b>-27'641.72</b>
<b>(M) = (K)+(L)</b>	<b>Grand Total expenditures for minimum core activities (2010)</b>	<b>240'270.36</b>
<b>(N) = (J) + (M)</b>	<b>Total estimated unencumbered fund balance as on 31.01.2010 (with only min. core activities implemented)</b>	<b>74'594.78</b>
<b>Estimated expenditures for other work plan activities in 2010</b>		
	3 subregional workshops	-90'000
	Consultancy (e.g. materials for the Astana Conference)	-20'000
<b>(O)</b>	<b>Total Estimated expenditures for other work plan activities in</b>	<b>-110'000</b>

<b>2010</b>		
<b>(P)</b>	<b>13% Programme Support Costs of (O)</b>	<b>-2600</b>
<b>(Q) = (O)+(P)</b>	<b>Grand Total estimated expenditures for non-core activities in 2010</b>	<b>-112'600</b>
<b>(R) = (N) + (Q)</b>	<b>Total Estimated additional requirement for funds for activities in 2010</b>	<b>-38'005.22</b>
<b>(S)</b>	<b>Unencumbered Funds required to be on the account by 1.10.2010 for 2011<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>170'000</b>
<b>(T)</b>	<b>Total estimated additional requirement for funds by 1.10.2010</b>	
<b>(T1) = (N) - (S)</b>	<b>2010 implementation limited to core activities</b>	<b>95'405.22</b>
<b>(T2) = (R) - (S)</b>	<b>Full implementation in 2010</b>	<b>208'005</b>

### III. Pledges made

<i>Country</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>For year</i>
Cyprus	EUR 2 000	2009
Norway	NOK 200 000	2009
Canada	CAD 15 000	2010
Denmark	EUR 10 000	2010

<sup>6</sup> Funds required on the trust fund account by 1 October 2010 to ensure staff support for the programme in 2011