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The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, The Arts and Culture welcomes and supports the UNECE process on Education for Sustainable Development and is willing to continue this effort.

Austria has made an important contribution to implement education for sustainable development in the European Union by organizing the first European Union presidency conference on this topic , which resulted in a strong implementation of education for sustainable development in the European Union strategy for sustainable development.

Together with the Austrian Ministry of Environment the Federal Ministry of Education has developed a strategy to implement education for sustainable development. The strategy is drafted and needs to be accepted and launched by the council of ministers.

Austria welcomes the development of indicators for the implementation of the UNECE strategy and confirms its endeavor to use this indicators for the full analysis of the Austrian educational system in line with the UNECE frame work.

The Federal Ministry of Education has a long lasting and successful collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, and one of the outcomes of this cooperation is the support of a number of educational initiatives in different parts of the educational system by both, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment.

For example a fund for education for sustainable development-projects and health promotion projects in schools and NGO's was established together with the Ministry of Environment, and also a governmental based environmental award system for schools and adult education is a result of the cooperation of the two ministries.

Moreover a fund for the promotion of research on sustainable development and education cooperation has been established from the Ministry of Science in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

For the future development the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education proposes to encourage and strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the economic sector and the educational sector. This involves a formal link with UNECE itself where we would suggest a structural contact to the Education systems based on the positive experiences within the Education for sustainable development-Strategy down to the regional, national and sub-national level.