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From 2003 CAREC has implemented the Central Asian Programme of Environmental Education (EE) providing practical support to educational institutions, networks and NGOs in Central Asian (CA) countries through the development of new educational materials and conducting trainings on sustainable development (SD). The CA EE Programme is gradually transforming into the Programme of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) taking into consideration the global and regional tendencies.

Our annual subregional conferences on ESD are the evidence of the sustainability of the CA ESD process, which represents an opportunity for interested partners to join the process.

Our “Progress Review of Central Asia on ESD” voluntary prepared by CA countries and CAREC in 2006 was based on ESD indicators and could be considered as the “baseline report on ESD in CA” useful for further monitoring of implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in the Central Asia.

Our Report “Progress Review on ESD in Central Asia: Achievements, Examples of Best Practices and Proposals for the Future”, summarizing CA efforts on ESD during 2003-2007 was specially prepared for this session in Belgrade.

On the basis of our joint work, we would like to emphasize **three particular features of ESD process in the Central Asia:**

1. In line with the national processes, CA has a *strong subregional process of ESD*, referring to all components of sustainable development, i.e. environment, economic and social and inclusion of the education system.
2. *EE still remains one of the main components of ESD*. From one side, ESD covers a wider circle of competences and topics regarding SD in comparison with EE. From the other side, there is a possibility to use existing human resources and experience in CA gained in the EE sphere, in order to develop ESD and a widening cooperative network on ESD in the CA.
3. There is a strong need and importance in *revival of national ethical and cultural values of the CA nations* and their integration into education systems in ESD context as one of the main conditions of SD of the subregion.

Unfortunately today our work on promotion of ESD into educational systems of the CA countries is still insufficient and mainly conducted in the frames of international projects at the moment. Despite some successful projects on ESD, SD topics and ESD principles are weakly reflected or not reflected at all **in the state standards of education and curricula**, and some major disciplines and topics do not shape a joint system oriented on SD.

In order to meet new challenges on ESD we developed **new strategic objectives for the Programme for 2007-2011**. **These objectives** correspond with the six goals of the UNECE ESD Strategy and reflect the needs of the CA countries to:

1. assist in the development of dialogue and networking on ESD in order to share experience on ESD in the CA subregion (*networking and databases on ESD*),
2. provide support for the development of the National plans on ESD in the CA countries (*institutional base for promotion of ESD*),
3. encourage support for the development of National standards in the CA countries (*integration of ESD into educational systems of the countries*),

4. build capacity on ESD through trainings for different target groups (*capacity building on ESD*), and
5. develop and introduce modern textbooks, manuals and methodology on ESD (*educational materials*).

We hope our new projects on development of an institutional base for the promotion of ESD and integration into educational systems of the CA countries will be of interest to our partners and donors.