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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 20 and 21 April 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 20 April 2017*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Outcomes of the Batumi High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries and future work.
4. Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Progress in implementing the Strategy;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the online registration form available from the Internet (<https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=9ckCuj>) no later than two weeks before the meeting. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917-6307.



- (b) Outcomes of capacity-building activities.
- 5. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
- 6. Draft workplan for 2017–2019.
- 7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.
- 8. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
- 9. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development.
- 10. Calendar of meetings.
- 11. Other business.
- 12. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 10–10:30 a.m.

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development is expected to adopt the agenda for its twelfth meeting, as set out in the present document. The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee in consultation with the Bureau.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2017/1)

2. Election of officers

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 10:30–11 a.m.

2. The Committee will be invited to elect a chair and other members of the Bureau. In accordance with the terms of reference¹ of the Steering Committee adopted by ministers and heads of delegation at the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in Batumi, Georgia, on 8 June 2016, for the upcoming implementation phase a chair, a vice-chair and the Bureau will be elected from among the representatives of the ECE member States present at the meeting. Officers should represent different sectors (e.g., environment and education), and will serve as the officers of the Steering Committee until their successors have been elected. The officers are eligible for re-election. In accordance with the above, the Steering Committee is expected to elect a chair and a vice-chair.

3. The Steering Committee will also elect its Bureau, to be composed of representatives of nine ECE member States, including one from South-Eastern Europe; three from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; one from North America; and four from other ECE member States. These would include the Chair and Vice-Chair of the

¹ See ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/11, annex II. The Committee's terms of reference were adopted as part of the framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.4, para. 17).

Committee, to serve in their respective capacities in the Bureau. Key stakeholders may be invited to participate in the Bureau as observers. The Bureau is responsible for preparing the meetings and following-up on the decisions of the Steering Committee, and holds meetings as often as necessary, subject to the availability of funds.

3. Outcomes of the Batumi High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries and future work

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 11–11:45 a.m.

4. A High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries was held on 8 June 2016 in the framework of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), with a view to assessing progress during the first 10 years of the Strategy and considering its future implementation.

5. The secretariat will brief the Steering Committee on the major outcomes of the Batumi Ministerial Conference, such as the adoption of the framework for the future implementation of the Strategy and the Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development, and outline activities to be implemented during the next implementation period.

4. Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(a) Progress in implementing the Strategy

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

6. The secretariat will provide a brief synopsis of the progress made and the experiences of ECE member States in the implementation of the Strategy. Particular attention will be paid to the first three “vertical” priority action areas adopted at the Batumi High-level Meeting.

7. With regard to annual country reporting, countries are invited to provide their informal reports to the secretariat before 31 March 2017, responding to the questionnaire included in document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2017/4.

8. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat’s presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the tenth and eleventh Steering Committee meetings in 2015 and 2016. Given the limited time available, countries will only have up to three minutes each for interventions from the floor.

Documentation

Proposed topics for reporting on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2017/4)

(b) Outcomes of capacity-building activities

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 3–3:30 p.m.

9. The secretariat together with the host country (Belarus) will update participants on the outcomes of a Swiss-funded capacity-building workshop, held in April 2015 in Minsk, and on the promotion of education for sustainable development on the national level.

5. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

10. The Steering Committee will be updated about recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums, such as the joint activities currently being undertaken by the Partner Networks established to help implement the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development launched at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10–12 November 2014). It will be informed about the relevant outcomes of the second meeting of the Partner Networks of the Global Action Programme, held at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris in July 2016, and also about the Global Action Programme review meeting taking place in Ottawa in March 2017.

6. Draft workplan for 2017–2019

Timing: Thursday, 20 April, 4:30–6 p.m.

11. The Committee will be invited to consider a draft workplan for implementation of the first phase of the post-2015 implementation period of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, with a view to adopting it. This document establishes a road map of activities to be undertaken during the three years of the post-2015 implementation period (2017–2019) to further the implementation of the Strategy at the national and international levels, in accordance with the mandate articulated by education and environment ministries at the Batumi High-level Meeting in 2016.

12. The draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the framework for the future implementation of the Strategy, in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Task Force on Planning and Finance, and was approved by the Bureau of the Steering Committee. In addition, experiences gained in the implementation of the three previous phases of the Strategy informed the drafting of the workplan. The draft was approved by the Bureau through electronic consultations undertaken during the second half of 2016.

Documentation

Draft workplan for 2017–2019 for the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2017/3)

7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 10–11 a.m.

13. The secretariat will report to the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee's last meeting, on the basis of an informal note to be submitted for the Committee's consideration at the meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy is very tight, and the regional activities are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, advance indications of pledges by States are vital.

14. The format of the informal report will be based on the data available from the new central administrative system, Umoja; therefore some categories and aggregation of data may possibly differ from the previous reports.

8. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

15. Delegations, and in particular stakeholders such as international and non-governmental organizations, Regional Environmental Centres and research institutions, may wish to inform the Steering Committee of activities related to the Strategy's implementation currently being carried out or planned at the national and international levels.

9. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 3–4:45 p.m.

16. At its eleventh meeting, the Steering Committee organized a round table to share experiences and achievements in the area of mainstreaming gender issues in the education sector in general and specifically in education for sustainable development. The secretariat will invite members to make presentations on their achievements in the area since the last meeting, to be followed by a general discussion on the topic.

10. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 4:45–5 p.m.

17. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and the timing of the thirteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2018.

11. Other business

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 5–5:30 p.m.

18. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Friday, 21 April, 5:30–6 p.m.

19. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the twelfth meeting.
