

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Environmental Policy

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**Steering Committee on Education**

**for Sustainable Development**

**15<sup>th</sup> meeting (hybrid)**

19-20 (am) October 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

## **Explanatory notes regarding the changes in the timeline of the agenda<sup>1</sup>**

*Prepared by the secretariat*

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited

## **Introduction**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development will consider and adopt the agenda for its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at the start of the meeting, under the first agenda item. This agenda item will be considered based on the “Revised Annotated provisional agenda of the fifteenth meeting” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1,

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/15th\\_Meeting\\_SC/Doc/Final\\_documents/2010694E-1.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/15th_Meeting_SC/Doc/Final_documents/2010694E-1.pdf)) - the formal document containing the draft agenda and timetable for the 15th meeting of the Steering Committee.

However, the above “Revised Annotated provisional agenda” was issued in mid-August 2020, after which new circumstances affecting the conduct of the meeting emerged. The secretariat has already informed the Steering Committee on the changed format of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (by email of September 22) and on the adoption by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe of the special procedure on decision-making for formal meetings with remote participation (silence procedure) that should also be applied to the Committee’s 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (our email of October 7). The short notice at which some of those changes have been introduced is the result of lingering uncertainties caused by the continuing evolution of the pandemic, which has triggered some recent decisions of the governments of the member States and the UNECE Executive Committee.

Due to the extremely short time remaining before the meeting, it is not possible to formally issue the second revision of the provisional agenda (processing deadlines for official editing, translation, etc. are set at 10 weeks before the meetings). At the same time, the agenda and the timetable must be adapted to the new circumstances.

The secretariat has therefore prepared these “Explanatory notes regarding the changes in the timeline of the agenda”. The “Explanatory notes” are based on the recommendations received from the Bureau and the Chair, in particular through the two online meetings of the Bureau in an extended format (September 18 and 25, 2020).

**Amendments to the timetable** of the meeting and its decisions as set out in the “Explanatory Note” will be submitted by the Chair **for adoption by the Steering Committee under item 1** of the agenda; with the agreement of the Committee, the 15th meeting of the SC will be conducted according to the amended timetable.

## **Changes to the format of the meeting**

The Steering Committee has been already informed by the secretariat that the format of the meeting should be changed to hybrid mode. As a result, certain limitations were imposed on the duration of the working time for UN interpreters servicing international meetings, which was shortened from the standard three-hour session to the two-hour session. Therefore, as agreed with the Chair and the Bureau during the latest online meetings held on

September 18 and 25, 2020, the agenda of the present meeting had to be shortened by one hour for each of the three half-day working sessions as reflected in the adjusted timetable (see the table below).

### **Organization of additional sessions for in-depth discussion (after the meeting)**

The shortened duration of the meeting means there will not be enough time for in-depth **discussions** on several agenda items. For these agenda items the Bureau recommended convening **additional online working sessions** of the Committee after the 19-20 October meeting. These additional sessions would give members the opportunity to make interventions and presentations and discuss these items in detail.

It is proposed to organize Additional sessions at the dates and times indicated below (also included in the table). The agenda items and paragraphs are mentioned as in the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1.:

1. **“Additional session 1”, November 6, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time:**

- To consider agenda item 3 (a) “Summary outcomes of the progress report on the fourth phase of implementation” (paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1);

2. **“Additional session 2”, November 13, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time:**

- To consider agenda item 6 (a) “Draft concept notes for the post-2019 implementation framework” (paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1);

3. **“Additional session 3”, November 20, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time (TBC with the Chair of AHG on Indicators):**

- To consider agenda item 7 “Outcomes of the first three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the draft format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development” (paragraphs 30 to 34 of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1);

4. **“Additional session 4”, November 27, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time:**

- To consider agenda item 13 “Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region” (paragraph 46 of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1).

**Please save the dates.** A reminder on the sessions and the rest of the information on each session will be distributed to the Committee at least one week before the online session.

The Steering Committee may wish to agree on decisions on particular agenda items; a silent approval procedure will be applied (see below, under “Special procedure on decision-making for formal meetings with remote participation”).

The Steering Committee may wish to agree to submit specific agenda items (on which it does not take decisions at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting) for consideration and possible decision at its next 16<sup>th</sup> meeting (proposed to be held on 10-11 May, 2021, in Geneva).

### **Special procedure on decision-making for formal meetings with remote participation**

The secretariat has already informed the Steering Committee that the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) at its 111th meeting on 5 October 2020 has adopted a special procedure on decision-making for formal meetings with remote participation which must be applied to decision-making of the ESD SC 15th meeting.

The text of the procedure adopted by EXCOM decision (as proposed by the EU) can be found here

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2020/EXCOM\\_111\\_05\\_Oct/EU\\_proposal\\_EXC OM\\_decision\\_for\\_internet.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2020/EXCOM_111_05_Oct/EU_proposal_EXC OM_decision_for_internet.pdf).

In short, the above means in practice that:

- At its upcoming meeting the Committee, as usual, will agree on its decisions;
- Then these decisions will be circulated through all Geneva Permanent Representations for approval by silence procedure of 72 hours (through the EXCOM web page that will be launched shortly);
- If the silence is not broken by the objection, the decisions will be deemed adopted. If the silence is broken for a particular decision, it will be referred back to the Committee;
- However, the possibility of objection is limited: it is “understood as a safeguard measure in case a registered participant was not able to participate remotely in the meeting because of technical reasons”. In other words, the possibility for objecting will be limited only to the rare cases where the delegation which duly registered and participated in the meeting encountered technical problems during the meeting.  
Therefore, **it is very important that the meeting participants are properly registered** through the online registration process (see below).

### **Procedure for online registration**

Please follow the below step-by-step procedure for registration (the same procedure can be found at the meeting web page at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53412>, under the tab “Information for Delegates”):

1. In Chrome or Firefox, open the link <https://indico.un.org/event/31150/> (link to the “Indico” registration database);
2. Press the blue tab “**Register now**”. It will take you to the Indico page for the above meeting;

3. You will be asked “You cannot register without a user account. Please log in if you have an account or create a new one.” In case of any difficulties to register, please contact: [support.accreditation@un.org](mailto:support.accreditation@un.org) who will get back to you.
4. Log in into your Indico account (if you do not yet have an Indico account, create it first);
  - *Note: The registration information of those delegates who previously registered for the meeting in May (through old contact data base “CDB”) have been transferred into indico by the secretariat. However, you’ll still need to indicate the mobile number and tick the attendance box*
5. Follow the instructions as mentioned therein and register;
6. Please ensure that you **complete all the required info in boxes**.

Date/Time  As adjusted  [vs ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1]	Item of the Agenda	Suggested action by the Steering Committee	Remark
<b>19 October, morning session</b>			
<b>10:00-12:00 a.m.</b> [instead of 10:00-13:00 a.m.]			
<b>10:00-10:10 a.m.</b> [10:00-10:10 a.m.]	1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda	<i>The Committee may wish to adopt the agenda with the adjusted timetable</i>	
<b>10:10-10:20 a.m.</b> [10:10-10:20 a.m.]	2. Election of officers	<i>The Committee may wish to take a decision on this agenda item</i>	Information paper No. 1 will be drafted based on the received nominations and uploaded on the website of the meeting by Friday, October 16.
<b>10:20-10:50 a.m.</b> [instead of 10:20-11:20 a.m.]	3. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development  (a) Summary outcomes of the progress report on the fourth phase of implementation	<i>The Committee may wish to:</i>  - take note of the presentation of the draft progress report and its findings;  - agree to organize additional <i>2-hour online session</i> for in-depth discussion of this agenda item, i.e. on (a) the approval of the progress report, (b) implications of the findings from the fourth reporting round for the implementation of activities beyond the fourth phase of implementation and also (c) to invite countries to make interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives since the 14th SC meeting;  - agree that the decision on this agenda item will be made during the referred above additional session;  - ask the secretariat to prepare and submit the progress report as the official document for approval at the 16 <sup>th</sup> SC meeting (10-11 May 2021, Geneva).	To consider items referred to in the paragraphs number <b>5 and 6</b> of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1, during the additional 2-hour online session - " <i>additional session 1</i> ", to be held on <i>6 November 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time (PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!).</i>
<b>10:50-11:05 a.m.</b> [instead of 11:20-11:40 a.m.]	3. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable	<i>The Committee may wish to:</i>  - take note of the information about the mission and methods of work of the SC.	

	Development  (b) Update on the mission and methods of work of the Steering Committee and the role of national focal points in the context of current developments and the new priorities for the future		
<b>11:05-11:15 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 11:40-11:50 a.m.]</i>	3. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development  (c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the developments regarding the pending capacity building activity in Azerbaijan;</li> <li>- expresses gratitude to Swiss Government for providing crucial support for capacity building activities during the last several years;</li> <li>- invite countries to express their interest in seeking opportunities for funding capacity-building activities on issues of SC's interest.</li> </ul>	
<b>11:15-11:30 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 11:50 a.m.-12:05 p.m.]</i>	4. Status of the trust fund, resource requirements and fundraising efforts	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about MS contributions to the Trust Fund (direct transfers and in-kind);</li> <li>- discuss about how secretariat can be funded to continue its support of the SC.</li> </ul>	
<b>11:30-11:35 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:05-12:30 p.m.]</i>	5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021  (a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference  (d) Resource requirements	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information</li> </ul>	

<b>11:35-11:40 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:30-12:45 p.m.]</i>	5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021 (b) Host country preparations	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the developments regarding the preparations for the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021</li> </ul>	
<b>11:40 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:45-13:00 p.m.]</i>	5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021 (c) Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the official documents required to be prepared for the HL Ministerial Meeting</li> </ul>	The Chair will inform the members that after the present meeting, the members of SC will be invited to participate in drafting the first draft outline of the Ministerial Statement to be presented for the adoption at the High-level Meeting in 2022.
<b>Added to the item 5 (a) above</b> <i>[instead of 3:00-3:15 p.m.]</i>	5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021 (d) Resource requirements		
<b>19 October, afternoon session</b> <b>3:00-5:00 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 3:00-6:00 p.m.]</i>			
<b>3:00-3:30 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 3:15-4:15 p.m.]</i>	6. Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning (a) Draft concept notes for the post-2019 implementation framework	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of presentation of this agenda item, i.e. the draft concept note (including the preamble and the four priority strands), which will be included in the <i>"Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD up to 2030"</i> (to be drafted for the 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting in 2021;</li> <li>- agree to organize <i>additional 2-hour online session</i> for in-depth discussion on this agenda item;</li> <li>- agree that the decision on this agenda item will be</li> </ul>	To consider items referred to in the paragraphs number <b>23</b> and <b>24</b> of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1, during the additional 2-hour online session - <i>"additional session 2"</i> , to be held on <b>13 November 2020, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time (PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!).</b>

		<p>made at the next meeting of the SC in May 2021;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ask the secretariat to prepare and submit the document “Draft Concept Note..” as part of the official document <i>“Draft Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD up to 2030”</i> for the 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting (10-11 May 2021, Geneva) for discussion and approval.</li> </ul>	
<b>3:30-4:00 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 4:15-4:40 p.m.]</i>	<p>6. Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning</p> <p>(b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework</p>	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of presentation regarding the status of the process of drafting the workplan (which currently provides a draft list of suggested activities);</li> <li>- take note of information that the work plan will be prepared by the members of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning;</li> <li>- ask the secretariat to prepare the draft work plan for the official submission for the next 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting in May 2021 for discussion and approval.</li> </ul>	<p>A template for the draft workplan will be discussed during the online “<i>additional session 2</i>” (see above).</p>
<b>4:00-4:30 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 4:40-5:30 p.m.]</i>	<p>7. Outcomes of the first three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the Draft Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)</p>	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the presentation of this agenda item, i.e. the status of work of AHG on Indicators on the Draft Format for reporting;</li> <li>- agree to organize <i>additional 2-hour online session</i> for in-depth discussion on this agenda item;</li> <li>- agree that the decision on this agenda item will be made during the referred above additional session;</li> <li>- ask the secretariat to prepare and submit the document “Draft Format for reporting.” for the official submission for the next 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting in May 2021 for discussion and approval.</li> </ul>	<p>To consider items referred to in the paragraphs number <b>30 to 34</b> of the Revised Agenda ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1, the additional 2-hour online session - “<i>additional session 3</i>”, to be held on 20 November 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time (<i>to be agreed additionally with the Chair of AHG on Indicators</i>).</p>
<b>4:30-4:40 p.m.</b>	<p>8. Outcomes of the first meeting and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc</p>	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p>	<p>[What was already presented on May 7 online</p>

[instead of 5:30-6:00 p.m.]	Group on Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the brief information regarding the work done up to now</li> </ul>	consultation of the SC, does not need to be repeated.]
<b>4:40-5:00 p.m.</b> [instead of 10:00-11:00 a.m., October 20]	9. Education for sustainable development and youth: initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the relevant work of youth, including on how youth is engaged in the process of strategic planning, and make recommendations about the role of youth in the Committee and the next steps of youth involvement in the work of the Committee.</li> </ul>	[What was already presented on May 7 online consultation of the SC, does not need to be repeated.]
<b>20 October, morning session</b>			
<b>10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b>			
[instead of 10:00 a.m.-13:00 p.m.]			
<b>10:00-10:30 a.m.</b> [instead of 11:00-11:20 a.m.]	10. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentations about activities led at the global (UNESCO) and regional/sub-regional (Mediterranean Strategy on ESD) levels.</li> <li>- Brief information about WHO regional workshop held in 2019 in Bonn</li> <li>... and others (if any)</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the developments in other international forums</li> </ul>	
<b>10:30-10:40 a.m.</b> [instead of 11:20-11:30 a.m.]	11. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information regarding the upcoming regional and international forums;</li> <li>- members are invited to inform the secretariat and the Chair about the participations in the upcoming international forums or relevant events for the years 2020-2022 (on-line or physical);</li> <li>- the Committee will be informed about the need of coordination of members with the secretariat and the Chair in case of presenting UNECE in a conference in order to reflect UNECE SC's positions.</li> </ul>	
<b>10:40-11:10 a.m.</b>	12. Strengthening synergies with other	<i>The Committee may wish to:</i>	

*Non-paper*  
*Explanatory notes regarding the changes in the timeline of the agenda*

<i>[instead of 11:30-11:40 a.m.]</i>	organizations and processes <i>Presentations and information from the partners</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the synergies that can be developed with other organizations and processes</li> </ul>	
<b>11:10-11:20 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 11:40 a.m.-12:15 p.m.]</i>	13. Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about organizing the <i>additional 2-hour online session</i> for in-depth discussion on this agenda item and for finalizing a template for publications.</li> </ul>	To address this item during the additional 2-hour online session - “ <i>additional session 4</i> ”, to be held on 27 November 2020, 11:00-13:00 Geneva (CET) time ( <i>PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!</i> ).
<b>11:20-11:30 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:15-12:25 p.m.]</i>	14. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information about the actions and measures taken in by members on integrating gender issues in ESD.</li> </ul>	
<b>11:30-11:40 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:25-12:40 p.m.]</i>	15. Calendar of meetings	<p><i>The Committee may wish to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take note of the information;</li> <li>- agree on the date of its next meeting (10-11 May 2021, Geneva)</li> </ul>	
<b>11:40-11:50 a.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:40-12:50 p.m.]</i>	16. Other business		
<b>11:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b> <i>[instead of 12:50-13:00 p.m.]</i>	17. Closure of the meeting		