
Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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

Virtual consultation meeting

7 May 2020 (am)

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the virtual consultation meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development on May 7, 2020

(ahead of the postponed Fifteenth meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD to be held on 19-20(am) October 2020 in Geneva, Palais des Nations)

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the shortened agenda for the virtual consultation meeting.

The Chair of the Steering Committee:

- will open the meeting with short welcome speech;
- will introduce some ground rules of the virtual meeting (how long it will last, that microphones must be muted, how the floor should be requested, etc.);
- will inform the Steering Committee on the present status of 15th meeting (to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 October 2020);
- will also inform the Committee on the status of the present virtual consultation (that it is held to discuss some issues in view to achieve progress ahead of the 15th meeting; therefore the agenda of this virtual meeting is shorter, skipping several agenda items of the "physical" meeting);
- will ask if there are any additions or comments to the draft agenda, and then declare the agenda adopted;
- After the adoption of the agenda, the Chair of the Steering Committee will inform that the secretariat has received several new appointments and will welcome the newly appointed national focal points and invite them to present themselves to the Committee.

2. Election of officers.

The Chair will invite the secretariat for information on the scheduled elections that will take place during the postponed 15th meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 19-20(am) October 2020 when the Committee will be invited to elect a Chair, vice-Chair and the Bureau. In this connection, a few weeks before the meeting in October, the secretariat will send a separate email to the member States reminding that they can express their interest in submitting candidatures. Based on the expressed interest, a preliminary list of proposed candidates will be drafted and circulated by email prior to the postponed 15th meeting in October 2020 (to be then presented in information paper No. 1).

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;

The Steering Committee will be briefly informed about the summary outcomes of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle, which was carried out at the end of the fourth phase of implementation (2017–2019) of the ECE Strategy for ESD.

(b) Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

The secretariat will brief the Committee about the outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region, which was held in Geneva in a virtual mode (19 and 20 March 2020).

(c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities (postponed for autumn, dates to be yet found and agreed with the participating experts).

4. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.

The secretariat will make a brief report to the Steering Committee on contributions received since the Committee's last meeting, on the basis of *an informal note to be uploaded on the website for the Committee's consideration prior to the virtual meeting*.

During the discussion, the Steering Committee will be expected to look for ways to mobilize additional funds for capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels.

5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021.

(a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;

The Steering Committee will be briefly informed of the relevant decisions of the Committee on Environmental Policy, including regarding organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, the proposed framework for preparing the Conference, and the requirements for hosting that event (*a brief information note to be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting*).

(b) Host country preparations;

The Steering Committee will be informed about the host country preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

(c) Official documents for consideration at the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries;

The Steering Committee will be informed about the official documents to be prepared for consideration at the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (*a brief information note to be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting*).

(d) Resource requirements.

The Steering Committee will be briefly informed about the resource requirements for the organization of the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (*to be included in the brief information note to be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting*).

6. Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the ad hoc group for strategic planning:

(a) Draft concept notes for the post-2019 implementation framework;

(b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework.

The Steering Committee will be updated about the outcomes of the second meeting of the ad hoc group for strategic planning, held on 27 and 28 September 2019 in Nicosia and the

cancellation of the third one, which was scheduled to be held on 13 and 14 March 2020 also in Nicosia, when the concept note was supposed to be finalised.

The Chair of the Steering Committee will update the Committee about the status of the draft concept note which has not been finalised in the view of the current developments and will sound the proposal of the Ad hoc group on Strategic Planning regarding the eventual possibility of redrafting the text of the draft concept note and to present it to the postponed 15th meeting of the Steering Committee to be held in October 2020.

7. Outcomes of the first meeting and of the subsequent work of the ad hoc group on youth.

The Steering Committee will be updated on the outcomes of the first meeting of the ad hoc group on youth “Education for Sustainable Development and Youth”, held from 16 to 18 February in Vienna.

Based on the above-mentioned presentation, the Steering Committee and the youth delegates will be invited to provide their comments and suggestions on the draft outcome document to be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting.

8. Outcomes of the 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 (2020–2030).

The Steering Committee will be updated on the outcomes of the three meetings of the ad hoc group on indicators, held respectively from 23 to 25 October 2019 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 16 and 17 December 2019 in Podgorica, and from 12 to 14 February 2020 in Brussels (*a brief information note will be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting*).

The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft format for reporting on the implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2020 to 2030 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/6), and to provide comments on the proposed new indicators or changes to the existing indicators that were included in the updated reporting format.

The Committee members will be also invited to consider the proposed reporting timeline¹ for the fifth cycle of reporting to be carried out at the end of the next implementation phase.

The secretariat will be mandated to introduce any changes proposed during the meeting into the draft format for reporting, and to circulate the revised version to the Committee members for their further consideration and final comments to be provided to the secretariat before the end of May 2020. The secretariat will then create the final consolidated version of the draft format for reporting.

The final draft of the format for reporting will have to be considered at the fourth meeting of the ad hoc group on indicators, which was planned to be convened in June 2020 in the Netherlands and which now has to be postponed in the current context (exact dates and location to be re-scheduled). The fourth meeting of the ad hoc group on indicators will be devoted to incorporating all comments into the final document and to finalizing it as a definitive and final framework for monitoring and evaluation in the form of the format for reporting on the implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2020 to 2030.

In addition, countries may wish to put forward ideas about the outline of the evaluation report that will be prepared on the basis of the national implementation reports.

9. Education for sustainable development and youth: initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development (to be considered during October meeting).

¹ To be outlined depending on the inputs from the Committee members and partners

10. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums (to be considered during October meeting).

11. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums (to be considered during October meeting).

12. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes (to be considered during October meeting).

13. Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region.

The Steering Committee will be recalled that in 2021 it was planned to publish two publications, i.e. 1) “Progress report on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2015 to 2020 and good practice examples” (to be submitted for translation in the 1st quarter of 2021) and 2) “Good practice examples on youth engagement in ESD in UNECE region” (to be finalised by the end of 2020 and to be published sometime in 2021).

The Committee will be invited to provide comments to the templates for the good practice examples for both publications *to be uploaded on the website prior to the virtual meeting*.

The secretariat will be then mandated to circulate the updated version of the revised templates soon after the virtual meeting, upon the comments received (if any). The templates will be finalized during the upcoming fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 19-20(am) October 2021.

14. Calendar of meetings.

As already informed by the secretariat, the postponed 15th meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Geneva, Palais des Nations on 19-20(am) October 2020.

The 16th annual meeting of the Steering Committee meeting will be held on 10-11 May 2021.

15. Other business.

16. Closure of the meeting.
