

## **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

### **COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 18-19 March 2010

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

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### **Advancing Sustainable Consumption, Production and Transportation through Education for Sustainable Development**

Proposal for a Side-event

To be organized at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

18<sup>th</sup> Session, New York, 3-14 May 2010

Note by the secretariat

#### **Background**

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as well as Sustainable Transportation (ST) are among the thematic clusters of the current cycle under the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and will be among the key discussion topics at the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> session of the CSD.

Education is a cross-cutting issue that plays a crucial role in addressing production and consumption patterns. It makes substantial contribution to advancing the SCP agenda both at the international policy level and through practical measures taken at national and local level, including through the Marrakech process where an Italy-led Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC) developed a set of draft Recommendations and Guidelines (“Here and now: education for sustainable consumption”).

Recognizing the links between the work under the UNECE Strategy for ESD and the CSD process, the Steering Committee, at its 4<sup>th</sup> session in 2009, initiated a collection of good practices in addressing SCP / ST through ESD in the light of climate change. The web-based collection, which includes over 50 examples from various parts of the region, demonstrates a number of successful examples in addressing sustainability through ESD projects.

14 good practices selected from the collection and their analysis served as background documents for the Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (RIM) in December 2009 and are also available as inputs for CSD-18. In addition, the RIM-4 input document for CSD-18 emphasized the importance of improving education, especially given its cross-cutting nature. It noted the important role of the ongoing national and regional work on ESD in addressing the issues under the CSD thematic clusters and stressed the important role of the UN DESD and the UNECE Strategy for ESD.

The Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD considered that a side-event at the upcoming CSD-18 would emphasize the role of education in promoting SCP and ST by:

- (a) raising awareness of the CSD delegates as to the role which ESD can play in advancing SCP/ST;
- (b) providing venue to share region's successful practices in ESD for SCP/ST;
- (c) identifying further efforts which should be made integrate SCP into ESD, with a particular emphasis on teaching approaches and methodology;
- (d) discussing whether and how education can be integrated into the SCP / ST agendas at regional and global level;
- (e) discussing ways in which different major groups can contribute to advancing SCP/ST agenda through ESD.

An application for the side-event would have to be submitted to the CSD secretariat by 31 March 2010.

### **Proposed elements for the agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. International framework (UNECE Strategy on ESD, UN DESD and the Marrakesh ESC Task Force) – possible contributors: Chairperson of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD, Government of Italy as the lead country for the ESC TF, UNECE, UNESCO, UNEP
3. Examples of successful practices: 3-4 presentations on selected good practice examples – to be made by organizations managing the relevant initiatives. The selected good practices should provide:
  - a. successful illustration of the impact which ESD can have on SCP and ST patterns;
  - b. balanced representation of the involvement of governmental sector as well as various major groups (e.g. NGOs, local authorities, private sector, etc);
  - c. illustration of examples from formal, non-formal and informal education as well as policy-making;
  - d. illustrating ESD in at least SC or ST;
  - e. geographic balance.
4. Discussion on integrating SCP/ST and ESD
5. Summary

**Note:** Representation of practices from various subregions of UNECE is a desirable goal of the event. A number of good practices on the role of ESD in promoting sustainable consumption, sustainable production and sustainable transportation have been submitted by Canada and by countries of the European Union. However, the number of such practices from the countries with economies in transition has been rather limited. In order to geographically diversity good practices at the Side-event, the secretariat would like to invite ESD Focal Points, international, regional and non-governmental organizations to provide it with additional good practice examples from the Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and /or South Eastern European regions **at the latest by 26 March 2010.**