Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 7 April 2011*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Relevant international events for promoting education for sustainable development.
4. Progress by member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.
5. Progress achieved and challenges encountered in implementation of phase II of the Strategy and the way forward for phase III:

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1 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNCE) website (http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm), and to transmit it to the UNCE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (esd@unece.org). 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 available at: http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.
(a) Findings of the first mandatory reporting cycle;
(b) Achievements of the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development;
(c) Draft workplan for implementation of phase III.


7. Cooperation and linkages of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe activities on education for sustainable development with other such processes.


9. Calendar of meetings.

10. Other business.

11. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. With the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17–18 March 2005) established a UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development as a governing body to decide on the Strategy’s implementation and to oversee and review its progress in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region.

2. Ministers of education and of the environment adopted a joint Statement on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1) at the high-level session on ESD at the Sixth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), stressing their commitment to the Strategy’s further implementation in phase I and II, but also beyond 2015.

3. At its previous five meetings, the Steering Committee, among other things: (a) adopted workplans for phases I and II of the Strategy for ESD, as well as a reporting mechanism; (b) carried out the first pilot reporting and prepared the first mandatory reporting cycle; (c) organized a high-level segment on ESD at the Sixth “Environment for Europe” Conference; and (d) established an Expert Group to develop a set of recommendations for decision makers and a range of competences for educators.

4. The Steering Committee’s sixth meeting is expected to focus on (a) considering progress and challenges in implementing phase II of the Strategy; (b) considering for adoption the workplan for phase III (2011–2015), taking into account the results of the first mandatory reporting cycle; and (c) considering how to promote the UNECE ESD process at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and to identify interlinkages of ESD with the key themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. It is also expected to discuss the resource requirements to support an efficient management and implementation process for the Strategy.
1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

    **Thursday, 7 April**

    **10–10.10 a.m.**

5. The Chair will open the meeting with introductory remarks and will invite the Steering Committee to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/1).

2. **Election of officers**

    **10.10–10.20 a.m.**

6. The Committee will be invited to elect a Chair as well as other members of the Bureau. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Steering Committee adopted by the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, at each ordinary meeting of the Committee, a chair and a vice-chair will be elected from among the representatives of the UNECE member States present at the meeting. Officers should represent different sectors (e.g., environment and education). They shall 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 may wish to elect a chair and a vice-chair.

7. The Steering Committee may also elect its Bureau for the third phase of the Strategy. The Bureau is to be composed of representatives of nine UNECE 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 UNECE member States. This includes the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, who will serve in their respective capacities in the Bureau. Countries are invited to express their interest in submitting candidatures for the Bureau to the secretariat by 28 February 2011.

3. **Relevant international events for promoting education for sustainable development**

    **10.20–10.40 a.m.**

8. The Steering Committee will be informed about recent activities related to promoting ESD in the region, such as the organization of a side event on ESD during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 3–14 May 2010).

9. Furthermore, the secretariat will inform the Steering Committee of developments with regard to preparing for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011, as well as on the preparation process for Rio+20.

10. The Steering Committee is invited to consider ways of promoting ESD at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and at Rio+20, in particular also in the realm of the regional preparatory process. For instance, side events or participation in round-table

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2 The Steering Committee did not hold election of officers at its fourth and fifth meetings with a view to ensuring continuity of work during the entire phase II of implementation of the Strategy.
discussions could be organized at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and at the regional Preparatory Committee for Rio+20, with a view to discussing as well as highlighting interlinkages and contributions of ESD to the key themes of those conferences.

4. **Progress by member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**

10.40 a.m.–1 p.m.

11. The Steering Committee will be invited to hear reports from Governments on their activities relating to the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD since the Committee’s last meeting, focusing in particular on:

   (a) Coordination at the international and national/State levels (i.e., coordination of activities among ESD stakeholders, establishing consultative mechanisms and developing national strategies and action plans for ESD); and

   (b) Capacity-building as well as sharing of experience and awareness-raising (i.e., development and application of means to strengthen competence in ESD, of teaching tools and materials).

12. Given the limited time available, each of the countries will have up to three minutes for interventions from the floor.

5. **Progress achieved and challenges encountered in implementing phase II of the Strategy and the way forward for phase III**

(a) **Findings of the mandatory reporting cycle 2010**

3–4 p.m.

13. The Steering Committee will be informed about the findings of the first mandatory reporting cycle which was carried out at the end of phase II (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/7). The Committee will be invited to consider the progress and challenges addressed by the national implementation reports, and in particular to discuss their implications arising therefrom for the implementation activities in phase III.

(b) **Achievements of the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development**

4–5 p.m.

14. The Chair of the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development will be invited to report on the progress made by the Group in its five meetings since 2009. The Steering Committee meeting will be invited to consider the Expert Group’s outcome document on educator competences and policy recommendations, with a view to its approval (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/6). It will also discuss means for its dissemination.

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3 For countries with a federal structure, national plans will be based on subnational/State inputs.
(c) Draft workplan of implementation for phase III

5–6 p.m.

15. The Committee is invited to consider a draft workplan for implementation of phase III of the Strategy for ESD (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/4) with a view to adopting it. This document establishes a road map of activities to be undertaken during the five years of phase III (2010–2015) to further the implementation of the Strategy, both at the national and international levels. The draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of proposals that were submitted by members of the Steering Committee. In addition, experiences gained in the implementation of phase I and phase II of the Strategy informed the drafting of the workplan. The first draft of this document was considered by the Bureau at its meeting on 9 December 2010, and thereafter was revised to reflect the Bureau’s comments.


Friday, 8 April 2011

9.30 a.m.–12 p.m.

16. A thematic panel discussion will address how the implementation of the Strategy for ESD can be embedded in and integrated with the larger policy processes, i.e., the key themes of Rio+20 and the Ministerial Conference in Astana. In particular, the role of ESD in shifting to a green economy will be discussed.

7. Cooperation and linkages of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe activities on education for sustainable development with other such processes

12–12.30 p.m.

17. 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. The goal is to promote coordination and synergies, including with relevant international sustainable development processes.

8. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for phase III of the Strategy’s implementation

2.30–3 p.m.

18. The secretariat will inform the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee’s last meeting.

19. The regional ESD activities under the Strategy are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, therefore the planning and implementation of activities in phase III will have to rely on the clear advance indication of pledges from States. Each delegation will be invited to indicate its planned contributions for phase III, specifying in particular pledges for contributions to be made in 2011.
9. **Calendar of meetings**

3–3.15 p.m.

20. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the scheduling of its next meeting and those of its Bureau. It is proposed that the Committee hold its seventh session as a two-day meeting in April 2012.

10. **Other business**

3.15–3.30 p.m.

21. 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.

11. **Closure of the meeting**

3.30–3.45 p.m.

22. The Chair will make concluding remarks and close the meeting.

23. The Bureau of the Steering Committee will be invited to hold its meeting immediately after the closing of the Steering Committee’s sixth meeting.