



# Economic and Social Council

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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

##### Seventh meeting

Geneva, 1 and 2 March 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.  
on Thursday, 1 March 2012\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Progress by member States in implementing the UNECE<sup>1</sup> Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.
3. Progress achieved in creating synergies with the international sustainable development process and future activities.
4. Greening the economy: the role of technical and vocational education and training.

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\* There are accreditation procedures 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 website (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd.html>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail ([esd@unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates must 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](http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf)). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is sometimes abbreviated as UNECE to avoid confusion with other regional mechanisms.

5. From policy to practice: strengthening the coordination between stakeholders and promoting educator competences.
6. Promoting education for sustainable development beyond 2015.
7. Panel discussion on education for sustainable development school plans.
8. Cooperation and linkages of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe activities on education for sustainable development with other such processes.
9. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for 2012/13.
10. Calendar of meetings.
11. Other business.
12. Closure of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

1. At its seventh meeting, the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development is expected to focus on (a) progress made in implementing education for sustainable development (ESD) since the sixth meeting; (b) activities to be implemented in 2012 and beyond; (c) the role of technical-vocational education in greening the economy; (d) the promotion of educator competences for ESD; (e) ESD school plans as an implementation tool for putting ESD into practise; and (f) how to continue promoting ESD within the international sustainable development process. The meeting is also expected to discuss the resource requirements to support an efficient management and implementation process for the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 10–10.15 a.m.*

2. 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.13/2012/1).

### **2. Progress by member States in implementing the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 10.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

3. As decided by the Steering Committee at its sixth meeting, the secretariat will give a presentation on the progress made by member States in implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD. The secretariat will identify major themes and interesting developments with regard to ESD, as well as challenging areas. A particular spotlight will be put on finalizing national action plans and strategies. Countries are invited to provide their intervention to the secretariat before 27 January 2012. The questions for reporting, as agreed upon by the Bureau, are outlined in an annex to this agenda.

4. Countries will be invited to complement the presentation with interventions on outstanding good practices which appear to be particularly helpful and useful.

5. The presentation and interventions will be followed by an interactive question-and-answer session.

### **3. Progress achieved in creating synergies with the international sustainable development process and future activities**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 12.30–1 p.m.*

6. The Steering Committee will be informed about recent activities related to promoting ESD in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, such as the promotion of ESD during the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011), as well as a round-table discussion at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (Geneva, 1–2 December 2011). Background information is provided in document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2012/5.

7. Furthermore, the secretariat will inform the Steering Committee of developments with regard to the preparation process for Rio+20 and of opportunities to promote ESD in 2012 in that context. Countries are invited to cooperate with National Focal Points for Rio+20 with a view to promoting ESD in the Rio+20 process.

### **4. Greening the economy: the role of technical and vocational education and training**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 3–4 p.m.*

8. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss how technical-vocational education can play a critical role in the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and has shaped and will continue to shape the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD at the national level.

### **5. From policy to practice: strengthening the coordination between stakeholders and promoting educator competences**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 4–5 p.m.*

9. As highlighted by “Learning from each other: Achievements, challenges and ways forward — Second evaluation report of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2012/3), the lack of coordination between stakeholders as well as the lack of educator competences poses a frequent obstacle in implementing the Strategy for ESD.

10. Responding to this need, the Committee is invited to consider and discuss the development and implementation of a series of workshops with a view to promote educator competences for ESD on the subregional level, as well as coordination between different stakeholders, on the basis of a concept note on capacity-building for ESD (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2012/4).

11. In addition, the Steering Committee is invited to discuss and share experiences on how ESD can be incorporated into teaching education and training programmes.

### **6. Promoting education for sustainable development beyond 2015**

*Timing: Thursday, 1 March, 5–6 p.m.*

12. At its thirty-sixth General Conference, the member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) requested the UNESCO

Director-General to develop options for transforming the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development into an institutionalized process beyond 2014, and to submit them to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 190th session with a view to presenting them to the United Nations General Assembly.

13. The member States of the UNECE Strategy for ESD are invited to start developing a concept on how to promote ESD after 2015 on the regional level and to potentially agree on the mandate of the Bureau and the secretariat in terms of preparing a draft workplan for the work under the Strategy following the third phase of implementation.

## **7. Panel discussion on education for sustainable development school plans**

*Timing: Friday, 2 March, 10 a.m.–noon*

14. At the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee, member States committed to establishing ESD plans in every school by 2015. In view of that commitment, at the seventh meeting the Steering Committee will hold a panel discussion on the theme, “Education for Sustainable Development school plans — An implementation tool for putting policy into practise”. The keynote speakers will present relevant good practice examples and a panel will address how ESD school plans can be a tool to advance the implementation of the Strategy for ESD.

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

*Timing: Friday, 2 March, noon–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. The goal is to promote coordination and synergies, including with relevant international sustainable development processes.

## **9. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for 2012/13**

*Timing: Friday, 2 March, 3–3.20 p.m.*

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

17. 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 2012.

## **10. Calendar of meetings**

*Timing: Friday, 2 March, 3.20–3.30 p.m.*

18. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the scheduling of its next meeting. It is proposed that the Committee hold its eighth session as a two-day meeting in April 2013.

## **11. Other business**

*Timing: Friday, 2 March, 3.30–3.40 p.m.*

19. 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, 2 March, 3.40–4 p.m.*

20. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will make officially close the seventh meeting.

## Annex

### **Proposed topics for reporting on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development under agenda item 2**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The reporting of countries on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy offers a valuable opportunity to learn from each other. In order to fully take advantage of this opportunity, member States are invited to share information on topics which appear to be particularly relevant. To this end, the following questions were identified:

(a) How are the recommendations of the Expert Group on Competences implemented at the national level and adapted to national contexts?

(b) How is cooperation between governmental departments in the field of ESD promoted?

(c) Are there any ESD activities carried out or planned to respond to the demands of a green economy, especially as regards technical and vocation education and training?

(d) Has the economic downturn impacted ESD activities in your country?

2. At the sixth Steering Committee meeting, member States adopted the proposal of the Chair to change the format of progress reporting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/2, para. 17). In accordance with this decision, countries are kindly asked to submit their interventions in writing to the secretariat previous to the Steering Committee meeting.

3. The secretariat will review all submitted interventions and prepare a presentation, which will identify major themes and interesting developments with regard to ESD, as well as challenging areas. Given the limited time available, only one good practice per subregion will be included.

4. The presentation, which will be approximately a half an hour in length, will be followed by an interactive question-and-answer session. Moreover, countries will be invited to complement the presentation by the secretariat by providing additional information on outstanding good practices, which appear to be particularly helpful and useful. The interventions provided to the secretariat will be uploaded onto the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website.

5. In order to allow for the timely compilation of the presentation, countries are kindly asked to submit their intervention to the Strategy secretariat ([simone.hofner@unece.org](mailto:simone.hofner@unece.org)) by no later than **27 January 2012**.