

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER: ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Joint session of Environment and Education Ministers

Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" Belgrade 10-12 October 2007

10 October 2007 - from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

GUIDANCE ON INTERVENTIONS

The present *Guidance* is based on the respective decisions taken by the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and by its Bureau

At its 4th meeting the Bureau discussed and approved the organization of work for the session on ESD. The Bureau stressed the limited time available for interventions from the floor and agreed that to ensure a constructive discussion and give more delegations the opportunity to speak, the following should be implemented:

- The secretariat will provide delegations with guidance on the format and content coverage of the interventions prior to the Conference.
- The secretariat will open a list of speakers prior to the Conference (it will be opened as of 3 September 2007).
- To have a practical discussion, the debates will be divided into two parts addressing (a) challenges and (b) the way forward, Delegations are requested to provide a written outline of their intervention(s) indicating whether an intervention refers to topic (a) or topic (b) , and which point(s) for discussion they wish to address (see below points for discussion).
- The secretariat will make the texts of interventions available through its website.
- Each delegation will be allowed to take the floor only once.
- The Chairperson will enforce a time limit of three minutes per intervention
- To make effective use of the time available, subregions might wish to make a consolidated statement on behalf of all their member States.

ORGANISATION OF WORK

The session will start with a welcome address of up to five minutes by the Minister of Education of Serbia, who would then give the floor to the Chairperson (Greece) for an introductory speech (up to 5 minutes). The Governments of Canada (preliminarily) and Kazakhstan have agreed to provide keynote speakers at the ministerial level representing the education and environment sectors, respectively. The Director-General of UNESCO will be invited as a third keynote speaker. Up to 5 minutes should be allocated per keynote

address. The Netherlands will present key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (up to 10 minutes).

Delegates are invited to engage in interactive discussions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention). **Ministers will receive a priority in delivering interventions. The interventions should not be made in the form of the report on the activities carried out by a country concerned, but rather be focused on the (a) challenges and/or (b) the way forward, with a focus on the implementation of the Strategy in phases II and III in terms of reaching the six objectives of the Strategy:**

- support of ESD by policy, regulatory and operational frameworks (including cooperation between the environment and education sectors and other relevant sectors);
- promotion of sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- building the competence of educators;
- ensuring the accessibility of tools and materials for ESD;
- promotion of research on and development of ESD;
- cooperation for the Strategy's implementation (partnerships; regional and sub-regional; links with relevant initiatives in other regions and with global processes; needs of countries with economies in transition).

Ministers might wish to decide on the strategic direction for the continuation of the process after the Conference and adopt a statement on ESD (10 minutes)

The Chairperson will summarize the discussion and present it in the form of a Chairperson's summary (5 minutes). The summary would focus on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made in implementation. The summary would also highlight ways to improve the effectiveness of ESD implementation in the UNECE region and globally.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Welcome address by the Minister of Education of Serbia	5 min
Introduction by the Chairperson	5 min
Keynote address by an Education Minister (Canada)	5 min
Keynote address by an Environment Minister (Kazakhstan)	5 min
Keynote address by UNESCO	5 min
Presentation of the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD by the Netherlands	10 min
Interventions from the floor (3 min per intervention)	1h10min
Introduction by the Chairperson and adoption of the Joint Statement	10 min

Concluding remarks by the Chairperson	5 min
Total	2 h

PRE-MEETING DOCUMENTS

Document for adoption

- Joint statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/14)

Background documents

- Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward - Report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development with the addendum on Conclusions on the reporting process and on the use of indicators (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2007/2-ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3 and Add.1)
- Pilot national reports on the implementation of the Strategy submitted by the UNECE member States <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/Implement.Gov.htm> (hard copies will be made available at the Conference)

Other materials

- Compilation of Good Practices in ESD <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/GoodPractices/index.html> (hard copy and CD will be made available at the Conference)
- Compilation of country-specific needs in implementation of ESD (hard copy will be made available at the Conference)

POST-MEETING DOCUMENTS

- Chairperson Summary on particular obstacles encountered, major breakthroughs made in implementation and ways to improve the effectiveness of ESD implementation in the UNECE region and globally
- Report on the Joint session, as an integral part of the report of the Belgrade Conference

Note: Information on the Belgrade Conference can be found on the following web-site:

<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/welcome.html>

For general questions concerning the Belgrade Conference, contact efe@unece.org

For questions related to the joint session on ESD, contact esd@unece.org
