

**Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**  
(8–10 June 2016, Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel)

*High-level meeting of Education and Environment Ministries*

*Wednesday, 8 June 2016, 4.30–6 p.m.*  
*Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel*

**Agenda item 3. Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development**

**INTERVENTION OF UNEP**

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

UNEP would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Government of Georgia for hosting the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and we very much welcome the organization of this High-level meeting of Ministers responsible for education and the environment from the countries of the UNECE region.

UNEP is pleased to be involved and contributed to the work of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development. UNEP is extensively involved in environmental education and training, and significantly contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). We are also working with a growing number of educational institutions, particularly universities, to harnessing the latest environmental science and knowledge and bringing it to bear on the work of partners.

Through education, training and networking, UNEP continues to advance the sustainability agenda. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the inclusion of education for sustainable development in SDGs 4 (education and lifelong learning), and also the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP) since November 2014, we have a number of opportunities to work together on education for sustainable development and help others to acquire the knowledge, skills, values to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference. SDG4 is meant to benefit all other goals.

Considering the item before us, UNEP has been actively involved in the development of the new framework for the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2016–2030) and you can count on our full support in the implementation of the strategy.

We are also pleased to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), adopted a resolution on environmental education and training entitled “Investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training. We are very grateful to the Governments of Georgia and Mongolia who tabled the resolutions in partnerships with other countries, and its subsequent adoption by the Assembly.

The objective of the resolution is to promote greater awareness and capacity amongst policy makers, future leaders and the public in addressing priority environment and sustainability issues. This resolution further opens the door for our partnership work in the ECE region and to further strengthening and scaling-up education for sustainable development, and in particular in advancing the Implementation framework for the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2016–2030).

Once again, thank you for giving UNEP the opportunity to speak at this High-level meeting of Ministers responsible for education and the environment, and you can count on UNEP's full support and engagement to the implementation of the Strategy (2016–2030) in the UNECE region.