

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Third meeting

Geneva, 31 March–1 April 2008

Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

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27 March 2008

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INDICATORS FOR ESD AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCES IN ESD

Option 1

Proposal for the extension of the mandate of the UNECE Expert Group on Indicators for ESD

1. Pursuant to (a) the substantive results achieved by the Expert Group, (b) the feedback received from countries on the workability and feasibility of the indicators and requested information for reporting, and (c) the outcomes of the high-level session on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) organized at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), the Steering Committee decides to extend the mandate of the Expert Group on Indicators for ESD until the end of 2009, to implement the following tasks:

(a) Prepare a set of descriptors containing explanatory notes to each indicator, which will serve as a supporting tool to enhance effective reporting by Governments;

(b) Prepare a set of policy recommendations/guidance on competence in ESD in the education sector;

(c) Other tasks agreed by the Steering Committee.

2. The composition of the Expert Group might change in order to include necessary expertise, in particular related to the competence in ESD.

3. The organization of work will depend on the availability of funds for a given activity. The working arrangements will be agreed among the members of the Expert Group.

4. The outcome of the Group’s work will be reported to the Steering Committee at the Steering Committee’s future meetings.

Option 2

I. Proposal for the extension of the mandate of the UNECE Expert Group on Indicators for ESD

1. Pursuant to (a) the substantive results achieved by the Expert Group, (b) the feedback received from countries on the workability and feasibility of the indicators and requested information for reporting, and (c) the outcomes of the high-level session on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) organized at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), the Steering Committee decides to extend the mandate of the Expert Group on Indicators for ESD until the end of 2008, to implement the following task:
 - To prepare a set of descriptors containing explanatory notes to each indicator, which will serve as a support tool to enhance effective reporting by Governments.
2. The organization of work will depend on the availability of funds for this activity. The working arrangements will be agreed among the members of the Expert Group.
3. The outcome of the Group’s work will be reported to the Steering Committee at the Steering Committee’s future meetings.

II. Proposal for the establishment of an UNECE Expert Group on Competences in ESD

1. Pursuant to the outcomes of the high-level session on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) organized at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), the Steering Committee decides to establish an Expert group on Competences in ESD with the following mandate:
 - (a) Prepare a set of policy recommendations/guidance on competence in ESD in the education sector.
 - (b) Other tasks agreed by the Steering Committee.
2. The organization of work will depend on the availability of a lead country and funds for this activity. The working arrangements will be agreed among the members of the Expert Group. UNECE will provide secretariat support to the Expert Group in accordance with UNECE rules and practices.
3. The outcome of the Expert Group’s work will be reported to the Steering Committee at the Steering Committee’s future meetings.
4. The Expert Group will be composed of members with an extensive experience related to: (a) national and international ESD policies; (b) competences in teaching environmental education and in ESD; and (c) the management of institutions that are implementing the “whole-institution approach”. Its composition should ensure a balanced geographical representation of the UNECE member States.
5. The members of the Expert Group will be designated by Governments; international organizations, in particular UNESCO; and non-governmental organizations. Candidatures should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat by 2 June 2008.