



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

First meeting

Geneva, 13-14 December 2005

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations, from Tuesday, 13 December at 15.00 h until Wednesday, 14 December* at 18.00 h

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form, which is also available from the web site of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 10 November 2005 either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (esd@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. All the documents for the meeting may be accessed and downloaded from the same website. Delegates are encouraged to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room PN C 337, 3d floor, Palais des Nations, Geneva).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Pursuant to a decision taken at the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Kiev, May 2003), the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), at its tenth session (20-22 October 2003), established a task force on education for sustainable development (ESD) to draft a strategy. The Task Force, led jointly by Sweden and the Russian Federation, included representatives from both the environment and education sectors, as well as UNESCO, NGOs and other stakeholders. The strategy was developed through a participatory process and is meant to serve as a flexible framework. It takes into account comments provided by UNECE member States and different stakeholders, and is based on a general consensus. Its implementation can be adapted to each country’s priorities, specific needs and circumstances.

As decided by the CEP at its eleventh session (13-15 October 2004), a high-level meeting of environment and education ministries took place in Vilnius on 17 and 18 March 2005. The Meeting adopted the Strategy and the framework for its implementation. It also established a steering committee of representatives of the environment and education sectors with a view to ensuring equal opportunities for representation and input from both sectors. Key stakeholders were invited to participate as observers. The Steering Committee is the principal decision-making body for the activities related to the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region and is responsible for giving guidance and strategic directions to the implementation of the Strategy. It also reviews the progress of its implementation.

Tuesday, 13 December

Item 1 (15.00-15.05 h): Opening of the meeting and introduction by the Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of UNECE

Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of UNECE, will deliver an introductory speech.

Item 2 (15.05-15.20 h): Election of officers

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee adopted by the High-Level Meeting, at each ordinary meeting, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson 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. In accordance with this mandate, the Steering Committee may wish to elect a chair and a vice-chair.

The Steering Committee may also elect its Bureau, that would 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. These would include the Chair and vice-chair of the Committee, who will serve in their respective capacities in the Bureau. Key stakeholders might be invited to

participate in the Bureau as observers. The Bureau would be responsible for preparing the meetings and following-up on the decisions of the Steering Committee. It would hold meetings as often as necessary, subject to the availability of funds.

Item 3 (15.20-15.25 h): Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt its agenda, as set out in the present document.

Item 4 (15.25-18.00 h): Draft Work Plan 2005-2007: follow up to the Vilnius Framework for implementation

The Committee will be invited to discuss and adopt a draft Work Plan for 2005-2007 (CEP/AC.13/2005/8) prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the decisions of the High-level meeting. While considering the draft Work Plan, the Committee is invited to focus its discussion on the following elements:

(a) Coordination at national/state and international levels (15.25- 15.45 h)

Member States will be invited to report to the Committee on the progress made so far in their respective countries with regard to the following issues: designating national focal points, developing national¹ implementation plans, establishing a consultative mechanism and translating the Strategy into official and other relevant languages. Prior to the meeting, the secretariat will send a request regarding the above issues and will prepare an information note on the basis of the responses received. Regarding national focal points, the secretariat will prepare a list of persons to which, for the time being, all relevant information relating to ESD will be transmitted. A copy of this list will be distributed for verification and updating by participants. Member States and concerned organizations are invited to transmit, if they have not yet done so, the names of their respective focal points to the secretariat as soon as possible.

(b) Capacity building and sharing of experience (15.45-18.00 h)

The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss activities that are aimed at strengthening capacity and sharing experiences. These may include, subregional thematic workshops, compilation of national good practices, case studies and use of electronic tools.

Wednesday, 14 December

Item 4 (continued) (10.00-16.00 h)

(c) Review of implementation: indicators and reporting (10.00-13.00 h)²

The Committee will be informed by the Chair of the Expert Group about the progress made in developing indicators and will be given the opportunity to provide its comments on a background paper on the topic. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss also a proposal on a reporting mechanism that would facilitate the review of the implementation of the Strategy.

(d) Financial arrangements (15.00-16.00 h)

The High-level Meeting agreed that a sound financial basis is needed for an effective implementation of the Strategy. It will rely mainly on voluntary contributions from member

¹ For countries with federal structure, national plans will be based on the subnational/state inputs

² From 13.00 to 15.00 there will be a lunch break.

States, international organizations and international financial institutions. A number of member States already pledged financial and in-kind support. Delegations who have not yet expressed how they intend to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy, and wish to do so, are invited to inform the Steering Committee of their respective plans.

Item 5 (16.00-16.45 h): Input for the sixth “Environment for Europe” Conference (Belgrade, September-October 2007)

The secretariat will inform delegates about relevant outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group of Seniors Officials (12-13 October 2005). Following the recommendation by the High-level Meeting and taking into consideration proposals put forward by the Working Group, the Committee will be invited to provide its view on the format (e.g. round table, panel discussion or plenary session) and theme (“first check” of implementation: obstacles, challenges and achievements) of a possible input on ESD for the Belgrade Conference.

Item 6 (16.45-17.35 h): Interlinkages and possible mutual benefits of the UNECE process and other ESD processes

Delegations may wish to inform the Steering Committee of activities of relevance to the draft Work Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, that are at present carried out or planned at national and international levels, with a view to promoting co-ordination and synergies. In this context, delegations are invited to talk about relevant activities carried out under the umbrellas of UNESCO; the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; the European Union (e.g. Bologna process, environmental action programmes and framework programmes for research and development), and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (contribution to the United Nations Decade for ESD as well as review of ESD as a cross-cutting issue in each implementation cycle).

Item 7 (17.35-17.45 h): Calendar of meetings

Delegations will be invited to consider a proposal for a tentative calendar of meetings of the Steering Committee and its Bureau. They will be also informed about the schedule of meetings of the Expert Group on indicators.

Item 8 (17.45-17.50 h): Other business

Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9 (17.50-18.00 h): Concluding remarks by the Chair and closure

The Chair will summarize the decisions of the Steering Committee and key issues raised during the discussions before closing the meeting.

Please send this form by 10 November 2005 by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or e-mail (esd@unece.org)



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Conference Registration

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Title of the Conference

Date

FIRST MEETING OF THE UNECE STEERING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
From 13 December at 15.00 h until 14 December 2005 at 18.00 h

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