



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/AC.13/2010/1
24 December 2009

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 18–19 March 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from Thursday, 18 March 2010 at 10 a.m. to Friday, 19 March 2010 at 1 p.m.*.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Progress made by member States with implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and interlinkages between education for sustainable development processes and activities.
3. Good practices in applying education for sustainable development to address sustainable consumption, production and transportation in the context of climate change.

* Delegates wishing to attend the meeting are requested to complete the registration form which is available from the Convention's website (www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting either by fax (+41 22 917 0634) or by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office in Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682/2722.

4. Report on progress made by the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development.
5. Preparations for the first mandatory reporting cycle under the Strategy.
6. Development of the work programme for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation.
7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation.
8. Calendar of meetings.
9. Other business.
10. Closure of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. With the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17–18 March 2005) established a UNECE Steering Committee on ESD as a governing body to decide on the Strategy's implementation and to oversee and review its progress in the UNECE region.
2. At the joint high-level session on ESD at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), ministers of education and of the environment adopted a Joint Statement on ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1) expressing their commitment to the Strategy's further implementation in phases I and II and beyond 2015.
3. At its previous four meetings¹, the Steering Committee, among other things: (a) adopted workplans for phases I and II² as well as an innovative indicator-based reporting mechanism; (b) carried out the first pilot reporting; (c) organized a high-level segment on ESD at the Sixth "Environment for Europe" Conference; and (d) established an Expert Group to develop a set of recommendations for decision makers and a range of competences for educators.
4. The Steering Committee's fifth meeting is expected to focus on the two priorities identified for the current phase II, the development of (a) national strategies/action plans for ESD and (b) ESD competences in the education sector. It is also expected to discuss preparations for the first mandatory reporting cycle under the Strategy and to consider initiating the workplan for phase III (2011–2015).

Thursday, 18 March 2010

¹ 13–14 December 2005, 4–5 December 2006, 31 March–1 April 2008 and 19–20 February 2009.

² Implementation of the Strategy is a continuous approach; however, to facilitate assessment of its progress, the process is divided into phase I (2005–2007), phase II (2008–2010) and phase III (2011–2015).

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

(10 – 10.10 a.m.)

5. The Chairperson 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.13/2010/1).

Item 2. Progress made by member States with implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and interlinkages between education for sustainable development processes and activities

(10.10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

6. The Steering Committee will be invited to hear reports from Governments on their activities relating to the Strategy's implementation since the Committee's last meeting, focusing in particular on:

(a) Coordination at the international and national/State levels (i.e. coordination of activities among ESD stakeholders, establishing consultative mechanisms and developing national³ strategies and action plans for ESD);

(b) Developing tools and mechanisms at the national, subnational and local levels, with a view to strengthening initial measures and developing competences in ESD, improving ESD teaching tools and materials and their content, and developing a more integrated conceptualization of ESD to move from environmental education to ESD; as well as to raise awareness and build capacity at all levels with respect to ESD.

7. Given the limited time available, each of the countries will have up to three minutes for interventions from the floor. To have a better overview of progress achieved, particularly in connection with the development of national action plans, a simplified questionnaire in a form of a table will be distributed to the countries in advance of the meeting. A compilation table based on the responses received will be made available in time for the meeting.

8. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider ways to advance the development of national action plans.

9. 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.

³ For countries with a federal structure, national plans will be based on subnational/State inputs.

Item 3. Report on progress made by the Expert Group on Competences in Education for Sustainable Development

(3 – 4 p.m.)

10. The Chairperson of the Expert Group on Competences in ESD will be invited to report on the progress made by the Expert Group in its two first meetings (Lund, Sweden, 30 September–2 October 2009 and Leiden, the Netherlands, 13–15 January 2010). The meeting will be invited to consider the Expert Group's report and to comment on its work. The report of the Expert Group's first meeting is contained in document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2010/3.

Item 4. Good practices in applying education for sustainable development

(4 – 5 p.m.)

11. The secretariat will be invited to report on the collection of good practices in applying ESD to address sustainable consumption, production and transportation in the context of climate change. This collection was initiated by the Steering Committee at its last meeting. A regional overview based on the good practices provided by the countries as well as selected case-studies were prepared as background documentation for the Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 1–2 December 2009; ECE/AC.25/2009/4 and ECE/AC.25/2009/5).

12. The Committee will be invited to consider a possibility of holding a side-event on ESD at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 3–14 May 2010). A short proposal for the side-event will be distributed in a form of an informal document in advance of the Steering Committee meeting.

13. At its recent meeting (Geneva, 20–23 October 2009), the Committee on Environmental Policy agreed that the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, autumn 2011) would address two main themes: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. The Steering Committee may wish to consider the best ways to provide inputs to and highlight the role of ESD in the Conference's thematic areas. The Steering Committee may wish to consider whether a thematic approach to collecting good practices in ESD should be continued in 2010, in particular in connection with one or both themes of the next "Environment for Europe" Conference. When considering the matter, the Steering Committee will be invited to take into account the outcomes of the Committee on Environmental Policy's Extended Bureau (16–17 March 2010), which is expected to agree on the outline for the Conference agenda.

Item 5. Preparations for the first mandatory reporting cycle under the Strategy

(5 – 6 p.m.)

14. Countries will be invited to report on national processes of preparing implementation reports under Strategy in the context of the mandatory reporting for phase II. The reporting format and the Guidance on Reporting are available in documents ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/10 and ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/5, respectively. The secretariat will distribute, in advance of the meeting,

a specific timeline for the reporting in this cycle, based on the general timeline proposed in the Guidance.

15. The Committee will be invited to consider progress made with preparations for the reporting exercise and to make recommendations, where necessary.

Friday, 19 March 2010

Item 6. Development of the work programme for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation

(10 – 11 a.m.)

16. Phase III, (2011–2015) will require a roadmap of the activities to be undertaken to further ESD implementation at the national and international levels. The Steering Committee will be invited to start developing a workplan for phase III and to agree on the mandate of the Bureau and the secretariat in terms of preparing the draft workplan. The goal is to adopt the workplan at the Steering Committee's sixth meeting.

Item 7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation

(11 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

17. The secretariat will inform the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee's last meeting, the status of the ESD trust fund in connection with implementation of phase II and the estimated minimum costs for implementation of phase III.

18. Because regional ESD activities under the Strategy are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, the planning and implementation of activities in phase III will have to rely on clear advance indication of pledges from States. Each delegation will be invited to indicate its planned contributions for phase III, specifying in particular:

- (a) Pledges for contributions to be made in 2010;
- (b) Overall estimated contributions for phase III (2011–2015).

19. One of the ways to provide for greater sustainability of the ESD programme is through the engagement of a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) for a period of up to four years. The United Nations JPO programme provides young professionals pursuing a career in development with hands-on experience in multilateral technical cooperation. JPOs are sponsored by their respective Governments. For the donor Government, the programme represents a form of developmental or technical assistance from the United Nations system, as it provides an opportunity for on-the-job training for their nationals. Engagement of a JPO for the ESD programme would allow for funds to be freed up for capacity-building and technical assistance programmes. Countries will be encouraged to explore the possibility of seconding a JPO to the ESD programme.

Item 8. Calendar of meetings

(12 – 12.30 p.m.)

20. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the scheduling of its next meeting and those of its Bureau. It is proposed that the Committee hold its sixth session as a two-day meeting at the end of February 2011.

Item 9. Other business

(12.30 – 12.45 p.m.)

21. 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.

Item 10. Closure of the meeting

(12.45 – 1 p.m.)

22. The Chairperson will make concluding remarks and close the meeting
