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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Fifteenth meeting

Geneva, 19-20 October 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Revised Annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 19 October 2020*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Summary outcomes of the progress report on the fourth phase of implementation;
 - (b) Update on the mission and methods of work of the Steering Committee and the role of national focal points in the context of current developments and the new priorities for the future;
 - (c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities.
4. Status of the trust fund, resource requirements and fundraising efforts.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the online registration form available at: <https://indico.un.org/event/31150/> no later than one week before the meeting. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.



5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021:
 - (a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;
 - (b) Host country preparations;
 - (c) Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries;
 - (d) Resource requirements.
6. Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning:
 - (a) Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework;
 - (b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework.
7. Outcomes of the first three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the draft format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).
8. Outcomes of the first meeting and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Youth.
9. Education for sustainable development and youth: initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development.
10. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
11. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums.
12. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
13. Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region.
14. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development.
15. Calendar of meetings.
16. Other business.
17. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development is expected to adopt the agenda for its fifteenth meeting as set out in the present document. The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee in consultation with the Bureau.¹

¹ The revised annotated provisional agenda and other documents for the meeting, including informal papers, will be made available on the meeting web page: www.unece.org/index.php?id=53412.

Documentation

Revised Annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/1/Rev.1).

2. Election of officers

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 10.10–10.20 a.m.

2. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Steering Committee adopted by the Second High-Level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Batumi, Georgia, 8 June 2016), for the upcoming fifth implementation phase, a chair, vice-chair and the Bureau will be elected from among the representatives of the ECE member States present at the meeting. Officers should represent different sectors (for example, environment and education). They shall serve as the officers of the Steering Committee until their successors have been elected (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/11, annex II, para. 5). The officers are eligible for re-election.

3. In accordance with the above, the Committee will be invited to elect a chair and other members of the Bureau. A call for the member States to express their interest in submitting candidatures for the Bureau will be issued by the secretariat. A preliminary list of proposed candidates will be circulated by email prior to the meeting (information paper No. 1).

Documentation

Note by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Steering Committee “The Bureau of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development” (information paper No. 1).

3. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**(a) Summary outcomes of the progress report on the fourth phase of implementation**

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 10.20–11.20 a.m.

4. The Steering Committee will be informed about the summary outcomes of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle, which was carried out at the end of the fourth phase of implementation (2017–2019) of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 2).

5. The Committee will be invited to consider both the progress made and the remaining challenges as presented in the national implementation reports, and in particular to discuss the implications of the findings from the fourth reporting round for the implementation of activities beyond the fourth phase of implementation.

6. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat’s presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the fourteenth Steering Committee meeting (Geneva, 2 and 3 May 2019).

Documentation

Fourth evaluation report on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development during 2017–2019 (information paper No. 2).

(b) Update on the mission and methods of work of the Steering Committee and the role of national focal points in the context of current developments and the new priorities for the future

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 11.20–11.40 a.m.

7. The secretariat will make a brief presentation on the Steering Committee's methods of work and the role of national focal points with the aim of briefing new members on the work accomplished by the Steering Committee to date, and also as an introduction to a possible discussion about the mission and the new priorities of the Steering Committee that have emerged in the current context of post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic development.

(c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 11.40–11.50 a.m.

8. The secretariat will update participants on the status of a Swiss-funded capacity-building workshop in Azerbaijan, and on the promotion of education for sustainable development at the national level.

4. Status of the trust fund, resource requirements and fundraising efforts

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 11.50 a.m.–12.05 p.m.

9. The secretariat will report to the Steering Committee on contributions received since the Committee's last meeting, on the basis of an informal note (information paper No. 3) to be submitted for the Committee's consideration at the meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development is very difficult, and the regional activities are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, advance indications of pledges by States are vital.

10. The Chair of the Steering Committee will invite the members of the Committee and national focal points to consider the funding situation regarding the Strategy's activities over the past few years, with a view to examining alternative ways of addressing the matter, such as participation in external projects with European Union partners and/or other relevant international development agencies and in-kind contributions to various programme activities.

11. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the focus of capacity-building activities for the next decade and to identify priority areas of capacity-building activities arising from the newly drafted concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework. In that regard, countries will be invited to express their interest in organizing and hosting capacity-building workshops or other relevant activities.

12. During the discussion, the Steering Committee will be expected to look for ways to mobilize additional funds for capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, with a reference, among other things, to the example of Switzerland, which, over the past few years, has provided funds for organizing capacity-building workshops in interested member States aimed at integrating education for sustainable development into technical and vocational education and training.

Documentation

Contributions, incurred expenses and estimated resource requirements (information paper No. 3)

5. Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021

(a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 12.05–12.30 p.m.

13. At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy: expressed its gratitude to the Government of Cyprus for offering to host the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries; welcomed the information provided by the delegation of Cyprus regarding the offer; and decided to organize the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Nicosia, from 3 to 5 November 2021. The Committee on Environmental Policy expressed appreciation for the progress in the work of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and encouraged members of the Committee on Environmental Policy to cooperate with the Steering Committee, especially in view of the preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2019/15, paras. 27 and 47 (e)).

14. At the same session, the Committee on Environmental Policy considered the main organizational issues and the proposed framework for preparing the Nicosia Ministerial Conference, with a view to advancing the preparatory process. It invited Cyprus to actively participate in the future meetings of the Bureau of the Committee in order to keep the Committee and the Bureau informed of progress regarding all necessary preparations (ECE/CEP/2019/15, paras. 22–27).

15. However, as the dates of several major meetings and conferences have been rescheduled due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the currently agreed dates for the Nicosia Conference now overlap with the new dates for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1–12 November 2021). Therefore, the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy at its virtual meeting (4 June 2020) agreed to recommend that the Committee at its twenty-sixth annual session (9–11 November 2020, Geneva) consider rescheduling the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to 2022 (preferably late spring – beginning of summer 2022).

16. The Steering Committee will be informed of the relevant existing and expected decisions of the Committee on Environmental Policy, including regarding organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, the proposed framework for preparing the Conference, and the requirements for hosting that event (information paper No. 4).

Documentation

Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (information paper No. 4)

(b) Host country preparations

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 12.30–12.45 p.m.

17. The Steering Committee will be informed about the host country preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

(c) **Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries**

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 12.45–1 p.m.

18. The Steering Committee will be informed about the official documents to be prepared for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

19. The secretariat will present a draft outline of the Ministerial Statement to be adopted at the High-level Meeting based on the statement adopted at the previous High-level Meeting (information paper No. 5).

Documentation

Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, including draft outline of the Ministerial Statement (information paper No. 5).

(d) **Resource requirements**

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 3–3.15 p.m.

20. The Steering Committee will be informed about the resource requirements for the organization of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (information paper No. 6).

Documentation

Resource requirements for the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (information paper No. 6).

6. Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning

(a) **Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework**

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 3.15–4.15 p.m.

21. The secretariat will update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning, held on 27 and 28 September 2019 in Nicosia, as well as the outcomes of the online meetings held on 30 April and 10 July 2020.

22. The Chair of the Steering Committee will briefly present the revised draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework, elaborated by the members of the Ad Hoc Group (information paper No. 7).

23. The Chair will invite the members of the Ad Hoc Group to present the preamble and concept notes for each of the four thematic areas outlined in the draft document, as follows: (a) whole institution approach; (b) quality education; (c) digital education and information communication technologies; and (d) entrepreneurship, employment and innovation.

24. The members will be invited to provide comments on the proposed draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework, including the preamble and concept notes for each of the four thematic areas. The secretariat will be mandated to collect all comments and send them to the Ad Hoc Group for elaboration of the revised draft of the concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework. The new revised document will be circulated to the Steering Committee for final approval within the agreed deadlines, with a view to submitting the final version of the document to the next meeting of the Committee, to be held in May 2021.

Documentation

Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (information paper No. 7).

(b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 4.15–4.40 p.m.

25. The Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft workplan for implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development after 2019 (information paper No. 8). The draft workplan aims to establish a road map of activities to be undertaken during the post-2019 implementation phase to further the implementation of the Strategy at the national and international levels, in accordance with the mandate articulated by education and environment ministries at the Second High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries and taking into consideration the timelines of the post-Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (2015–2019) implementation plan.

26. The outline was prepared by the secretariat based on the draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework, in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning and the Bureau.

27. The Steering Committee will be invited to provide comments on the proposed draft document.

28. The secretariat will be mandated to incorporate the comments provided into the proposed outline of the draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation period and to elaborate the final document for its official submission at the next meeting of the Committee, to be held in May 2021.

Documentation

Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 8).

7. Outcomes of the first three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the draft format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 4.40–5.30 p.m.

29. The secretariat will briefly update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the three meetings of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators, held respectively in: Utrecht, Netherlands, from 23 to 25 October 2019; Podgorica, on 16 and 17 December 2019; and Brussels, from 12 to 14 February 2020.

30. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft format for reporting on the implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030. The chair of the Ad Hoc Group will clarify how comments received on the proposed new indicators were processed, and which changes to the existing indicators that were included in the updated reporting format were made.

31. The Committee members will be also invited to consider the proposed reporting timeline² for the fifth cycle of reporting to be carried out at the end of the next implementation phase.

32. The secretariat will be mandated to introduce any changes proposed during the meeting into the draft format for reporting, and to circulate the revised version to the Committee members for their further consideration and final comments to be provided to the secretariat before mid-August 2020. The secretariat will then create the final consolidated version of the draft format for reporting.

² To be outlined depending on the inputs from the Committee members and partners

33. The final draft of the format for reporting will have to be considered at the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators, to be convened in early September 2020 in the Netherlands (exact dates, location and mode of the meeting to be confirmed). The fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group will be devoted to incorporating all comments into the final document and to finalizing it as a definitive and final framework for monitoring and evaluation in the form of the format for reporting on the implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030.

34. In addition, countries may wish to put forward ideas about the outline of the evaluation report that will be prepared on the basis of the national implementation reports.

Documentation

Draft format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030.

8. Outcomes of the first meeting and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Youth

Timing: Monday, 19 October, 5.30–6 p.m.

35. The Steering Committee will be briefly updated on the outcomes of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Youth “Education for Sustainable Development and Youth” (Vienna, 16–18 February 2020); and the results of work undertaken by the Group.

9. Education for sustainable development and youth: initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 10–11 a.m.

36. The Steering Committee will be updated on the activities of youth focused on promoting education for sustainable development in the region.

37. The member States and youth delegates will be invited to inform the Steering Committee about youth initiatives and actions integrated into their national context.

38. Youth delegates will be invited to express their views and opinions on their role in the Steering Committee and what actions or initiatives can be proposed to be undertaken by the Committee for youth.

39. Youth delegates will be also invited to propose actions, activities or side events that can be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

10. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 11–11.20 a.m.

40. The Steering Committee will be updated on recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums. It will be informed about the developments in the processes aimed at implementing education for sustainable development at the global level led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The representative of UNESCO will update the Committee on the following:

(a) The conclusion and results of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (2015–2019), including highlights of a 2019 education for sustainable development report to the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly and

the resulting General Assembly resolution 74/223 on education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/74/223);

(b) An update on the postponement of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Berlin from 2 to 4 June 2020 to 17 to 19 May 2021 and highlights of a road map for implementing education for sustainable development for 2030, including on plans for indicator 4.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and education for sustainable development for 2030 reporting.

41. The Steering Committee will also be updated on the recent activities organized in the framework of: the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (Second Meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and Regional Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development (Heraklion, Greece, 24–26 June 2019)); an education for sustainable development-related event held at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Madrid, 2–13 December 2019); and Global Education Network Europe.

42. The Steering Committee will be also updated on current developments in the area of education for sustainable development implemented under the aegis of the European Union, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health and others.

43. The member States will be invited to inform the committee about any other activities to promote education for sustainable development in other regional and international forums.

11. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 11.20–11.30 p.m.

44. The Steering Committee will be invited to identify upcoming regional and international forums, in which its members can participate and discuss ways of promoting the Committee's work.

12. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 11.30–11.40 a.m.

45. 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.

13. Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 11.40 a.m.–12.15 p.m.

46. The Chair will inform the members of the Steering Committee about the two publications to be published in 2021, i.e. the progress report on the implementation of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle of the Strategy and good practices on the engagement of youth in education for sustainable development in the ECE region. Drafts of the outlines for the two publications (information paper No. 9) will be presented, and countries will be invited to express their comments, as well as their interest in participating.

Documentation

Draft outlines of the two publications to be published in 2021 (information paper No. 9).

14. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 12.15–12.25 p.m.

47. The secretariat will invite members to report on their achievements in the area of mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development since the previous meetings, to be followed by a general discussion on the topic.

15. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 12.25–12.40 p.m.

48. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and timing of the sixteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2021, as well as of the next meetings of the working groups of experts (ad hoc groups), to be agreed on by the meeting.

16. Other business

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 12.40–12.50 p.m.

49. 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.

17. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 12.50–1 p.m.

50. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the fifteenth meeting.
