



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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(Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE STRATEGY FOR
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Note by the secretariat

1. The Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development recognized that various projects in relation to education for sustainable development were taking place in the region and that these should be collected and used. At the same time, it agreed that there were still challenges to be met to implement education for sustainable development effectively, including strengthening cooperation among governments and stakeholders, improving education systems to address the interdisciplinary nature of education for sustainable development, improving and streamlining formal, non-formal and informal learning, and mobilizing adequate institutional and material provisions for education for sustainable development. The UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development is a useful tool for addressing those issues.
2. Furthermore, the Task Force noted that experiences and needs varied in different parts of the UNECE region. It is, therefore, important to further assess the needs in different subregions and strengthen subregional cooperation. This would make it possible to concentrate on those issues that are particularly important for a given subregion, thereby helping countries to attain the best practical results. The countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe emphasized their need for support to implement the strategy. Partnerships with these countries for the implementation of the strategy should be encouraged.
3. Once the strategy has been adopted at a joint high-level meeting of Environment Ministries and Education Ministries (or equivalent State bodies responsible for education), depending on the decision that the Committee on Environmental Policy will take at its eleventh session. Member States should begin to implement it starting from March 2005.

4. The UNECE secretariat will, resources permitting, facilitate implementation. Activities will be pursued in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Council of Europe, regional environmental centres, relevant NGOs and other organizations and institutions.

5. The strategy for education for sustainable development could also help to further the Environment Strategy for the EECCA countries.

6. The implementation of the strategy is a continuous, long-term process, with three major phases:

(a) Phase I (until 2007): countries will identify what they are already doing that fits within the remit of the strategy and also identify priorities for further action required to implement the strategy. This would include a review of current policies, legal and operational frameworks, financial mechanisms, and educational activities. It would also include the identification of obstacles and gaps. Remedial action should be considered to overcome weaknesses. Countries should approve national implementation plans as a framework and operational tool for implementation. Evaluation methods and indicators for the implementation of ESD, in particular qualitative ones, should be developed. The results should be presented to the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Belgrade in September-October 2007;

(b) Phase II (until 2010): the implementation of the strategy should be well under way. Countries should review progress made in the implementation of their national/State strategies and revise them, if necessary;

(c) Phase III (until 2015): countries should have made considerable progress in implementing education for sustainable development.

7. This paper was prepared on the basis of the considerations expressed by the Task Force. It suggests activities that aim at facilitating the start of the implementation during phase I and, in some cases, beyond. These activities are focused on: sharing experience and good practices; capacity-building; raising public awareness; and strengthening subregional cooperation. It is also suggested to develop a set of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation.

I. A JOINT HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

8. Early 2005, UNESCO plans to launch the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development worldwide. A joint high-level meeting of Environment Ministries and Education Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States could be convened in February 2005 to adopt the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development. It may also wish to discuss the framework and the ways and means of implementation of the strategy, including possible establishment of an informal advisory board. The meeting would last one day and funding would be provided to two persons (one from the education and one from the environment sector) per eligible country to attend. Delegates should present consolidated national positions.

II. SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

9. Subregional workshops would facilitate work on specific issues that are particularly important for a given subregion and strengthen subregional cooperation. These activities should be organized and coordinated with relevant events that take place within other processes, including those of the Council of Europe, the Bologna process, EU, Baltic 21, etc. Broad involvement of NGOs is essential.

10. Funds are required to cover the organizational expenses and the travel of eligible delegates from countries with economies in transition and NGOs to the respective subregional workshops.

III. COMPILATION OF NATIONAL GOOD PRACTICES

11. Governments will be invited to provide the secretariat with examples of their good practices in education for sustainable development. A compilation could be prepared (up to 120 pages) and published in electronic format (CD-Rom) and as hard copy. Funds are required to cover translation into English, French and Russian, and a consultancy fee for formatting and designing the publication. Printing would be at the expense of the United Nations. Costs might be reduced if countries provide input in three languages. Alternatively, this compilation could be in electronic format only and be posted on the UNECE web site.

IV. DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF A WEB-PORTAL

12. A web portal on education for sustainable development hosted by UNECE will be developed to facilitate the sharing of good practices, innovative approaches, experiences, projects and other information. Funds are required to cover extrabudgetary personnel to develop and support the web portal for a minimum of one year and for the information technology itself (software, hardware, search engine, translation tools, services). Donors should foresee the continuation of this task.

V. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION

13. To ensure efficient regional governance and communication, focal points for education for sustainable development are required in all UNECE member States and in relevant international organizations. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy would be the body to review progress in the strategy's implementation in accordance with its work programme. The Committee could organize a round table with representatives from Education Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States every third year, starting from 2006, to discuss progress on the strategy's implementation. Funding would be provided to one person per eligible country to participate in this round table. Delegates should present consolidated national positions.

14. The "Environment for Europe" process could be used as a platform for regional

cooperation on education for sustainable development and at their “Environment for Europe” Conferences Ministers may wish to discuss and assess progress in the strategy’s implementation.

The first meeting could be held as part of the Belgrade Conference or back to back with it. Funds required to assist delegates from the eligible countries to participate in this meeting should be considered within the preparatory framework for the Belgrade Conference.

15. Environmental performance reviews in both the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UNECE programmes may also include an assessment of the implementation of policies for education for sustainable development.

16. In October 2004, the Committee on Environmental Policy may establish a small group of experts to develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the strategy. Its members should have extensive experience in national and international environmental and education policies, in environmental education and in education for sustainable development. Its composition should ensure equitable geographical representation of the UNECE member States. Representatives of international organizations and major groups could be invited to join. The group would hold about four meetings in 2005-2006. Funds are required to cover travel costs of one person from up to five eligible countries and one NGO representative. Member States may wish to host meetings (for more information, see annex I).

VI. PROCESS MANAGEMENT

17. Continuity is essential for the success of the strategy. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, extrabudgetary resources are needed to cover the salary of a P3 post for 28 months to manage the process and provide substantive documentation. A budget is set out in the annex II.

Annex I

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS

Mandate

1. Pursuant to the endorsement of the draft strategy for education for sustainable development, the Committee on Environmental Policy, at its eleventh session (13-15 October 2005), will establish a small group of experts to develop indicators (in particular qualitative indicators) to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the strategy.
2. The UNECE secretariat will provide secretariat support to the group in accordance with UNECE rules and practices.

Purpose

3. The expert group will serve as an instrument for UNECE member States to develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the strategy. They will be presented for endorsement to the Committee on Environmental Policy and to representatives from Education Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States in 2006.

Reporting procedure

4. The expert group will report to the Committee on Environmental Policy on its work.

Duration

5. The expert group will function until October/November 2006, at which time the Committee may review its terms of reference and decide on its future.

Composition

6. Its members should have extensive experience in national and international environmental and education policies, in environmental education and in education for sustainable development. Its composition should ensure equitable geographical representation of the UNECE member States.
7. The members of the expert group will be designated by Governments. Representatives of international organizations, in particular UNESCO, and major groups could be invited to join. The candidatures should be submitted to the secretariat by April 2005.

Annex II

UNECE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TENTATIVE BUDGET
(in United States dollars)

Report on the use of funds:

I. CONTRIBUTIONS

A	Beginning balance as at 1 January 2003 (Sweden)	15 000
B.	Received in August 2003 (Sweden)	34 208
	Received in January 2004 (United Kingdom)	53 312
	Received in April 2004 (Italy)	24 674
	<u>Subtotal (B):</u>	<u>112 194</u>
C.	Received in December 2003 (Netherlands) – is obligated for salary of staff	59 980
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (A + B + C)	187 174

II. EXPENDITURES

A.	Travel of eligible delegates to two meetings of the Task Force and fourth meetings of the drafting group	37 528
B.	Staff travel to the relevant meetings	5 875
C.	1 P3 staff salary ^{a/} (part-time)	59 980
	<u>SubTotal (A+B+C):</u>	<u>103 383</u>
D.	Programme support costs: 13% of US\$ 103 383	<u>13 440</u>
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (A + B + C + D)	116 823

^{a/} Expenditures for staff are calculated from February 2004 to July 2005 (inclusive).

III. BALANCE (July 2004) **+ 70 351**

Estimated expenditures for August 2004 – November 2007:

I.	A joint high-level meeting ^{b/} , February 2005	60 000
II	Subregional workshops ^{c/}	150 000
III.	Compilation of national good practices ^{d/}	25 000
VI.	Web portal ^{e/}	180 000
V a.	Joint round table, Oct/Nov 2006 ^{f/}	30 000
V b.	Expert group on indicators ^{g/}	40 000
VI.	Process management ^{h/}	290 000
<u>SubTotal:</u>		<u>775 000</u>
	Programme support costs: 13% of US\$ 755 000	100 750
TOTAL		875 750
BALANCE (brought forward; as at July 2004)		+ 70 351
<u>TOTAL REQUIRED for 28 months</u> (TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES - BALANCE)		805 399

^{b/} Funding will be provided to two persons per eligible country for a one-day meeting.

^{c/} The total estimated funds should cover organizational expenses and travel of delegates from countries with economies in transition and NGOs to the respective sub regional workshops.

^{d/} The sum covers translation into English, French and Russian and consultancy fee for formatting and designing publication.

^{e/} Funds are required to cover personnel for one year and information technology.

^{f/} Funding will be provided to one person per eligible country to participate in the round table.

^{g/} Funding will be provided to one person from up to five eligible countries and one NGO representative for four meetings.

^{h/} 1 P3 staff salary (275 000) and travel for 28 months (15 000): August 2005 - November 2007.