



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CEP/AC.13/2004/1  
13 November 2003

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**First regional meeting on education for sustainable development**

Geneva, 19-20 February 2004

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Thursday, 19 February 2004 at 10 a.m. to Friday, 20 February 2004 at 1 p.m.\*

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of the Chair.
4. Terms of reference of the Task Force.
5. Work programme of the Task Force.
6. Draft strategy for education for sustainable development.
7. Other business.
8. Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing.

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\* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore 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/wgso/Sustainable%20Development/ESD/welcomeESD.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest three weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax (+41-22-917-0107 or 917 0630) or by e-mail: (subashini.narasimhan@unece.org). 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 the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (extension 72468).

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Recognizing that education is a fundamental tool for environmental protection and sustainable development and that environmental education has increasingly addressed a wide range of issues included in Agenda 21, UNECE Environment Ministers endorsed the Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by acclamation at their Conference in Kiev (21-23 May 2003). They invited all countries to integrate sustainable development into their education systems at all levels, in order to promote education as a key agent for change. They also invited UNECE to develop a regional strategy for education for sustainable development in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Council of Europe and other relevant actors.

Pursuant to this decision, the Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, at its tenth session (20-22 October 2003), set up an open-ended Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development to develop a Strategy. The delegations of the Russian Federation and Sweden volunteered to lead the process. UNECE will serve as its secretariat. It was decided to hold the first meeting of the Task Force in February 2004.

This initiative is expected to provide a substantial regional contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session (December 2002).

### **Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

The meeting will be opened by Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

### **Item 2: Adoption of the agenda**

The Task Force will be invited to adopt its agenda.

### **Item 3: Election of the Chair**

The Task Force will be invited to elect its Chair.

### **Item 4: Terms of reference of the Task Force**

The Task Force may wish to consider its draft terms of reference as set out in document CEP/AC.13/2004/4 and adapt them. In addition to the member States, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other relevant organizations are invited as observers. NGOs with expertise in education for sustainable development may also participate. Participation of international organizations and major groups should be in accordance with the United Nations rules governing such participation.

The Task Force may also wish to set up a small drafting group to help prepare the strategy. Its members should have extensive experience in national and international education policies

and in sustainable development. The drafting group will work in English only. No interpretation facilities will be made available. The composition of the drafting group should ensure equitable geographical representation of UNECE member States. Representatives of international organizations and major groups could be invited to join it.

The drafting group could start working on the text of the strategy in the afternoon of 20 February 2004, immediately after the first meeting of the Task Force.

#### **Item 5: Work programme of the Task Force**

The Task Force may wish to discuss and adopt its work programme as contained in document CEP/AC.13/2004/5.

The proposed calendar of meetings takes into consideration United Nations rules and procedures with regard to financial administration and document processing. The Task Force may wish to discuss the organization of the meetings of the drafting group. It may also decide to hold its second meeting in July 2004 to discuss and approve the draft strategy and to submit it to the Committee on Environmental Policy for comments.

The Task Force may wish to consider whether it would like to provide input to a possible regional segment during the International Conference on Education (UNESCO; Geneva, September 2004) and what the nature of this input should be.

#### **Item 6: Draft strategy for education for sustainable development**

In consultation with the lead countries, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a draft strategy (CEP/AC.13/2004/3), in accordance with the Statement on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/102/Rev.1), the Basic elements for the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development (ECE/CEP/102/Add.1) and the UNESCO draft international implementation scheme on the decade of education for sustainable development. The Task Force is invited to comment on the substance and structure of the draft strategy.

Delegates may also wish to share their experiences and good practices in the area of education for sustainable development.

#### **Item 7: Other business**

The Task Force is invited to raise any other business.

#### **Item 8: Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing**

The Chair may wish to summarize the main decisions of the Task Force.



Please send it by fax to: +41 22 917 0107 or e-mail: subashini.narasimhan@unece.org  
**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

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Thursday, 19 February to Friday, 20 February 2004

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Date

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