



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CEP/AC.13/2004/4
18 November 2003

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

First regional meeting on education for sustainable development

Geneva, 19-20 February 2004

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK FORCE ON
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Mandate

1. Pursuant to the endorsement of the Statement on Education for Sustainable Development at the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, May 2003), the Committee on Environmental Policy, at its tenth session, set up an open-ended task force to develop a UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development. The delegations of the Russian Federation and Sweden volunteered to lead the process.
2. The UNECE secretariat will provide secretariat support to the Task Force at the United Nations Office in Geneva, in accordance with UNECE rules and practices.

Purpose

3. The Task Force will serve as an instrument for UNECE member States to develop and finalize a strategy, and submit it through the Committee on Environmental Policy to the Environment Ministries and Education Ministries for adoption at their joint high-level meeting.

Reporting procedure

4. The Task Force will report to the Committee on Environmental Policy on its work.

Duration

5. The Task Force will function until October 2004, at which time the Committee may review its terms of reference and decide on its future.

Composition

6. The Task Force is open to all UNECE member States. It might include senior officials from the Education Ministry or other equivalent national body responsible for education, senior officials from the national authority for sustainable development and senior officials from the Environment Ministry. The members of the Task Force should serve as national focal points. The national focal points are responsible for representing the consolidated national position in the work of the Task Force.

7. In addition to the member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Council of Europe and other relevant organizations are invited as observers. Regional NGOs as well as other major groups with expertise in environment, education and sustainable development may also participate in the work of the Task Force. Participation of international organizations and major groups should be in accordance with the United Nations rules governing such participation.

Drafting group

8. The Task Force may 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.