

**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Bureau

(Second meeting, Geneva, 23 February 2006)

**ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS DERIVED FROM THE DISCUSSION
BY THE BUREAU WITH REGARD TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE
ESD HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE***

Given that the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an efficient tool for implementing Sustainable Development, the segment will provide a substantial contribution to the overall purpose of the Conference, namely furthering the implementation of agreed goals and commitments.

I. Relevance to the Belgrade Conference

- Clear mandate derived from the Kiev Declaration
- Decisions by the Vilnius High-Level Meeting
- Good example of cross-sectoral cooperation between Environment and Education sectors
- Demonstration of policy integration which is essential prerequisite for Sustainable Development to be followed by other sectors
- Successful cooperation with stakeholders
- Possibility to demonstrate good practices in a wide range of countries
- First phase of assessing implementation of the UN Decade of ESD

II. Suggested Time and Format

Given the participation of the Ministers of Education, it is proposed that the segment takes place in the first day of the Belgrade Conference, to benefit from the presence of Ministers of Education in the opening ceremony.

Due to the time limitation it is proposed to organize the segment by splitting it into two parts:

- *Formal plenary session of 3 hours.*

The session will focus on the national and sub-regional progress on implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. The major expected outcome will be a joint Ministerial Statement by Ministers of Education and of the Environment.

- *Informal panel discussion of 2 hours (during lunch time) prior to the formal plenary session.*

Depending on the priority themes identified by the Executive Committee and the WGSO, e.g. water, energy, biodiversity, SCP, etc., the Bureau of the ESD Steering Committee will structure the informal panel discussion on the role of the ESD in dealing with these themes.

* This document was not formally edited.