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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

Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 3 and 4 May 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 3 May 2018*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) Progress in implementing the Strategy;
 - (c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities;

* 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 from the Internet (https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=m_hCbf) no later than two weeks 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 <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917-6307.



- (d) Awareness-raising and role of the national focal points;
 - (e) Good practices of cooperation on the bilateral or regional level for implementing the priority action areas;
 - (f) Implementing the Strategy and possible developments after 2019.
3. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
 4. Adoption of the workplan for 2017–2019.
 5. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
 6. Preparations for the next mandatory reporting cycle (2017–2019) under the Strategy.
 7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.
 8. Calendar of meetings.
 9. Other business.
 10. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 10–10:30 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 thirteenth 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

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2018/1)

2. Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(a) Sustainable Development Goals

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 10:30–11 a.m.

2. The secretariat will inform the Committee about the main developments at the regional level regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), including the key outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region (Geneva, 1–2 March 2018), which will serve as a platform to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

¹ The provisional agenda and other documents for the meeting, including informal papers, will be made available on the meeting web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48053>

3. The secretariat and the Chair will also update the Committee on the organization of next Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, which will be held in 2019 focused on the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. At the 2019 forum participants will review progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goals 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The Steering Committee will have the opportunity to illustrate the potential role of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in supporting countries to implement the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the Goal 4, by sharing good practice examples and thereby encouraging all countries to make progress.

4. Committee members will be invited to consider efficient options for contributing to the Regional Forum in 2019, e.g., by organizing a side event, participating in peer learning round-table discussions, exchanging good practice or preparing relevant background information.

(b) Progress in implementing the Strategy

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

5. The Chair of the Steering Committee will provide a brief summary of the objectives and the priority action areas of the framework for the future implementation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/11), adopted at the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries held in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016 (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.2, para. 2), with an emphasis on promoting whole-institution approaches, as an important vehicle for achieving holistic and structural implementation of education for sustainable development at all levels of education.

6. To facilitate tracking progress in implementation of the Strategy since the previous meeting, a questionnaire (information paper No. 1) will be sent to countries prior to the thirteenth meeting. Countries will be invited to return the completed questionnaires, which will serve as informal reports on implementation, to the secretariat by not later than 15 March 2018.

7. At the meeting, the secretariat will provide a brief synopsis of the progress made and the experiences of ECE member States in the implementation of the Strategy based on an analysis of the informal questionnaires submitted by countries.

8. As for the previous meeting in 2017, particular attention in the questionnaire will be paid to the first three “vertical” priority action areas adopted at the Batumi High-level Meeting 2016.

9. An additional sub-section in the questionnaire will focus on the alignment of national strategies for education for sustainable development with the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, thus contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 4.7 on education and as an instrument to achieve all 17 Goals.

10. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat’s presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the twelfth Steering Committee meeting in 2017, in particular with regard to how the implementation of national strategies for education for sustainable development contribute to the achievement of the target 4.7 and the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Countries might also wish to report on mainstreaming a gender perspective in their national education for sustainable development policies. Given the limited time available, countries will only have up to three minutes each for interventions from the floor.

Documentation

Proposed topics for reporting on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 1).

(c) Outcomes of capacity-building activities

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 3–4 p.m.

11. The secretariat together with the host country (Armenia) will update participants on the outcomes of a Swiss-funded capacity-building workshop, held on 19 and 20 April 2018 in Yerevan, and on the promotion of education for sustainable development on the national level.

12. The secretariat will update the Steering Committee about the cooperation with the Swedish non-governmental organization, “Legacy17”, including joint efforts to further develop the draft project proposal presented at the Steering Committee’s twelfth meeting. The project seeks to build the capacity of interested countries from the region in implementing the Strategy, focusing on vertical priority areas 1 and 2 (introduction of education for sustainable development in school plans and in teacher education).

(d) Awareness-raising and role of the national focal points

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 4–4:30 p.m.

13. The Chair will lead a discussion on the necessity of making additional efforts to promote the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development at the international, regional and national levels with a special emphasis on the role of the national focal points and the status of the Steering Committee for Education for Sustainable Development.

(e) Good practices of cooperation on the bilateral or regional level for implementing the priority action areas

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 4:30–5 p.m.

14. Countries will be invited to provide examples of good practices (projects or other forms of cooperation) of cooperation for implementing the priority action areas on the bilateral or regional level.

(f) Implementing the Strategy and possible developments after 2019

Timing: Thursday, 3 May, 5–6 p.m.

15. The secretariat will invite the Committee to discuss and agree on the priority action areas and concrete issues to be focused on after 2019, when the fourth national mandatory reporting cycle (2017–2019) will be completed. The future issues for consideration should be selected from the six priority action areas defined in the Batumi Ministerial Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development and included in the framework for the future implementation of the Strategy, adopted at the latest High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Batumi, 8 June 2016). It is important to note that these priority action areas for the ECE Strategy align with the priority areas of the Global Action Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). However, it should be also noted that the current phase of the Global Action Programme ends at the end of 2019.

16. Other topics for discussion regarding the future implementation of the Strategy could focus on the practical ways and/or particular steps for promoting education for

sustainable development across all levels and types of education at the national level and the possibilities of scaling up the education for sustainable development process at the international level, stressing its importance and outstanding value as a core instrument for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and also of other international environment-related processes and instruments.

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

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 10–11 a.m.

17. The Steering Committee will be updated about recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums. It will be informed about relevant activities of the Partner Networks established to help implement the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development in 2017–2018, the UNESCO report on implementation of education for sustainable development submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session (A/72/130) and the resulting General Assembly resolution 72/222, as well as recent activities regarding monitoring target 4.7 and other processes under way concerning the future of education for sustainable development.

18. The Steering Committee will be also updated about the first meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (Nicosia, 22–24 November 2017), and its outcomes.

4. Adoption of the workplan for 2017–2019

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 11–11:30 a.m.

19. The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt a revised, final version of the workplan for implementation of the first phase of the post-2015 implementation period of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. This document establishes a road map of activities to be undertaken during the period 2017–2019 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 Batumi High-level Meeting in 2016.

20. The document was revised by the secretariat by introducing corrections proposed by the Steering Committee during its twelfth meeting. The draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the framework for the future implementation of the Strategy, in cooperation with the ad hoc task force on planning and finance, and was approved by the Bureau of the Steering Committee. In addition, experiences gained in the implementation of the three previous phases of the Strategy informed the drafting of the workplan. The draft was approved by the Bureau through electronic consultations.

Documentation

Draft workplan for 2017–2019 for the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2018/3).

5. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

21. 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.

6. Preparations for the next mandatory reporting cycle (2017-2019) under the Strategy

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 3–4 p.m.

22. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the reporting timeline and process for the fourth cycle of reporting to be carried out in 2018. A revised template for reporting on national implementation will be presented to the Steering Committee for discussion. It is expected that the Committee will approve a final version of the revised reporting format, based on preliminary consultations with the Chair, the Bureau and national delegations.

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

Documentation

Format for reporting on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2017–2019) (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2018/4)

7. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 4–5 p.m.

24. The secretariat will report to the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee's last meeting, on the basis of an informal note (information paper No. 2) to be submitted for the Committee's consideration at the meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy is very tight, and the regional activities are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, advance indications of pledges by States are vital.

25. The Chair of the Steering Committee will invite the members of the Committee and national focal points to consider the funding situation with regard to the Strategy's activities over the past several years with a view to examining alternative ways to address the matter.

26. 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.

Documentation

Contributions, incurred expenses and estimated resource requirements (information paper No. 2)

8. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 5–5:15 p.m.

27. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and the timing of the fourteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2019.

9. Other business

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 5:15–5:30 p.m.

28. 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.

10. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Friday, 4 May, 5:30–6 p.m.

29. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the thirteenth meeting.
