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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Bureau

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 9 December 2010

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Preparing the sixth meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD

Provisional agenda for the meeting

Draft document. Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 7 April 2011.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Relevant international events for promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
4. Progress by UNECE member States in the implementation of the Strategy.
5. Progress achieved and challenges encountered in phase II and the way forward for phase III:
 - (a) Findings of first mandatory reporting cycle of the Strategy;
 - (b) Achievements of the Expert Group on Competences;

¹ This document was not formally edited.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (esd@unece.org). 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

- (c) Draft work plan of implementation for phase III of the UNECE Strategy on ESD.
- 6. Panel discussion: Taking stock and looking forward – ESD in the context of Rio+20.
- 7. Co-operation and linkages of UNECE activities on ESD with other ESD processes.
- 8. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation.
- 9. Calendar of meetings.
- 10. Other business.
- 11. Closure of meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. With the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17–18 March 2005) established a UNECE Steering Committee on ESD as a governing body to decide on the Strategy's implementation and to oversee and review its progress in the UNECE region.

2. Ministers of education and of the environment adopted a Joint Statement on ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1) at the high-level session on ESD at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007), stressing their commitment to the Strategy's further implementation in phase I and II but also beyond 2015.

3. At its previous five meetings, the Steering Committee, among other things: (a) adopted work plans for phases I and II as well as a reporting mechanism; (b) carried out the first pilot reporting and prepared the first mandatory reporting cycle; (c) organized a high-level segment on ESD at the Sixth "Environment for Europe" Conference; and (d) established an Expert Group to develop a set of recommendations for decision makers and a range of competences for educators.

4. The Steering Committee's sixth meeting is expected to focus on (a) considering progress and challenges in implementing phase II of the Strategy; (b) considering for adoption the work plan for phase III (2011 – 2015), taking into account the results of the first mandatory reporting cycle; and (c) considering how to promote the UNECE ESD process at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and to identify interlinkages of ESD with the key themes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). It is also expected to discuss the resource requirements to support an efficient management and implementation process.

Paix (see map available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 9176307.

Thursday, 7 April 2011**Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
(10 a.m. – 10.10 a.m.)**

5. The Chairperson will open the meeting with introductory remarks and will invite the Steering Committee to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/1).

**Item 2. Election of officers –
(10.10 a.m. -10.20 a.m)**

6. The Committee will be invited to elect a Chair as well as members of the Bureau. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee adopted by the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17-18 March 2005), at each ordinary² meeting of the Committee, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson will be elected from among the representatives of the UNECE member States present at the meeting. Officers should represent different sectors (e.g. environment and education). They shall serve as the officers of the Steering Committee until their successors have been elected. The officers are eligible for re-election. In accordance with the above, the Steering Committee may wish to elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.

7. The Steering Committee may also elect its Bureau for the third phase of the Strategy. The Bureau is composed of representatives of nine UNECE member States, including one from South-Eastern Europe, three from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, one from North America and four from other UNECE member States. These would include the Chair and vice-chair of the Committee, who will serve in their respective capacities in the Bureau. Countries are invited to express their interest in submitting to the secretariat candidatures for the Bureau by 28 February 2011.

**Item 3. Relevant international events for promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
(10.20 a.m. – 10.40 a.m.)**

8. The Steering Committee will be informed on recent activities related to promoting ESD in the region, such as the organization of a side event on ESD during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 3–14 May 2010).

9. Furthermore, the secretariat will inform the Steering Committee of developments with regard to preparing for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011 as well as of the preparation process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, to be held in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20).

10. The Steering Committee is invited to consider ways of promoting ESD at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and at Rio+20, in particular also in the realm of the regional preparatory process. For instance, side events could be organised at the Ministerial Conference in Astana and at the regional Prep Com of Rio+20 with a view to discussing as

² The Steering Committee did not hold election of officers at its fourth and fifth meetings with a view to ensuring continuity of work during the entire phase II of the implementation of the Strategy.

well as highlighting interlinkages and contributions of ESD to the key themes of the Ministerial Conference in Astana and Rio+20.

**Item 4. Progress by UNECE member States in the implementation of the Strategy
(10.40 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

11. The Steering Committee will be invited to hear reports from Governments on their activities relating to the Strategy's implementation since the Committee's last meeting, focusing in particular on:

(a) Coordination at the international and national/State levels (i.e. coordination of activities among ESD stakeholders, establishing consultative mechanisms and developing national³ strategies and action plans for ESD); and

(b) Capacity-building as well as sharing of experience and awareness raising (i.e. development and application of means to strengthen competence in ESD, of teaching tools and materials).

(c) Given the limited time available, each of the countries will have up to three minutes for interventions from the floor.

Item 5. Progress achieved and challenges encountered in implementing phase II and the way forward for phase III

**(a) Findings of the mandatory reporting cycle 2010
(3 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

12. The secretariat will inform the Steering Committee on the findings of the first mandatory reporting cycle which was carried out at the end of phase II (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/7). The Committee will be invited to consider the progress and challenges addressed by the national implementation reports and in particular to discuss which implications arise for the implementation activities in phase III.

**(b) Achievements of the Expert Group on Competences
(4 p.m. – 5 p.m.)**

13. The Chairperson of the Expert Group on Competences in ESD will be invited to report on the progress made by the Group in its five meetings since 2009. The Steering Committee meeting will be invited to consider the Expert Group's outcome document on educator competences and policy recommendations with a view to its approval (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/6). It will also discuss means of its dissemination.

³ For countries with a federal structure, national plans will be based on subnational/State inputs.

**(c) Draft work plan of implementation for phase III of the UNECE Strategy on ESD
(5 p.m. – 6 p.m.)**

14. The Committee is invited to consider a draft work plan of implementation for phase III of the Strategy (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2011/4) with a view to adopting it. This document sets a roadmap of activities to be undertaken during the five years of phase III (2010-2015) to further the implementation of the Strategy, both at national and international levels. The draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of proposals that were submitted to the secretariat by members of the Steering Committee. In addition, experiences gained in the implementation of phase I and phase II of the Strategy informed the drafting of the work plan. The first draft of this document was considered by the meeting of the Bureau on 9 December 2010 and thereafter was revised to reflect the comments by the Bureau.

Friday, 8 April 2011

**Item 6. Panel discussion: Taking stock and looking forward – ESD in the context of Rio+20
(9.30 a.m. – noon)**

15. The thematic panel discussion will address how the priorities identified in the past phases can be further advanced in phase III. In particular, the discussion will address how the implementation of the Strategy can be embedded in and integrated with the larger policy processes, i.e. the key themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) and the Ministerial Conference, held in Astana in 2011.

**Item 7. Co-operation and linkages of the UNECE activities on ESD with other ESD processes
(noon – 12:30 p.m.)**

16. 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. The goal is to promote coordination and synergies, including with relevant international sustainable development processes.

**Item 8. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for the third phase of the Strategy's implementation
(2:30– 3 p.m.)**

17. The secretariat will inform the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee's last meeting.

18. The regional ESD activities under the Strategy are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, therefore the planning and implementation of activities in phase III will have to rely on clear advance indication of pledges from States. Each delegation will be invited to indicate its planned contributions for phase III, specifying in particular pledges for contributions to be made in 2011.

**Item 9. Calendar of meetings
(3 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.)**

19. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the scheduling of its next meeting and those of its Bureau. It is proposed that the Committee hold its seventh session as a two-day meeting in April 2012.

**Item 10. Other business
(3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.)**

20. 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.

**Item 11. Closure of meeting
(3.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.)**

21. The Chairperson will make concluding remarks and close the meeting.

22. The Bureau of the Steering Committee will be invited to hold its meeting immediately after the closing of the Steering Committee's sixth meeting.
