



**Economic and Social  
Council**

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Bureau

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 7 December 2007

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE UNECE STEERING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

from Thursday, 6 March 2008 at 10 a.m. until Friday, 7 March 2008 at 4.30 p.m.\*

The draft of the annotated provisional agenda for the third meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD was developed by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson. It is submitted to the fifth meeting of the Bureau for consideration and further guidance in preparing it for the Steering Committee meeting. Following the fifth meeting of the Bureau, this first draft will be revised to take into account the Bureau's discussion and recommendations.

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. ESD-related outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"
3. Progress by UNECE member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD

<sup>1</sup> 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, which is available from the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Bureau.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than 2 weeks before the meeting either by e-mail ([esd@unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1502.

4. Report on the progress made by the UNECE Expert Group for Indicators for ESD
5. How do teachers teach sustainable development? - a panel on competence in ESD in the education sector.
6. Draft Work Plan of Implementation for Phase II of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (2008-2010)
7. Interlinkages and possible mutual benefits of the UNECE process and other ESD processes and activities
8. Calendar of meetings
9. Election of officers
10. Other business
11. Closure of the meeting

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Pursuant to the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the framework for its implementation, the High-level meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17-18 March 2005) established a Steering Committee on ESD to decide on the Strategy's implementation and review its progress during the three phases of implementation of the Strategy (2005-2007; 2008-2010; and 2011-2015). The Steering Committee is the principal decision-making body for the activities related to the Strategy in the UNECE region and it is composed of representatives of the environment and education sectors with a view to ensuring equal opportunities for participation and input from both sectors. Key stakeholders were invited to participate as observers.

The Steering Committee held two meetings thus far (from 13 to 14 December 2005 and from 4 to 5 December 2006) with major outcomes such as the adoption of the Work Plan of Implementation for the Phase I of the Strategy and the decision to hold a joint high-level segment on ESD during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007).

Following the extension of the mandate of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", the third meeting of the Steering Committee is expected to focus on considering and adopting the Work Plan of Implementation for the Phase II of the Strategy, including its substantive content, timeframe for implementation and the financial implications.

**Day I (6 March 2008)****Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda***(10 a.m. – 10.10 a.m.)*

The Chairperson will open the meeting with introductory remarks and will invite the Committee to adopt the agenda of its third meeting as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/1).

**Item 2. ESD-related outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”***(10.10 a.m. – 10.20 a.m.)*

The Chairperson will brief the Committee on the major outcomes of the Belgrade Ministerial Conference relevant to ESD, such as the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/8, paragraphs 11 and 12), Chair’s Summary of the Conference (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/9, paragraphs 17 - 26), the Joint Statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1) and the Chair’s Summary of the Joint session on ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.3).

**Item 3. Progress by UNECE member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD***(10.20 a.m. – noon)*

The Committee will be invited to hear reports by governments on their activities regarding the implementation of the Strategy since the date of submission of the first national implementation reports (for reference see the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/Implement.Gov.htm>), with a focus on the following:

- (a) Coordination at the national/state and international levels (designating national focal points, developing national<sup>2</sup> implementation plans, establishing a consultative mechanism and translating the Strategy into official and other relevant languages);
- (b) Participation in the pilot reporting exercise and submission of the national implementation reports for Phase I of the Strategy;
- (c) Developing tools and mechanisms at the national, subnational and local levels with a view to strengthening the initial measures and developing competences, ESD teaching tools and materials and improving their content, as well as developing a more integrative conceptualization of ESD with a view to making the move from environmental education to the true education for sustainable development.

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<sup>2</sup> For countries with a federal structure, national plans will be based on subnational/state inputs.

**Item 4. Report on the progress made by the UNECE Expert Group on Indicators for ESD**  
*(noon – 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.)*

The Chairperson of the UNECE Expert Group on Indicators for ESD will be invited to report on the outcomes of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Expert Group that took place in Vienna from 20 to 22 June 2007 and in Amsterdam from 12 to 14 December 2007, respectively  
(ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/4).

**Item 5. How do teachers teach sustainable development? - a panel on competence in ESD in the education sector.**

*(4 p.m. – 6 p.m.)*

A multistakeholder<sup>3</sup> panel will discuss the issue of competence in ESD in the education sector. The panel discussion will aim at addressing existing problems, as well as share good practices in integrating ESD in the initial teacher training and using the “whole-institution approach” for all levels of education. The panel will be followed by an interactive discussion from the floor. A background document on competence in ESD in the education sector prepared by the ... *[subject to recommendations by the Bureau]* will facilitate the discussion (ECE/ CEP/AC.13/2008/6).

Day II (7 March 2008)

**Item 6. Draft Work Plan of Implementation for Phase II of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (2008-2010)**

*(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)*

The Committee is invited to consider a draft Work Plan of Implementation for Phase II of the Strategy (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/5) with a view to adopting it. This document sets a roadmap of activities to be undertaken during the three years of Phase II (2008-2010) to further the implementation of the Strategy, both at national and international levels. The draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of decisions by the joint session on ESD at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference as well as taking into account the documents on “Needs for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/11) and on “Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward. Report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3 and Addendum 1). The first draft of this document was considered by the fifth meeting of the Bureau and thereafter was revised to reflect the comments by the Bureau. While considering the draft Work Plan of Implementation, the Committee is invited to focus on the following elements: ... *[to be completed with the respective elements of the WPI]*

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<sup>3</sup> It is proposed that representatives of various stakeholders of the UNECE Strategy for ESD participate in the panel, such as one/two representative of governments (from the Ministry of Education/of Environment), a representative of NGOs, two representatives of teachers from school/higher education (from Eastern and Western parts of the UNECE region), as well as a representative of pupils/students *[the format and the substantive content of the panel discussion are subject to recommendations by the Bureau]*.

**Item 7. Interlinkages and possible mutual benefits of the UNECE process and other ESD processes and activities**

(3 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.)

Delegations, 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 implementation of the Strategy that are currently being carried out or planned at the national and international levels, with a view to promoting coordination and synergies.

**Item 8. Calendar of meetings**

(3.45 p.m. – 3.55 p.m.)

The Committee is invited to consider the schedule of its next meeting and those of its Bureau. It is proposed that the Committee holds its fourth meeting as a two-day meeting in the beginning of March 2009.

**Item 9. Election of officers**

(3.55 p.m. – 4.10 p.m.)

In accordance with the Terms of Reference<sup>4</sup> of the Steering Committee adopted by the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17-18 March 2005), at each ordinary<sup>5</sup> 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.

The Steering Committee may also elect its Bureau that would be 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. Key stakeholders might be invited to participate in the Bureau as observers. The Bureau would be responsible for preparing the meetings and following-up on the decisions of the Steering Committee. It would hold meetings as often as necessary, subject to the availability of funds.

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<sup>4</sup> See the annex I of the Vilnius framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (CEP/AC.13/2005/4/Rev.1).

<sup>5</sup> The Steering Committee did not elect officers at its second meeting with a view to ensure continuity in the intensive preparatory work for the high-level segment at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference.

**Item 10. Other business**

(4.10 p.m. – 4.20 p.m.)

The Committee is invited to discuss any other business that may be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

**Item 11. Closure of the meeting**

(4.20 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)

The Chairperson will summarise the decisions by the Steering Committee and the key issues raised during the meeting before closing the meeting.

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