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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

Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 10 and 11 May 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 10 May 2021***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Fourth evaluation report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Progress in implementing the Strategy;
 - (c) Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: participation in the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and outcomes of the side event organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Forum;
 - (d) Outcomes of capacity-building activities.
3. Status of the trust fund, resource requirements and fundraising efforts.

* 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 at: <https://indico.un.org/event/34732/> no later than **one week 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 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 www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.

4. Update on the preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022):
 - (a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;
 - (b) Host country preparations;
 - (c) Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries – outline of the draft Ministerial Statement;
 - (d) Resource requirements.
5. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning:
 - (a) Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework;
 - (b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework.
6. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the draft template for reporting on the future implementation of the Strategy (2021–2030).
7. Outcome of the process of nominations of youth national focal points to the Steering Committee:
 - (a) Terms of reference of the established United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development Youth Network;
 - (b) Education for sustainable development and youth: Learning from each other - sharing experiences and good examples of national initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development and youth.
8. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
9. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums.
10. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
11. Publications on education for sustainable development from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
12. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development.
13. Calendar of meetings.
14. Other business.
15. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is expected to adopt the agenda for its sixteenth meeting as set out in the present document. The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee.¹

¹ The revised annotated provisional agenda and other documents for the meeting, including informal papers, will be made available on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/sixteenth-meeting-unece-steering-committee-education-sustainable>.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2021/1)

2. Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(a) Fourth evaluation report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 10.10–10.20 a.m.

2. The Steering Committee will be reminded that the summary outcomes of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle, carried out at the end of the fourth phase of implementation (2017–2019) of the ECE Strategy for ESD (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2021/3), were presented at the virtual consultation meeting (7 May 2020) and the fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (Geneva, 19 and 20 October 2021).

3. During the October meeting, the Committee considered both the progress made and the remaining challenges as presented in the national implementation reports and discussed the implications of the findings from the fourth reporting round for the implementation of activities beyond the fourth phase of implementation. The Committee decided that the decision on the report would be made during the additional 2-hour online session to be held on 6 November 2020.

4. During the additional session held on 6 November, the Committee discussed the pre-final draft of the report and asked the secretariat to incorporate the most recent comments received and to prepare the final version of the progress report as an official document for approval at the sixteenth meeting of the Steering Committee.

5. The Committee will be invited to approve the finalized report (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2021/3), which was officially submitted and translated for the present meeting.

Documentation

Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and ways forward. Fourth evaluation report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2021/3)

(b) Progress in implementing the Strategy

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 10.20–11 a.m.

6. The Chair of the Steering Committee will provide a brief summary of the objectives and the priority action areas of the draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (to be discussed under agenda item 5), which will be submitted to the present meeting as a pre-final draft.

7. To facilitate tracking progress in implementation of the Strategy since the submission of the national implementation reports for the fourth mandatory reporting cycle carried out in 2018, a questionnaire (information paper No. 1) will be sent to countries prior to the sixteenth meeting. Countries will be invited to return the completed questionnaires, which will serve as informal reports on implementation, to the secretariat by no later than 15 April 2021.

8. 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.

9. In the questionnaire, particular attention will be paid to: (a) the priority action areas of the newly drafted concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (quality education and ESD; whole institution approach and ESD; digital education, information

and communications technology and ESD; entrepreneurship, employability, innovation and ESD); (b) the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on ESD implementation; and (c) ESD as a vehicle for creating more resilient schools and societies.

10. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat's presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the fourteenth Steering Committee meeting (Geneva, 2 and 3 May 2019), in particular with regard to how the implementation of national strategies for ESD contributes to the new developments and challenges for ESD in the region. 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) **Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: participation in the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and outcomes of the side event organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Forum**

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 11–11.10 a.m.

11. The secretariat will inform the meeting about the outcomes of the side event "Education for sustainable development as a key driver for youth empowerment for confronting the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19", organized on 10 March 2021 in the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 17 and 18 March 2021) (information paper No. 2).

Documentation

Summary outcomes of the side event "Education for sustainable development as a key driver for youth empowerment for confronting the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19" (10 March 2021) (information paper No. 2)

- (d) **Outcomes of capacity-building activities**

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 11.10–11.20 a.m.

12. The secretariat, together with the national focal point of Azerbaijan and the experts involved, will update participants on the results of a Swiss-funded capacity-building workshop, to be held online on 21 and 22 April 2021 in Baku, and on the promotion of ESD at the national level.

3. Status of the trust fund, resource requirements and fundraising efforts

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 11.20–11.40 a.m.

13. The secretariat will report to the Steering Committee on contributions received since the Committee's previous meeting, on the basis of an informal note (information paper No. 3) to be submitted for the Committee's consideration at the meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy for ESD is always 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.

14. The Chair of the Steering Committee will invite the members of the Committee and national focal points to consider the funding situation regarding the Strategy's activities over the previous few years, with a view to examining alternative ways of addressing the matter, such as participation in external projects with European Union partners and/or other relevant international development agencies and in-kind contributions to various programme activities.

15. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the focus of capacity-building activities for the next decade and to identify priority areas of capacity-building activities arising from the newly drafted concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework. In that regard, countries will be invited to consider their interest in organizing and hosting capacity-building workshops or other relevant activities.

16. 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. 3)

4. Update on the preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022)

(a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 11.40–11.50 a.m.

17. The Steering Committee will be updated on the relevant existing and expected decisions of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), including regarding organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, the proposed framework for preparing the Conference, and the requirements for hosting that event (information paper No. 4).

18. At its twenty-sixth session (Geneva, 9 and 10 November 2020), the CEP agreed to reschedule the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia), for 5–7 October 2022. At that meeting, the CEP: expressed its gratitude to the Government of Cyprus for its continued commitment to host the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries; encouraged the member States, partner organizations and all interested stakeholders to actively participate in the preparation and conduct of the Conference; and asked the secretariat to follow up on the decision on rescheduling and to keep the Committee and the Bureau informed of the progress of all necessary preparations (ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 19).

Documentation

Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (information paper No. 4)

(b) Host country preparations

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 11.50 a.m.–noon

19. The Steering Committee will be updated about the host country preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

(c) Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries – outline of the draft Ministerial Statement

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 3–3.10 p.m.

20. The Steering Committee will be updated about the official documents to be prepared for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

21. The secretariat will present a draft outline of the Ministerial Statement to be adopted at the High-level Meeting based on the statement adopted at the previous High-level Meeting (information paper No. 5).

Documentation

Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, including a draft outline of the Ministerial Statement (information paper No. 5)

(d) Resource requirements

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 3.10–3.15 p.m.

22. The Steering Committee will be informed about the resource requirements for the organization of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (see information paper No. 4).

5. Updates on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning

(a) Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 3.15–4 p.m.

23. At its fifteenth meeting, the Steering Committee took note of the presentation of the draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (including the preamble and the four priority strands), which will be included in the “Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD up to 2030” and agreed to organize an additional 2-hour online session for in-depth discussion on this agenda item.

24. The Chair of the Steering Committee will briefly present the course of the development of the draft concept note and will invite the key leaders and the strand leaders of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning to briefly present the revised pre-final draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (information paper No. 6).

25. The members will be invited to provide comments on the pre-final draft concept note. The secretariat will be mandated to collect all comments and send them to the Ad Hoc Group for elaboration of the final draft of the concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework with a view to submitting the final version of the document to the next meeting of the Committee, to be held in 2022.

Documentation

Pre-final draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (information paper No. 6)

(b) Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 4–4.20 p.m.

26. The Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft workplan for implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development after 2019 (information paper No. 7). The draft workplan aims to establish a road map of activities to

be undertaken during the post-2019 implementation phase 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 Second High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries and taking into consideration the timelines of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (ESD for 2030)” implementation framework (2020–2030).

27. The outline will be prepared by the secretariat based on the draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework, in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning and the Bureau.

28. The Steering Committee will be invited to provide comments on the proposed draft document.

29. The secretariat will be mandated to incorporate the comments provided into the proposed outline of the draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation period and to elaborate the final document for its official submission at the next meeting of the Committee, to be held in 2022.

Documentation

Draft workplan for the post-2019 implementation framework for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 7)

6. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the draft template for reporting on the future implementation of the Strategy (2021–2030)

Timing: Monday, 10 May, 4.20–5 p.m.

30. At its fifteenth meeting, the Committee took note of the status of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators on the draft template for reporting - “Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)” - and agreed to consider the document at the additional 2-hour online session to be held after the draft concept note for post-2019 framework had been finalized, and to make the decision about the document during the above-mentioned additional session.

31. The secretariat and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Group will briefly update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators and on the status of the draft template for reporting.

32. As most comments received indicate that the ECE monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy has to reflect on the priorities of the new “Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD up to 2030”, the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will finish its work after the approval of this new framework.

33. Another point of attention will be to bring the process of the ECE monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy in line with the schedules of the new UNESCO monitoring framework “ESD for 2030” as far as possible.

34. A revised and pre-final draft template for reporting will be circulated to the Committee in the third quarter of the current year.

Documentation

Draft template for reporting: “Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)” (information paper No. 8)

7. Outcome of the process of nominations of youth national focal points to the Steering Committee

(a) Terms of reference of the established United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development Youth Network;

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 10–10.20 a.m.

35. The Steering Committee will be briefly updated on the outcomes of the nominations of youth national focal points to the Steering Committee held in 2020.

36. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss and approve the terms of reference of the Steering Committee's Youth Network (information paper No. 9).

Documentation

Proposed terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development Youth Network for 2021–2030 (information paper No. 9)

(b) Education for sustainable development and youth: Learning from each other - sharing experiences and good examples of national initiatives and actions on education for sustainable development and youth

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 10.20–11 a.m.

37. The member States, youth national focal points and observer organizations will be invited to inform the Steering Committee about youth initiatives and actions integrated into their national and regional context, focused on creating more just, healthy, resilient and sustainable societies. Special emphasis will be given to the role of ESD in empowering youth to participate in mitigating the impact of the pandemic crisis.

38. Youth national focal points will be invited to express their views and opinions on their role in the Steering Committee and on what actions or initiatives can be proposed to be undertaken by the Committee for youth.

39. Youth national focal points will be also invited to propose actions, activities or side events that can be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

40. The Chair will mandate the coordinator of the ECE Steering Committee on ESD Youth Network to collect the proposed activities and actions, and to prepare, in collaboration with the youth national focal points, youth and other relevant regional organizations: (a) an activity plan for the Youth Network in the region for the period 2021–2025; and (b) a plan with suggested activities and side events on “Youth and ESD” that can be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

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

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 11 a.m.–noon

41. The Steering Committee will be updated on recent activities to promote ESD in other international forums. It will be informed about the developments in the processes aimed at implementing ESD at the global level led by UNESCO. A representative of UNESCO will provide the Committee with the following:

(a) An update on the implementation of the “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (ESD for 2030)” framework (2020–2030), including the regional launches of an ESD for 2030 road map and a global series of online workshops on the transformative power of ESD for the world beyond COVID-19;

(b) An update on the preparations of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, to be held as a virtual event from 17 to 19 May 2021, and highlights of the conference programme;

(c) A short overview and updates on the ESD for 2030 country initiatives among ECE member States, including information on the Regional technical meeting scheduled to be held one week after the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

42. The Steering Committee will be also updated on recent activities held under the European Commission, the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, the Global Education Network Europe, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and others.

43. The member States will be invited to inform the Committee about any other activities to promote ESD in other regional and international forums.

9. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 3–3.20 p.m.

44. The Steering Committee will be invited to identify upcoming regional and international forums in which its members can participate, and to discuss ways of promoting the Committee's work.

10. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 3.20–3.50 p.m.

45. 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.

11. Publications on education for sustainable development from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 3.50–4.10 p.m.

46. The Chair will inform the members of the Steering Committee about the outcome of the decision regarding the two forecasted publications.

47. The Committee will be informed that the two above-mentioned publications are planned to be published in 2022 (postponed from 2021), i.e. the "Progress report on the implementation of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle of the Strategy" and "Good practices on the engagement of youth in education for sustainable development in the ECE region". The final drafts of the outlines for the two publications (information paper No. 10) will be presented, and countries will be invited to express their interest in participating.

Documentation

Draft outlines of the two publications to be published in 2022 (information paper No. 10).

12. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 4.10–4.30 p.m.

48. The secretariat will invite members to report on their achievements in the area of mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development. Special emphasis will be placed on gender issues and ESD during the pandemic.

13. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 4.30–4.40 p.m.

49. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and timing of the seventeenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2022, as well as of the next eventual meetings of the working groups of experts (ad hoc groups).

14. Other business

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 4.40–4.50 p.m.

50. 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.

15. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Tuesday, 11 May, 4.50–5 p.m.

51. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the sixteenth meeting.
