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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

Seventeenth meeting

Geneva, 30 and 31 May 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 30 May 2022*

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) Progress in implementing the Strategy;
 - (b) Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: participation in the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and outcomes of the peer learning round table on Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Forum and in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (c) Outcomes of the survey on the focus 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 at <https://indico.un.org/event/36531/> 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.



- (d) Building capacity in implementing priority action areas of the newly drafted implementation framework: outcomes of the international conference on implementing the whole institution/school approach held in Lunteren, the Netherlands, on 28–30 March 2022.
3. 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 (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022);
- (b) Decisions of the Special Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva (hybrid), 9–12 May 2022) of relevance to the Steering Committee;
- (c) Host country preparations;
- (d) Draft Ministerial Statement of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries;
- (e) Organization of side events;
- (f) Resource requirements.
4. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning:
- (a) Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030;
- (b) Draft workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025.
5. 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).
6. Education for sustainable development and youth: update on the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform held since the previous meeting:
- (a) An activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for the period 2021–2025;
- (b) Possible activities and side events on “Youth and Education for Sustainable Development” that could be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
7. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
8. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums.
9. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
10. Publications on education for sustainable development from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
11. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development.
12. Matters related to the trust fund:
- (a) Status of the extrabudgetary technical cooperation project “Strengthening the capacity of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States in implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development”;
- (b) Establishment of a successor project: matters for the decision of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee;
- (c) Voluntary scheme of contributions.

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, 30 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 seventeenth meeting as set out in the present document. The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/1)

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

(a) Progress in implementing the Strategy

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 10.10–11 a.m.

2. To facilitate tracking progress in the implementation of the Strategy since the submission of the national implementation reports for the fourth mandatory reporting cycle carried out in 2018, a questionnaire (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/5) will be sent to countries prior to the seventeenth 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 2022.

3. 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.

4. In the questionnaire, particular attention will be paid to the main priority strands of the Strategy's new implementation framework (2021–2030) (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3), focused on: quality education and ESD; whole institution approach and ESD; digital education, information and communications technology and ESD; entrepreneurship, employability, innovation and ESD; and youth and ESD.

5. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat's presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the sixteenth Steering Committee meeting (Geneva, 10–11 May 2021), 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, taking into consideration the four key strands of the new implementation framework 2021–2030 and the role of youth in ESD. Given the limited time available, countries will have a maximum of three minutes each for interventions from the floor.

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/info/Environmental-Policy/Education-for-Sustainable-Development/events/362834>.

Documentation

Proposed topics for reporting on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2022 informal country reporting) (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/5)

- (b) **Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: participation in the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and outcomes of the peer learning round table on Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Forum and in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 11–11.20 a.m.

6. The secretariat will inform the meeting about the outcomes of session 2 of the peer learning round table on Sustainable Development Goal 4 – *Rebalancing people, planet and prosperity: ESD as key enabler for the 17 SDGs and Agenda 2030*, held online on 7 April 2022 in the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 6 and 7 April 2022) (information paper No. 1).

Documentation

Outline of the peer learning round table “Regional ESD strategies to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (information paper No. 1)

- (c) **Outcomes of the survey on the focus of capacity-building activities**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 11.20–11.40 a.m.

7. Following the decision taken at the sixteenth meeting of the Committee,² the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, elaborated a questionnaire (survey) with the purpose of identifying the focus, form(s) and funding sources of the capacity-building activities to be conducted in the framework of activities to be carried out under the UNECE Strategy for ESD in the next phase of its implementation (2021–2030).

8. At the meeting, the secretariat will inform the Committee about the results of the survey that would help to understand the needs and strategies of the member States and donors in the design and implementation of future capacity-building activities, including their possible format.

9. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat’s presentation with additional proposals on the focus of future capacity-building activities.

10. Based on the results of the survey and the proposals, sounded out during the meeting, including the funding sources of each of the planned activities, the Committee will be invited to agree on the focus and eventual number of capacity-building activities to be held during the initial period of 2022–2025.

11. The secretariat will be mandated to include the decision of the Committee in the report of the meeting.

² ECE/CEP/AC.13/2021/2, paras. 44–46.

- (d) **Building capacity in implementing priority action areas of the newly drafted implementation framework: outcomes of the international conference on implementing the whole institution/school approach held in Lunteren, the Netherlands, on 28–30 March 2022**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 11.40 a.m.–noon

12. The secretariat, together with the host country, will inform the Committee about the outcomes of the international conference on implementing the whole institution/school approach held in Lunteren, the Netherlands, on 28–30 March 2022.

3. 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 (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022)**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, noon–12.20 p.m.

13. The Steering Committee will be updated on the relevant decisions of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, including regarding organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022), the proposed framework for preparing the Conference, and the requirements for hosting that event (information paper No. 2).

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. 2)

- (b) **Decisions of the Special Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva (hybrid), 9–12 May 2022) of relevance to the Steering Committee**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 12.20–12.40 p.m.

14. The Steering Committee will be updated about the decisions of the Special Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva (hybrid), 9–12 May 2022) of relevance to the Steering Committee on ESD.

- (c) **Host country preparations**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 12.40–1 p.m.

15. 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.

- (d) **Draft Ministerial Statement of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries**

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 3–3.10 p.m.

16. 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, including a draft outline of the Ministerial Statement (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/7).

17. The secretariat will brief the Steering Committee on the process of drafting the Ministerial Statement to be adopted at the High-level Meeting, including the work of the

drafting group members who volunteered to participate in the process and who elaborated the outline of the draft of the Ministerial Statement.

18. The Committee will be invited to consider the draft Ministerial Statement and to decide on further action: either to approve the draft as a final document for its further submission to the High-level Meeting or, should more comments be forthcoming from members during the meeting, to ask the drafting group together with the secretariat to incorporate the received comments and prepare the final version of the document to be ready for submission to the High-level Meeting for adoption.

Documentation

Official documents for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, including a draft outline of the Ministerial Statement (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/7)

(e) Organization of side events

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 3.10–3.20 p.m.

19. The Steering Committee will be informed about the organizational issues for the side events to be organized in the framework of the Ministerial Conference, as well as about the process for submitting an application for organizing a side event.

(f) Resource requirements

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 3.20–3.30 p.m.

20. 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. 2).

4. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning

(a) Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 3.30–4 p.m.

21. At its sixteenth meeting, the Steering Committee discussed a pre-final draft of the concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework (including the preamble and the four strands) and asked the secretariat to collect all comments and send them to the Ad Hoc Group for Strategic Planning for elaboration of the final draft of the document, with a view to submitting the final version of the document to the current meeting of the Committee for approval.³

22. The Chair of the Steering Committee will briefly present the course of the development of the draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation framework, which has been finalized and included in the document entitled “Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3). The new framework will be presented to the 2022 High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries as the main guidance policy document for the member States.

23. The Committee will be invited to approve the finalized report (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3), which was officially submitted and translated for the current meeting.

³ Ibid., para. 66.

Documentation

Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3).

(b) Draft workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025

Timing: Monday, 30 May, 4–4.30 p.m.

24. The Chair of the Steering Committee will present for discussion an outline of the draft workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development for the period from 2021 to 2025 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/4), with a view to adopting it. This document establishes a road map of activities to be undertaken during the next implementation phase from 2021 to 2025 to further the implementation of the Strategy at the national and international levels, in accordance with the new mandate to be articulated by education and environment ministries at the upcoming Third High-level Meeting.

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

26. The secretariat will be mandated to incorporate the comments provided into the proposed outline of the draft workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025 and to elaborate the final document for its official submission at the next meeting of the Committee, to be held in 2023.

Documentation

Draft workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/4).

5. 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, 30 May, 4.30–5 p.m.

27. The secretariat and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will 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 - “Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)”, which was officially submitted for consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (Geneva, 19–20 October 2020) (information paper No. 3).

28. Based on the latest update to be provided during the consideration of the item, the Committee will decide on further action regarding the deadlines for finalization of the document.

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. 3)

6. Education for sustainable development and youth: update on the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform held since the previous meeting

(a) An activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for the period 2021–2025;

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 10–10.10 a.m.

29. Following the decision taken at the Steering Committee's sixteenth meeting,⁴ the coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will present to the Steering Committee an activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for the period 2021–2025 for approval (information paper No. 4).

Documentation

Draft activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for the period 2021–2025 (information paper No. 4)

(b) Possible activities and side events on “Youth and Education for Sustainable Development” that could be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 10.10–10.20 a.m.

30. The Steering Committee will be also informed about the possible activities and side events on “Youth and ESD” that could be organized during the forthcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 5).

Documentation

Draft outline of possible activities and side events on “Youth and Education for Sustainable Development” to be organized during the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 5)

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

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 10.20–11.20 a.m.

31. The Steering Committee will be updated on recent activities to promote ESD in other international forums. It will be informed about developments in the processes aimed at implementing ESD at the global level led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A representative of UNESCO will provide the Committee with the following:

(a) A short overview of the highlights of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (online, 17–19 May 2021) and the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development;

(b) Highlights of other key ESD events (Pre-conference of the Parties, Milan, Italy, 30 September–2 October 2021), twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 31 October–12 November 2021), seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly (New York, 14–27 September 2021), Fifth UNESCO Forum on Transformative Education, Global Citizenship, Health and Well-being (Seoul (online), 29 November–1 December 2021) and findings (Learn for our planet, Teachers have their say);

⁴ Ibid., para. 86 (c) (i).

(c) A brief overview and updates on the ESD for 2030 country initiatives among ECE member States.

32. The Steering Committee will be informed about the participation in the Eleventh World Environmental Education Congress “Building Bridges in Times of Climate Urgency” (Prague, 14–18 March 2022) and outcomes of the round table organized by the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Congress, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNESCO.

33. The Steering Committee will be also updated on recent activities held under the aegis of UNEP, 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.

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

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 11.20–11.30 a.m.

34. The member States will be invited to identify and inform the Committee about their eventual or planned participation in any upcoming regional and international forums, and to discuss ways of promoting the Committee’s work.

35. The Committee will be also informed about its participation in other upcoming regional and international events.

9. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 11.30 a.m.–noon

36. 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.

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

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, noon–1 p.m.

37. The Committee will be reminded that the two following publications are planned to be published in 2022 (postponed from 2021):

- “Progress report on the implementation of the fourth mandatory reporting cycle of the Strategy”
- “Good practices on the engagement of youth in education for sustainable development in the ECE region”

38. The Chair and the secretariat will inform the members of the Steering Committee about the status of the preparation for publication of the two forecasted publications.

11. Mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 3–3.30 p.m.

39. The secretariat will invite members to report on their achievements in the area of mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development and to share examples of good initiatives and practices.

12. Matters related to the trust fund

- (a) **Status of the extrabudgetary technical cooperation project “Strengthening the capacity of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States in implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development”**

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 3.30–4 p.m.

40. 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. 6) 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.

41. 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 several years, with a view to examining alternative ways of addressing the matter, including providing in-kind contributions to various programme activities.

42. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the funding perspectives of capacity-building activities for the next decade based on the outcomes of the survey considered under agenda item 2 (c) and taking into consideration the priorities of the newly drafted implementation framework.

43. 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. 6)

- (b) **Establishment of a successor project: matters for the decision of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee**

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 4–4.20 p.m.

44. The Steering Committee will be updated about the status of extrabudgetary technical cooperation project E285 “Strengthening the capacity of UNECE member States in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development”, which was originally scheduled to run to the end of 2021 but was exceptionally extended until 30 June 2022.

45. The Committee will be invited to ask the secretariat to undertake the necessary steps for the extension of project E285, or to create a successor project with the required administrative procedures, including the opening of a new account subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

- (c) **Voluntary scheme of contributions**

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 4.20–4.30 p.m.

46. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the possibility of revising a voluntary scheme of contributions that was proposed in the 2005 Vilnius Framework for the Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development with the aim of ensuring the availability of stable and predictable sources of funding for the effective implementation of the Strategy. The then-proposed scheme of contributions referred to the

following indicative amounts of contributions: for “big” donors – €20,000 or more; for “medium” donors – €2,000 or more; and for “small” donors – €200 or more.⁵

47. The secretariat will inform the Committee that, currently, the administrative costs for receiving a contribution from a member State (that entails charges for setting up the pledge and then applying the cash received) exceed the amount of the initially approved minimum threshold, which makes it inefficient and even negative for the trust fund.

48. The Committee may consider recommending the minimum indicative amount of voluntary contribution.

13. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Tuesday, 31 May, 4.30–4.40 p.m.

49. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and timing of the eighteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2023, as well as of the next eventual meetings of the working groups of experts (ad hoc groups).

14. Other business

Timing: Tuesday, 31 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, 31 May, 4.50–5 p.m.

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

⁵ CEP/AC.13/2005/4/Rev.1, para. 18.