



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

17th meeting, 25 and 26 May 2023

Information Paper No. 7

Draft terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development”¹

Item 10 of the provisional agenda:

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:

(b) Establishing an advisory body drawn from youth representatives under the supervision of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development: Proposed terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development

Prepared by the UNECE Secretariat

¹ This information document was not formally edited

1. The coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will present to the Steering Committee on ESD for discussion and approval the draft terms of reference of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD.
2. The text of the proposed terms of reference of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD is provided below.

Proposed terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development

Mandate

1. Pursuant to the adoption of the Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (Strategy for ESD) from 2021 to 2030 at the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, highlighting the special role and involvement of youth in the process, the Steering Committee on ESD, at its eighteenth meeting held in Geneva on 25-26 May 2023, decided to establish a team of young people addressing issues related to youth and ESD, covered by and accountable to the Steering Committee on ESD. The title of the advisory body will be the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development (UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD) .
2. The UNECE secretariat will provide secretariat support to the Youth Task Force in accordance with UNECE rules and practices.

Composition

3. The members of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD will be designated by Governments of the UNECE Member States. The Youth Task Force will include young people in the fields of environment and education, and will be open-ended. Its members will be responsible for representing young people and their constituencies in the Steering Committee. The candidatures for membership should be submitted on a rolling basis to the Secretariat with a specific call launched bi-annually. Representatives of international organizations and youth organizations will be invited as observers.

Purpose

4. The UNECE Youth Task Force will constitute the principal advisory body to the Steering Committee on ESD on issues related to young people in the UNECE region and be responsible for giving guidance and strategic directions to the implementation of the Strategy. It will also review the progress of its implementation. In particular, it will:
 - a) Advise the Steering Committee on all issues and activities of the Steering Committee related to young people.
 - b) Contribute to the effective mainstreaming of youth in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

- c) Formulate opinions and proposals concerning the priorities and expected results for youth. Where appropriate, address these opinions and proposals to the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development or other relevant stakeholders.
- d) Promote the UNECE's ESD youth policies within the Organization and beyond.
- e) Hold an exchange of views and report to the relevant meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD annually in order to evaluate the activities and advise the ESD Youth Platform on future priorities including possible new activities.

Officers

- 5. At each ordinary meeting, two co-chairpersons will be elected from among the representatives of the UNECE member States and observers present at the meeting. They shall serve as the officers of the Youth Task Force until their successors have been elected.

Meetings

- 6. The meetings of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD will ordinarily be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), unless there is a feasible proposal by a Member State to host the meeting. In order to streamline logistics and budgetary requirements, the meetings of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD could be organized in succession with the meetings of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD. If resources permit, funding will be provided to one person per eligible country to participate in these meetings, in accordance with the rules established by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD will take decisions by consensus and decide as per the practices of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD.

Duration

- 7. The UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD will be in office until the next (tenth) Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".