



Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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

Eighteenth meeting

Geneva, 25 and 26 May 2023

**Decisions of the 18th meeting of the Steering Committee on
ESD**

The Steering Committee:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

Adopted the proposed annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/1).

2. Outcomes of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5 October 2022).

Took note of the information about the outcomes of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.

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

- (a) Progress in implementing the Strategy: update on the most recent developments (policies, actions, programmes, initiatives) at the national level;

Took note of the presentations made by the country representatives on the progress made in implementing the Strategy since the previous meeting.

- (b) Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: outcomes of the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and of the side event, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and 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;

Took note of the information about the outcomes of the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and of the side event, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and 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 (Information Paper No. 1).

(c) Participation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the online side event “The future of regulation in the pan-European region: horizon-scanning for a sustainable and equitable future” (5 April 2023) leading up to the seventieth session of the Commission: Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (18–19 April 2023).

Took note of the information about the participation of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD in the online side event “The future of regulation in the pan-European region: horizon-scanning for a sustainable and equitable future” (5 April 2023) leading up to the seventieth session of the Commission: Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (18–19 April 2023) (Information Paper No. 2).

4. Update on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators: the final draft of the Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025) and guidance for working with indicators.

Approved the proposed documents - Format for reporting on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (2021–2025)” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4), and the guidance for working with indicators – “Guidelines for the process of reporting on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/5).

5. Preparations for the next mandatory reporting cycle (2021–2025) under the Strategy.

Agreed to postpone the launching of the fifth mandatory reporting cycle to 2024, right after the next, nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (to be held in April or May 2024) and approved the proposed steps of the new timeline (Information Paper No. 3).

6. Planning of capacity-building activities for facilitating national reporting on implementing the new implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) along the four priority strands.

Approved the establishment of the “Support Group for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strategy’s implementation” (Information Paper No. 3), comprised of the Steering Committee members and experts:

Noted that the following members of the Committee expressed interest in the membership of the Support Group:

- Paul Vare, academia expert from the UK and coordinator of the Support Group (former member of the expert groups on competences and also indicators)
- Manana Ratiani, academia expert from Georgia (former NFP-Georgia and member of the expert groups on competences and also indicators);
- Monika Reti, NFP of Hungary (former member of the expert group of indicators);
- Stella Hadjiachilleos, expert, Cyprus (experience esp. on the national level and in Committee, esp. deepened after preparing the latest progress report of Strategy's implementation (2017-2019))

Asked the Committee members with the relevant experience and background to shortly inform the secretariat in case of their interest in working in the Group;

Approved the proposed schedule (Information Paper No. 3) of assistance activities to be organized by the support group that would include assistance to national focal points in monitoring and evaluating the Strategy’s implementation on the national level, including development of their respective national implementation reports (NIRs) and completion of the template for reporting provided in the document “Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025)” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4);

Requested the secretariat to provide the necessary secretarial support in organising the proposed assistance activities.

7. Adoption of the final draft of the workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025.

Approved the adoption of the 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.13/2023/3) with the amendments (as in the revised ”Revised document as of 23 May 2023”);

Approved the proposed plan of activities and outputs along the four strands, as outlined in the workplan (as in the “Revised document as of 23 May 2023”).

8. Proposal for developing an outline of activities for implementing the second strand on the whole institution (school) approach outlined in the draft workplan.

Approved the proposed outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on strand 2 on the whole institution approach and education for sustainable development (Information Paper No. 4).

9. Draft concept note and planning of the first capacity-building activity to be organized in 2023 or 2024 under the Swiss project (2023–2025) on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030.

Agreed to organise a capacity building workshop (Information Paper No. 5) on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD” of the implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2030 in Tbilisi, Georgia in December 2023 (subject to the availability of the complementary funds) requested the secretariat to provide the necessary secretarial support in organising the workshop.

Took note of the information of Mr. Ralph Heinrich, Secretary of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, on the prospects of joint work of the two Committees.

10. 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) Briefing on youth involvement in the Nicosia Ministerial Conference (side events, declaration, other meetings) organized during the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference);

Took note of the information about the involvement of youth in the Nicosia Ministerial Conference (side events, declaration, other meetings) organized during the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Information Paper no. 6).

- (b) Establishing an expert 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;

Agreed in principle to establish the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development (Information paper no. 7); and requested the Bureau to review the documents for the establishment of the Youth Task Force with the view to finalize them (the decision is now in force after no comments were received from the Bureau);

Requested the secretariat to undertake the required steps for establishing the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD under the supervision of the Steering Committee.

(c) Draft plan of activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform for 2023.

Took note of the information about the reported initiatives and plans and the proposed activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for the period 2023 (Information Paper no. 8).

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

Took note of the presentations given by the representatives of UNESCO, UNEP, the European Commission, the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, the Global Education Network Europe, and agreed to work closely with the above-mentioned organizations, as well as with other regional and global partners, on further promoting the ESD agenda in the region.

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

Took note of the information regarding the planned participation in the upcoming regional and international forums as relevant, and to always consult with the Chair and the Bureau should interventions be planned on behalf of the Steering Committee.

13. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.

Took note of the presented information about the synergies that can be developed with other organizations and processes.

14. Planning of publications for 2024 on education for sustainable development from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

Agreed on forecasting the following publications for 2024:

- “Guiding Framework for Twenty-first Century Competences for Innovation and Entrepreneurship” and
- “Youth Empowered: From Words to Action”.

15. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.

The Committee took note of the information provided (Information Paper no. 9) and mandated the secretariat to send out its regular annual letters to the governments of the member States (education and environment ministries) asking for financial contributions in support of the UNECE Strategy for ESD in 2023.

16. Forecast of official documents for the nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee, to be held in 2024.

Agreed to the list of the documents, proposed by the secretariat as follows:

- Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth meeting (ECE.CEP.AC.13.2024.1)
- Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (post-session) (ECE.CEP.AC.13.2024.2)
- Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025) (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/3)
- Strategic Framework on Whole Institution Approach”- draft proposal for workplan activity on implementing the key Strand-2 on “Whole Institution Approach and Education for Sustainable Development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/4)

- Draft Proposal for developing a Tool Kit on “Whole Institution or Whole School Approach and Education for Sustainable Development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/4)

17. Calendar of meetings.

Agreed to hold the nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (in-person) on 29-31 May 2024 in Geneva (or, alternatively, on 23-25 April 2024, in case the UN Conference services will not guarantee the provision of the meeting room for the proposed dates in May)
