Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 May 2024

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Capacity-building workshops:
   (a) Following up on the capacity-building workshops on national reporting, including the use of the Most Significant Changes technique for evaluation, plus any further questions on the reporting template;
   (b) Implementing the first strand on “Quality education and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030;
   (c) Implementing the second strand on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030;
   (d) Implementing the third strand on “Digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030;
(a) Progress in implementing the Strategy: Update on the most recent developments (policies, actions, programmes, initiatives) at the national level;


4. Update on the outcomes of the recent two workshops for building member States’ capacity in national reporting on implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

5. 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.


8. Strategic framework on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development – Final proposal for workplan activity on implementing the second priority strand on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development”.

9. Final proposal for developing a toolkit on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development.


11. Update on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030:

   (a) Outcomes of the capacity-building workshop on implementing the fourth priority area on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (Tbilisi, 30–31 October 2023);

   (b) Update on organizing a second activity – A regional conference on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (Limassol, Cyprus, 27–28 June 2024).

12. Education for sustainable development and youth:

   (a) Update on the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform held since the previous meeting;


13. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
14. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums.
15. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.
17. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.
18. Forecast of official documents for the twentieth meeting of the Steering Committee, to be held in 2025.
19. Calendar of meetings.
20. Other business.
21. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

*Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 10–10.10 a.m.*

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

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/1)

2. Capacity-building workshops

*Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 10.10 a.m.–6 p.m.*

(a) **Following up on the capacity-building workshops on national reporting, including the use of the Most Significant Changes technique for evaluation, plus any further questions on the reporting template**

*Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 10.10–11.30 a.m.*

2. This follow-up workshop will reflect on the two capacity-building workshops held online on 13 December 2023 and 23 January 2024, as well as giving participants the opportunity to clarify any pending issues regarding the national reporting process and to discuss an evaluation technique (Most Significant Changes) to assist in participatory decision-making in completing specific aspects of the template for reporting.

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/386050](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Education-for-Sustainable-Development/events/386050).
(b) Implementing the first strand on “Quality education and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

3. The members of the Steering Committee will have the opportunity to consider how to implement the priority activities outlined in the workplan for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2025. Members of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform are encouraged to join, as participants will be exploring how said activities could be led by learners or students.

(c) Implementing the second strand on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 3–4:30 p.m.

4. The members of the Steering Committee will have the opportunity to discuss an outline of activities for implementing the second strand, following the activities outlined in the workplan for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2025.

5. During the initial 50 minutes, participants will engage in an open dialogue concerning the necessary changes, goals and lines of action to be formulated in alignment with the upcoming phase of the strand’s implementation framework, covering the period 2025–2030.

6. Subsequently, for 40 minutes, participants will take part in a discussion prompted by a presentation on the architecture of the whole institution approach toolkit, focusing on key considerations for the expert team.

(d) Implementing the third strand on “Digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, 4:30–6 p.m.

7. The members of the Steering Committee will have the opportunity to discuss an outline of activities for implementing the third strand, following the activities outlined in the workplan for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2025.

8. In this workshop, participants will engage in practical, hands-on activities using their mobile devices and laptops. They will contribute by completing practical tasks and providing recommendations for the contributors to the third strand.

(e) Working meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform

Timing: Wednesday, 29 May, (a.m. or p.m. at a separate location)

9. The members of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will have the opportunity to review and propose activities for the platform’s workplan, ensuring alignment with the objectives of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. There will be a focus on enhancing the Youth Platform’s structure to foster inclusivity, diversity and efficient communication. Furthermore, preparations for the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD meeting will be discussed, with a particular emphasis on articulating the youth perspective effectively.

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

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 10–11 a.m.*

10. The Steering Committee will be briefed on the planned launch of the fifth mandatory reporting cycle in June 2024, immediately after the nineteenth meeting. Therefore, there will be no informal questionnaire distributed for completion by the countries for the nineteenth meeting.

11. To facilitate the tracking of progress in the implementation of the Strategy, countries will be invited to update the Committee about any recent outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the eighteenth Steering Committee meeting (Geneva, 25–26 May 2023), 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 Strategy’s new implementation framework (2021–2030) – quality education and ESD; whole institution approach and ESD; digital education, information and communications technology and ESD; and entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD – as well as the cross-cutting issue of the role of youth in ESD. Given the limited time available, countries will have a maximum of 10 minutes each for interventions.

(b) Regional framework of cooperation for sustainable development: Outcomes of the 2024 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and of the side event organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Forum

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 11–11.15 a.m.*

12. The Steering Committee will be briefed on: the main outcomes of the 2024 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 13–14 March 2024); and the outcomes of the side event “Advancing the six transitions: What role for young people?”, co-organized by Cyprus, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ECE, Geneva Environment Network and Youth and Environment Europe, on 11 March 2024, in the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (information paper No. 1).

Documentation

Concept note and programme of the side event “Advancing the six transitions: What role for young people?” (information paper No. 1)

4. Update on the outcomes of the recent two workshops for building member States’ capacity in national reporting on implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 11.15 a.m.–noon*

13. The coordinator of the Support Group for Monitoring and Evaluation will update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the two capacity-building workshops held online on 12 December 2023 and 23 January 2024, and the follow-up workshop scheduled to be held on the first day of the nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (see agenda item 2 (a)), with the purpose of facilitating national reporting on implementing the new implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (2021–2030) along the four priority strands.
14. The Committee will be also reminded that all materials from the first two above-mentioned workshops are available online.²

5. **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**

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, noon–12.45 p.m.*

15. The coordinator of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group, including the final draft of the revised template for reporting “Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025)” and the guidance for working with indicators – “Guidelines for the process of reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development”. The two documents were revised on the basis of comments received during the two capacity-building workshops held in December 2023 and January 2024 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/3) (see agenda item 4).

16. The Committee will be invited to approve the proposed final draft of the revised template for reporting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/3), which will be circulated to the countries for submission of the national implementation reports.

**Documentation**


Guidelines for the process of reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/6)

6. **Launching of the next mandatory reporting cycle (2021–2025) under the Strategy**

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 12.45–1 p.m.*

17. The Steering Committee will deliberate on the reporting timeline and process for the fifth cycle of reporting, scheduled for June immediately following the nineteenth meeting.

18. The Committee will receive information about the forthcoming evaluation report, which will adhere to the structure of previous reports from the initial four mandatory reporting cycles and will be prepared on the basis of analysis of the submitted national evaluation reports.

19. Discussions will ensue within the Steering Committee regarding potential funding avenues for the preparation of the evaluation report. Options may include member States offering expertise as an in-kind contribution to the Strategy’s trust fund, or providing direct financial contributions to facilitate the hiring and funding of an expert, subject to approval by the Steering Committee.

² See https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Education-for-Sustainable-Development/events/387743.
7. Discussing arrangements for commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in 2025

Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 3–3.30 p.m.

20. The Steering Committee will be invited to deliberate on the arrangements for a celebratory event commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. This event is scheduled to coincide with the twentieth session of the Steering Committee, scheduled for 2025.

21. Participants will be encouraged to contribute creative ideas for organizing this commemorative event, fostering an engaging and memorable experience, and also engaging youth.

22. Member States will have the opportunity to express their interest in hosting the “anniversary” meeting of the Steering Committee in their respective countries.

8. Strategic framework on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development – Final proposal for workplan activity on implementing the second priority strand on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development”

Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 3.30–4 p.m.

23. The Steering Committee will be updated about the outcomes of the process of elaboration of the Strategic framework on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/4) and on the next steps for carrying out the planned activities for implementing the second strand on the whole institution (school) approach and ESD, outlined in the draft workplan.

Documentation

Strategic framework on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development – Final proposal for workplan activity on implementing the second priority strand on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/4)

9. Final proposal for developing a toolkit on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development

Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 4–4.30 p.m.

24. The Steering Committee will be updated about the progress in developing a toolkit on whole institution approach and education for sustainable development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/5).

Documentation

Final proposal for developing a toolkit on “Whole institution approach and education for sustainable development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2024/5)
10. **Update on implementing the third strand on “Digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030**

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 4.30–5.30 p.m.*

25. The Steering Committee will be updated on the outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on the third strand on digital education, information and communications technology and ESD of the implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2030 (information paper No. 2).

26. Countries and other members and observers to the Steering Committee will be invited to present their programmes and/or initiatives aligned with the goals of the third strand.

**Documentation**

Outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on strand 3 on digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development” (information paper No. 2)

11. **Update on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030**

(a) **Outcomes of the capacity-building workshop on implementing the fourth priority area on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (Tbilisi, 30–31 October 2023)**

*Timing: Thursday, 30 May, 5.30–6 p.m.*

27. The Steering Committee will be updated on the promotion of ESD at the national level. The secretariat, together with the host country (Georgia), will update participants on the outcomes of the capacity-building workshop, funded jointly by ECE and Switzerland, on “Strengthening national capacity of Georgia in implementing the fourth priority area on ‘Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development’ of the implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 as a tool for green transformation and resilience” (Tbilisi, 30–31 October 2023).

(b) **Update on organizing a second activity – A regional conference on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (Limassol, Cyprus, 27–28 June 2024)**

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 10–11 a.m.*

28. The Steering Committee will be informed about the preparation of the second activity – a regional conference 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 (Limassol, Cyprus, 27–28 June 2024) (information paper No. 3).
29. The members will be encouraged to notify their respective ministries about the upcoming conference and to facilitate participation. Each country is invited to send a delegation of up to four representatives, with at least one member being a youth delegate.

**Documentation**

Draft concept note for the regional conference to be organized on 27 and 28 June 2024 under the Swiss project (2023–2025) on implementing the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development” of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (information paper No. 3).

12. **Education for sustainable development and youth**

   (a) Update on the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform held since the previous meeting

   *Timing: Friday, 31 May, 11–11.30 a.m.*

   30. The coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will update the Steering Committee on the activities organized by the Youth Platform since the last meeting (information paper No. 4)

   **Documentation**

   Brief summary of activities organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform in Nicosia since the last meeting (information paper No. 4)

   (b) **Draft activity plan for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform for 2025**

   *Timing: Friday, 31 May, 11.30 a.m.–noon*

   31. The coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will present to the Steering Committee a draft activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for 2025 for approval (information paper No. 4).

   **Documentation**

   Draft activity plan for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform in the region for 2025 (information paper No. 4)

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

   *Timing: Friday, 31 May, noon–1 p.m.*

   32. The Steering Committee will be briefed 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 UNESCO. A representative of UNESCO will provide the Committee with the following:

   (a) A short overview of the highlights of the Greening Education Partnership, in particular the development of Quality Standard for Green Schools and the Greening Curriculum Guidance;

   (b) Highlights of other key ESD events: Twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023); ESD-Net 2030 Global Meeting (Tokyo, 18–20 December 2023);
(c) A brief overview of and updates on the ESD for 2030 country initiatives among ECE member States.

33. The Steering Committee will be also briefed on recent activities held under the aegis of, among others, the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Commission, the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, Global Education Network Europe and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

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

Timing: Friday, 31 May, 3–3.10 p.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 informed about the preparations for the “Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow” (New York, 22–23 September 2024).1

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

15. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Friday, 31 May, 3.10–4.10 p.m.

37. 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.

38. The Steering Committee will be encouraged to offer suggestions for broadening its membership to encompass additional relevant organizations and initiatives involved in advancing ESD both within the region and globally.

16. Update on the planned publications for 2024 on education for sustainable development from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Timing: Friday, 31 May, 4.10–4.30 p.m.

39. The Chair will update the members of the Steering Committee on progress regarding the preparation of the two publications forecast for publication in 2024, as follows:

   (a) Guiding Framework for Twenty-first Century Competences for Innovation and Entrepreneurship;

   (b) Youth Empowered: From Words to Action.

40. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss any issues related to the process of preparing the publications and the members responsible for that process will update the Committee in that regard.

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17. **Status of the trust fund and resource requirements**

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 4.30–5 p.m.*

41. 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. 5) to be submitted for the Committee’s consideration before the meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy for ESD is always very difficult, and regional activities are funded exclusively through member States’ contributions to the trust fund, advance indications of pledges by States are vital.

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

43. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the funding perspectives of capacity-building activities for the next phase 2024–2025, based on the activities outlined in the adopted workplan and taking into consideration the priorities of the 2030 implementation framework.

44. During the discussion, the Steering Committee will be expected to look for ways to mobilize additional funds for supporting the trust fund of the Strategy to provide uninterrupted functioning of the secretariat, which supports activities organized by the Committee, and funding of the capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels.

**Documentation**

Contributions, incurred expenses and estimated resource requirements (information paper No. 5)

18. **Forecast of official documents for the twentieth meeting of the Steering Committee, to be held in 2025**

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 5–5.30 p.m.*

45. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss and agree on the number and titles of official documents to be forecast and prepared for the twentieth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2025. Additionally, members will be encouraged to identify and designate the responsible members or experts, or potentially form a group of experts, who will undertake the preparation of each proposed document.

19. **Calendar of meetings**

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 5.30–5.40 p.m.*

46. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and timing of the twentieth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2025, as well as of the next eventual meetings of the working groups of experts (ad hoc groups).

20. **Other business**

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 5.40–5.50 p.m.*

47. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention, including the issue of mainstreaming gender issues in ESD.

48. Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.
21. Closure of the meeting

*Timing: Friday, 31 May, 5.50–6 p.m.*

49. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the nineteenth meeting.