



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CEP/AC.13/2004/9

14 May 2004

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Second regional meeting on education for sustainable development

Rome, 15-16 July 2004

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**SOME ELEMENTS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE
STRATEGY ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. The main aim of the meeting is to discuss and approve the draft UNECE strategy on education for sustainable development. Once it has approved the strategy, the Task Force could provide advice on the further practical implementation of the strategy in the region.
2. At its first meeting in February 2004, the Task Force recognized that various projects in relation to education for sustainable development were taking place in the region and that the experiences from them should be collected and used. At the same time it was agreed that there were still challenges to be met in order to implement education for sustainable development effectively, including strengthening cooperation among governments and stakeholders, improving education systems to address the interdisciplinary nature of education for sustainable development, improving and streamlining formal, non-formal and informal learning, and mobilizing adequate institutional and material provisions for education for sustainable development.
3. Furthermore, it was agreed that experiences and needs varied in different parts of the UNECE region. It was, therefore, important to further assess the needs in different subregions and strengthen subregional cooperation. This would make it possible to concentrate on those issues that were of high importance for a given subregion, thereby helping countries to attain the best practical results. The countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe emphasized their need for support to implement the strategy.

4. To this end, the Task Force may wish to discuss practical aspects that might facilitate the strategy's implementation in relation to:

- Sharing experiences and good practices;
- Capacity-building;
- Raising public awareness;
- Strengthening subregional cooperation.

5. The considerations put forward by the Task Force would provide a basis for discussion by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its eleventh session, when the draft strategy will be presented for endorsement. The purpose of such a discussion is to identify further coordination mechanisms and actions needed by countries, subregions, UNECE and other international organizations to implement the strategy. The discussion may also continue at a joint high-level meeting of Environment Ministries and Education Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States that might be convened to adopt the strategy.