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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

High-level meeting of Environment and Education Ministries
Vilnius, 17-18 March 2005

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Thursday, 17 March 2005 at 3 p.m. to Friday, 18 March 2005* at 4 p.m.

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form, which is also available from the web site of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/HLmeetMarch12005.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 1 February 2005 either by fax (+41-22-917-0107) or by e-mail: (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, starting at 1 p.m., delegates are requested to present themselves at the meeting venue for the issuance of an identification badge.

Welcome address by the host country.

1. Opening of the meeting and introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
2. Keynote speech by a senior representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. From goodwill to practical solutions: challenges and opportunities in implementing of education for sustainable development (ESD) in the UNECE region
 - (a) Introduction by Mr. Jon Kahn (Sweden), Chairperson of the UNECE Task Force on ESD;
 - (b) The UNECE Strategy for ESD;
 - (c) The Framework for implementing the Strategy.
6. Adoption of the Strategy and of the framework for its implementation.
7. Launching of the United Nations Decade of ESD in the UNECE region.
8. Other business.
9. Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Pursuant to a decision taken at the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Kiev, May 2003), the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, at its tenth session (20-22 October 2003), established a task force on education for sustainable development (ESD) to draft a strategy. The Task Force, led jointly by Sweden and the Russian Federation, included representatives from both the environment and education sectors, as well as UNESCO, NGOs and other stakeholders. The strategy was developed through a participatory process and is meant to serve as a flexible framework. Its implementation can be adapted to each country’s priorities, specific needs and circumstances. The document takes into account comments provided by UNECE member States and different stakeholders, and is based on a general consensus.

At its eleventh session (13 - 15 October 2004), the Committee decided to convene a high-level meeting of environment and education ministries (or other equivalent national body responsible for education) as a follow-up to the Kiev Conference. It is expected that the meeting will adopt the strategy and decide on the framework for its implementation. It will take place in Vilnius on 17 and 18 March 2005 at the invitation of the Lithuanian Ministers of Environment and of Education and Science.

(3-3.10 p.m.): A senior representative of Lithuanian government will deliver a welcome address.

Item 1 (3.10-3.20 p.m.): Opening of the meeting and introduction by the Executive Secretary of UNECE

Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, will deliver an introductory speech.

Item 2 (3.20-3.30 p.m.): Keynote speech by a senior representative of UNESCO

A senior representative of UNESCO will be invited to deliver a keynote speech.

Item 3 (3.30-3.35 p.m.): Election of officers

Delegates are invited to elect a chair and a vice-chair. Following discussions at the eleventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, it is proposed that the Minister of Environment of Sweden chair the meeting and that the Russian Federation nominate a vice-chair representing the education sector.

Item 4 (3.35-3.40 p.m.): Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt its agenda, as set out in the present document.

Item 5: From goodwill to practical solutions: challenges and opportunities in implementing education for sustainable development in the UNECE region¹

(a) (3.40-3.50 p.m.) Mr. J. Kahn will present the UNECE Strategy for ESD (CEP/AC.13/2005/3) and explain how it was developed.

(b) (3.50-6 p.m.) The Meeting will be invited to discuss the content and the role of the Strategy. It is expected that delegates will focus on the link between the UNECE initiative on ESD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002).

The Meeting will be invited to discuss a new proposal for the implementation of the Strategy (CEP/AC.13/2005/3/Add.1). It is suggested that a steering committee of representatives of the environment and education sectors may be established with a view to ensuring equal opportunities for representation and input from both sectors. Key stakeholders will be invited to participate as observers. The Meeting may wish to discuss this proposal in conjunction with the corresponding point under item 5 (c).

(c) (10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2.30-3 p.m.) Delegates are invited to discuss the implementation of the Strategy, addressing relevant obstacles, challenges and achievements in relation to ESD. They should focus on the best ways and means to achieve the Strategy's objectives, to: (i) ensure that policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support ESD; (ii) promote sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning; (iii) equip educators with the competence to include sustainable development in their teaching; (iv) ensure that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible; and (v) promote research on and development of ESD.

Delegates are expected to discuss cooperation on ESD within the UNECE region, including subregional and other (e.g. NGO) initiatives and how UNECE experience could be communicated to other regions and globally. The delegates are invited to consider the framework for the regional implementation of the Strategy: (i) activities; (ii) coordination and review; (iii) financial arrangements; (iv) possible establishment of a steering committee; and (v) setting up an expert group to develop indicators (CEP/AC.13/2005/4).

Item 6 (3-3.30 p.m.): Adoption of the Strategy and of the framework for its implementation

The delegates will be invited to adopt the Strategy and the framework for its implementation.

Item 7 (3.30-3.45 p.m.): Launching the United Nations Decade of ESD in the UNECE region

The Meeting, in coordination with UNESCO, will launch the United Nations Decade of ESD in the UNECE region.

¹ To allow more speakers to participate in the discussion, interventions should be limited to 5 minutes.

Item 8 (3.45-3.50 p.m.): Other business

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9 (3.50-4 p.m.): Concluding remarks by the Chair and closing

The Chair is expected to summarize the decisions and key issues raised during the discussions before closing the meeting.

Please send this form it by 1 February 2005 to fax: +41 22 917 0107 or e-mail: evelina.rioukhina@unece.org



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Conference Registration

Please Print

Title of the Conference

Date

UNECE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRIES Vilnius (Lithuania), 17 March (15:00, afternoon) to 18 March 2005 (16:00, afternoon)
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Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency

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Participant

Date

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Family Name

First Name

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Participation category

Head of Delegation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Observer Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>		<u>Participating from / until</u>
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Observer Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Until	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

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