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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

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 25 May 2023**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5 October 2022).
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;
 - (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;
 - (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).
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.



5. Preparations for the next mandatory reporting cycle (2021–2025) under the Strategy.
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.
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.
8. Proposal for developing an outline of activities for implementing the second strand on the whole institution (school) approach outlined in the draft workplan.
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.
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);
 - (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;
 - (c) Draft plan of activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform for 2023.
11. Recent activities to promote education for sustainable development in other international forums.
12. Participation of the Steering Committee in upcoming regional and international forums.
13. Strengthening synergies 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.
15. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements.
16. Forecast of official documents for the nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee, to be held in 2024.
17. Calendar of meetings.
18. Other business.
19. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is expected to adopt the agenda for its

eighteenth meeting as set out in the present document. The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/1)

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 10.10–11 a.m.

2. The Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries was held on 5 October 2022, in the framework of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022), with a view to assessing progress during the past phase of its implementation and considering its future implementation.

3. The secretariat will brief the Steering Committee on the major outcomes of the Nicosia Ministerial Conference, such as the adoption of the framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/10) and the Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/11), and outline activities to be implemented during the next implementation period.

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 11 a.m.–noon

4. The Steering Committee will be informed that the fifth mandatory reporting cycle is planned to be launched before the end of 2023 and therefore there will be no informal questionnaire distributed for completion by the countries for the eighteenth meeting.

5. To facilitate tracking 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 seventeenth Steering Committee meeting (Geneva, 30–31 May 2022), 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, employability, 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.

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/375664>.

- (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**

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, noon–12.30 p.m.

6. The Steering Committee will be briefed on: the main outcomes of the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development; and the outcomes of the side event “Unleashing the power of youth through education: sustainable solutions for a better future”, organized on 28 March 2023 in the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva (hybrid), 29 and 30 March 2023) (information paper No. 1).

Documentation

Concept note and programme of the side event “Unleashing the power of youth through education: sustainable solutions for a better future” (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)**

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 12.30–1 p.m.

7. The secretariat will inform the meeting about participation in the online side event “The future of regulation in the pan-European region: horizon-scanning for a sustainable and equitable future”, organized on 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 (Geneva, 18–19 April 2023) (information paper No. 2).

Documentation

Concept note and programme of the side event “The future of regulation in the pan-European region: horizon-scanning for a sustainable and equitable future” (5 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**

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 3–3.30 p.m.

8. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will update the Steering Committee on the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators, 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)”, which was officially previously submitted for consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee (Geneva (hybrid), 19–20 October 2020) (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4),² and the guidance for working with indicators – “Guidelines for

² Originally, the format applied to the period 2021–2030 (see ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/2, sect. VII).

the process of reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development” (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/5).

9. The Committee will be also informed about the timeline for the fifth mandatory reporting cycle to be launched in June 2023.

10. The Committee will be invited to provide comments on the revised template for reporting, which will be circulated to the countries for submission of the national implementation reports.

Documentation

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)

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.13/2023/5)

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 3.30–3.45 p.m.

11. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the reporting timeline and process for the fifth cycle of reporting to be carried out in June, as referred to under the previous agenda item. It is expected that the Committee will approve a final version of the revised reporting format (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4).

12. The Steering Committee will be invited to approve the proposed final draft of the revised template for reporting on national implementation and of the guidelines for reporting in order to proceed with the launch of the fifth mandatory reporting cycle.

13. The Steering Committee will be informed that the evaluation report to be prepared on the basis of the national implementation reports will follow the structure of the evaluation reports from the previous four mandatory reporting cycles.

Documentation

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)

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 3.45–4.15 p.m.

14. The coordinator of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will present to the Committee a proposal for (online and phase-to-phase) workshops, to be conducted by experts to help the national focal points and/or the national monitoring and evaluation groups organize their process of national reporting to ECE on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD within the established reporting mechanism, updated in accordance with the priority areas of the new implementation framework 2021–2030, and based on the experience from the previous monitoring and evaluation methodology.

Documentation

Proposal for building member States' capacity in organizing the process of national reporting on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 3)

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 4.15–4.45 p.m.

15. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider a draft workplan for implementation of the second phase (2021–2025) of the post-2015 implementation period, or the fifth phase if counting from the launch of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, with a view to adopting it. The document establishes a road map of activities to be undertaken during the remaining three years of the second implementation phase (2021–2025) and aligned with the mid-term review of ESD for 2030 global framework set for 2025 to further the implementation of the Strategy at the national and international levels, in accordance with the mandate articulated by education and environment ministries at the Nicosia High-level Meeting in 2022.

16. The present draft was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the outline of the draft 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.13/2022/4), elaborated by the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning in consultation with the Chair and the secretariat and endorsed by the seventeenth meeting of the Steering Committee (30–31 May 2022),³ which was, in turn, prepared on the basis of the framework for the future implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3), as adopted at the Nicosia High-level Meeting.⁴

17. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the list of activities and outputs along the four priority strands outlined in the draft workplan (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/4, ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/3) and to propose concrete steps of implementation including the implementing partner(s), place, date/timeline, estimated cost and funding sources.

18. It will be highlighted that planning of activities for the second strand on “Whole institution approach and ESD” and the fourth strand on “Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD” will be presented under agenda items 8 and 9.

Documentation

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)

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

Timing: Thursday, 25 May, 4.45–5.15 p.m.

19. The Steering Committee will be informed about the proposal on planned activities for implementing the second strand on the whole institution (school) approach and ESD, outlined in the draft workplan, including the development of guidelines and a toolkit for

³ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/2, para. 90.

⁴ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/7, operative para. 2.

implementation, the collection of good practices and the organization of capacity-building workshops, as relevant (information paper No. 4).

Documentation

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 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, 25 May, 5.15–6 p.m.

20. The Steering Committee will be updated about the draft concept note for 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 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. 5).

21. The members will be invited to express their interest in considering participation in, and/or providing contributions to, the organization of the activity through financial contributions or in-kind contributions by, for example, providing experts and/or hosting the activity.

Documentation

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 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. 5).

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)

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 10–10.30 a.m.

22. The Steering Committee will be briefed on the outputs and activities (declaration, side events and other meetings), organized by the UNECE ESD Youth Platform in Nicosia during the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 6)

Documentation

Brief summary of outputs and activities organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform in Nicosia 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**

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 10.30–11 a.m.

23. The coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will present to the Steering Committee for ESD for discussion and approval the draft terms of reference of the UNECE Youth Task Force on ESD (information paper No. 7).

Documentation

Draft terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Youth Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development (information paper No. 7)

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

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 11–11.30 a.m.

24. The coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform will present to the Steering Committee an activity plan for the Youth Platform in the region for 2023 for approval (information paper No. 8).

Documentation

Draft activity plan for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Education for Sustainable Development Youth Platform in the region for 2023 (information paper No. 8)

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

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

25. 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 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A representative of UNESCO will provide the Committee with the following:

(a) A short overview of the highlights of the United Nations Transforming Education Summit (New York, 16–19 September 2022) and the Greening Education Partnership;

(b) Highlights of other key ESD events: the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6–20 November 2022); phase two of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, Canada, 7–19 December 2022); the Global ESD-Net 2030 launch Webinar (4 October 2022); the ESD-Net Regional Consultation Webinar: Europe-North America (online, 6–7 March 2023), as well as findings from various studies published by UNESCO in 2022 (*Youth demands for quality climate change education; Where do we stand on education for sustainable development and global citizenship education: findings of the 7th Consultation on the implementation of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and*

Fundamental Freedoms; and The concept of sustainability and its contribution towards quality transformative education);⁵

(c) A brief overview and updates on the ESD for 2030 country initiatives among ECE member States.

26. 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, the Global Education Network Europe and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

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

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 3–3.10 p.m.

27. 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.

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

13. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 3.10–4.10 p.m.

29. 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.

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

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 4.10–4.40 p.m.

30. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the possibility of the members' assistance, including through in-kind contributions, in publishing a number of reports and/or other publications, including those referred to in the draft workplan for the next implementation phase (2021–2025).

31. The Chair will inform the members of the Steering Committee about the three publications forecast for publication in 2024, as follows:

(a) A Practical Guide for Implementing the Whole Institution/School Approach to Education for Sustainable Development, including good practice examples and case studies

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

(c) Youth Empowered: From Words to Action

32. The Steering Committee will be invited to decide on the next steps regarding the preparation of the above-mentioned publications, including nominating the responsible members who will coordinate their preparation.

⁵ All three studies published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Paris, 2022).

15. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 4.40–5.10 p.m.

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

34. 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 over the previous several years, with a view to examining alternative ways of addressing the matter, including providing in-kind contributions to various programme activities.

35. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the funding perspectives of capacity-building activities for the next phase 2023–2025, based on the activities outlined in the adopted workplan and taking into consideration the priorities of the newly drafted implementation framework.

36. During the discussion, the Steering Committee will be expected to look for ways to mobilize additional funds for capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels.

Documentation

Contributions, incurred expenses and estimated resource requirements (information paper No. 9)

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

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 5.10–5.30 p.m.

37. 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 nineteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2024, as well as to identify and nominate the responsible members/experts (or a group of experts) who will prepare each of the proposed documents.

17. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 5.30–5.40 p.m.

38. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and timing of the nineteenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2024, as well as of the next eventual meetings of the working groups of experts (ad hoc groups).

18. Other business

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 5.40–5.50 p.m.

39. 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 education for sustainable development.

40. Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

19. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Friday, 26 May, 5.50–6 p.m.

41. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the eighteenth meeting.
