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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials

“Environment for Europe”

(Seventh session, Kiev, 17 and 19 May 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION**

To be held at the International Exhibition Centre, Kiev

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 17 May 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Education for sustainable development.
3. Ministerial Declaration.
4. Other business.
5. Closing of the meeting.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its sixth session, 20-24 September 1999, established the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in Kiev, Ukraine. The Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials held its first session on 29 September 2000, its second on 28 September 2001, its third on 3-4 July 2002, its fourth on 7-8 November 2002, its fifth on 19-21 February 2003 and its sixth on 3-4 April 2003.

## **Item 1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Working Group of Senior Officials is invited to adopt the agenda for its seventh session.

## **Item 2. Education for sustainable development**

At its fifth session, the Working Group discussed the reports prepared by the drafting group on environment and education and suggested that two documents should be submitted to the Kiev Conference: a short political ministerial statement (CEP/AC.11/2003/19) for decision by the Ministers and an annex on basic elements for a UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development (CEP/AC.11/2003/19/Add.1 and 2) for the post-Kiev work.

The drafting group suggested among other things that UNECE should initiate a regional process, in consultation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and relevant regional actors, such as the Council of Europe, on this issue. The Kiev Conference would provide the first step towards the development and future implementation of the strategy, but drafting it would require the establishment of a task force.

Participants supported the overall proposals of the drafting group, and it was agreed that the process should start immediately after the Kiev Conference. There was general consensus that this issue was a priority for the region.

The documents were adopted as amended by the Working Group. However, the decision on which organization, UNECE or UNESCO, should initiate the regional follow-up process was left pending. It was agreed that the UNECE secretariat would approach UNESCO to determine its capacity and willingness to take the initiative to establish and follow-through on a regional process to develop and implement a UNECE regional strategy for education for sustainable development.

At its sixth session, the Working Group had before it an information note by the secretariat on the initiative on education for sustainable development (WGSO-6/INF. on ESD). This note provided an update on the consultations between UNECE and UNESCO. Specifically, the note stated that while UNESCO was the lead agency and coordinator with regard to education for sustainable development at the global level, it was not in a position to take the lead at the regional level. UNESCO expressed its appreciation for the work on education for sustainable development undertaken within the "Environment for Europe" framework, and its hope to work in partnership with UNECE and to participate in the post-Kiev process. However, due to a lack of time, this issue was not discussed during the sixth session of the Working Group.

The Working Group at its seventh session may wish to propose to the Ministers at the Kiev Ministerial Conference which organization should take the lead in implementing the initiative on education for sustainable development and to reflect this proposal in the relevant paragraphs of the draft ministerial declaration (CEP/AC.11/2003/6/Rev.4, para. 50)

Documents: Statement by Ministers on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/102);  
Corrigendum (ECE/CEP/102/Corr.1).

### **Item 3. Ministerial Declaration**

At its sixth session, the Working Group commenced its first reading of the draft ministerial declaration and worked on paragraphs 1 to 32 and on paragraphs 41 to 44, dealing with energy. At the request of the Chair, an open-ended drafting group to complete the first reading of the draft declaration is scheduled to take place on 29-30 April 2003, in Geneva.

At its seventh session, the Working Group is expected to continue with the second reading (CEP/AC.11/2003/6/Rev.4).

### **Item 4. Other business**

Delegations may wish to put forward other items for discussion.

### **Item 5. Closing of the meeting**

The Chair will sum up the main conclusions and decisions.