



Update on GEO-6 Delivery in light of UNEA-3

With the agreement to hold UNEA-3 in 2017 and UNEA-4 in 2019 as set out in UNEA resolution 2/22, the GEO-6 High Level Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group have held a series of teleconference meetings to discuss options for the delivery of GEO-6. At its latest meeting on 20th July, a formal proposal and rationale was agreed upon as follows:

1. It was not considered feasible to deliver a complete GEO-6 (i.e. Part A State and Trends, Part B Policy Effectiveness, Part C Outlooks) for UNEA-3, but rather for UNEA-4; it was therefore decided to recommend to Member States for decision at UNEA-3 an amendment to UNEA Resolution 1/4, on GEO and its Summary for Policy Makers to be delivered to Member States no later than 2019.
2. Many Member States also wish to use the opportunity of UNEA-3 to present a global update on Parts A and B at UNEA-3, and to have a Ministerial debate on the priorities and transformational pathways for the Part C Outlooks. This would also give Ministers and Member States a chance to reflect on progress on delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda (UNEA Resolution 2/10).
3. The proposal is that the GEO-6 Global Assessment should follow a plan for i) production of a meaningful global contribution to UNEA-3, based on the GEO-6 Regional Assessments, and global state and trends in the environment, policy effectiveness, emerging issues and priorities and ii) establishing a strengthened, innovative approach and expert community to produce a new Part C Global Outlooks for UNEA-4.
4. To this end, a global update could take stock on the themes for the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, namely (2017) "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and (2018) "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" as well as of the sets of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth by the High Level Political Forum as defined by the General Assembly resolution A/70/L.60 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and the UNEA resolution 2/5 on "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which requests the Executive Director to strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by, inter alia, continuing to provide policy-relevant information, including the Global Environment Outlook assessments, to track progress regarding the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as information on trends in global sustainability, and to present them to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to support informed decision-making with regard to strengthening implementation.
5. The emphasis for the UNEA-3 input will be on assuring the quality of the GEO-6 quantitative analysis of environmental progress and providing meaningful input for an engaging Ministerial segment focused on key priorities for future action. To date, the GEO-6 Advisory Bodies have agreed on the annotated outline of the global assessment, global experts and co-chairs have been nominated and invited to participate and a new timetable and budget being finalized with additional time factored in to provide a minimum of 8-week consultation period for member states.

6. Funding for GEO-6 remains of concern. For 2016, the Government of Italy has indicated its willingness to support the full participation of the two GEO-6 advisory bodies at the first global authors meeting in 3-7 October 2016, in Nairobi. This is considered a vital element in the GEO process to enhance transparency and participation across the world. The need to pay co-chairs and authors is also seen as a vital part of UNEP's commitment to securing the best expertise.