



Update on Option for GEO-6 Delivery

With the agreement to hold UNEA-3 in 2017 and UNEA-4 in 2019, 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.
2. However, many Member States wished 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. 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 is being finalised with additional time factored in to provide a minimum of 8 week consultation period for member states.
5. 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.
6. An amendment to UNEA Resolution 1/4, to deliver GEO and a Summary for Policy Makers to be delivered no later than 201[9], will be prepared for decision at UNEA-3.

Action: The UNEA Bureau is requested to consider the format and placing of an input to the UNEA-3 Ministerial high-level segment.