



### **Third GEO for Youth Authors' Meeting**

The GEO for Youth authors met face to face in Vienna on May 15th to May 17th, 2019 to further develop the drafts of the GEO for Youth report, with the following meeting objectives:

- Reduce the amount of text in each chapter to about 5000 words, in order to ensure a concise and focused product.
- Advance the chapters to their second order draft stage, including completing infographics with the visual authors, videos and other multimedia elements with the videographer.
- Develop a work plan for ensuring that the second order draft is fully completed by 3 weeks following the Vienna meeting in order to prepare the second external review process.
- Collaborate with other authors and the co-chairs to ensure links are made across the chapters to create a coherent narrative for the report.
- Produce the initial draft of the Introduction and Executive Summary for the whole report (1000 words)
- Finalize the review grids from the previous review period.

### **On these items the group decided:**

- All chapters are at or near the 5000 words limit. The text has been modified to include the following observations from the co-chairs and the Secretariat:
  - Chapter 1 will reference the sixth Global Environment Outlook a bit more, to ensure the link with the GEO is clear to readers.
  - Chapter 2 will also reference the GEO a bit more to keep the link with the business as usual and target seeking scenarios chapters in the main report. These references will strengthen the foundation for the need to move towards a more sustainable future.

- Chapter 3 will develop a ‘life choices’ section to inform youth about the impacts of their more one-off choices (e.g. where they live, how they move around) and how they can make more sustainable choices.
  - Chapter 3 will also increase the citation of existing literature on the impact of these different day-to-day sustainability actions and life choices, so that the credibility of the recommendations in the report is strengthened.
  - Chapter 3 will also create linking text to the annex on citizen science, indicating that one of the actions that youth can take is to help monitor the state of our environment.
  - Chapter 4 will strengthen the analytical portions of the jobs of the future sections by linking it to the green jobs analysis conducted by the International Labour Organization.
  - Detailed comments and responses from authors will be provided in the Outcomes document to ensure clarity on these issues.
- Each author will participate in the refining of the chapters to ensure a balanced range of views on the issues presented.
  - All infographics have been discussed with the visual authors and rough sketches of these have been produced. Small modifications to the infographics will be made over the coming weeks so that these can be inserted into the chapters before the review period.
  - All video and multimedia elements have been discussed with the videographer and the chapters are generally happy with the approach for editing these video elements and presenting them in the chapters before the review begins.
  - Chapter 4 authors are satisfied with the footage that was captured for the ‘jobs of the future’ video and will ensure it is completed and added to the chapter prior to the review period.
  - All chapters have produced a detailed work plan for the completion of their second-order drafts by the June 5<sup>th</sup> deadline established by the co-chairs.
  - Chapter authors have a sense of the kind of linking text to be added to their chapters to ensure coherence is maintained across the document in the second-order draft.
  - All authors have contributed or will soon contribute their top 5 messages to the co-chairs so that they may complete the draft of the Executive Summary for the report.
  - The co-chairs have completed a working version of the Introduction of the report. It will be added to the second-order draft prior to the review period and will ‘set the stage’ for the chapters of the main report.
  - The co-chairs will receive all chapters on or before June 5<sup>th</sup> so that they can review and conduct a ‘light-edit’ of the text before it goes for review.
  - The co-chairs will produce a short Conclusion for the report from the June 5<sup>th</sup> versions of the chapters that will be added to the second-order draft prior to the review period.
  - The Secretariat will seek a younger demographic (15-20 year olds) to be added to the current cohort of reviewers. Guidance will be produced for reviewers so that they may comment on the tone and language-style used in the chapters to ensure that it is written in a way that will attract and inform the 15-25 year old audience.
  - The Secretariat will format all chapters, the Executive Summary, the Introduction and Conclusion in the typical review style prior to submitting the document to the reviewers. The Secretariat will need about 1 day to complete this formatting, so would like to receive the full report by June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Secretariat will produce each chapter and section individually for the reviewers and will also produce a full version of the document that can also be reviewed.

## ***Meeting Summary***

### Day 1

Pierre Boileau, Head of Global Environment Outlook, provided a warm welcome to the participants and introduced the new participants, the illustrators, Joseph Schmidt-Klingenberg and Sebastian Obermeyer and the videographer, Oliver Umpierre.

After the opening remarks, the following presentations were provided by the following:

- Pierre Boileau, Head of GEO, on logistics and timeline
- Co-chairs, on general comments and way forward
- Representatives from each chapter about the achievements since the February Nairobi meeting, meeting objectives and plan on how to achieve those objectives

The participants then split into their chapter groups and worked on different activities taking turns throughout the day to:

- Brainstorm on the visuals with the illustrators, providing ideas for a first draft of the infographics, to be produced by the end of the meeting. Each chapter selected five infographics to be produced. It was also agreed that the characters should appear in most of the infographics when possible. The style of the visual will be similar across the chapters to maintain consistency. The authors agree that some of the visuals will be interactive, but it is important to maintain a balance between interactive pieces and text that can be written on the PDF offline version.
- Brainstorm with the videographer on videos, interviews and multimedia content. The video will be a mix of interviews of diverse young authors and footage of the plenary, aiming at being inspirational for the youth to act on the environment.
- Work on shortening the chapters to meet the limit of 5,000 words
- Discuss content issues to address during the meeting.

The co-chairs worked with small groups of authors to prepare a draft of the Executive Summary and include some policy messages to the report.

## Day 2

The plenary started with a discussion about synergy across chapters. The group agreed that more coherency is needed in the text in terms of language, tone and structure.

Some of the issues discussed included:

- How to produce a text which is youth-friendly while still maintaining its scientific credibility
- Introduce terms and topics in a more general way in the text, but including a link to the main GEO-6 or to other sources to have the choice of accessing further information.
- The importance of mentioning the connections between chapters in the introduction and conclusion of each one, so that the flow is clear.
- Use of characters.
- Ensure to avoid repetitions of topics in different chapters.
- Production of a glossary which includes both UN definitions and more youth-friendly definitions
- The production of a general introduction and conclusion, to be produced by the co-chairs with a small group of authors

The Head of GEO, Pierre Boileau provided a presentation about the findings of GEO-6.

Franklin Odhiambo from the Secretariat provided some guidance and findings on the review process and requested the chapter team to submit their completed review grid by the end of the day. He pointed out that the authors are allowed to reject comments, but it is important that every decision is justified as the grids will be reviewed by review editors. Every comment must be addressed, either accepted or rejected. Editorial comments will be dealt with later by professional editors. The second external review period

will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. The authors were invited to suggest more reviewers to add to the previous list.

The chapter groups worked individually for the rest of the day on their drafting. At the same time, the co-chairs worked with representatives for each chapter worked on advancing the Executive Summary draft. A group of authors worked on analysing the updated results of the survey to include the new responses from China and provide new data for the chapters. The illustrators and the videographer advanced their products.

The second day was closed by Sharif Shawky from the Secretariat with an overview discussion on the status and the remaining missing pieces of each chapter and what was needed to be finished by the third day of the meeting.

### Day 3

The meeting was opened by a presentation from the co-chairs, underlining the importance of working together to meet the deadlines and providing an overview of the drafted Executive Summary. It was decided that the Executive Summary would not be divided by chapters, but by themes. Amit Patel, an author from Chapter 4, proposed the production of a video on green jobs of the futures and requested the authors to participate talking about their expertise and experience in a certain sector, following the categorization of ILO. Amit and Oliver worked on scripting and shooting interviews not only to the authors but also to Joseph and Oliver himself, to include the creative industry. During the day, the chapters worked in their groups to advance the drafts and the co-chairs focused on the Executive Summary.

At the end of the day, each chapter team provided a presentation on the progress achieved during the meeting. The illustrators presented their first draft of the visuals, requesting the authors to provide their feedback in the upcoming week. All authors and co-chairs filled out a satisfaction survey. The meeting was then closed by Pierre Boileau with a presentation of the agenda for the next three weeks and a round of acknowledgements and Q&A.

### ***Detailed comments and response on each chapter***

#### **Chapter 1 - Our Changing Environment**

Chapter 1 team worked on completing the review grid, cutting some text in sections that were longer than the recommended word count and formulating the graphics of the chapter.

- The Secretariat and the co-chairs suggested simplifying some of the terms used in the chapter as they may be too scientific and not easy to understand. It was agreed that the glossary will have both the scientific definition and the easy to understand definition.
- The Secretariat also suggested that the chapter more references to the GEO-6 main report.
- It was decided that text breakers and ‘know your numbers’ boxes will be included in the next draft of the chapter.
- It was decided that the land and biodiversity section will include two maps from the main report.
- Final infographics and avatar characters to be included in the chapter were decided on by the authors and were shared with the visual authors.
- Authors in the chapter were interviewed for short video pieces that will be used in the report and a promotional GEO for Youth video.
- The key messages to be included in the Executive Summary were selected by the authors and shared with the co-chairs.

## Chapter 2 – Towards a sustainable future Earth

The team worked on cutting the text, created a concept of using a slider based on how to present both the business as usual (BAU) and the sustainable scenarios and developed a transition into Chapter 3 to highlight how daily actions can create those sustainable scenarios

- The Secretariat highlighted that to Chapter 2 that the main focus of this chapter is to highlight the sustainable scenarios that can be achieved if the youth are to take action. He provided suggestions to build on the sustainable scenarios based on Chapter 22 and build on transformational change based on Chapter 23 of the main GEO report.
- The text of the chapter was cut down to reduce the text down to 5000 words on the first day. This included moving much of the text about the SDGs into the annex.
- The chapter team worked with the visual authors to brainstorm interactive ideas to present the business as usual and sustainable scenarios by adding a slider.
- The writing styles for BAU and sustainable scenarios had been altered so that they would match and improve the flow of the chapter
- The key messages were agreed upon by the whole chapter team and were handed to the co-chairs for them to begin working on the executive summary on day 2.
- Akshay analysed the chapter for glossary terms to be added into the group working file
- Authors were interviewed for a promotional and inspirational GEO for Youth video

## Chapter 3 – Empathy to action

The team worked on cutting text to respect the word count, reorganising the chapter and formulating the graphics.

- The Secretariat and the co-chairs suggested showing how individual and collective actions (even when could seem insignificant) can impact bigger systems and allow transformative change aiming to move from a linear to a circular economy.
- In order to show that sustainability actions are not only important on a daily basis but also for the ‘one in a lifetime’ choices, a section of ‘choices of life’ will be included. This will cover the issue of how to be sustainable when buying a car or a house.
- Facts and evidence should be added throughout the text, to more effectively show the readers the impact of their actions. Specifically, this will be achieved by showing the impacts on the three big systems: food, energy, waste.
- It was decided that the “Day in the life” table will become an infographic, while the “It’s time to act” table (section 3.5) will remain a table including some symbols. This is to maintain some specific examples of actions and stress the importance of policy.
- In order to cut words from the tables and infographics, it was decided that only the main titles will be kept, but more information will be accessible in pop-ups and links to external sources.
- During the brainstorm with the visual authors, five infographics were chosen. However, as suggested by the Secretariat, an infographic on linear vs circular economy was included.
- The key messages to be included in the Executive Summary were selected by the CLAs and discussed with the co-chairs.
- The new data from the questionnaire were analysed and incorporated in the text.

## **Chapter 4 - Your Career, Our future**

The team worked on restructuring the chapter and formulating the infographics.

- The chapter was restructured in line with the main comments received during the review period. Its structure changed in line with the fact that it now moves to the end of the report with an objective of giving a case of green career a more clear representation in the report.
- The team worked with other chapter teams' focal points to decide on how to first introduce the concept of green economy in the circular world then worked together to restructure the chapter.
- It was then decided that a piece on training, education and skills was needed to give the chapter a 'how' to arrive at a green job and achieve sustainability.
- A video recording interview was proposed by the chapter team, interviewing other youths in the meeting on 'what' it takes to choose a specific career path. The team worked with the videographer to shoot some footage.

At the end of the mission, the chapter had a clear structure, coherent message and a workplan to help finalise the chapter before the start of a new review period.

### ***Conclusions***

The main objectives of the second global GEO for Youth meeting were fully achieved:

1. Main issues raised by reviewers were all addressed and the chapters advanced to ensure coherence.
2. In advancing the drafts to the second draft stage, the chapters were shortened and links were made along the report to ensure coherence and consistency
3. An in-depth discussion and brainstorming around visual elements took place, allowing visual authors to start their designs with clear understanding of what is expected
4. A timeline was developed and discussed to ensure further smooth operation of the process
5. A shooting of the video on GEO for youth outreach was done. This will be edited and enhanced over time to ensure its quality for the launch of the report.
6. An initial draft of the Executive Summary was produced by the co-chairs and a group of authors.
7. The first draft of the general introduction and conclusion was worked on by the co-chairs and a group of authors.

## Annex 1 – Participants List

First Name	Last name	Gender	Country of Origin	Email address
<b>Authors</b>				
Maryam	Al-Kharusi	F	Oman	maryam.kharusi1@gmail.com
Al-Anoud Fahad	Al-Khatlan	F	Kuwait	Alanoudkuw@gmail.com
Nawaf	Almutairi	M	Kuwait	Nawafbeajan@gmail.com
Rohan	Bhargava	M	USA	rohanbhargava7@gmail.com
Maria Jose Zambrano	Fermin	F	Venezuela	mariazambranofermin@gmail.com
Mohsen	Gul	M	Pakistan	mohsingulsher@gmail.com
Maria Jesus	Iraola	F	Uruguay	majeirao@gmail.com
Ashkay	Jain	M	India	aks.che@gmail.com
Muhammad Saeed	Khalifa	M	Sudan	msakhalifa@hotmail.com
Tooba	Masood	F	Pakistan	masoodtooba@outlook.com
Richard S.	Mbatu	M	USA	mbatu@mail.usf.edu
Jacopo	Napolitano	M	Italy	jacopo.napolitano@gmail.com
Jaee Sanjay	Nikam	F	India	jaeenikam@gmail.com
Sarah	Nyawira	F	Kenya	sanjenga@gmail.com
Sebastian	Obermeyer	M	Germany	hallo@josephundsebastian.com
Priti	Patel	F	USA	PritiPatelMPH@gmail.com
Amit	Patel	M	USA	AmitRPatel601@gmail.com
Darshini	Ravindranath	F	India	darshinir@gmail.com
Joseph	Schmidt-Klingenberg	M	Germany	hallo@josephundsebastian.com
Asha	Sitati	F	Kenya	sitatiasha@gmail.com
Sheryl Rose	Reyes	F	Japan	sherylrose.reyes@gmail.com
Hyeonju	Ryu	F	South Korea	hyeonju.ryu@protonmail.com
Tomoko	Takenda Minowa	F	Japan	minowa@iges.or.jp
Oliver	Umpierre	M	Uruguay	kite@oliverumpierre.com
Mauro	Viccaro	M	Italy	mauro.viccaro@gmail.com
Mandy	Van den Ende	F	Netherlands	mandyvde93@gmail.com
Samanta E.	Villegas	F	Ecuador	samantavespinosa@gmail.com
Leila	Zamani	F	Oman	leilazamani2009@gmail.com
Carol Rebecca	Zastavniouk	F	Canada	carol.zastavniouk@gmail.com
<b>Co-chairs</b>				
Nibedita	Mukherjee	F	India	nibedita.41282@gmail.com
Charles	Mwangi	M	Kenya	maina.charles@yahoo.com
<b>Secretariat</b>				
Pierre	Boileau	M	Canada	pierre.boileau@un.org
Caroline	Kaimuru	F	Kenya	caroline.kaimuru@un.org
Birgita	Ohanga	F	Kenya	brigitte.ohanga@un.org
Franklin	Odhiambo	M	Kenya	franklin.odhiambo@un.org
Adele	Roccatto	F	Italy	adele.roccatto@un.org
Sharif	Shawky	M	Egypt	sharif.shawky@un.org