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Second face to face authors meeting of the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment

United Nations Conference Centre, 2nd Floor, United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand, May 22 – 26, 2017

The global assessment authors for the sixth Global Environment Outlook met to:

1. Review with co-chairs and vice-chair, as well as the SAP co-chairs and vice-chairs, progress on the first nine chapters of the global assessment;
2. Discuss how to address overlap and duplication in these chapters;
3. Apply a consistent structure across the chapters in order to present a coherent analysis for the second order drafts;
4. Address the first order draft review comments, following guidance from the Review Editors;
5. Discuss with the cross-cutting authors on how to incorporate these issues in all the thematic chapters;
6. Develop approaches for new texts for the economic and equity dimensions of the sixth Global Environment Outlook;
7. Develop text for a new cross-cutting issue on cities and urbanization;
8. Expand the annotated outline and develop portions of the text for the Policy Effectiveness chapters of the global assessment;
9. Develop the annotated outline and drafting work plan for the Outlooks chapters of the global assessment;
10. Conduct a ground-truthing and visioning workshop for the Outlooks chapters of the assessment.

On these items, the meeting, the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs agreed:

Content

1. The theme of Healthy Planet, Healthy People should be integrated into each chapter as recommended in the chairs' guidance.
2. Authors should also present 'what's new' since the fifth Global Environment Outlook, as presented in the chairs' guidance.
3. Authors should build on and reference the findings of the regional assessments as they build their chapters.
4. The equity and economic dimensions should be woven through the chapters, as per the chairs' guidance.
5. The current policy response ('small r') and governance surrounding each environmental theme should also be presented.

Structure

1. The first order review identified questions of consistency among the different chapters.
2. The chairs of the Global Environment Outlook have proposed restructuring of the Data and Knowledge, Cross-cutting and the Thematic chapters.
3. Thematic chapters should conduct their analysis using a Pressures, State, Impact and 'small r' response approach. This approach should not be applied pedantically; rather this structure is proposed for organizing the rationale and logic of the thematic chapters.
4. Small contributions of text on the economic dimension are being submitted to cross-cutting and thematic authors to be integrated as appropriate and practical.
5. Text on the equity dimension (social component) has been developed and submitted as research questions for integration in the same way as the economic dimension.
6. Text on urbanization and settlements is also being developed as a cross-cutting issue and will be submitted to authors for the second order drafts.
7. Coordinating Lead Authors for the 9 chapters will make the decisions for how best to integrate these texts into the second order drafts.

Timeline

1. Introductory and Thematic chapter authors should submit their completed first order draft review grids by June 16, 2017 to the Secretariat.
2. Introductory and Thematic chapter authors (9 chapters) will complete their second order drafts by June 30, 2017.
3. The simultaneous intergovernmental and expert review of these first nine chapters will be conducted from July 3 to Sept. 15, 2017.
4. Comments from this review period will be consolidated by the Secretariat and filtered by chapter.
5. Comments will be sent to authors by Sept. 19, 2017 and should be addressed by Oct. 9, 2017.
6. Completed review grids should be sent to the Secretariat so that the Review Editors may consider them during the October meeting.
7. Selected thematic authors from the State of the Environment chapters will contribute to the Policy Effectiveness thematic chapters from July 3, 2017 as 'subject-matter experts',

providing input to these chapters in the form of examples and case studies of policies in their thematic area.

8. These examples and case studies will describe the policies according to the criteria in the selected policy effectiveness methodology (e.g. goals/targets achievement, type of evaluation, key actors, baselines quantified or not, timeframe, constraining and enabling factors, ex-ante or ex-post cost effectiveness assessment, etc.), so that the policies can be analysed using this methodology.
9. Criteria for assessment of policy effectiveness will include: goal achievement, baselines, coherent/synergistic, equity winners and losers, co-benefits, implementability, cost-effectiveness, and other factors as necessary (see final plenary presentation from the Policy Effectiveness coordinating lead authors).
10. Policy Effectiveness authors and subject matter experts will produce a zero order drafts of the thematic and cross-cutting policy chapters by July 31, 2017 and will work towards a first-order draft during the October meeting.
11. The zero-order draft of the Introduction, Analysis and Conclusions chapters of the Policy Effectiveness section will be completed by the Coordinating Lead Authors by October 1, 2017.
12. The first order draft of the Policy Effectiveness chapters will be completed by October, 31, 2017 and will undergo a small peer review (e.g. up to 50 reviewers) during the month of November.
13. Comments from this first order draft review will be addressed in the first three weeks of December. The completed review grids will be assessed by the available Review Editors.
14. The second-order draft of the Policy Effectiveness chapters will be ready by February, 28, 2018.
15. The Innovative Outlooks Group will suggest a group of additional Lead Authors to be nominated into their group.
16. Using the criteria of expertise, geographic and gender balance, the Secretariat will proceed with the invitations for these additional Lead Authors.
17. The Innovative Outlooks Group will produce a zero order draft of the meta-analysis of target-seeking scenarios and outlooks for October 7, 2017.
18. Chapters describing elements of the 'game changers' methodology as well as the early results will also be produced in zero draft form by October 7, 2017.
19. Further visioning workshops will be organized according to the following proposed schedule:
 - a. June 28/29 or July 10/11 in Geneva (civil society)
 - b. Late August, London (fintech or science stakeholders)
 - c. December 1/2, Nairobi (governments, policy stakeholders)
 - d. February 19 – 23, Singapore (cities, local governments)
20. The Innovative Outlooks Group will develop a methodology for integration of the game changers results into the meta-analysis of scenarios and outlooks for the February 9-13, 2018 meeting. A scientific paper may be developed to further ground-truth this methodology.
21. The Innovative Outlooks Group will work towards a first order draft of their meta-analysis chapters for November 15, 2017.

22. These chapters will undergo first order draft review through the months of November and December 2017. Comments from the reviewers will be integrated in early January.
23. Innovative Outlooks authors will complete the second order draft of all chapters by April 1, 2018.
24. The expert and intergovernmental review of the full second order draft of the sixth Global Environment Outlook will occur between April 15, 2018 and June 30, 2018.

Outreach

1. Media and outreach events will be organized in Guangzhou to once again raise the profile of the Global Environment Outlook.
2. Messaging for these events will likely focus on the business community.
3. The launch of GEO for Business could be announced at the Guangzhou events with a broad engagement of Chinese business.

The following concluding remarks were provided by the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs

1. The combined intergovernmental and expert review of the first 9 chapters is intended to improve the quality of the chapters, but providing quality chapters for review should be a priority for all the authors.
2. The next authors meeting in Guangzhou, China will be an important step for the next chapters on Policy Effectiveness and Outlooks. Special efforts should be made to advance those chapters before October.
3. The Chairs and the Secretariat will pursue the publication of the sixth Global Environment Outlook by Cambridge University Press, with the purpose of increasing the scientific credibility, recognition and prestige of the publication.