

A look at the High-level Group Co-Chairs

The High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (High-level Group) provides critically important advice on the policy relevance of the Global Environment Outlook and provides leadership for the development of the Summary for Policy Makers. The group is made up of representatives from twenty-five governments and eight stakeholder groups. This key advisory body is also co-chaired by two charismatic people, Mr. Paolo Soprano (Italy) and Professor Yi Huang (China), who provide overall direction to and help the group make decisions that guide the Global Environment Outlook process forward.



Mr. Paolo Soprano



Prof. Yi Huang

Professor Huang has only recently taken up the co-chairing role, upon the request of the UN Environment Secretariat and the membership of the High-level Group. She brings a wealth of experience on environmental issues through her role as Professor of Environmental Ecology at Peking University. In addition, Professor Huang has been involved with the Global Environment Outlook process for several years, from the fourth edition of the Global Environment Outlook to the current sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook.

Mr. Soprano is also a generous contributor to the Global Environment Outlook process, having been already involved in the fifth edition of the Global Environment Outlook. As the co-chair of the High-level Group from the beginning of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook, Paolo has been instrumental in helping the authors and Secretariat successfully complete the six Global Environment Outlook regional assessments, published in 2016. Since then, he has been instrumental in facilitating the first global assessment authors meeting in [Frascati, Italy](#) and in leading the High-level Group to develop several key documents, such as the procedure for developing the Summary for Policy Makers and the outline for the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook Summary for Policy Makers. These critical steps forward have helped the Global Environment Outlook process to move through the four main authors meetings, the drafting of the twenty-four chapters of the main report as well as the first draft of the Summary for Policy Makers.

As the assessment process moves forward through 2018 the role of Professor Yi and Mr. Soprano will become even more important. They will help the High-level Group create the second draft of the Summary for Policy Makers, which will eventually be negotiated by all Member States of the UN Environment Assembly. In addition, they will help the High-level Group consider the lessons learned throughout the sixth Global Environment Outlook process and give guidance on how future processes can be improved.

Without the generous and thoughtful leadership of Professor Yi and Mr. Soprano the High-level Group would have much more difficulty providing clear guidance to the Secretariat and the other experts involved in the global assessment. Their patience and professionalism have been greatly appreciated by everyone involved in the process. These contributions will help the sixth Global Environment Outlook be the best Global Environment Outlook yet.



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Update on the Derivative Products of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook

To meet the needs of different users, specialized reports to be produced from the sixth Global Environment Outlook (so-called derivative products) build on the findings of UN Environment's Global Environment Outlook report and provide scientific analysis on the environment and the implications for various stakeholders such as businesses, local governments, policy makers and the youth. They aim to strengthen the Science-Policy Interface and to create greater impact for the Global Environment Outlook.

The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook for Youth regional process kicked off in Singapore where the [Asia-Pacific inception meeting](#) took place. Twelve young authors from India, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand attended the meeting and agreed on the storyline and structure of the report, themes and topics for each chapter, presentation ideas and style, links to relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets as well as placeholders for multimedia features and best practices/case studies.

This meeting was followed by the Cairo meeting, 13-14 of March 2018, where the African core team met to define the objectives of the *African regional product*, agree on the timeline, produce an outline of the report, identify lead authors and brainstorm on a communication strategy. In both cases, the young scientists explored innovative solutions and tools to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The third regional inception meeting will take place by the end of April in Kuwait where around fifty young representatives from the *West Asia Region* will meet and agree on the key role of the youth in providing solutions to environmental problems. In parallel to those, UN Environment launched the global process for the Global Environment Outlook for Youth and the call for global youth authors should be opened by the end of April.

The Global Environment Outlook for Business process is underway under the leadership of the Global CEOs Alliance and UN Environment. The Global CEOs Alliance, a UN Environment partner since 2017 has recently submitted the preliminary draft of the concept note. The main idea is to deliver a strong message that global partnership (Sustainable Development Goal No. 17) is a means of implementation in the achievement of identified New Methods, Agenda 2030, and Sustainability 2050. The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook for Business endeavors to provide a clear pathway forward for the private sector to take part in the call of achieving a "Healthy Planet, Healthy People" by conducting market analysis (factors shaping the industry) and identifying market potential (in terms of investment and business potential) including related social impacts. The Process which is at an early stage of development looks promising.

Finally, the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook for Cities is also moving ahead rapidly. After the official launch of the process during the [Singapore meeting](#), some brainstorming sessions with key UN Environment partners have been conducted. A preliminary concept note should be soon available for dissemination, comments and for involvement of a broader range of stakeholders.

For more information or direct involvement in the process, please write to GEO.Head@unep.org.



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