

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 27 February 2020
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
United Nations Office of Nairobi
Conference Room 4

**Background Document for Agenda Item 3:
Update on the future of the Global Environment Outlook.**

This note serves as a background document for consideration under Agenda Item 3: Update on the future of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO).

It provides an update on the work of the Future of GEO Steering Committee, created as a subsidiary body of the UN Environment Assembly under UNEA Resolution 4/23, including with regard to planned consultations on an options paper for the Future of GEO, currently planned for the months of May – July 2020 and September 2020.

Member States are invited to provide feedback and guidance on the options for the future of GEO based on these consultations.

Development of the Options Paper on the Future of GEO

The Steering Committee on the Future of GEO paper has met five times through virtual meetings, and also had one inception meeting face to face meeting to discuss the process for developing the options paper and to discuss the most effective way to fulfill the expectations highlighted in Resolution 23.

The Secretariat has successfully executed the procurement process of a consultant/firm who will develop the draft options paper on the Future of GEO. The procurement process is in its final stages, after which the consultant will be introduced during a virtual call at the end of February 2020, during the Steering Committee's sixth virtual meeting.

The consultant is expected to start working with the Committee immediately and develop the draft options paper through May 2020. In March 2020 there is a planned facilitated workshop where the consultant will harness the expertise and experience of the Steering Committee members in developing the draft options paper. The consultant will then participate in regional face to face consultations as well as virtual calls to gather views from Member States, environmental assessment experts and key stakeholders on the draft options paper.

Plan for Broad Consultations

The Steering Committee has chosen a six-meeting regional consultation model for ensuring broad consultations with Member States, which was requested in the Resolution. These six (6) two-day (2) consultation sessions with Member States were chosen because this approach would be less costly and contribute less carbon emissions than other options for these face to face consultations.

The meetings are planned as follows;

- **A combined meeting of South American countries with Caribbean countries in Lima, Peru.** Peru is planning its own National GEO and the consultation session could be planned back to back with their planned GEO meeting. (the consultation session is currently planned for the week of May 25th)
- **Asia Pacific consultations with Member States are proposed for Bangkok, Thailand.** (Expected to happen on 7-8 July)
- **Western European countries (EU countries plus the United Kingdom) and North America region.** Consultations are proposed for Brussels (Expected on 11-12 June)
- **Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Central Asia.** Istanbul, Turkey is the proposed location for the consultations. (Expected in the third week of June)
- **African country consultations are proposed for Entebbe in Uganda** (Expected third week of June)
- **West Asia regional consultations are proposed for Manama, Bahrain.** (Expected from 9-10 September)

Final Steering Committee facilitated workshop and presentation of the Options Paper on the Future of GEO

The Committee will also have its second facilitated meeting in Geneva, Switzerland with the main objective being for the Steering Committee to work with the consultant to agree on the recommended options that will be presented to UNEA-5. This will be a two-day workshop (third week of September) facilitated by the consultant.

Illustrative Work Programme of the Steering Committee

