Update on EA.4/RES.23 - Future of GEO Process

Briefing, Committee of Permanent Representatives, 14/07/2020

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Pierre Boileau, UNEP GEO Secretariat
Review of process so far

- **Nomination of Steering Committee** – in April 2019, nominations were requested for Future of GEO Steering Committee.
- **CPR briefed in August 2019** – request by CPR to seek further nominations to ensure geographic and gender balance.
- **Steering Committee of 37 Member States officially formed in Sept. 2019** – First calls held in Sept. and Oct. to prepare face to face meeting in Prague.
- **Oct. 31 – Nov. 1 meeting Prague** – approved terms of reference and issues paper for consultant to prepare draft options paper.
- **Czech Republic nominee resigned in Dec. 2019** – Committee of 36 members continued.
Procurement process and facilitated workshop

- **3-month procurement process** – Secretariat issued an expression of interest followed by a Request for bids.
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) selected** – through competitive bidding process.
- **Due to COVID-19** – first facilitated workshop with Steering Committee was held virtually.
- **Intent of workshop: to gather experience and thoughts of SC members** – extensive expertise on assessments within the Steering Committee.
- **SC members expressed interest in helping to develop the options paper** – resulted in development of ‘building blocks’ papers for input from SC members.
Zero draft received and commented on

- **Review by the Bureau of the SC and the Secretariat** – requests to shorten the document and provide more rationale for proposed options.
- **Review by the SC** – need for better links between mapping papers and proposed options.
- **July 2nd SC call** – current draft of options paper not ready for broader review and consultation.
- **Prefer two-track approach** – Consultant will be requested to produce a **background paper** and co-chairs will prepare a **summary document**.
- **Broad consultation from mid-Aug. to mid-Sept.** – main consultation document will be **co-chair’s summary**.
Thank you

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