

Progress Report on GEO for Cities



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The GEO for Cities on 9th October 2020 held a successful event at Daring Cities 2020 titled 'vision and pathway related to circular cities'. [Daring Cities](#) is a virtual, action-oriented forum to recognize and empower courageous urban leaders, including mayors and other decision-makers, technical staff, researchers, private sector representatives, and community organizers to disrupt business-as-usual and shift towards business-as-possible. Around 150 participants joined the webinar and had great discussions on the messages from the report with the Co-chairs and authors from GEO for Cities. The recording of the event can be found [here](#).

The GEO for Cities report is still in the drafting process after the Advisory Committee had an internal review of the document and provided high level comments on current draft. The Advisory Committee congratulated the authors and co-chairs on the progress made in the drafting process. Details of the COVID-19 pandemic have been included at the beginning of the draft, although the narrative and its inter-connectedness with resource consumption and inequality could be strengthened a little more in the document.

The Co-chairs of the report will work on with creating a clear and coherent narrative, adapting the text to a non-technical city decision-maker audience and non-native English speakers.

The next steps in the process will include a second round of peer review, which is planned to run from 9 November 2020 to 4 December 2020. Those interested in this review process can get in touch with Yunting Duan (Yunting.duan@un.org) The reviewers will have a month to provide comments on this second review process. The launch date of this report is scheduled for April 2021.



GEO-6 Technical Summary Webinar



The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), UNEP's flagship integrated environmental assessment was published in March 2019, during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. The report stresses that the scale of the environmental challenges we face requires true transformational change in how we produce and consume energy and food as well as how we manage waste, rather than simply incremental policies and business as usual. Among the long list of ongoing damage to life and health from air pollution, water pollution and land degradation, the report warned that zoonotic diseases are already 60 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases and that pandemics could occur.

The **Technical Summary** of GEO-6 distills the science and data in the main report and synthesizes the information to make it more accessible to students and scientists, making it more useful both for teaching and learning at the university level.

In our efforts to continue with outreach and communicating the GEO-6 main messages to a wider audience, we have organized a webinar on the Technical Summary on **3 December 5:00-6:30 pm** to improve the reach of the report's key messages as well as showcase how the report can be used as a teaching tool in universities. The objective of the webinar is the presentation of its key findings and a discussion on how it can be integrated in courses at the university level. Panelists will include university professors who have participated in the GEO process and use GEO as teaching tool, to discuss their experience and provide advice and lesson learned for university students and lecturers.



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The session will:

- Inform and educate the various stakeholders on the main findings of GEO-6
- Show how GEO-6 and its findings can be incorporated into teaching plans and approach
- Raise awareness on the GEO process and how-to people can participate in the future.

The webinar agenda includes:

- **Introductions and overview of GEO** (moderator Pierre Boileau, UNEP) – 3 mins
- **Overview findings of the Technical Summary report** (Prof. Paul Ekins, University College London, UK) – 12 mins
- **Teaching GEO at the University Level** (Various speakers **TBC**) – 40 mins
 - o Prof. Joyeeta Gupta – University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 - o Prof. Sarah Green – Michigan Technological University, USA
 - o Prof. Asma Abhussain – Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain
 - o Prof. Cai Mantang – Peking University, China

The webinar will include live audiences from the GEO community databases, scientific and educational networks, the broader UNEP community and guests invited by the GEO authors.

To register for the GEO-6 Technical Summary Webinar please click [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



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Peer Review of the GEO for Business Brief 5

The GEO for Business Briefs are meant to be practical and solutions oriented and are targeted at small to medium-sized enterprises that may be operating with the supply chains of large multinationals and are exposed to international trade or only supply domestic markets. They aim to fill a gap in the current information that is provided on environmental issues. For these new editions, they are designed to be more comprehensive products compared to the previous editions, identifying pathways to help key players to act.

There peer review for the fifth Brief of the GEO for Business report titled '**Future-proofing infrastructure and infrastructure services for climate resilience**' begun on 22nd October 2020. Authors finalized the fifth brief for the three-week peer review from 22nd October 2020 to 12th November 2020. Through this process, the reviewers went through the draft of the Brief and provided comments which were addressed by the Authors in charge of writing the brief. A reviewer grid and [reviewer guidelines](#) were made available for consultation. In Addition to the written comments from the reviewers, there will be a Review Webinar on Tuesday 10th November 2020 from 16:00-17:30 EAT where reviewers can interact with authors writing this brief and share their general comments verbally as well as clarify any issues related to the content of the draft brief.

This sector specific brief addresses climate-proofing current and future infrastructure investments. It focuses on the scope and scale of projected infrastructure investment to 2050, including the questions over how this can be delivered in line with the environmental dimension of the SDGs and a move towards nature-based solutions. This brief also links to the on-going work of GEO for Cities which is another derivative product of the GEO-6 assessment report

Progress update: GEO for Youth.



The GEO for Youth report has been making its final revisions this past month in order to tie in important COVID-19 messaging. A new section named 'Build Back Better' has been included and the section addresses how youth can build a more resilient world in its recovery to the pandemic.

Once these revisions are finalized, the report will be ready to go into its final layout and e-publishing. The currently anticipated soft launch date of this report will be on 20 November 2020.

This report will be made widely available on the UNEP Publications App for both iOS and Android.