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Outcomes document: Sixth call of the Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue

On 26th October 2021 the participants of the Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD) met to:

1. UNEP's Chief Scientist's brief on the UNEP's revised publication system and Q&A;
2. Presentation of a paper on the UNEP/GEO approach to glossaries and discussion on possible collaboration on glossaries and terminology;
3. Discussion of analysis needed to evaluate options for collaboration on modelling and scenarios.

On these agenda items the participants decided:

- That creating a common glossary wiki could be an interesting initiative, but there needs to be more understanding of the technology behind it.
- An example of the wiki will be shared to show the potential of the technology and understand how it could serve the work of different assessments.
- After consultation with the various organizations, a short document on modelling/scenarios practises will be shared.
- The next call of the AGAD will take place in January 2022.

Meeting summary

1. Andrea Hinwood, the UNEP Chief Scientist, provided an overview of the proposed new publication system and process.
    - The objective of the new system is to implement a robust and efficient publications system and automated process, resulting in high quality, high impact publications
    - A review of the UNEP publication process was conducted by a consultant and the Chief Scientist. Some results included:
        - Need for greater Accessibility of the products (publications, reports, data…)
        - Need for greater clarity about the Audiences for products
        - Need for greater diversity in products or offerings
        - Need for a Communications approach to ensure product is fit for purpose and disseminated to achieve greatest reach.
        - Categories of publications need to be clarified, better defined
        - Need for greater consistency in products by better co-ordination across house

        - Need for improved processes to capture reach and impact of products
        - Need enhanced use of methods for dissemination to improve reach and impact
    - More details on the findings and the new publication process can be found in the presentation, attached.

2. UNEP presented a paper titled *Creating Synergies Across Global Assessments: The possibility of harmonized glossaries.*
    - The aim of the paper is to present GEO's process to produce, coordinate and maintain assessment glossaries, while also indicating their importance.
        - With each assessment comes the need for a glossary and an adequate, consistent process for its creation. This process is thoroughly defined in this paper in four steps: Research and definitions storage, glossary generation by assessment, review processes, and collaboration.
        - Regarding glossary importance, terms and concepts require the modernising of definitions to maintain an assessment's relevance, accuracy, and credibility.
    - UNEP has consulted with other organizations and performed researched to gather over 1500 terms and definitions to tailor to their assessments. All terms are stored in a database Wiki for its collaboration across other assessments.
    - A semi-automated tool was developed to mitigate the manual laborious effort needed to generate glossaries. A video is made available as a guide to understand how the semi-automated tool works.
    - Review processes within author teams are applied to ensure definition relevance to each assessment.
    - Future collaboration using this process is encouraged to share glossary resources and maintain efficient processes for future assessments.
    - The participants agreed that this could be a useful tool in the drafting of assessments. However, there are some factors to take into account:
        - In some processes, definitions are agreed upon through a negotiation process. In this case the wiki would be only a starting point for discussion.
        - Definitions can be specific to the kind of publication, so there should be a possibility to add more definitions for the same term with the option to choose one.
        - Definitions should be updated periodically providing sources and reasons behind the update.
        - Technical support should be provided so to train the authors to use the tool. Once the authors are familiar with the tool, it should be easier to coordinate.
        - It would be important to understand who is responsible for updating the definitions
    - UNEP will reach out to other participants to learn from their previous work on glossary (for example the IPCC's wiki).
    - A wiki pilot of a few terms will be created to show the potential of the tool.

3. The participants discussed the possibility of collaboration on modelling and scenarios development.
    - UNEP will consult with colleagues to develop a short document that will explore what are the current technologies used to develop models and scenarios. This would help promote further discussion and collaboration among the different publications on this matter.

- The IRP is planning its scenarios work for the next Global Resources Outlook, expected to be published 2023. The scenarios will be different from the previous ones, but it looks at certain trends on resource use. There is discussion about bringing in a well-being aspect. The scenarios are being developed by not only IPR members but also external modellers, with the objective of creating a product that would be compatible with other modelling work.
- IPCC modelling work was published with the recent AR6 Working Group 1 report. UNEP will reach out to colleagues in WG 1 to consult.
- IPBES is catalysing the development of new models from the broader scientific community in advance to the next global assessment. IPBES is starting an assessment about Transformative Change and this includes a scenario component.
- UNFCC is exploring what the broader community is doing in terms of scenario work/modelling. Some contacts were shared for UNEP to follow up.
- The Human Development Index is also moving into the analysis of scenarios. A new index has been added to their work, focusing on material footprint. Therefore, there could be a connection to the IRP's work.

Participants

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Apologies

Convention on Biological Diversity / GBO	
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