

# GEO7



## The new Global Environment Outlook, its solutions-focus, and its digital transformation

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Briefing for CPR on the adopted UNEA resolution on the Future of GEO

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# Three key points about GEO



## **UNEP's flagship intergovernmental and expert-led integrated environmental assessment.**

Foundation of UNEP's science-policy interface. Must be politically legitimate, policy relevant and scientifically credible. Commitment to GEO is strong, as demonstrated by 2 years of work by Member States on the future of GEO.



## **GEO should underpin UNEA major decisions and UNEP MTS.**

Findings in GEO are meant to support major global policy decisions, negotiations, major shifts in thinking. E.g. The types of decisions that established the Paris Agreement or those for the post-2020 biodiversity framework.



## **GEO is more flexible than IPCC/IPBES.**

Can assess policy effectiveness (what is working, what isn't). Can look at systemic policy solutions that achieve social and economic outcomes, because of its integrated approach. Can develop innovative outlooks/foresight approaches which explain more of the 'how to' rather than the 'what if'. Can perform risk assessment, scenarios and outlooks on different social/economic issues.



# GEO7

people are the secret ingredient





# Policy findings from GEO

- Used case studies and outcomes indicators to **assess effectiveness of current policies in reaching environmental goals**.
- Assessed five individual case studies across five environmental themes. **25 Global North and Global South environmental policies assessed**.
- Policies that try to conserve or clean up the environment **cannot keep pace with the rate of environmental degradation we see today**.
- Must **address the larger systems or root causes of environmental degradation**, transforming these to reach environmental goals.
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement case study, **only 7 or 41 areas of concern cleaned up in a 20 year time span**.
- Land registry system for Laos, **provides legal right to land, prevents land grabbing and displacement**.
- With current policies, **none of the environmental SDGs will be achieved by 2030**.
- With current policies, **biodiversity and climate targets will not be achieved**
- Must **transform the energy, food and waste systems, to stabilize the climate and create a nature rich (biodiverse) and near-zero-waste (circular) world by 2050**.

# After two years of work, the Future of GEO Steering Committee found...

- GEO's purpose in UNEP's science-policy interface is to **produce intergovernmental and expert-led assessments;**
- GEO's place in the overall assessment landscape is the **integrated analysis** of all five environmental themes in the context of **current and future social and economic situations;**
- It can increase its impact by delivering supporting functions, such as: **capacity building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking;**
- It can expand its reach by working with **collaborating centres;**
- It could benefit from the support provided by **Technical Support Units (TSUs).**
- It should be produced on a **predictable timeline, with stable, predictable and sufficient funding.**
- It should support decisions at UNEA, **development of UNEP's MTS** and other UN-led processes, such as the GSDR.
- It can benefit from broader support and **expertise from across UNEP.** This would help strengthen GEO.



# Approach for Moving from GEO-6 to GEO-7



Innovation for systemic transformation

Need for bold, urgent and sustained action

Transformation of energy, food and waste systems

Triple planetary crisis

Working Title and Theme  
**GEO<sub>7</sub>**  
“Action for a Healthy Planet”



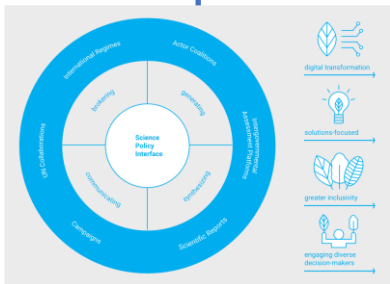
Science as a foundation

GEO-7 & its SPM

Inclusivity & diverse decision makers

but also supporting functions

Solutions focus







Online  
collaboration

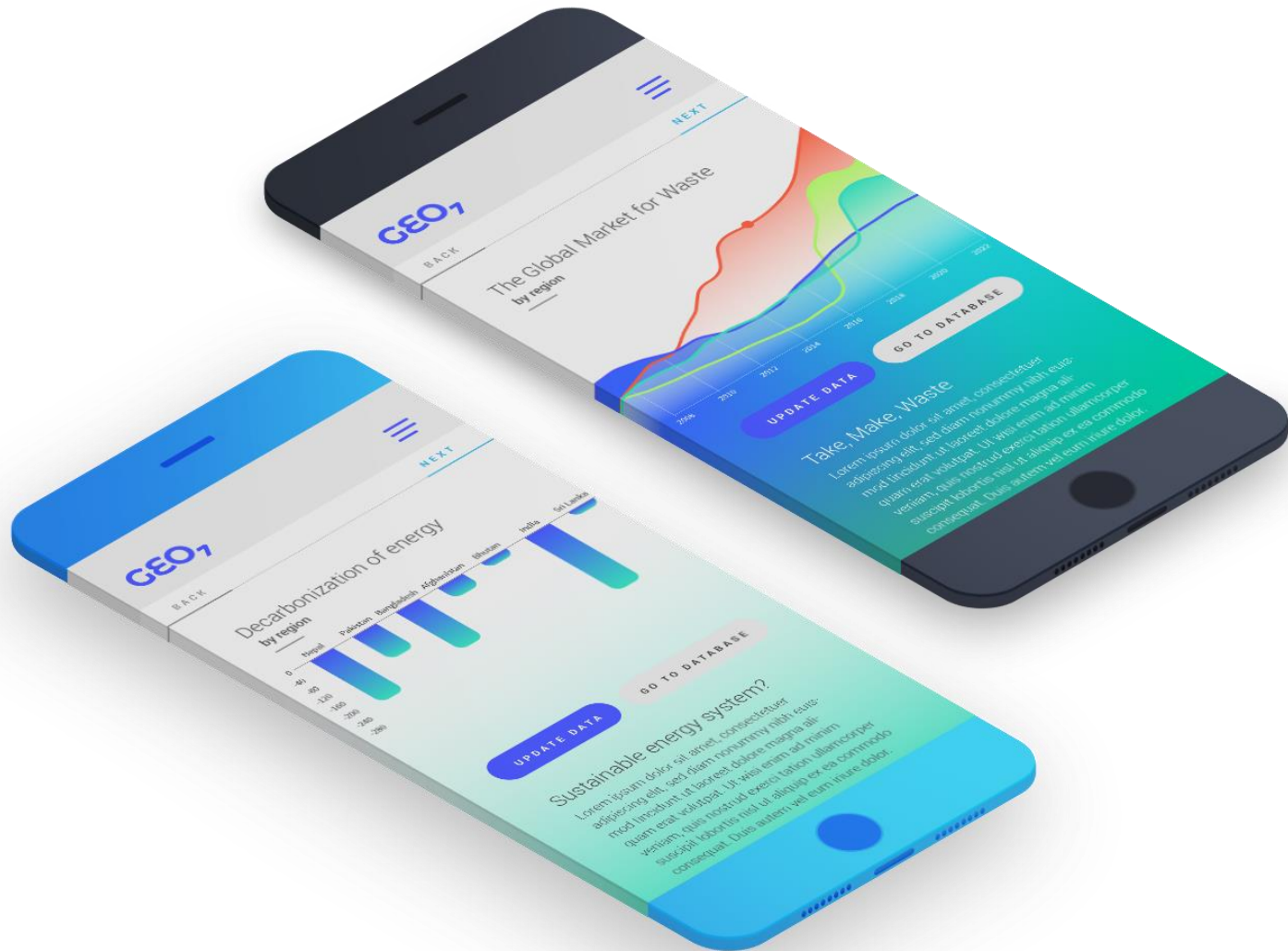
Online  
mapping and  
graphing

Online peer  
reviews and  
review QA

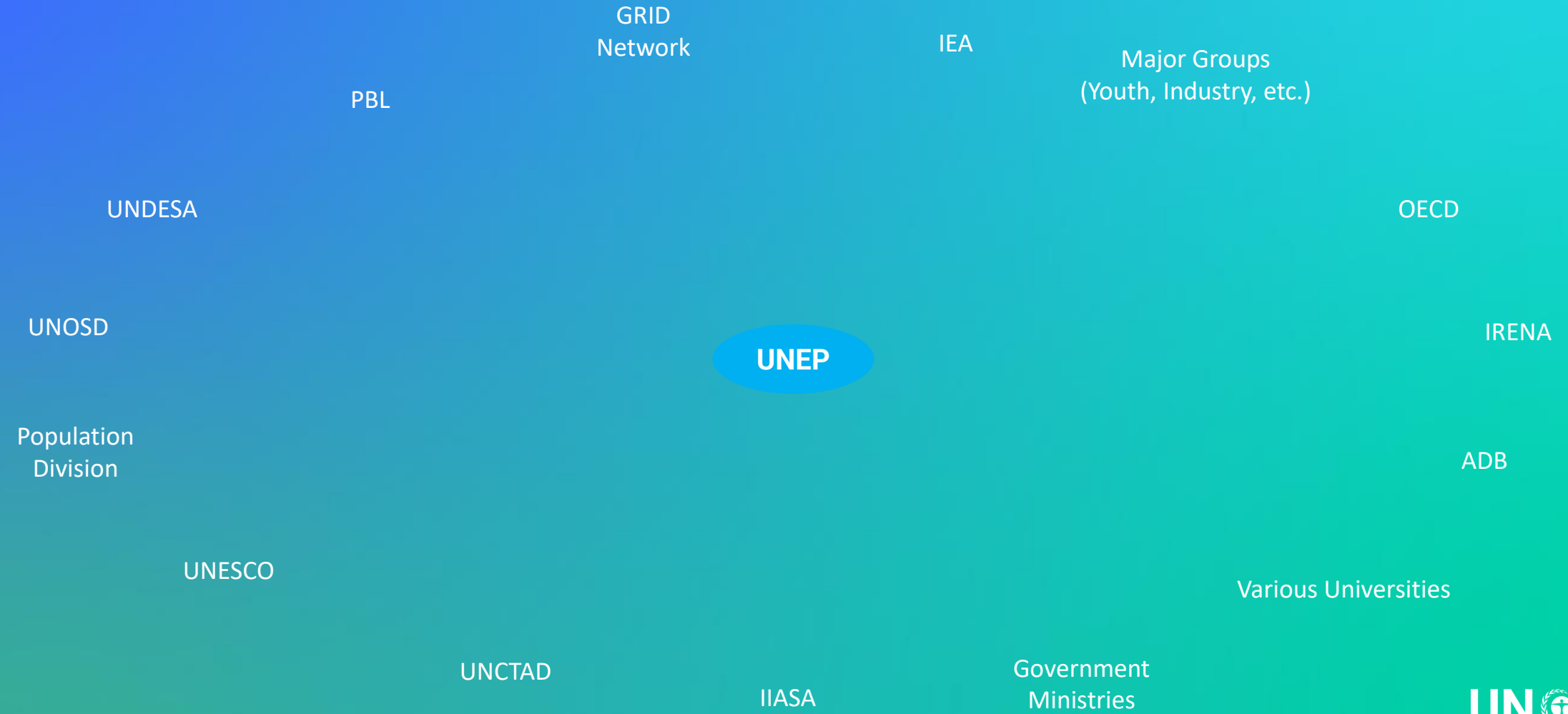
Links to  
WESR and  
other 'live'  
data sources

Online /  
interactive  
presentation  
of GEO

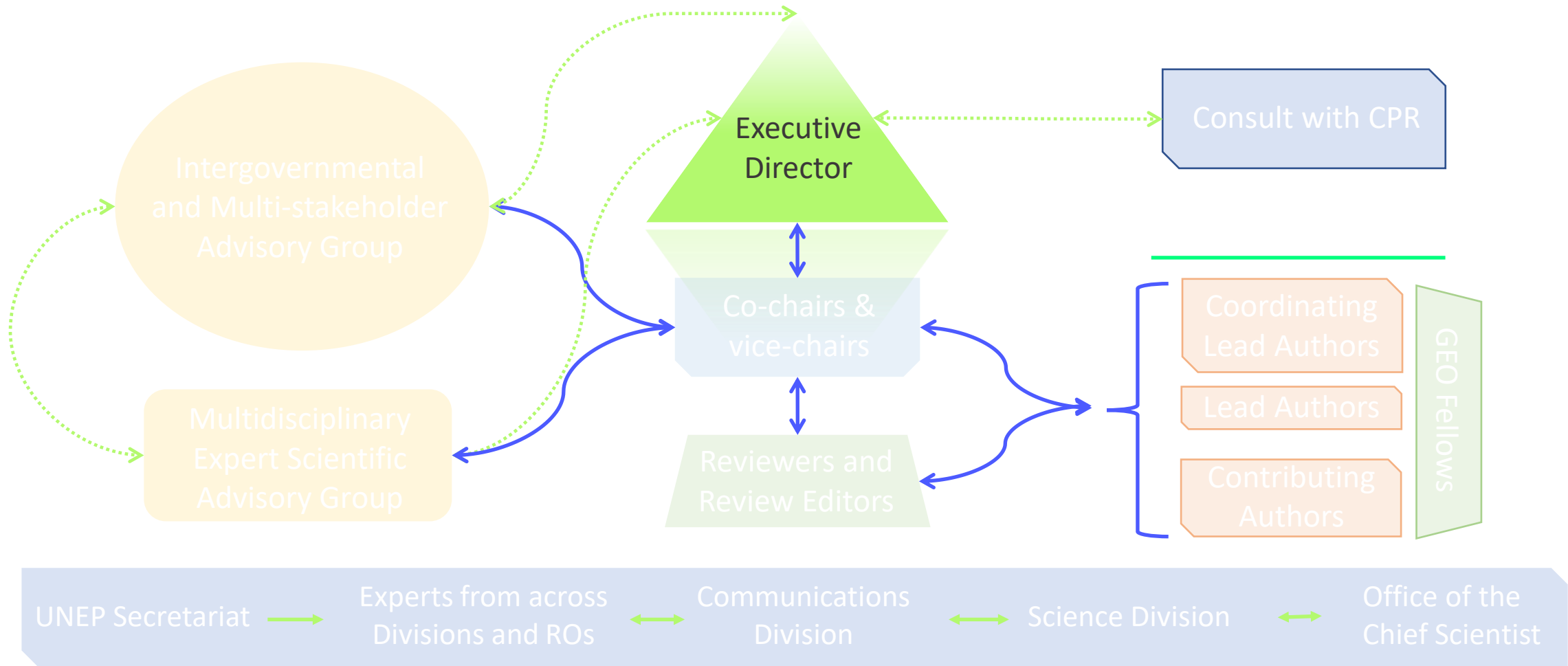
Online  
glossary and  
definitions

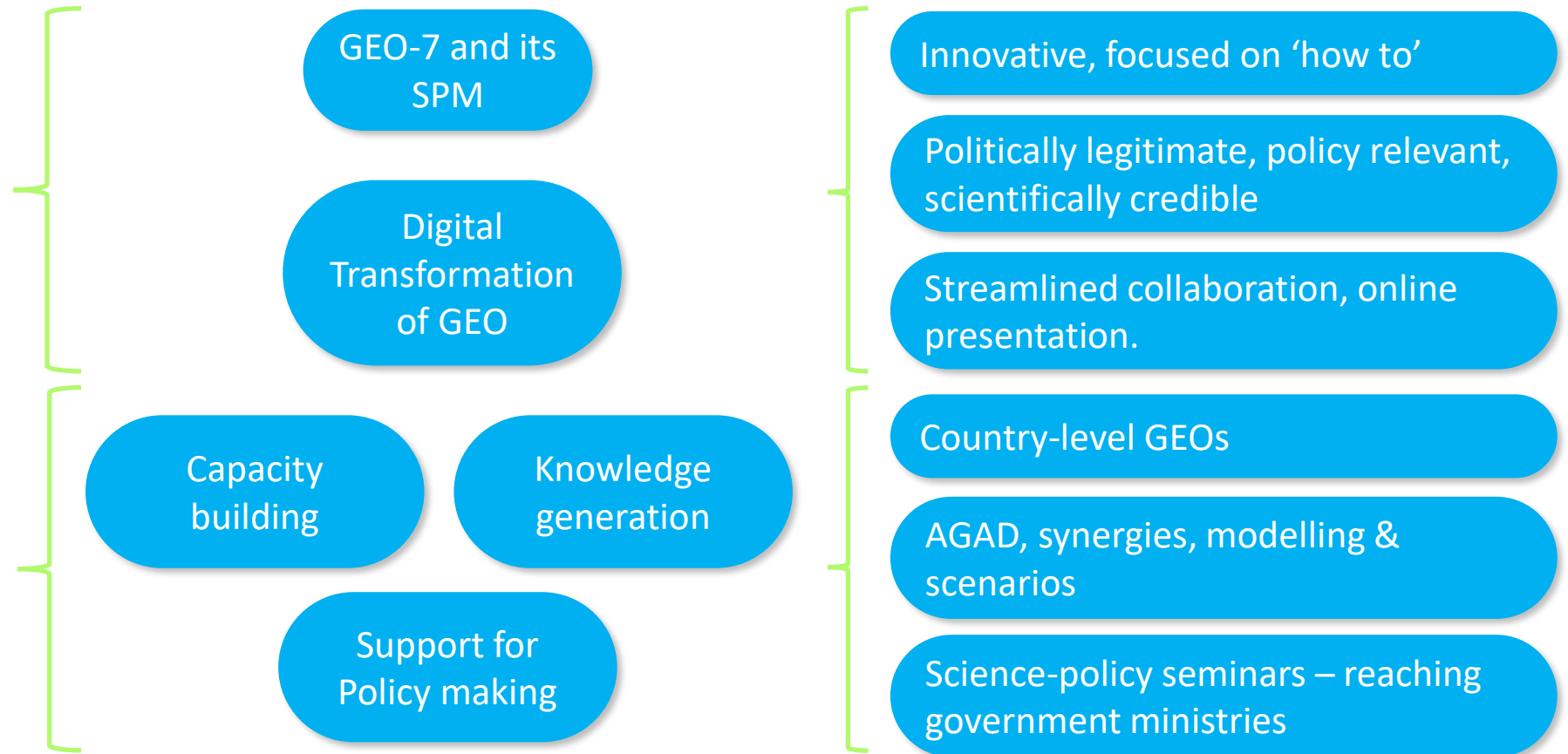


# Strategic partnerships are the power of GEO



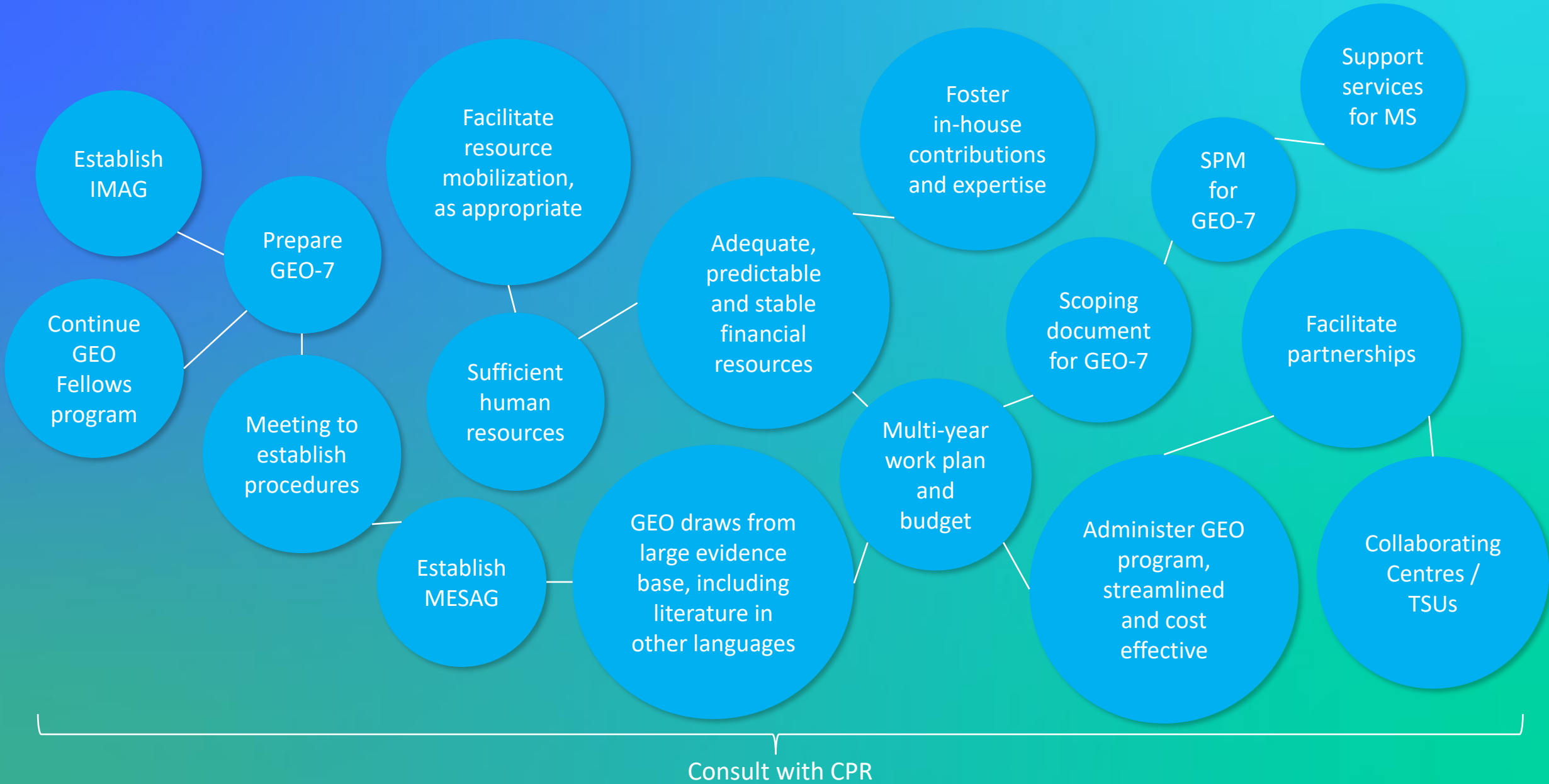
With governments, stakeholders, outside experts and expertise from across the house



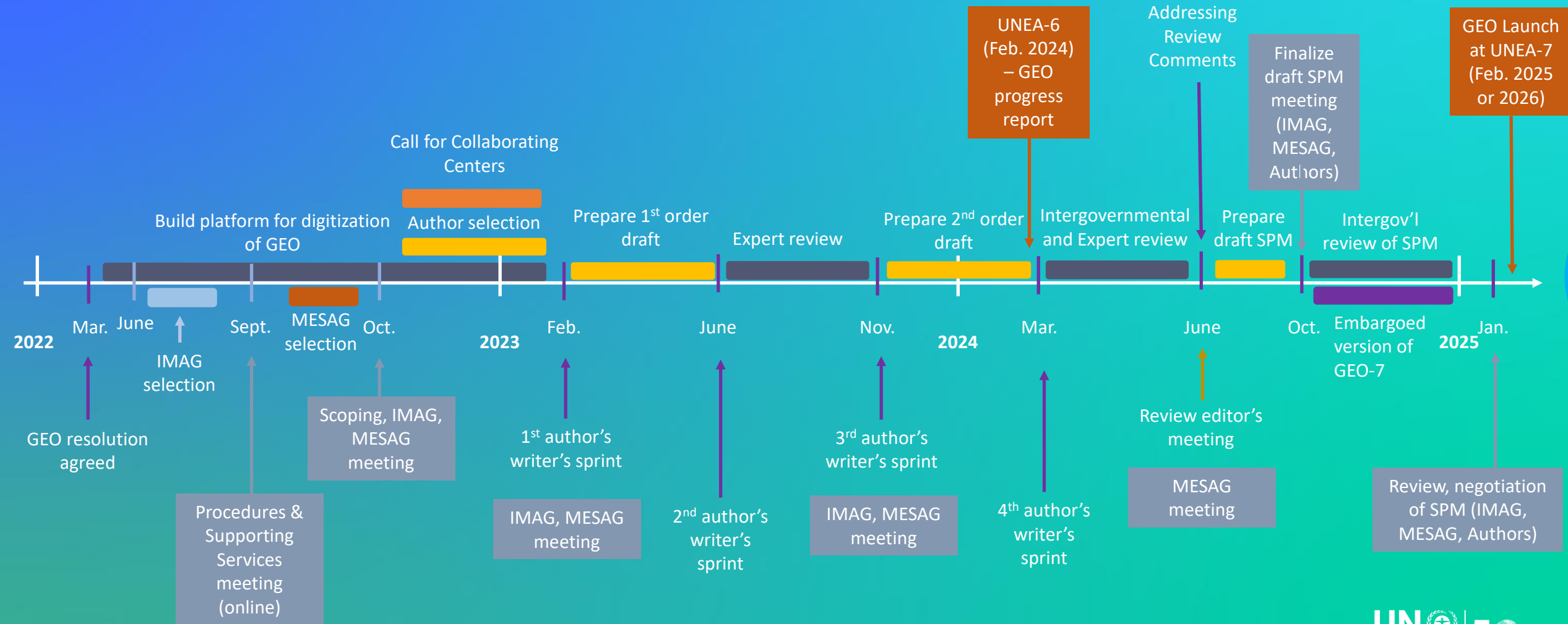




# Other requests of the UNEP/ED...with advice from IMAG



# What can we expect over the next three years?



# GEO<sub>7</sub>

...will be the most solutions-focused, innovative, useful and impactful GEO yet...with your help...

on:

- Nominations for expert meetings
- Nominations for the IMAG and MESAG
- Nominations for expert authors to draft the GEO
- Nominations of expert peer reviewers for the intergovernmental reviews
- Nominations/participation in the review and adoption of the SPM



Thank you!

Comments, questions?

