

Confidentiality, declaration of conflict of interest and granting of copyright for the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

The UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process involves a large number of external experts and collaborators who work together in different roles to ensure an expert analysis and accurate presentation of the assessment's findings. The process itself is typically over multiple years (usually 2 and a half) with key drafts and versions of the report being available for peer review by external experts at different times of the cycle. In view of this collaborative and co-creation approach, all external experts involved in the production of the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) are required to complete the form in Annex I of this document in order to (1) ensure confidentiality of the GEO products, (2) prevent any actual, potential or perceived conflicting interests arising during the process and (3) to transfer the copyright to all written materials produced by external experts to UNEP for publication purposes.

The form in Annex I can be easily completed by ticking all the appropriate boxes, signing where required, and inserting the date, before returning the form to the GEO Secretariat. For greater clarity, further details on each of the sections of the declarations in Annex I are provided below.

Confidentiality Statement

The production of the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) requires external experts to collaborate while conducting the analysis in the assessment and drafting the narrative in advance of the publication's launch. To ensure the integrity of the analysis and drafting process, all material, including but not limited to, written drafts, graphics, illustrations, design, text boxes and research supporting the publication – whether provided by UNEP to experts, or developed by the experts in preparation of the publication – should remain confidential until the date of the formal UNEP-led launch. UNEP requests that you confirm the Confidentiality Statement provided in Annex I below to address this issue.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The production of the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment requires the assistance of external experts who may have actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest between their primary area of work and expertise and the analysis and drafting tasks they will perform as part of the GEO process. To ensure the highest integrity, transparency, and public confidence in the production of the GEO assessment, UNEP requires that external experts contributing to the production of the content disclose any information on circumstances that may affect, or may reasonably be perceived to affect, the expert's objectivity and independence.

Please note that a high level of scientific and educational expertise is by nature based on prior experience and that therefore having expertise and interest in a particular subject matter does not necessarily mean this will lead to bias or a conflict of interest.

The conflict of interest declaration in Annex I will assist UNEP in addressing any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. Further, to enable swift action by UNEP in cases of conflict of interest, external experts should make additional declaration(s) to state any material change in any matter contained in their previous declaration(s) in good time and, in particular during the preparation phase of GEO-7, after the occurrence of the change, by providing further information on the particulars contained in that declaration if needed to UNEP to ensure appropriate action is taken and the GEO-7 process and products are not adversely affected by the declared conflict.

Granting of Copyright

UNEP must also ensure that it produces original works that are free of any copyright claims. In contributing to the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment, UNEP expects that text, research, and graphics are free from any potential dispute related to copyright. Granting copyright to all materials produced by the external experts or the author team during the GEO-7 process in Annex I will ensure UNEP to achieve this.

Annex I: Confidentiality statement, declaration of conflict of interest and granting of copyright form

Confidentiality Statement

UNEP requests that you confirm the following statement on confidentiality (tick the box if in agreement):

- I hereby agree to keep all materials and communications related to the development of UNEP's seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) confidential until the date of the official launch of the publication by UNEP.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

UNEP requests that you tick the appropriate box below and declare any potential interest to enable assessment of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest:

- I hereby declare that I have no actual, potential or perceived financial or personal interest, direct or indirect, in any matter that raises or may raise conflict with my contribution to the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment.
- I have actual, potential or perceived financial or personal interest, direct or indirect, in certain matters that may raise conflict with my contribution to the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment. The particulars of such matter(s) are stated below:

I also acknowledge that I shall make another written declaration to state any change in any matter contained in this declaration within one month after the change occurs and shall provide further information on the particulars contained in this declaration.

Granting of Copyright

UNEP requests that you confirm the following statement on granting copyright (tick the box if in agreement):

- I hereby grant and assign UNEP the worldwide exclusive, sole, and permanent right to reproduce, translate, adapt, publish, broadcast and distribute in any UN language, in printed or electronic format, of any content or parts thereof of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment or future revisions that I contribute to and to authorize UNEP to exercise any or all of these rights. Further, I grant this permission to UNEP at no cost.

Note: please ensure all the appropriate boxes above are checked before signing.

Name:

Signature:

Date: