

## Briefing note on process and nominations for the Secretariat’s proposal for a Bureau of the GEO-7 ad-hoc open-ended meetings of experts

Following the invitation to Member States and Stakeholders to nominate experts from UNEP’s Executive Director in her letter dated 17 June 2022, the Secretariat has received more than 250 nominations to attend the 2 inaugural open-ended meetings of experts to launch the preparation of the seventh edition of UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) scheduled for 19-22 September (virtual meeting, focusing on procedural matters) and 17-20 October 2022 (in-person/hybrid meeting, focusing on scoping of GEO-7). To ensure effective Member State leadership of these meetings, on 18 August the Secretariat issued a call for expressions of interest to nominated Member States experts to form a regionally and gender balanced bureau consisting of two co-chairs, two vice-chairs and one rapporteur for the GEO-7 open-ended meetings. In total, 14 nominated Member State experts submitted expressions of interest to become a member of the GEO-7 Bureau. Table 1 provides a list of the experts who submitted expressions of interest, along with their proposed roles<sup>1</sup>.

*Table 1: Expressions of interest and proposed roles*

Co-Chair			
Name	Country	Region	Gender
Prof. Leila Bendifallah	Algeria	African Group	Female
Toral Patel-Weynand	USA	Western European Group	Female
Dr Smita Goorah	Republic of Mauritius	African Group	Female
Dr Kishore BOODHOO	Republic of Mauritius	African Group	Male
Lorenzo Ciccarese	Italy	Western European Group	Male
Dr. Thuraya AL Sariri	Oman	Asia Pacific	Female
Miroslav Havránek	Czechia	Eastern European Group	Male
Alberto Capra	Argentina	Latin American and Caribbean Group	Male
Vice-Chair			
Name	Country	Region	Gender
Prof. Leila Bendifallah	Algeria	African Group	Female
Toral Patel-Weynand	USA	Western European Group	Female
Iveth Torres Bonilla	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group	Female
Dr. Osman MM Ali	Sudan	African Group	Male
İlkay PEKMEZ	Türkiye	Western European Group	Male
Dr Smita Goorah	Republic of Mauritius	African Group	Female
Cathy Maguire	EU	Western European Group	Female
Lorenzo Ciccarese	Italy	Western European Group	Male
Dr. Thuraya AL Sariri	Oman	Asia Pacific	Female
Miroslav Havránek	Czechia	Eastern European Group	Male
Alberto Capra	Argentina	Latin American and Caribbean Group	Male
Lugumira S. Jerome, Ph.D.	Uganda	African Group	Male
Rapporteur			
Name	Country	Region	Gender
Anna Mampye	South Africa	African Group	Female
Lorenzo Ciccarese	Italy	Western European Group	Male
Miroslav Havránek	Czechia	Eastern European Group	Male
Alberto Capra	Argentina	Latin American and Caribbean Group	Male

Based on these expressions of interest, some recent withdrawals of expressions of interest, and the understanding that only 5 seats are available in the Bureau (one per UN region), the Secretariat has put together a proposal applying several objective criteria, as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Individuals who did not express a preference for a role were assigned to all roles.

- Through review and consideration of nominated experts' CVs
- A comparison of the CV these against the draft Terms of Reference for the officers to preside over the open-ended meetings (see Annex I),
- Previous experience of the GEO process
- Careful consideration of geographic and gender balance, and Alignment with the representation and leadership of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG).

Based on these criteria, the Secretariat has prepared the following proposal for a Bureau to facilitate the open-ended meetings of GEO experts.

*Table 2: Secretariat proposal for leadership of the GEO-7 inaugural ad-hoc open-ended meetings*

Secretariat Proposal			
Co-chairs			
Lorenzo Ciccamese	Italy	Western European Group	Male
Dr. Thuraya AL Sariri	Oman	Asia Pacific	Female
Vice-chairs			
Miroslav Havránek	Czechia	Eastern European Group	Male
To be determined	To be determined	Latin American and Caribbean Group	
Rapporteur			
Ms. Anna Mampye	South Africa	African Group	Female

Participants to the first GEO-7 meeting (Sept. 19 2022) are invited to confirm their acceptance of this proposal by responding positively to the request under the agenda item Election of Officials.

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Annex: Draft terms of reference for officers to preside over the GEO-7 open-ended meetings

## Annex I: Draft terms of reference for officers to preside over the GEO-7 open-ended meetings

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) through resolution 5/3 entitled “Future of the Global Environment Outlook”, requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to “Convene an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to establish a set of procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the Global Environment Outlook process” (paragraph 10(a))

UNEA also requested the Executive Director to “Strengthen the science-policy interface by developing, for each assessment, a scoping document and a summary for policymakers prepared by experts, to be considered for review and endorsement by representatives of Member States at ad hoc open-ended meetings” (paragraph 10(f))

These terms of reference for officers to preside over the open-ended meetings under the GEO-7 process, are prepared pursuant to UNEA resolution 5/3 and are in line with the rules of procedure and established practice of UNEA.

Pursuant to section IV and in particular rule 18 of the UNEA rules on elections of a bureau, it is proposed that two co-chairs, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur are elected to preside over and support the following three open-ended meetings foreseen to take place, to provide guidance from Member States to the GEO-7 process:

1. Procedural meeting (virtual, Sept. 19 – 22 2022)
2. Scoping meeting (in-person/hybrid, Nairobi, Oct. 17 – 20 2022)
3. Review and approval of the Summary for Policymakers (currently planned for Jan. 2025)

In accordance with rule 18 of the UNEA rules and established practice, each of the five regional groups of States will nominate one officer, to constitute a five-member bureau.

### **1. Co-chairs**

The primary role of the co-chairs is to lead preparations and conduct of the GEO-7 Open-ended meetings. With the assistance of the Secretariat, the co-chairs will:

- Co-chair the virtual and in person open-ended meetings of GEO-7.
- Ensure as far as possible that the open-ended meetings are based on openness, transparency, and inclusiveness.
- Ensure as far as possible that the open-ended meetings fulfil the mandate as outline in UNEA resolution 5/3 in accordance with the needs of Member States' experts and the core mission and mandate of UNEP.
- Provide guidance to the Secretariat and experts in the preparation of meeting documents and reports.

- Facilitate a broad consultation process with Member States, experts, stakeholders, and the Secretariat to reach agreement on a GEO-7 procedures document, approval of a GEO-7 scoping document and a GEO-7 Summary for Policy Makers document and to submit this last document to UNEA-7 for endorsement.

## **2. Vice-chair**

The role of the vice-chairs is primarily to:

- support and represent the co-chair(s) in the preparation of and presiding over the GEO-7 Open-ended meetings.
- In collaboration with the other members of the bureau and with the assistance of the Secretariat, the vice co-chairs will support the co-chairs in any of the tasks outlined in (1) above.
- If either Chair cannot preside at a meeting or any part thereof, they shall appoint a Vice-Chair to take their place. A Vice-Chair acting as Chair shall have the same powers and duties as the Chair.” (Rules 21 and 23)

## **3. Rapporteur**

The role of the rapporteur is to ensure that the reports from the GEO-7 Open-ended meetings are accurate and reflect the inputs from Member States' and stakeholder experts in a balanced manner. In collaboration with the other members of the bureau and with the assistance of the Secretariat, the rapporteur will:

- Attend and monitor developments and procedures taking place at the open-ended meetings.
- Review and clear draft reports prepared by the Secretariat and ensure that they correctly reflect the main outcomes of the meetings.
- Approve the meeting reports, including key decisions and outcomes from each open-ended meeting.

The rapporteur may also be requested to perform other roles upon request from a co-chair.