

# Update on the seventh Global Environment Outlook: recent meetings and calls for expertise

Briefing to Committee of Permanent Representatives



### Three key points about GEO



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

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



#### **GEO should underpin UNEA decisions and our next 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.





#### Main outcomes of adoption of the procedures document

- The Terms of Reference for the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG), which are now contained in the procedures document..
- The Executive Director of the United Nations
  Environment Programme (UNEP) will receive advice
  from the IMAG and MESAG in their specific areas of
  responsibilities.
- The IMAG is encouraged to seek advice from the MESAG and the co-chairs and vice-chairs of the assessment, when needed.
- The IMAG and MESAG should not be involved in the drafting of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM).
- A section on Outreach and Awareness Raising was added to the procedures document.

- A flow chart of the relationship between different groups in the GEO process was also added to the procedures document, to ensure clear roles and responsibilities.
- Following the definitions agreed in the procedures document, GEO assessment reports should be accepted without line-by-line or section-by-section review.
- Technical documents, such as the procedures document, or process documents, such as the scoping document, should be adopted through a section-bysection review process.
- SPMs prepared for each GEO assessment report should be approved through a line-by-line review process.



#### Main outcomes of GEO-7 scoping document meeting

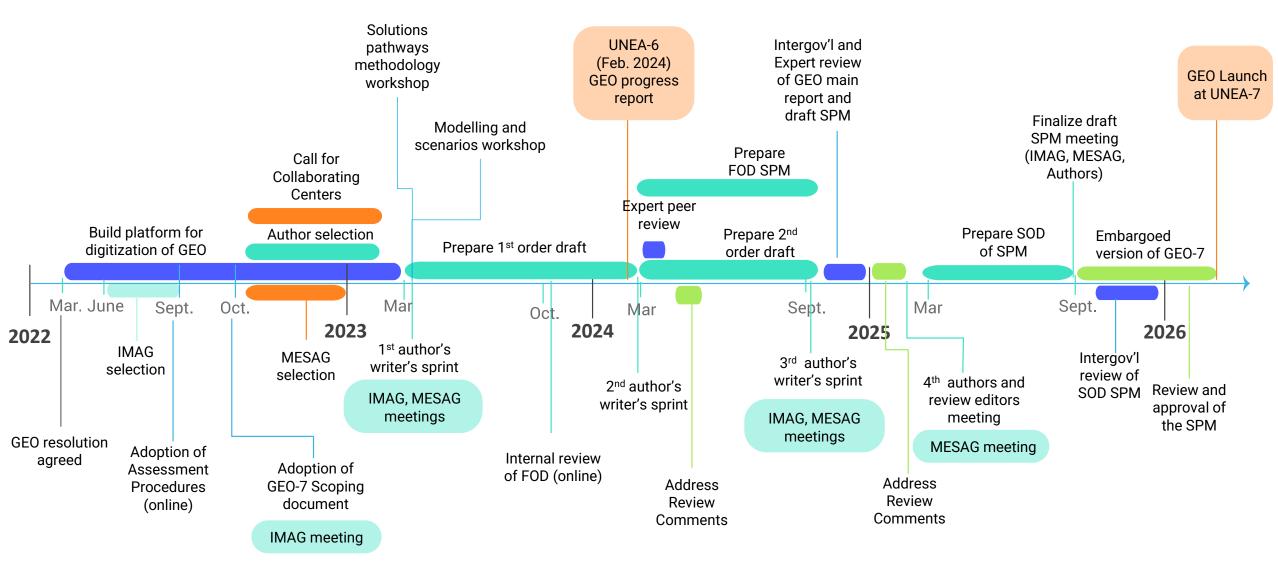
- The DPSIR framework should be adapted for use in in innotative GEO-7. The drivers of environmental change now include population/demographics; economic and financial; urbanization; science and technology; lifestyles
- The GEO-7 will develop solutions pathways for a) economic and financial models, b) energy systems, c) food systems, d) circularity, d) environmental systems;
- The assessment will include an outlooks section which will a) assess different scenarios, including the targetseeking scenarios and their socio-economic implications, b) present pathways for countries with different economic, resource and environmental situations and c) assess the likely regional implications of the different solutions pathways.
- GEO-7 will include regional specificities in the state of the environment chapters and the outlook chapters.

- There will be four chapters on the current state of key natural systems (Air, Land and soils, Oceans and coasts and Freshwater).
- Methodology chapters for the solutions pathways and the outlooks would be needed to ensure the scientific credibility of these approaches.
- The Secretariat will provide different budget scenarios to be considered.
- The Secretariat will prepare an updated version of the workplan and timeline that will add at least 6 months of development time for the GEO-7 assessment.









IMAG = Intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder advisory group, MESAG = Multidisciplinary expert scientificadvisory group, SPM = Summary for policy makers, FOD= First order draft, SOD = Second order draft, AHOM = Adhoc Open-ended Meeting

