

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

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Briefing to Committee of Permanent Representatives

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# 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.



# GEO7

people are the secret ingredient





# 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-by-section 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 innovative 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 **target-seeking 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.







