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**UNEP Frontiers Series: Food Systems Transformations**



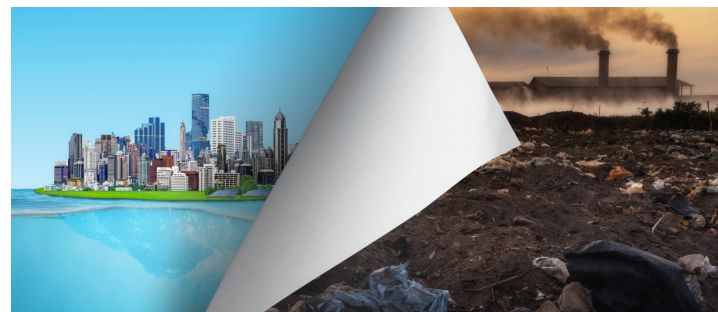
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## Nomination of Chairs for the Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook Assessment Report

**UNEP Nominates Dr. Nyovani Madise and Sir Robert Watson co-chairs of the Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7). Dr Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta and Prof. Ying Wang selected as vice-chairs.**

In March 2022, **UNEA** approved the production of the Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook, UNEP's flagship report. Since then, UNEP has been working to prepare a scientifically strong and diverse team to ensure that GEO-7 will be the most solutions-focused, innovative and digital GEO yet and that it will efficiently guide policymakers in tackling the triple planetary crisis (climate change and biodiversity and nature loss, waste and pollution).

To steer this effort, the Secretariat nominated Dr. Nyovani Madise and Sir Robert Watson who accepted to serve as co-chairs of the GEO-7 assessment, while Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta and Prof. Ying Wang have been named vice-chairs of the assessment.

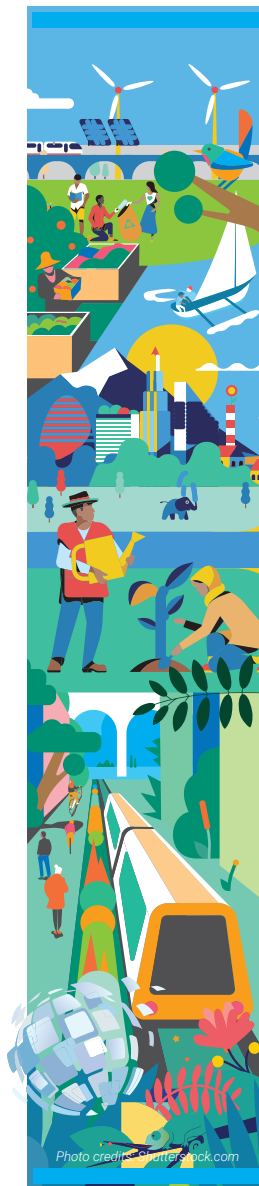


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Their nomination was announced during the successful **Ad hoc open-ended Meeting for the Procedures and Supporting Functions** of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook, which took place virtually on 19-22 September 2022. During the meeting, the "**procedures document**" was reviewed and adopted by representatives from Member States, key stakeholders and assessment experts. The document establishes a set of documented assessment procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the GEO process.



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## Profile of Co-chairs and Vice-chairs of the seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

**Co-chair:** Sir Robert Watson, former chair of the IPBES and IPCC processes and major lead of the [Making Peace with Nature report](#).

**a. Co-chair:** Dr. Nyovani Janet Madise, Director of Development Policy and also Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP).

**b. Vice-chair:** Dr. Edgar E. Gutierrez-Espeleta, former President of UNEA, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. Professor at Universidad de Costa Rica

**c. Vice-chair:** Prof. Ying Wang, Dean of Tongji University Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development.



**Sir Robert Tony Watson, CMG, FRS**

His career has included scientific advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House; chief scientist, World Bank; chief scientific advisor, UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and strategic director for the Tyndall Center, University of East Anglia, UK. He has chaired, co-chaired or directed the WMO/ UNEP stratospheric ozone depletion assessments, Global Biodiversity Assessment, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UK National Ecosystem Assessment and its Follow-on, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Assessment of Agricultural Scientific and Technology for Development, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and UNEP's Making Peace with Nature. Awards include a Knights Bachelor (2012), Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (2003); Fellow of the Royal Society (2011), member of the American Philosophical Society (2020), honorary member of the AMS (2021), UN Champion of the World for Science and Innovation (2014), the Asahi Glass Blue Planet Prize (2010).

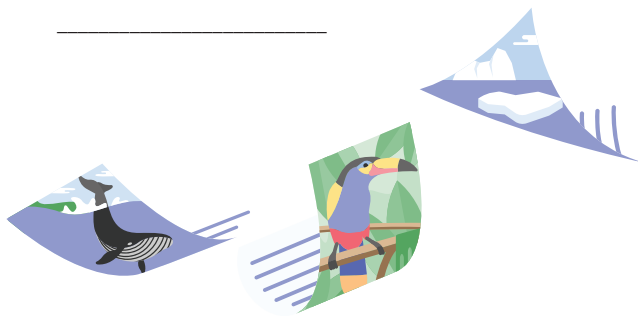


**Dr. Nyovani Janet Madise**

Nyovani is the Director of Development Policy and also Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP). Her work at AFIDEP focuses on research to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting the use of evidence among African decision-makers for the formulation of strong development policies and programmes.

Nyovani has a degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Malawi; MSc and PhD in Social Statistics from the University of Southampton and Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) from the University of Aberdeen. She worked for about 25 years at the University of Southampton until 2018. She held roles such as: Professor of Demography and Social Statistics; the University's lead for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity; Associate Dean (Research); Deputy Head of School; and Director of the University's Public Policy Unit. Nyovani previously worked in Kenya and at the University of Malawi. Nyovani is Vice-President and President-elect of the Union of African Population Studies.

Nyovani sits on many boards including: Plan International Inc; Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; AmplifyChange; the Population Council; UKRI's GCRF; NIHR's Global Health Research programme, and NWO-Wotro Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights programme.





**Prof. Edgar E. Gutierrez-Espeleta, Ph.D.**

Edgar E. Gutierrez-Espeleta, a Costa Rican by birth, obtained his B.Sc. in Statistics from the University of Costa Rica, and his M.Sc. (84) and Ph.D. (91) in Forest Biometry from Iowa State University, USA. He taught at University of Costa Rica (UCR) from 1982 until 2014 when he retired as a full professor. He founded, in 1997, the Development Observatory, a research unit at UCR dealing with sustainable development issues particularly, the development of indicators, indices and ways to present data for decision makers, and was its director until 2005 when he became Chair of the School of Statistics at the same university.

He has written more than 40 scientific articles, in national and international peer reviewed journals, and a book on Statistical Methods. Since 1997 through 2003 he was a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the IHDP Project Global Environment Change and Human Security. Prof. Gutierrez-Espeleta collaborated with UNEP Global Environment Outlook projects in Latin America and the Caribbean and co-lead the first two GEO LACs and the regional environmental data portal to support the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and Caribbean, among others.

In 2003 he was the Director of the project: Environmental indicators and variables for the Initiative of Latin American and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development for the World Bank & UNEP-ROLAC. He was also a member of IPCC AR V and Vice President of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention of Biological Diversity (1996-1998). He has lead projects, besides UNEP, for UNDP, WB, IDB and UNSD. He was Minister of Environment and Energy for Costa Rica from 2014 to 2018. He was also the President of the Second and Third United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016 and 2017 and co-chair of the negotiation of the Summary for Policy Makers of GEO in 2019. In 2020 he has been appointed as Council Member of Hainan Institute of National Park, China, until 2023. Since 2020 he has been serving a Special Envoy for LAC for the UNCCD. He is member of the United Nations High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, appointed by the President of the UN General Assembly.



**Prof. Ying Wang**

Prof. Ying Wang is now the Professor in College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tongji University. She received her BSc. in 2007 from Wuhan University and her Ph.D in 2012 from Tsinghua University. From 2009 to 2011, she worked at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, U.S.A. Prof. Wang's current research interests include analysis and control of water pollutions and emerging contaminates based on electrochemical technologies. She has published over 60 papers in international, peer-reviewed journals with more than 10000 citations (ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9847-4655).

Prof. Wang joined the GEO program firstly in 2017 for GEO-6, as a LA for GEO-6 Asia Pacific assessment. Then she took the CLA for GEO-6 Youth Asia Pacific from 2018-2021, including preparing the report scoping documents, organizing the authors meetings, writing and reviewing the report and preparation of the launching activities in Singapore, Beijing and Shanghai. She also takes charge of the lecture of "GEO" in Tongji.



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## Ad hoc open-ended Meeting for the Assessment Procedures and Supporting Functions of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

The ad hoc open-ended meetings of the seventh Global Environment Outlook took place virtually on **September 19-22, 2022**. The experts nominated by Member States were invited to review and adopt the assessment procedures document. The meetings took place over a three-hour online session on each of the four days of the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Secretariat beginning with the election of the meeting officials who will preside over the ad hoc open-ended meetings of the Global Environment Outlook. Dr. Thuraya Al Sariri (Oman) and Mr. Lorenzo Ciccarese (Italy) were elected co-chairs of the meeting, Mr. Miroslav Havránek (Czechia) and Mr. Alberto Capra (Argentina) were elected as vice-chairs and Ms. Anna Mampye (South Africa) was elected rapporteur.

Jian Liu, Director of UNEP Science Division was invited to give opening remarks where he highlighted the importance of the meeting, mentioning the triple planetary crisis that we need to overcome, the gap between scientific evidence, the solutions proposed by global assessments and the required action by policy and decision makers. He added that the meeting will discuss the assessment procedures of the next solutions-focused GEO. These procedures will help ensure the scientific credibility, political legitimacy and policy relevance of GEO-7 and future GEOs. The director of UNEP's Science Division concluded by wishing participants success in their work throughout the remaining days of the meeting. Over the course of the four days, the assessment procedures document was reviewed and amended after discussions from experts on suggested changes

and inclusions to the document. Several suggested changes were made to the document. The roles of the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) were clearly identified and agreed across the document. An additional section on outreach and awareness raising was reviewed and agreed upon by the meeting. On the conflict-of-interest section, the suggestion was made to add copyright transfer and confidentiality guidelines as further information in this section. After all these discussions, the GEO procedures document was adopted on a preliminary basis.

Before concluding the four-day meeting, the secretariat made a special announcement on the appointment of the co-chairs and vice-chairs of the assessment. The chairs of the assessment will be:

- **Co-chair:** Sir Robert Watson, former chair of the IPBES and IPCC processes and major lead of the Making Peace with Nature report.
- **Co-chair:** Dr. Nyovani Janet Madise, Director of Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP).
- **Vice-chair:** Dr. Edgar E. Gutierrez-Espeleta, former President of UNEA, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. Professor at Universidad de Costa Rica.
- **Vice-chair:** Prof. Ying Wang, Dean of Tongji University Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development.

The meeting was adjourned at 18h00 on 22 September 2022, with thanks from the co-chairs to the experts and Secretariat for a very productive discussion.



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Jian Liu, Director of UNEP Science Division was invited to give opening remarks where he highlighted the importance of the meeting, mentioning the triple planetary crisis that we need to overcome, the gap between scientific evidence, the solutions proposed by global assessments and the required action by policy and decision makers.



## GEO-7 Scoping Meeting, 17-20 October 2022 and the Inaugural Face to Face Meeting of the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), 21 October 2022

Following the conclusion of the Procedures Meeting, UNEP is preparing for the Seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) Scoping Meeting which will take place in a hybrid format on October 17-20, 2022. This meeting seeks to review, define, and adopt the scope, theme and annotated outline of GEO-7. The goal of the four-day meeting is to complete the review of the draft, finalize it and adopt it for implementation in the GEO-7 process. The participants of the scoping meeting will include a diverse group of experts who will discuss the scope of the GEO-7, its innovative features, and the proposed focus on solutions within the systems (energy, food and waste) at the root of the triple planetary crisis. This meeting will also include 3 leadership style dialogues on the key systems identified in GEO-6 that require transformation. Key experts in these fields have been invited to this meeting to give interventions on 'how' these key systems can be transformed to be environmentally sustainable.

The scoping meeting will be followed by the inaugural face to face meeting of the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) on 21 October 2022. The group includes 25 Member States experts (5 per UN region) and 10 representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders. The members have been carefully selected considering gender, geographic and disciplinary balance. This group will bring crucial policy expertise to guide the Executive Director and the team of experts in the production of the GEO-7.

The main tasks of the IMAG include:

- Providing help to draft the scope of the GEO;
- Providing advice on needs related to capacity building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking;
- Providing advice on the development of the workplan and budget and setting out a programme of activities;
- Interacting with assessment authors and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) to provide relevant advice to the Executive Director.

The IMAG will meet physically for the first time at UNEP's Headquarters in Nairobi, on Friday 21 October 2022, with the objective of discussing their role and responsibilities as well as next steps in the GEO-7 process.



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## UNEP Frontiers Series: Food Systems Transformations

The 6 September 2022 saw the start of planned expert peer review on the special issue of the UNEP Frontiers Series on food systems transformations, tentatively titled "What's cooking? An assessment of the potential impacts of selected novel alternatives to conventional animal products" (working title). The assessment explores selected food production technologies and assesses emerging scientific evidence on the potential environmental, health and nutrition, social and economic and animal welfare impacts of these technologies, as potential complements or replacements for traditional meat, fish, dairy and egg products.

Numerous experts were invited to provide their comments and feedback on the first order draft of the assessment through a new and innovative review system called Global Environment Outlook- Review Editing Analytical Database (GEO-READ).

GEO-READ supports and enhances the rigor, credibility, and transparency of the assessment's review process. It also provides review editors and other stakeholders with various analytical tools to guide and supplement their work as they analyse the large numbers of comments provided by peer and government-nominated reviewers. This digitizing of the review process responds to the UN Secretary General's 'Our Common Agenda' by fostering increased digital cooperation through a new governance and administrative model for GEO and is an example of UNEP's ongoing **digital transformation**. The system provides different services and privileges to different users, whether they are report authors, reviewers, review editors, members of GEO advisory boards, or members of the GEO secretariat.

In addition, the team also held a review webinar on the 14th of September, which provided expert peer reviewers with the opportunity to share their thoughts on the review system, the report, and to interact with Sir Robert Watson, one of the report's co-chairs.

The authors will soon receive the peer review comments and with guidance from the co-chairs will begin revising the text considering the expert's comments. In parallel, the designer will continue work on engaging infographics, a visually appealing and informative layout and the overall design, including the report cover. A second expert peer review period for the revised text including key visuals is planned for early 2023.

The participants of the scoping meeting will include a diverse group of experts who will discuss the scope of the GEO-7, its innovative features, and the proposed focus on solutions within the systems (energy, food and waste) at the root of the triple planetary crisis.

