

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 4 December 2023
10:00 –13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Global Resources Outlook 2024.

The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the second edition of the ‘Global Resources Outlook’ which will be launched in February 2024. This report is a flagship of the International Resource Panel, and the 2024 edition looks at why resources are so important and how critical they are to achieving the SDGs and addressing the triple planetary crisis. Importantly, the 2024 report demonstrates - based on data analysis and modelling - that global material demand is still on the rise. It puts forward primary research on the trends of resource extraction and inequitable use in the global economy and the environmental and socio-economic impacts of that use. It also delineates the scale of ambition needed to redirect the global economy towards sustainable resource utilization, and it includes, for the first time, a dedicated section on just transitions. The first edition of the Global Resources Outlook report was welcomed by Member States at UNEA-4 in 2019 through [UNEA resolution 4/1](#). The same resolution invited the Panel to develop future reports to be presented at the upcoming UNEA session.

The Committee will be invited to take note of the presentation on the Global Resources Outlook 2024 and to provide guidance on how to ensure broad visibility and awareness of the report, including at UNEA-6.



Date 20 November 2023
Reference UNEP-IRP-GRO24

Global Resources Outlook – 2024
A Report by the International Resource Panel to UNEA-6

The purpose of this briefing is to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives about the ‘Global Resources Outlook (GRO) 2024’ which will be submitted as an information document to UNEA-6 and launched at the Assembly in February 2024.

The GRO is the flagship scientific assessment of the International Resource Panel and a UNEP Institutional Priority product in 2024. GRO-2024 looks at why resources are so important and how critical they are to achieving the SDGs and addressing the triple planetary crisis. Importantly the report demonstrates - based on data analysis and modelling - that not only is global material demand still on the rise, but the material intensity of the global economy is still increasing. It puts forward primary research on the trends of resource extraction and inequitable use in the global economy, and the environmental and socio-economic impacts of that use. It also delineates the scale of ambition needed to redirect the global economy towards sustainable resource utilization and achievement of the SDGs and climate, biodiversity, and pollution goals.

a. Relationship of the information provided to UNEP’s Programme of Work

UNEA and the Global Resources Outlook 2024

The first edition of the ‘Global Resources Outlook’ was launched in 2019 at the UN Environment Assembly.

At the upcoming UNEA-6 in February 2024 the GRO-2024 will be presented in response to the 2019 UNEA Resolution 4/1 on *Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production*, which “invites the International Resource Panel to continue to report regularly to the Environment Assembly, including through its Global Resources Outlook reports, on current trends and emerging issues related to the use and management of natural resources, overconsumption and their impact on the environment, the economy, society and people, such reports to include scenarios, examples of good practice and policy options”.

In addition, the UNEA Resolution 5/11 on *Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production* welcomed “the work of the International Resource Panel, including through its regular Global Resources Outlook reports, in developing science-based options for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 and related Sustainable Development Goals”. The resolution also invited the IRP and partners to share research best practices for the promotion of innovative pathways for sustainable consumption and production.

Finally, UNEA Resolution 5/9 on *Sustainable and resilient infrastructure* similarly invited “the International Resource Panel to advance efforts for connecting science and policy for sustainable infrastructure in order to provide expert, policy-relevant and science-based options on the matter”.

UNEP and the Global Resources Outlook 2024

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and the programme and work and budget for 2022-2023 seek to tackle the triple planetary crisis, outlining transformative shifts to reshape consumption and production patterns towards sustainability and in the context of the SDGs. To achieve this goal, UNEP has committed to inform policy and actions based on science.. The work of the IRP is part of the Finance and Economic Transformations enabling subprogramme and the Science-Policy foundational sub-programme.

The Global Resources Outlook 2024 contributes to the ambitions of the MTS by sharing evidence-based policy-relevant options to inform and drive financial, economic and behavioral shifts towards sustainable consumption and production patterns to enable transformation at speed and scale. The focus of the GRO-2024 on resources enables an integrated perspective on climate, biodiversity and particulate matter related pollution.

b. Next steps

The Global Resources Outlook (2024) scientific assessment will be submitted on 15 January 2024 in two parts to UNEA-6 as the following Information Documents:

- UNEP/EA.6/INF/9 - Global Resources Outlook 2024: A Report by the International Resource Panel.
- UNEP/EA.6/INF/10 - Global Resources Outlook 2024: Summary for Policymakers by the International Resource Panel.

The report will be launched at UNEA-6, including through a dedicated side event, and a high-level breakfast/lunch session. Further outreach in the form of a press event is under consideration.

c. Recommendations/relevance for the CPR

The Committee is invited to take note of the presentation on the Global Resources Outlook 2024 and to provide guidance on how to ensure broad visibility and awareness of the report, including at UNEA-6.

Delegates interested to learn more about joining the Steering Committee of the International Resource Panel are invited to contact the Secretariat at unep-irpsecretariat@un.org

About the International Resource Panel:

The IRP is a science-policy interface established under the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in 2007. The IRP's mandate is to provide independent and authoritative scientific assessments on the use of natural resources and their environmental impacts. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation while enhancing well-being. The IRP Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Benefiting from the broad support of governments and scientific communities, the Panel is constituted of eminent scientists and experts from all parts of the world, bringing their multidisciplinary expertise to address resource management issues.

Since the IRP's launch in 2007, more than 33 assessments have been published, which outline the opportunities for governments, businesses and wider society to work together to create and implement policies that ultimately lead to sustainable resource management. More information about the IRP and its reports can be found at: www.resourcepanel.org