

## Outcomes Document

### Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) of the Seventh -7)

**November 1, 2023**

*On November 1, 2023, the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group met to consider the following agenda items:*

GEO-7 Zero Order Draft (ZOD) review outcomes  
 First face to face meeting of the Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) Taskforce  
 Update on the outcomes of the second policy and outlooks workshop in Shanghai  
 GEO-7 Process updates  
 AOB

#### **On these agenda items, the meeting decided:**

IMAG and MESAG to provide more written comments once the meeting summary and briefing materials are shared.

Authors to emphasize the interlinkages between the outlooks and solutions pathways chapters.

To invite IMAG and MESAG members to the webinars on the glossary tool and Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidance.

The need to use updated data in the GEO-7 assessment.

To reflect regional balance in the Solutions Pathways that will be presented in the GEO-7 assessment.

To receive feedback from IMAG and the Committee of Permanent representatives to UNEP on the regional priorities that will be identified by chapter 8 and 20 in the GEO-7 assessment.


To ensure that the GEO-7 process on ILK learns from the best practices from other assessment processes such as IPCC and IPBES.

GEO-7 assessment co-chair to work on the new version of the proposed chapter structure of GEO-7.

IMAG to provide their decision on the proposal for the GEO-7 restructuring in their next meeting on 22 November.

MESAG will review and approve the newly developed guidance on use of AI tools and issue guidance to authors.

The Secretariat to share ILK funding proposals with the relevant IMAG members.

MESAG Rapporteur	Signature
Dr. Gian Delgado	 Firmado digitalmente por GIAN CARLO DELGADO RAMOS. 11.14.2023.
IMAG Rapporteur	Signature
Eng. Ana Julieta Calvo-Obando	

## **Meeting Summary November 1, 2023**

### **GEO-7 zero order draft review outcomes**

Presentations were provided by the overall Coordinating Lead Authors of the State and Trends part, Policy responses and solutions pathways part and the Outlooks part. The authors noted that inconsistent chapter structures, old data and old references in some cases were common across the entire report, and these will be worked on and polished up in time for the First Order Draft (FOD) review period. Terminology across the report was highlighted as another major issue that required solving and the upcoming webinar on the glossary was indicated to be timely to inform authors about the platform and how they can use it to come to an agreement on various terms. It was also noted that there may be some confusion around the DPSIR framework within the State and Trends part of the report. Lastly, it was also noted that a decision on the proposal for restructuring the report was needed to allow authors to incorporate the approved structure in the FOD. The MESAG co-chair noted that MESAG members had seen the initial proposal for restructuring and that they did not have any comments.

The advisory bodies noted the need for inclusion of success stories into the report noting that they would help sell the report. They also noted the need for further emphasis on the interlinkages between outlooks and solution pathways given that policymakers and other practitioners are likely to rely on the modelling results which need to be well highlighted in the solutions pathways. The need for regional balance and implementation plans in the solutions pathways presented in the report was also highlighted by the advisory bodies as important as well as ensuring that the most available data is used and in cases where it is missing, it should be made known.

The Co-chair of the assessment responded that success stories would only make sense if they are scalable and if they can also be used in different socio-political situations such as different regions. They also added the report will present only options and not recommendations. The co-chair also emphasized that the regional chapters in the reports (chapters 8 and 20) will be working together to identify regional priorities which will be shared back to IMAG and the Committee for Permanent Representatives to UNEP for feedback. The overall Coordinating Lead Author for the Policy responses and Solutions Pathways added that indeed the solutions pathways will link to the outlooks and provide solutions to the regions. The overall Coordinating Lead Author of the outlooks also chimed in to indicate that there will be meetings with the Solutions Pathways chapters to better understand their different roles in ensuring a better link between those two parts of the report.

The advisory groups noted that national models chosen cannot represent the whole region e.g., in the case of Latin America or South America, given that the studies and priorities cannot be based on only some environments of big countries.

The MESAG Co-Chair thanked the authors for the presentation and the IMAG and MESAG members for their comments and encouraged the authors to use the latest data in the report. The MESAG co-chair also mentioned the planned webinar on the glossary and asked the secretariat to share the invite to both IMAG and MESAG members.

### **First face to face meeting of the Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) Taskforce**

The GEO-7 assessment co-chair provided a briefing on the concluded first face to face meeting of the ILK noting that the meeting was very well done, and the taskforce members allocated themselves to work on different parts of the report. The taskforce members are in the process of selecting a convener for each part of the report and the taskforce would work on providing some text for the First Order Draft.

The co-chair shared that there are likely to be four Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) dialogues depending on funding and resources and he further elaborated on the

proposed timing of each dialogue and the associated outcomes of each. Conceptual issues around terminology such as Indigenous vs Local Peoples, Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge were also discussed in the ILK meeting. During the ILK meeting, it was agreed that there should be a sub section on ILK in each section of the report and there will be more discussion on how that will be integrated. The assessment co-chair indicated that the pathways chapters will need to show the implications of transformation on Indigenous Peoples and Local Peoples.

It was highlighted that the work of the ILK taskforce will build on the IPBES process while noting that the scope of GEO-7 is much broader. The MESAG Co-chair mentioned that the Secretariat had contacted IPBES and UNESCO to ensure that GEO-7 is learning from best practices in the ILK space. The MESAG co-chair further mentioned that some MESAG members had been selected to work in the ILK task force in a subcommittee and the MESAG in their follow up call, will discuss whether they would want to form subcommittees for other task groups involved in the GEO-7 process such as the Climate Change Adaptation task group and the Behavioral Social and Cultural task group.

A MESAG member noted that the documents to be used for the call for knowledge and ILK networks and knowledge should be prepared to ensure timely selection of the relevant ILK networks. The Secretariat noted that funding is needed for those activities and some funding proposals and grant requests were being worked on. Another MESAG member noted that UNFCCC has a facilitating working group on ILK and he would be able to provide a link to that effort. The co-chair mentioned that the ILK task force is working on defining that. MESAG members also highlighted that UNESCO, IPCC and IPBES have definitions that could be used and the CBD convention protocols were mentioned as a potential resource for ILK guidance.

The MESAG Co-Chair suggested that both advisory bodies can provide more comments when the meeting summary is shared.

### **Update on the outcomes of the second policy and outlooks workshop in Shanghai**

The Secretariat provided a briefing on behalf of the co-chairs on the second modelling and solutions pathways workshops that took place in Shanghai, China from 4-7 September 2023. The meeting consisted of a three-day workshop and one day outreach event (in the form of science-policy dialogues) that was attended by high level dignitaries from various ministries in China. The meeting was funded by partners in China with the great support from one of the assessments co-chairs and Tongji University. The Secretariat mentioned that they will be looking for other similar opportunities where host countries can provide in-kind contributions.

The Secretariat highlighted that the meeting enabled the authors of the solutions chapters to identify levers and actions and gain more understanding on how to use the Goals Levers and Solutions diagram, which is aimed at providing a clear structure to the chapters of this part of the report. The outlooks chapter authors received feedback on their narratives from the Solutions Pathways authors to ensure that the storylines will feed into the modelling while being coherent and consistent. Additionally, authors of the regional chapters in the outlooks had been having some difficulty in developing the narratives of what the future might hold without the modelling results, but the meeting clarified that subregional issues that they can start building on.

The IMAG co-chair thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and the intentional dialogue that happened between the different author groups during that meeting.

## **GEO-7 Process updates**

### *Supporting Services Workplan.*

The GEO resolution requested GEO to provide supporting services in the areas of capacity building, knowledge generation and capacity building. The Secretariat shared that the Netherlands has provided some funding towards the GEO supporting services work. The Secretariat also shared that 15 collaborating centres were selected, and the next phase would be to develop a workplan of key supporting services that GEO can provide. It was also mentioned that the survey on supporting services had closed and the results from the survey will be presented in the next IMAG call. These results will then be used to develop a workplan for the supporting services.

### *Proposed GEO-7 Chapter structure.*

The GEO-7 assessment co-chair mentioned some changes to the initial proposed structure of GEO-7. The updated proposal will be shared with the IMAG for final approval. These amendments include an introductory chapeau just before the State and Trends section and a short concluding section pulling the climate change, pollution, biodiversity and land degradation story together. The other noted change is the structure of the solutions pathways chapters with the circularity chapter moving up from chapter 14 to chapter 12 right next to the economics and finance chapter. This will ensure a better narrative flow in that part of the report.

The Secretariat also mentioned that the ILK task force will likely create subsections related to ILK and how the systems covered by the solutions pathways chapters are affected and how the transformations might impact ILK communities. The Secretariat indicated that it would go back to the initial proposal and highlight where the changes are for easy reading of the new proposal.

The MESAG co-chair indicated that they had seen the initial version of the proposed changes to the GEO-7 structure, and they look forward to seeing the new version with the new highlighted changes.

### *Guidance for GEO-7 experts on Large Language Models (LLMs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools*

The Secretariat provided a briefing on why guidance is needed on some parts of AI such as LLM and NLP to ensure that no weakness in the scientific credibility of the report. It was mentioned that the MESAG had prepared two documents with one being a living document based on AI guidance from the UN and academic journals and the other, a disclosure document requiring GEO-7 authors to declare any use of AI in their drafting of the report. It was further highlighted that the two documents have been reviewed by the relevant UNEP colleagues and co-chairs of the assessment and that the documents are now with the Coordinating Lead Authors for commenting before MESAG can approve them and share them with all authors.

### *The advisory bodies*

GEO-7 is not drafted by any of AI tools to which the Secretariat responded that they would review the disclosure documents that authors send in and make publicly available any use of such tools in the report.

The MESAG co-chair thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and indicated that the UN is also working on AI guidance, but it authors are already drafting the GEO-7 report.

*Planning for the second authors meeting.*

The Secretariat shared that the second authors meeting planned for 15-19 January 2024 will be in Vienna and that a joint decision was taken to move the meeting to Vienna from Jordan due to the security situation in the Middle East. The Secretariat noted that the meeting rooms had been booked and that invitations to the authors will be sent out soon.

**Any Other Business**

The GEO-7 cashflow issue was resolved and money from the China Trust Fund will be used for the

The co-chairs of the meeting thanked the Secretariat and the co-chairs of the assessment for the great work in managing the GEO-7 process.

There will be a webinar invite to both MESAG and IMAG with regards to the online glossary tool and AI guidance. The Secretariat will work on ensuring best practices with regards to developing a glossary are created.

<b>IMAG Participants</b>		
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