

Briefing on the Global Environmental Data Strategy

Committee of the Permanent Representatives

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Outline

GEDS background, objectives and vision

- UNEA-4, Ministerial Declaration and Resolution 4/23: Mandate for GEDS development by 2025 (UNEA-7).
- UNEP Digital Transformation: the pillars of our work
- World Environment Situation Room
- GEDS: preparatory steps and consultations
- UNEP's vision of the GEDS: five key pillars
- Proposed outputs of the GEDS
- Timeline & next steps

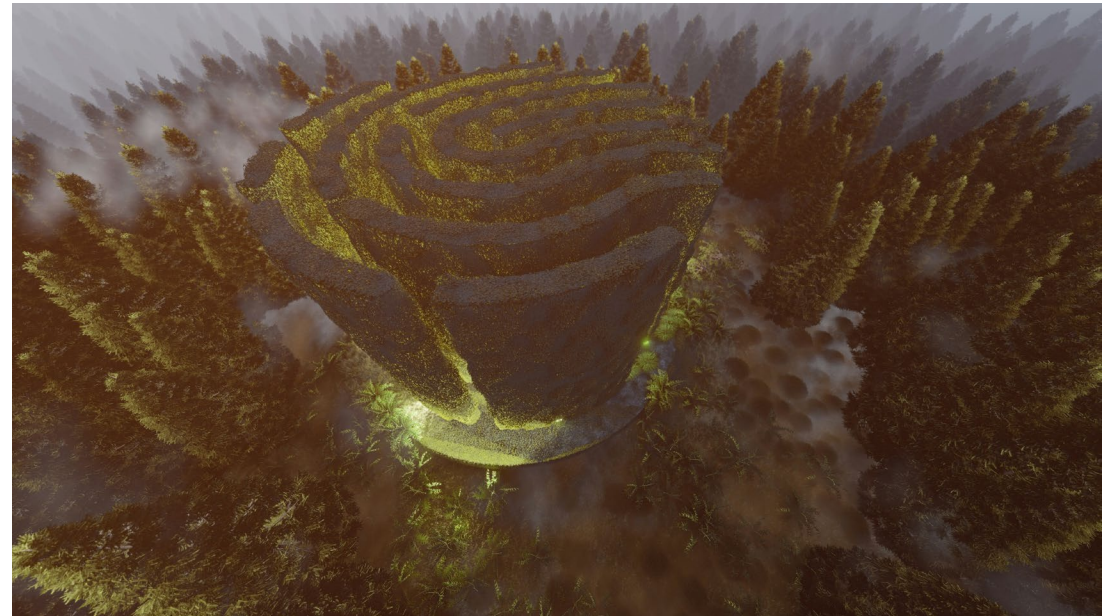
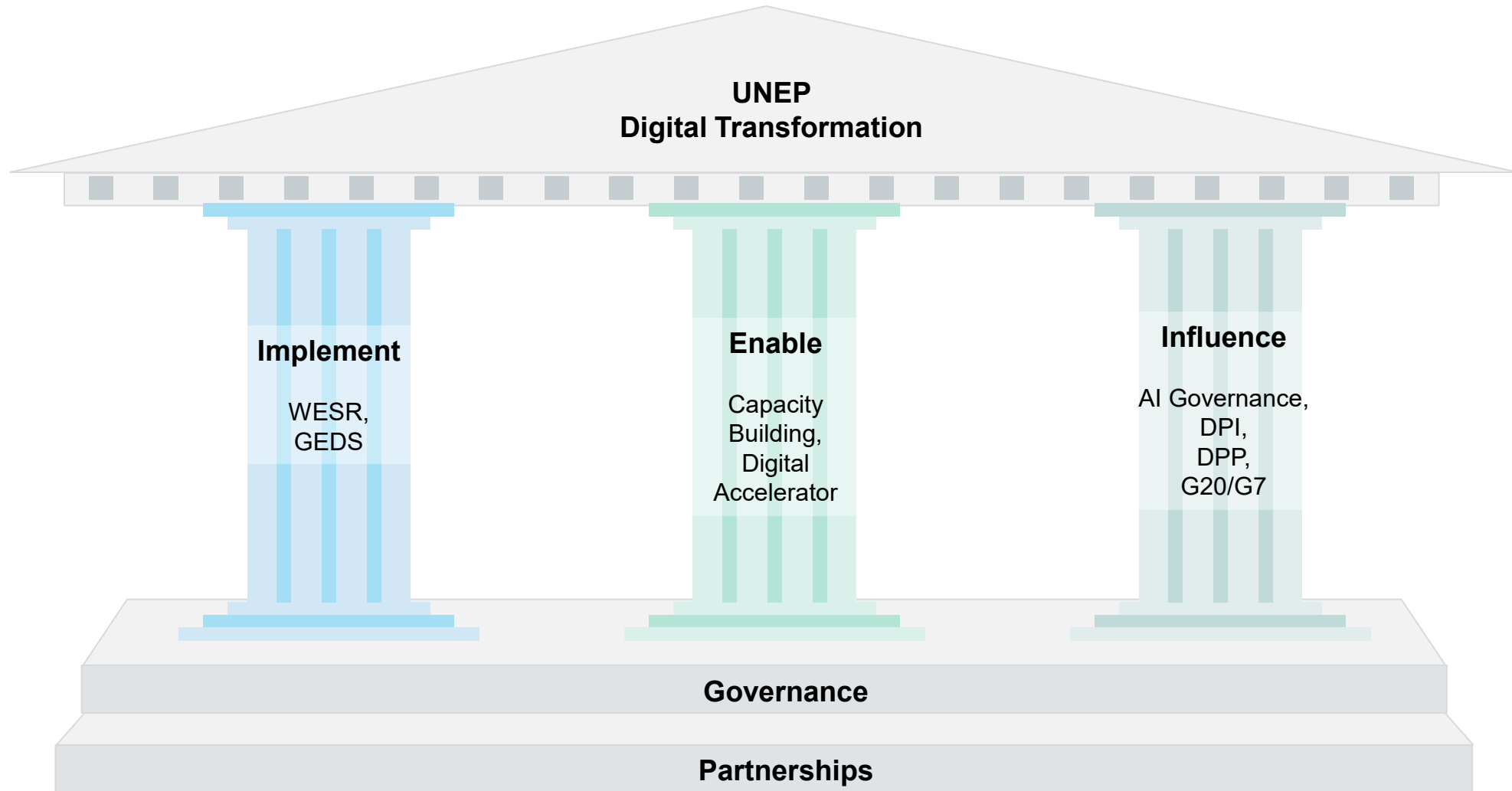


Photo by [Ashish R. Mishra](#) on [Unsplash](#)

UNEP Digital Transformation

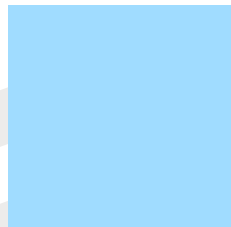
The pillars of our work



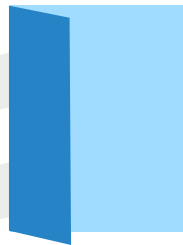
World Environment Situation Room (WESR)

A work in progress

From Proof-of-concept...



Aggregator of
platforms and data...



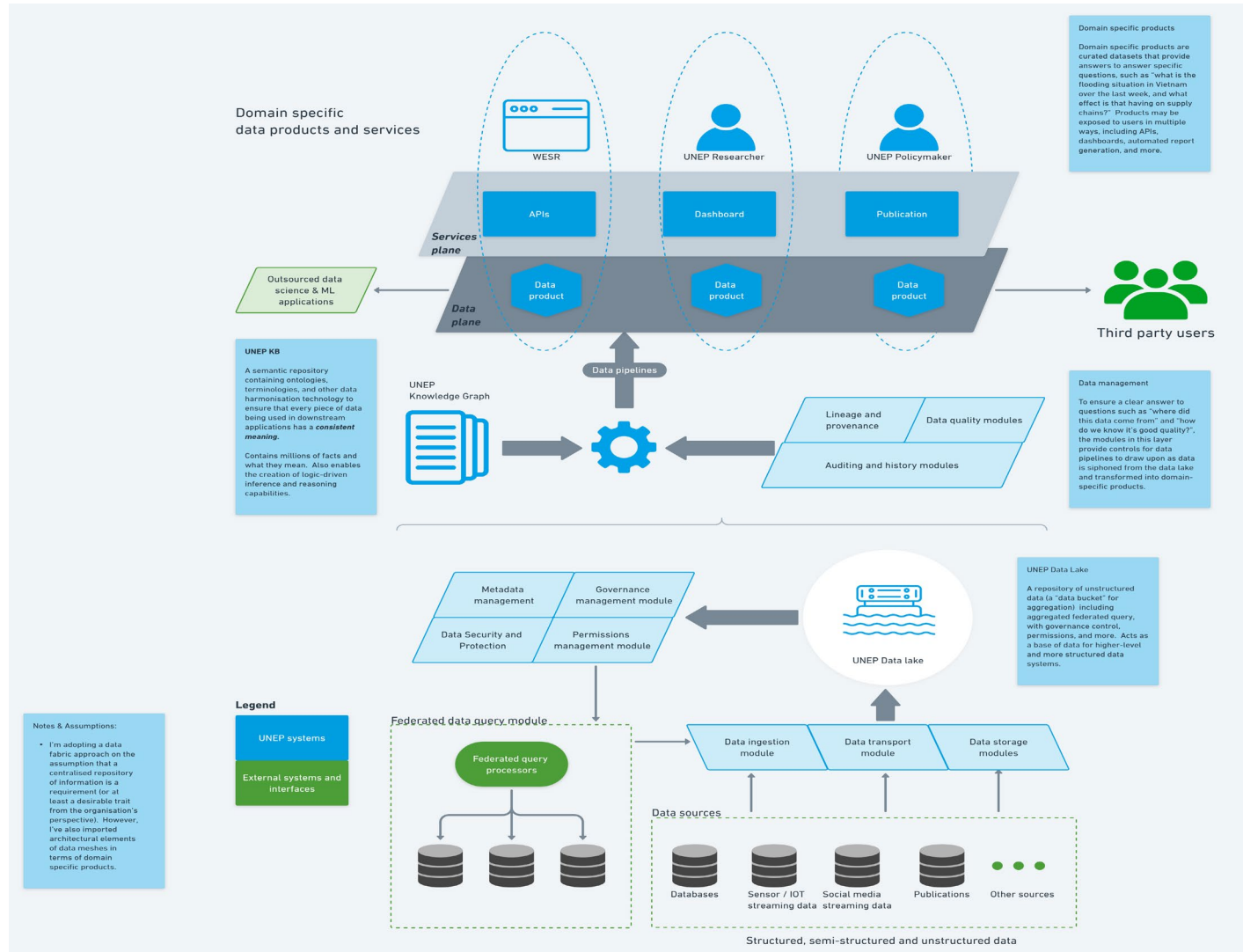
...to Production



...Full data platform
with use cases

World Environment Situation Room (WESR)

Architecture



World Environmental Situation Room

Digital Accelerator Lab at UNEA-6 in numbers

11

Prototypes for
feedback

9

Launched
solutions

14

Resources &
Reports

10

TED-style
Talks

- **4 use cases with interoperable data that will test the GEDS frameworks for real-life applications:**
 - Environment-GPT
 - Country Environment Dashboards
 - Solutions Hub on Wastewater
 - Air Pollution Policy tracker
- **What cases you would like to see?**

Preparatory Steps and Consultations

Initial analysis conducted by UNEP

- UNEP Roadmap on Environment Statistics, Accounting and Analysis (2021).
- Exploratory Analysis and Research for GEDS Conceptual Framework (2022 - 2023).
- Inventory of UNEP data platforms and APIs (May 2023).
- Preliminary mapping of Environmental Data Standards (July 2023).
- Survey of environmental data consumers and producers across UNEP (November 2023).
- External environmental data platforms inventory (2023 – ongoing).
- Development of data-driven use cases for WESR (2023 - ongoing).



Preparatory Steps and Consultations

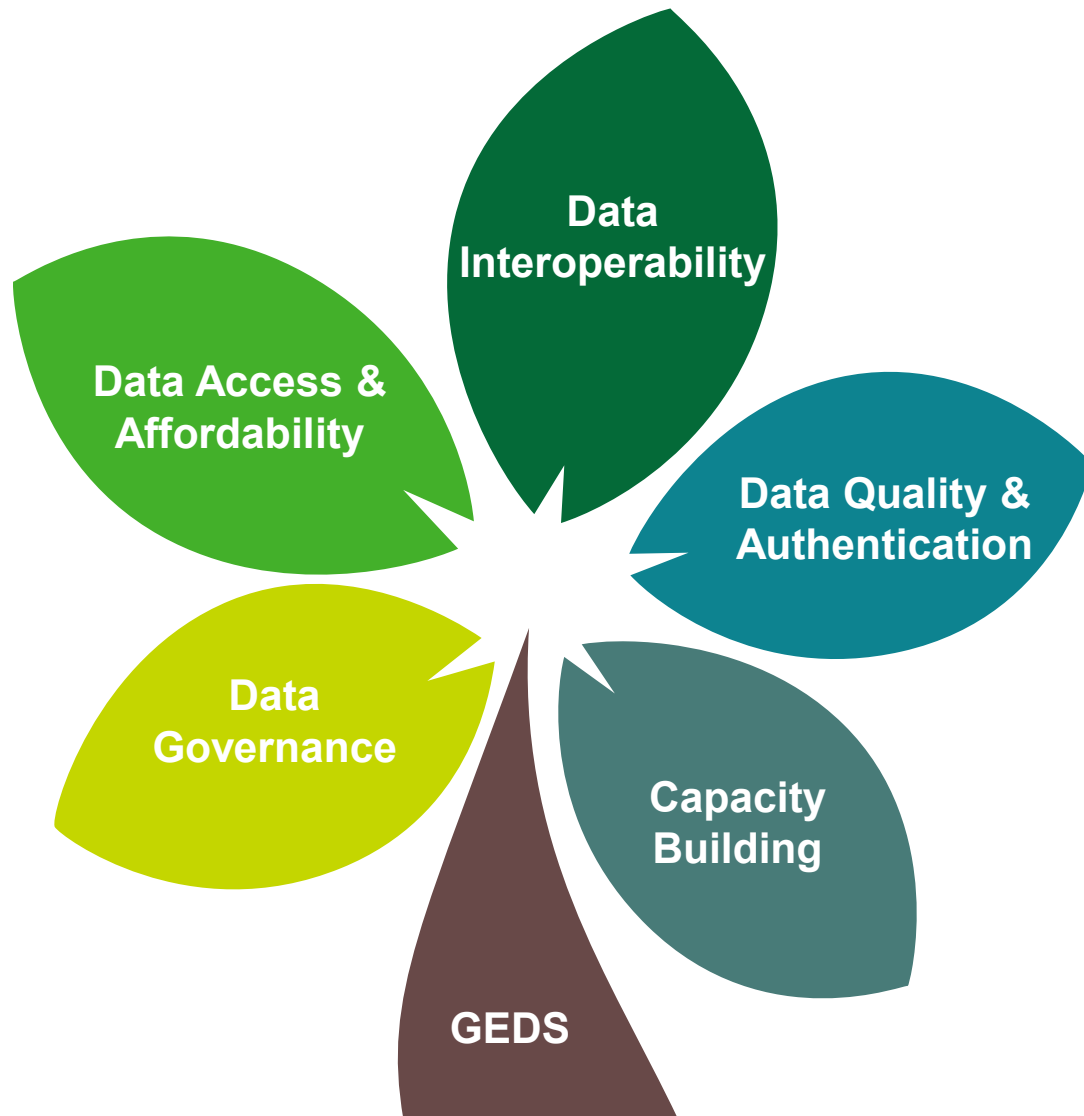
Preliminary stakeholder consultations conducted by UNEP

- UNEP's contribution to the UN Round Table on Digital Public Goods (March 2020).
- Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES) (June 2022).
- Consultation with MEA secretariat data experts participating in the InforMEA initiative (June 2023).
- UN Science Policy Business Forum Consultations on GEDS (September 2023).
- COP28 UNEP Digital Day Pavilion and Stakeholder Feedback (December 2023).
- UNEA6 Digital Accelerator Lab and Stakeholder Feedback (February 2024).



UNEP's Vision for a GEDS

UNEP presents five key pillars for a GEDS, subject to further consultation and co-design



Improve Data Governance:

Advance comprehensive governance models that address ethical, effective, and sustainable methodologies for environmental data management practices.

Promote Inclusive Data Access and Affordability:

Detail action items and policy recommendations to improve open access to environmental data and address challenges related to data affordability.

Promote Data Interoperability:

Identify and integrate global and thematic data standards into a global environmental data framework for efficient sharing among stakeholders.

Enhance Data Quality and Authentication:

Discuss frameworks and standards for defining and classifying environmental data quality levels accurately.

Facilitate Capacity Building:

Support member states in acquiring skills for data governance, foster best practice exchange, and strengthen global initiatives for inclusive engagement.

Proposed Outputs of the GEDS

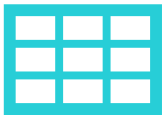
UNEP presents the four key outcomes of the GEDS



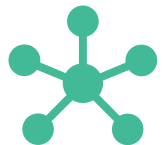
1. Comprehensive summary of findings, recommendations and resource requirements pertaining to the five pillars.



2. Potential UNEA decisions to operationalize GEDS by relevant stakeholders.



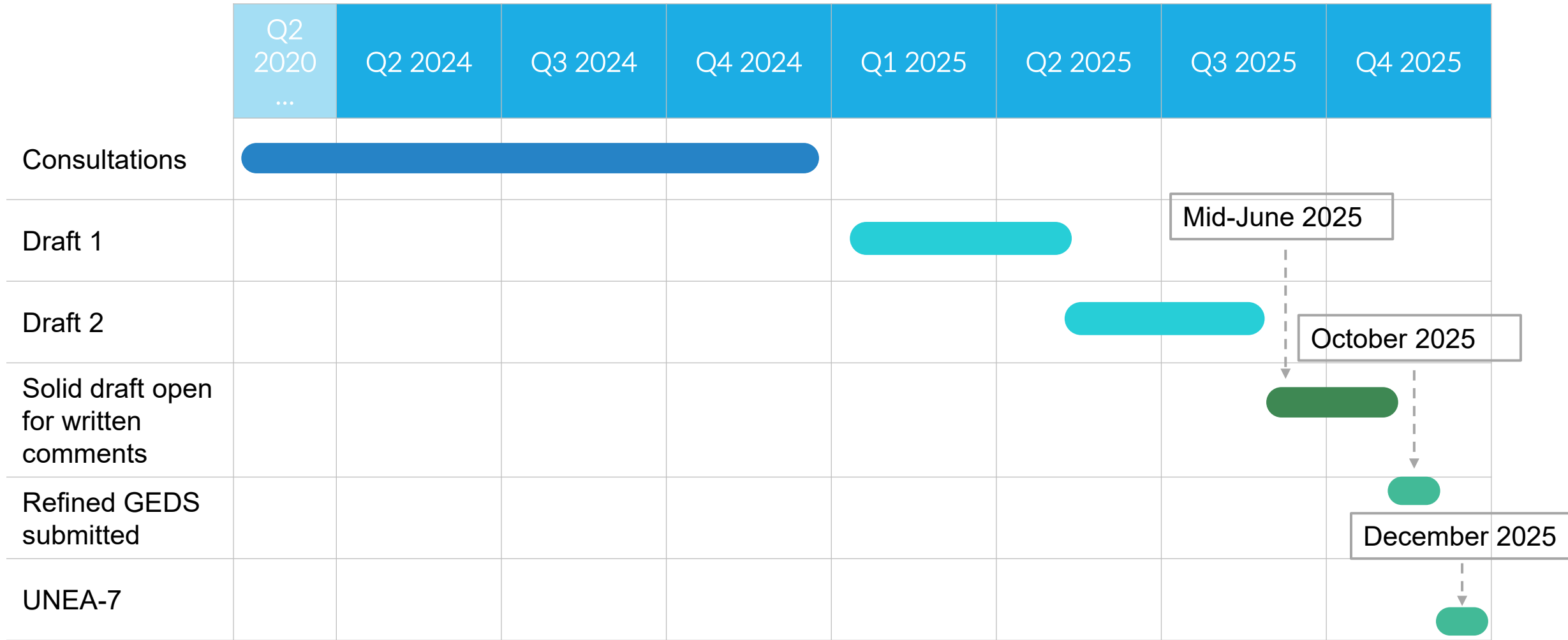
3. Identification and adoption of best practices, standards and frameworks that enable AI-ready environmental data and machine-readable data formats.



4. World Environment Situation Room as a flagship implementation of GEDS.

Timeline

Consultations and draft development timeline



Next Steps

Member states are invited to organize and participate in multi-stakeholder consultations

- The Committee is invited to **provide feedback** on the content and vision of the Global Environmental Data Strategy.
- We welcome expressions of interest from member states **to host national, regional, or thematic** consultations tailored to various stakeholder groups.
- Interested member states are invited **to join a 'group of friends'** for deeper **ongoing engagement**.
- Multiple modalities of consultations to ensure maximum input: online form, online workshops, offline workshops.

Contact Us

To express interest in hosting consultations or joining the group of friends

Contact the Office of the Chief Digital Officer **by 18th May** at

unep-chiefdigital@un.org

Thank you



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