

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 19 September 2024
13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Draft Chair's Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H.E. Mr. Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcomes from the third authors meeting for the seventh Global Environment Outlook and on the development of the GEO-7 Summary for Policy Makers

3. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the outcomes from [the third authors meeting](#) for [the seventh Global Environment Outlook \(GEO-7\)](#), held in Nairobi from 2 to 5 September 2024, an update on the process for the upcoming intergovernmental review of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the main report and the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and an update on the development of the GEO-7 Summary for Policy Makers.
4. **Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:**
 - a. Emphasized the importance of increasing the number of reviewers and comments for the SOD of the GEO-7 report and the FOD of the SPM.
 - b. Sought further clarification on:
 - i. The limited number of reviewers selected during the FOD review of the GEO-7 report and their selection process.
 - ii. How the SOD of the GEO-7 report and the FOD of the SPM will be shared with the reviewers for comments.
 - iii. The existing linkages between the GEO-7 process and the [UNEP's global foresight report on planetary health and wellbeing](#).
 - iv. Coverage of the issues related to illegal activities with environment consequences in the GEO-7 report.
 - c. Requested the Secretariat to:
 - i. Provide a breakdown of the reviewers selected for the peer review of the FOD of the GEO-7 report by gender, region and country. **This information was subsequently made available through the following [link](#).**
 - ii. Provide a timeline of the GEO-7 process, highlighting when Member State involvement is required. **This information was subsequently made available through the following [link](#).**
 - iii. Provide an update on the funding situation of the GEO-7 process.

¹ State of Palestine, Costa Rica, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, United States of America, Canada, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), Spain, Russian Federation, Mexico, Islamic Republic of Iran.

- d. Cautioned on the use of the term “triple planetary crisis” in the GEO-7 report.
- e. Underlined that the GEO-7 report to be policy *relevant* and not policy *prescriptive*.
- f. Recalled the intergovernmental nature of the GEO process, as set out in [UNEA resolution 5/3](#).
- g. Requested the Secretariat further clarify how the five environmental themes addressed in previous GEO are assessed in GEO-7, as requested in [UNEA resolution 5/3](#).
- h. Encouraged the Secretariat to organize briefings to the CPR on the GEO process more frequently.

5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- i. Explained that the limited number of reviewers for the FOD of the main report was due to the need to achieve regional and gender balance, as required by [UNEA resolution 5/3](#); and because of underrepresentation from certain regions, only 244 of the 434 nominated reviewers were selected.
- ii. Confirmed efforts made to engage more experts for the upcoming peer review process, including outreach to the “GEO family” of experts—such as collaborating centers, experts from other global environmental assessments, and reviewers from previous editions.
- iii. Encouraged Member States to distribute the call for intergovernmental and expert reviewer’s nominations widely.
- iv. Clarified that the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) have recommended to prioritize a balance of expertise when selecting reviewers while striving for gender and geographic balance across the UN regions.
- v. Explained that the review of the SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM will be conducted using the [Review Editing Analytical Database \(READ\)](#) platform, where government and expert peer reviewers can access the drafts and submit comments.
- vi. Clarified that the term 'triple planetary crisis, together with land degradation', was agreed upon at the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Meeting to define the scope of GEO-7 (see [scoping](#) and [outcome](#) documents), and that meeting was open participation by all Member States.
- vii. Outlined that the GEO-7 solution pathways are illustrative and are based on thorough scientific analysis and literature review and supported by quantitative modeling to identify the socioeconomic impacts of these transformations.
- viii. Noted that the [UNEP's global foresight report on planetary health and wellbeing](#) was presented to the GEO-7 authors during their most recent meeting for potential reference, and that several GEO-7 authors also participated in the development of the Foresight Report.
- ix. Noted that there is USD 6 million funding gap in the GEO-7 budget, which was increased from USD 10 to USD 13 million due to the increased participating of scientists and indigenous knowledge experts within author teams, and highlighted that the Secretariat is as well as intensifying efforts to mobilize additional resources including by reaching out to Member States to explore if they are in a position to host upcoming GEO meetings.
- x. Confirmed that issues relating to the environmental consequences of illegal actions will be assessed in the GEO-7 report, through the economic and finance systems transformation chapter.
- xi. Noted that biodiversity is being evaluated as a cross-cutting issue across the report.

One member of the subcommittee submitted the following recommendations for consideration and possible adoption at the 168th meeting of the CPR scheduled for 17 December 2024, as follows:

- a. *Requests* the Secretariat to closely align GEO-7 to the core functions of the GEO process established in paragraph 5 of [UNEA resolution 5/3](#), namely to evaluate “the effectiveness of the global policy response, evaluates future perspectives for all five environmental themes addressed in previous Global Environment Outlook assessments, and evaluates the drivers of environmental change and the interactions across these environmental themes”.
- b. *Requests* the Executive Director, pursuant to paragraph 13 of [UNEA resolution 5/3](#), to consult

more regularly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on important elements of the Global Environment Outlook process.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

6. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

7. The meeting closed at 15:00 (GMT+3).