

# Mid-Way Stock-Taking of the implementation of the Intergovernmental and Multi- stakeholder Advisory Group mandate in the GEO-7 process

## Introduction

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship intergovernmental, expert-led integrated environmental assessment from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which reviews the current state of the global environment, the effectiveness of our policy response and the prospects for the future. It presents the environmental trends for air, climate, water, land and biodiversity, drawing on, but not duplicating, all the major global assessments from international science panels and UN bodies. The assessment also looks at the interactions and feedback loops between social, economic and environmental drivers to assess different policy responses towards achieving more environmentally sustainable pathways.

In accordance with the resolution entitled the “[Future of the Global Environment Outlook](#)” adopted by Member States at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the GEO-7 process should be supported by an Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG). The IMAG will provide advice to UNEP’s Executive Director on the policy relevance of GEO-7 and will help move the process forward.

This document aims to allow the IMAG to review whether it has fulfilled its mandate so far, namely to ensure the policy-relevance of the GEO-7 process, to review the major outcomes of the GEO-7 process and whether it is likely to achieve its ambitious outcomes, and provide guidance to UNEP’s Executive Director and UNEP Secretariat on ways to improve the process for the preparation of the GEO-7 report. The document will highlight the advice provided and main decisions taken by the IMAG so far and the results and challenges found during the GEO process. The document also highlights specific items that IMAG will likely work on in the next half of the process.

## Terms of Reference

The IMAG currently consists of 35 members nominated by Member States (25) and Stakeholders (10) with a gender and geographically balanced composition across all United Nations Regions (Annex 1). As outlined in the adopted GEO procedures document, the task of the IMAG is to provide policy guidance for the functions undertaken by the UNEP’s Executive Director in the implementation of the UNEA-5 resolution on the future of the Global Environment Outlook ([EA.5/3](#)) as well as in the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook.

IMAG will provide policy guidance for the functions undertaken by the Executive Director as directed by UNEA, including:

- Providing advice to experts and the Secretariat in the drafting of the scope of GEO assessments;
- Provide advice in conducting nomination and selection processes for external experts who will contribute to the Global Environment Outlook process, including members of advisory groups, authors, fellows, peer reviewers and review editors, ensuring geographic balance across all UN regions, as well as disciplinary and gender balance;
- Providing advice on the identification of intergovernmentally defined needs and terms for the provision of support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking, in line with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the provision of support services for addressing those needs, in partnership with relevant institutions as

appropriate;

- Providing advice on the development of a flexible, multi-year workplan and timebound budget, setting out a programme of activities, such as assessments and supporting services, according to the needs identified by the Environment Assembly in the present resolution; and
- Interacting with assessment authors and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) in ensuring reliable and relevant advice is provided to the Executive Director throughout the GEO process.

## IMAG Activities from May 2022 to January 2024 based on the GEO Operating Principles

### **(a) Mandate consistency and comparability across editions of GEO;**

GEO supports the mandate to UNEP mandate of ‘keeping the state of the global environment under review’ and the IMAG has fulfilled its role in this regard through the approval of the GEO-7 scoping document which outlines that GEO-7 will,

*“Update the assessment of the current state and trends of the environment, focusing on four of the established GEO environmental themes (Air, Oceans and coasts, Land and soil and Freshwater”.*

These environmental themes have been assessed in past GEO’s thus ensuring comparability on these themes across all previous six GEO editions.

The GEO-7 scoping document also outlines that the human – environment interactions in GEO-7 will be analyzed by making use of the DPSIR framework, which is the analytical framework used in previous GEOs, thus also ensuring comparability across editions of GEO.

### **(b) The relevance (or salience) of GEO in terms of responding flexibly to the needs of Member States and stakeholders, for example for improving the effectiveness of environmental policy;**

Given the request from Member States and stakeholders for a solution focused report, IMAG has fulfilled its mandate on this principle by providing advice to experts and the Secretariat to build on the findings of GEO-6 and other major global assessments to explore the solutions pathways that are available.

Through interactions with the GEO-7 assessment co-chairs and the solutions pathways authors, IMAG has provided advice that policy documents and policy impact assessments (ex-ante and ex-post) should be included as an additional evidence base and literature in the GEO-7 report and authors are following this guidance. IMAG, based on a series of discussions, provided guidance on the policy questions pertinent for GEO-7. Overall, the policy questions for GEO-7 build upon the findings of GEO-6, IPCC, IPBES and IRP, and address the drivers and pressures causing environmental degradation, the status and trends of climate, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation, and their impact on energy, food, and materials/waste systems, as well as health and security. They also address pathways for transformation and plausible futures (i.e., outlooks).

As advocated by IMAG, authors should outline in the GEO-7 the level of confidence in terms of how certain policy responses will deliver the desired outcome. IMAG further advised that the language to be used in GEO-7 should not be policy prescriptive as not all parties are party to or in agreement with all internationally agreed environmental goals. IMAG recognized that the policy priorities of Member States at the time of producing the GEO are represented in the policy questions and acknowledged that these questions can be revisited in the drafting process as authors may require further guidance.

**(c) The legitimacy of GEO, as an assessment accepted by Member States and stakeholders as authoritative, produced through unbiased, representative and defensible procedures,**

Resolution EA.5/3 requests the Executive director:

*“with guidance from the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder advisory group, to convene an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to establish a set of procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the Global Environment Outlook process outlined above”*

IMAG’s contribution to the legitimacy of GEO has been in the adoption of defensible GEO procedures that guide the GEO-7 process. Member States and stakeholders were invited to the intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to deliberate on the procedures, which were based on best practice from other global assessments such as IPBES. These procedures outlined in the document include procedures for preparation of comprehensive assessments, peer reviews, interactions with authors, addressing errors, conflict of interest, selection of experts and assessment of confidence.

**(d) The credibility of GEO as a robust and rigorous assessment based on scientifically accepted methods and analysis, from multiple official sources; To ensure team compositions that are balanced with respect to geography, gender and discipline;**

Selection of the MESAG: By providing advice to the Secretariat in the selection of the MESAG, the advisory body that ensures scientific credibility of the GEO process, the IMAG was able to ensure the credibility of GEO as a robust process as the MESAG is responsible for developing recommendations to promote approaches to help ensure the scientific credibility of the GEO process.

IMAG’s advice on MESAG’s membership ensured that all key fields of expertise needed for the GEO-7 were covered by developing a proposal to include 13 nominees from Member states, 6 nominees from the UNEP accredited major groups and stakeholders and 11 nominees from the Experts group. IMAG approved the list as it agreed that their advice in the formulation of the MESAG was followed. MESAG membership achieved the gender and geographical balance as required by the GEO resolution with 50% male and 50% female membership and a regional distribution of 28 countries.

**Table 1. MESAG members**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	3	3	116	20%
Western Europe	4	2	138	20%
Eastern Europe	3	3	58	20%
Asia Pacific	3	3	134	20%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	4	119	20%
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>565</b>	
	50%	50%		

*Nomination and selection processes:* IMAG’s guidance in the selection and gap filling exercise for authors, review editors, peer reviewers and fellows to draft the GEO-7 was implemented in a timely and effective manner and resulted in a balanced pool of experts that helps to ensure GEO is a robust and rigorous assessment. The balanced pool of experts also contains behavioural, social and cultural science expertise as well as Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge expertise, as recommended by IMAG.

In terms of gender and geographical balance in the cohort of authors, IMAG noted that the GEO should first strive to achieve the best possible balance at the overall GEO level, and then at the chapter and sub chapter level where feasible. While expertise balance in the author teams is a predominant concern, gender and geographic balance is also of utmost importance to ensure an inclusive and credible process. IMAG reached out to various networks in the Eastern Europe region to nominate experts to the GEO-7 process as the region has been underrepresented historically in not only GEO assessments but IPBES and IPCC assessments as well. IMAG recommended that a new strategy is required to ensure that various academic networks are informed about the process and that more GEO partners in the region would need to be found. The tables below show the gender and geographic balance in the author teams, fellows, review editors and peer reviewers.

IMAG expressed concern that the time available for providing guidance on the first selection of authors was limited and requested the Secretariat to develop a procedure to replace CLA’s or LA’s, when necessary, in a transparent manner. While it was noted that the deliberations of the IMAG were moving in parallel with other processes such as the allocation of authors to various chapters which happened before the IMAG meeting, IMAG recognized and agreed to the efforts made by the Secretariat and other participants to accommodate changes to timelines and work plans in response to the evolving guidance provided by the IMAG.

**Table 2. GEO-7 Authors**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	15	17	32	14%
Western Europe	59	28	87	37%
Eastern Europe	8	13	21	9%
Asia Pacific	32	25	57	24%
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	23	39	16%
	<b>130</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>236</b>	
	55%	45%		

**Table 3. GEO-7 Fellows**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	5	5	10	25%
Western Europe	2	11	13	32%
Eastern Europe	0	3	3	8%
Asia Pacific	6	2	8	20%

Latin America and the Caribbean	3	3	6	15%
	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	
	40%	60%		

**Table 4. GEO-7 Review Editors**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	5	6	11	22%
Western Europe	8	4	12	24%
Eastern Europe	2	4	6	12%
Asia Pacific	5	6	11	22%
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	4	10	20%
	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>	
	52%	48%		

**Table 5. GEO-7 Peer Reviewers**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	13	46	59	25%
Western Europe	10	14	24	10%
Eastern Europe	16	11	27	12%
Asia Pacific	37	22	59	25%
Latin America and the Caribbean	42	23	65	28%
	<b>118</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>234</b>	
	50%	50%		

**Table 6. Aggregation (Authors, Reviewers, Review Editors)**

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	39	77	116	21%
Western Europe	79	59	138	24%
Eastern Europe	28	30	58	10%
Asia Pacific	78	56	134	24%
Latin America and the Caribbean	69	50	119	21%
	<b>293</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>565</b>	
	52%	48%		

**(e) The accessibility of GEO, meaning that its outputs and the underlying methodologies, knowledge base and environmental data are accessible by Member States and stakeholders to support policymaking, decision-making and strengthening of the science-policy interface;**

The digitization of GEO-7 is meant to ensure accessibility of GEO and its outputs to its audience, including Member States, stakeholders, academia, youth, business etc. The digitization effort covers five main areas:

1. Online graphing and mapping capabilities and tools
2. Online glossary and definitions
3. Online collaboration platform
4. Online management of peer review processes
5. Digital presentation of GEO-7 in an interactive and user-friendly way

To support the development and implementation of these main areas, as well as deliver supporting services as per the [GEO Resolution](#) in the areas of capacity building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking, the Secretariat put out a call for collaborating centres.

IMAG provided advice on the selection of the collaborating centres and determined that the network of collaborating centers for GEO-7 should be a strategic and continuous exercise requiring a continuous scanning of options for collaboration instead of periodic calls for expression of interest. IMAG also noted that the selection of the collaborating centers should be regionally balanced and be able to contribute in a balanced manner to the development of the GEO-7 report and the provision of supporting services, ranging from outreach, knowledge generation and capacity building. There should also a balance between collaborating centres that have a track record of working with GEO and can bring input to these processes, and centres that can learn and further develop their capabilities to support the GEO processes in the future. IMAG determined that the selection of GEO collaborating centres followed best principles given the guidance provided to the Secretariat.

The collaborating centres selected will ensure that GEO is accessible at a regional, national and local level wherever possible and they would provide supporting services such as support for policy making through science to policy seminars on how to incorporate science into policy decision making based on the policy context of that country. This would then support the strengthening of the science-policy interface. Annex 3 includes a list of the GEO-7 collaborating centers.

**(f) The added value of GEO, in terms of ensuring that it responds to UNEP’s mandate, that it avoids duplication with other global assessment processes, while addressing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues and identifying gaps and emerging issues;**

UNEA resolution 5/3 reaffirms that GEO’s objective is to keep the world environmental situation under review as per UNEP’s mandate. IMAG has recommended that the GEO-7 should draw from and build upon existing global assessments and should not duplicate them. The Secretariat has followed this guidance through its continuous participation in the Ad hoc Global Assessments Dialogue (AGAD). AGAD brings together different assessment processes, especially UN led assessment processes, to try and find synergies across the different assessments which allows for collaborative links to other



assessment process such as IPCC and IPBES, thus avoiding duplication. GEO also has the added value of inputting into UN wide led processes such as the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) prepared by the Independent Group of Scientists for the UN Secretary General.

The GEO-7 document highlights how the assessment will address interlinkages across environmental crises, scales and geographic regions and sub-regions. As requested by Member States in Resolution EA.5/3, the main geographic scope of the GEO-7 should be ‘a global assessment with regional specificities’ which can be integrated in the state of the environment section of the GEO-7, in the policy section, including through the production of solutions pathways, and in the outlooks section through globally and regionally specific socioeconomic analysis. IMAG noted that the classification of regions and sub regions for the analysis to be used in GEO-7 should have clear and transparent rationale and should also consider data availability at the regional level. IMAG recognized and agreed to the subregional groupings based on the UN’s M49 standard as it allows for statistical and political groupings that match the five UN regions that were agreed at the scoping meeting so that if there’s a need to develop a new sub-regional classification.

**(g) The overall feasibility of GEO, including continuity of operations for the periodic production of the report and in terms of the implications for administrative, financial and collaborative structures and other initiatives across the UNEP science-policy interface;**

The overall feasibility of the production of GEO is dependent on a number of factors. Sufficient financial and staff resources are very important to allow the Secretariat to support the assessment process and allow for effective planning. In addition, technical and logistical support to the author teams allows them to be most effective in their drafting work. Finally, clear guidance on key issues from the assessment co-chairs or the advisory bodies allows for better understanding across the author teams and also allows for addressing emerging issues (e.g. use of artificial intelligence tools in the assessment process) in a timely and coherent fashion.

IMAG has supported the GEO process by providing advice on the budget to allow key elements of the process to move forward (e.g. supporting services, incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge). Of course, additional financial resources are needed to ensure the full completion of the GEO, so the Secretariat continues to mobilize resources to ensure successful delivery of the GEO-7.

IMAG has provided clear guidance on difficult issues, such as regional and sub-regional classification and the policy questions to be addressed by the assessment. In addition, IMAG has responded to the emerging issue around the reorganization of the chapters to ensure a more coherent flow of the narrative.

Finally, IMAG has worked closely with MESAG to ensure scientific guidance is available to authors on difficult issues such as the use of artificial intelligence tools in the assessment process.

**(h) Transparency of the GEO process, to support the scientific credibility and legitimacy criteria. Key tools to increase transparency can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation efforts for GEO-7;**

*Collaborative authors workspace:* The online workspace is built on the Microsoft backbone and allows users to view all chapters, with permissions to specific chapters dedicated to the experts working on that chapter and the Secretariat liaison for that specific chapter. *GEO-7 authors and fellows are using this tool to draft the assessment and the Secretariat and Co-chairs use it to track progress and support the ongoing work.* This workspace ensures transparency of the drafting process as the platform is able to record the various versions of the chapter and indicate the various contributions of the various experts in the drafting.

*Peer Reviews:* Through the online reviewing platform, the Global Environment Outlook – Review Editing Database (GEO-READ), reviewers will be able to comment and thereafter see how authors in the GEO process have addressed their comments thus ensuring transparency in how the peer review comments are addressed by the authors. Authors will also be able to see who the reviewers in the process are and be able to view the quality assessment of their responses from the review editors in response to the peer reviewers' comments. The platform will enable peer reviewers to categorize comments as either editorial, general, additional topics etc. and it will also enable authors to give sufficient reasons for any rejected comments such as word count constraints, scientific disagreements, outside of scope, among others.

*Nomination Portal:* The GEO nomination portal supports scientific credibility and legitimacy criteria as all the experts in the process have to be nominated through the portal, thus keeping a continuous record of nominated and selected experts.

*Online Glossary Tool:* Having clear definitions for important terms used in an assessment is a critically important part of ensuring scientific clarity and credibility. The Secretariat, through its discussions under the Adhoc Global Assessments Dialogue (AGAD), GEO decided to adopt the glossary tool and procedures used by IPCC, since these are much more robust than the procedure that was used in GEO-6. The tool will enable a clear and efficient process for discussing, agreeing, and incorporating terms and definitions into the glossary for GEO-7. The Secretariat will also publish the glossary of terms on the GEO website for greater transparency.

IMAG has supported the development of these tools by providing advice on the selection of the collaborating centres which have created some of the tools such as the GEO-READ that's used for peer reviews and the collaborative workspace that the authors use in their drafting of the GEO-7 report. IMAG members in a joint call with MESAG also received a presentation on the various digital tools employed in the GEO-7 and attended a webinar on the online glossary tool and provided their feedback on how it could be used and further improved.

- (i) All assessment products are strongly evidence based and supported by authoritative data and knowledge. Data and knowledge tools can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation of the GEO-7 assessment.**

IMAG guidance on the relevant evidence base and literature to support the GEO-7 determined that policy documents and policy impact assessments (ex-ante and ex post) are an important evidence base to be included in GEO-7 and requested the Secretariat to ensure that this category of literature is actively applied throughout the GEO-7 report. Authors of the regional chapters in GEO-7 and the solutions pathways chapters have been using policy documents and policy impact assessments in their assessment.

- (j) Active outreach and awareness raising to inform outside audiences about the key steps in the GEO process and the impact of the main findings. GEO supporting services can serve as outreach and awareness raising activities.**

Through the GEO-7 author meetings, side events on key topics from the GEO-7 report, crafted to the specific regional context, have been organized to raise awareness. These side events have been organized in the two-author meeting of GEO-7 and the solutions pathways and outlooks workshop in Shanghai as well as on the sidelines of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly.

- 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Transformation of global food systems for an environmentally sustainable world.’
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Transformation of global energy systems to achieve a net-zero-carbon, environmentally sustainable world.’
- 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Transformation to achieve near-zero-waste economies through circularity.’
- 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Progress and Outcomes of Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) Inaugural Meetings.’
- 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Bangkok, Thailand. ‘Energy transition and natural resources – global and regional discussions.’
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Shanghai, China. ‘Transformation of global food systems for an environmentally sustainable world.’
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Shanghai, China. ‘Transformation of global energy systems to achieve a net-zero-carbon, environmentally sustainable world.’
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Shanghai, China. ‘Transformation to achieve near-zero-waste economies through circularity.’
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Shanghai, China. ‘Pathways for transforming environmental systems to address prominent planetary crises.’
- 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Vienna, Austria. ‘Financing a transition to a circular economy – global and regional discussions.’
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. Global Youth Environment Assembly: ‘Youth Environment Assembly SPI event’
- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘UNEA-6 side event: What’s cooking? Developing solutions to transform the current food system.’

- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis: Building the Linkages from Science to Action.’
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP Business & Industry Major Group (BIMG) High Level Dinner: Innovative Pathways: Business Solutions to tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis

Through the capacity building stream of the Supporting services, GEO through partners, has developed a master’s level education course made up of 11 modules on translating science for policy. The purpose of this course is to raise awareness for the students about translating science into policy by making use of the GEO-6 report findings. Once the pilot course, with GEO fellows and Peking University students, is complete and the course material is finalised, wider outreach to various other educational institutions will be possible.

Another capacity building effort under the GEO supporting services is the focus on the ‘training of trainers’ and ensuring that the Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) Methodology training is well embedded to ensure different experts around the world can conduct their own integrated environmental assessments or State of the Environment and Outlook reports. The first effort with regards to training on the IEA methodology happened in Malawi (19-21 March 2024) and this informed audiences in Malawi about the key steps in the GEO process as well as the underlying methodology for producing an integrated environmental assessment so that these can then be applied in the local context in Malawi. A second training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on IEA methodology is planned for in June 24-26 2024 in Bahrain.

### Challenge:

**Closing the budget gap:** The GEO-7 scoping document highlights a budget gap of about USD 4 million, however, the GEO-7 process has necessitated the inclusion of more experts such as those with IK & LK expertise to ensure a comprehensive assessment. With an expanded author team, the current budget gap for the GEO-7 assessment process stands at about USD 5 million Through adaptive management and decisions by the Secretariat, with the support of IMAG and MESAG, the Secretariat has been able to maintain a credible process and ensure the continuity of operations. Strong in-kind support from the GEO expert community and the collaborating centres, combined with timely financial contributions from some key member states has enabled this. The Secretariat has informed IMAG about budget constraints for the implementation of GEO-7 workplan and explained the resource mobilization efforts taken to close the existing budget gap.

**Outreach and awareness raising:** A strong outreach and awareness strategy is key to ensure communication of the main findings of the Global Environment Outlook. Due to budget constraints, outreach activities do not receive sufficient budget allocation which leads to less awareness with certain audiences about the GEO process and its findings. The resource mobilization efforts by the Secretariat will need to be complemented by a strong outreach strategy that also incorporates the collaborating centres and regional UNEP offices to ensure that the findings are readily available at the regional and national level wherever possible.

**Achieving balance in geographic regions within the expert teams:** The GEO resolution requires a balance of experts among the five UN regions (Africa, Western Europe and Other Regions, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe). Eastern Europe region has been underrepresented not only in previous GEO assessments but in other assessment processes such as IPBES and IPCC. Despite efforts made by the IMAG to incorporate more expertise from the underrepresented regions, a balance was not achieved at the geographic region level. A new strategy is required to ensure that various networks in the underrepresented region are made aware of the GEO process and how they could participate and inform the process. At the end of the assessment process, it would worth finding out whether it is most appropriate to assess the geographic balance based on the number of experts involved from across the five UN regions or go back to using the following groupings: developed economies, developing economies and economies in transition.

## Conclusion:

**Overall**, based on the GEO operating principles and terms of reference of the IMAG at this mid-way point, IMAG has fulfilled its mandate and allocated relevant tasks to the Secretariat to help with the implementation of the GEO process. Given the involvement and observations throughout the design and development of GEO-7, IMAG is of the opinion that despite the budget challenges and constraints noted above, IMAG's guidance has been adhered to in a satisfactory manner and the GEO-7 process is being implemented in accordance with the agreed GEO procedures.

## Upcoming IMAG Activities (February 2024 to December 2025)

- April 2024
  - Review and feedback on the draft IMAG Mid-way stock take document.
  - Review and approval of the Supporting Services workplan.
  - Review and update of the First IK and LK dialogue.
  
- May 2024
  - Review and discussion of the responses from the First Order Draft Peer Review
  - Review and discuss the agenda for the June virtual Coordination Group meeting.
  - Review and update of the Second IK and LK dialogue.
  
- June 2024
  - Review and discuss the agenda for the third in-person IMAG meeting, Joint IMAG and MESAG meeting and Coordination Group meeting (3-5 September 2024)
  - Discuss guidelines for the SPM process.
  - Coordination Group Call to agree on the goals for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Author's meeting.
  
- July-August 2024
  - Break due to the summer period in Europe.
  
- Late August
  - Preparatory Call for the third in-person IMAG meeting (3-5 September 2024)
  
- September 2024
  - Third in-person IMAG meeting (3-5 September 2024)
  - Second in-person Coordination Group Call
  - Second in-person Joint IMAG and MESAG meeting
  - Receiving briefs from authors, co-chairs and providing guidance.
  - Provide guidance on the upcoming intergovernmental and expert peer review (23 September-15 November 2024)
  
- October-November 2024
  - Participate in the Intergovernmental review of the GEO-7 Second Order Draft and the SPM First Order Draft.
  - Review and discuss the Intergovernmental and expert peer review.
  - Review and update of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IK & LK Dialogue
  
- January 2025

- Review main comments on First Order Draft of the Summary for Policy Makers
- Analysis of the main comments on the Second Order Draft Main Report
  
- February 2025
  - Review and discuss the agenda for the final authors / review editors meeting and MESAG meeting.
  
- March 2025
  - Review and discuss the outcomes of the final authors / review editors meeting and MESAG meeting.
  
- April 2025
  - Review and discuss the agenda for the SPM Second Order Draft Review Meeting
  
- May 2025
  - SPM Second Order Draft Review Meeting
  
- June - August 2025
  - SPM Second order Draft peer review
  - Outreach and communication activities
  
- September-October 2025
  - SPM review and approval
  
- November 2025
  - Review and update of the 4<sup>th</sup> IK and LK Dialogue
  
- December 2025
  - Seek acceptance and approval of the GEO-7 report and its accompanying SPM from Member States at UNEA-7.

## Annex 1: GEO-7 IMAG Membership

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Mr. Thomas Chali	Senior Policy Advisor on Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Management in Tanzania	Tanzania	African Group
Dr. Jerome Lugumira Sebadduka	Natural Resources Management Specialist (Soils and Land Use), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Uganda	Uganda	African Group
Dr. Modibo Sacko	Vice President of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CONACILSS), Mali	Mali	African Group
Dr. Leila Bendifallah	Professor, M'hamed Bougara University, Algeria	Algeria	African Group
Ms. Anna Mampye	Director: State of Environment Information, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	South Africa	African Group
Ms. Yi Huang	Professor, School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China	China	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr. Thuraya Al Sariri	Assistance Director General of Nature Conservation at MECA- Oman	Oman	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mrs. Rolenas Baereleo	Principal Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation; Department of Environmental protection and Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mrs. Maha Maayta	Director of the Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Jordan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mr. Takashi Otsuka	Director of Knowledge and Communications, Strategic Management Office, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Hayama, Japan	Japan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ms. Meri Harutyunyan	Chief specialist of Strategic Policy Department, Ministry of Environment, Armenia	Armenia	Eastern European Group
Mr. Toghrul Feyziyev	Advisor, International cooperation division of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Eastern European Group
Mrs. Dušica Pešević	Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Eastern European Group
Dr. Marek Haliniak	General Counsellor in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Strategy and Analysis, Poland	Poland	Eastern European Group
Mr. Miroslav Havránek	Director of the Czech Environmental Information Agency	Czechia	Eastern European Group
Ms. Gillian Stanislaus	Environmental Programme Officer, Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	Trinidad & Tobago	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Kenset Amaury Rosales Riveiro	Coordinator, Information Unit, Environment and Climate Change; Ministry of Environment and Resources Natural Resources (MARN)	Guatemala	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Silvio Albuquerque e Silva	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP; Embassy of Brazil in Kenya	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Alexandra Gurgel Valente da Costa	Special Advisory on International Affairs / Office of International Affairs Ministry of Environment and Climate Change/ Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mrs. Neyra Herrera	Environmental Statistics Chief – Ministry of Environment	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Eng. Ana Julieta Calvo-Obando	National Center for Geoenvironmental Information, Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Carlos Cordero Vega	Director of the Planning Secretariat of the environment sector at the Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Arthur Eijs	Policy coordinator Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Land Use - Ministry of Infrastructure & water management, department of International Affairs	Netherlands	Western European Group
Dr. Salla Rantala	Development Manager, Environmental Policy Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	Finland	Western European Group
Dr. Lisa Eriksson	Senior Advisor, Transport Analysis, and the Department for Outlook and Policy	Sweden	Western European Group
Ms. Claudia Kabel	German Environment Agency (UBA), academic staff member, International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer	Germany	Western European Group
Ms. Christina Komorski	Director, Information & Indicators Division, Sustainability Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	Western European Group
Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand	Director of the Southern Research Station at the U.S. Department of Agriculture	United States	Western European Group



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	Forest Service		
Dr. Keri Holland	Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Environmental Quality in the Bureau of Oceans, International and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State	United States	Western European Group
<b>Names</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Major Group</b>
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf	Sustainability Research Program Director at Gulf Research Center (GRC)	Egypt	Science and Technology
Dr. Fabian Wagner	Dean, Capacity Development and Academic Training, IIASA, Austria	Germany	Science and Technology
Ms. Ruth Viola Spencer	Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	Antigua and Barbuda	Women
Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka	President and founder of welfare Togo; co-facilitator of UNEP NGO major group	Togo	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Jan-Gustav Strandenaes	Advisory board member of sustainability/environment governance project at the University of Stockholm	Norway	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Prem Singh Tharu	Regional Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) under Environment Programme	Thailand	Indigenous peoples
Ms. Zahra Abu Taha	Recycling officer at ZATARI refugees camp, Oxfam	Jordan	Children and youth
Mr. Dominic Kailash Nath Waughray	Senior Advisor to the CEO World Business Council for Sustainable Development	India	Business and industry
Ms. Ingrid Coetzee	Director, Nature & Health; ICLEI Africa	South Africa	Local authorities
Ms. Merylene Chitharai	African Council of Religious Leaders	South Africa	Faith-based groups

## Annex 2: Meeting Summaries and Outcome Documents

### Virtual Call Summaries

- [First Virtual Call of the IMAG, 7 October 2022](#)
- [Second Virtual Call of the IMAG, 6 December 2022](#)
- [Third Virtual Call of the IMAG, 25 January 2023](#)
- [Fourth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 14 February 2023](#)
- [Fifth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 13 April 2023](#)
- [Sixth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 16 May 2023](#)
- [Seventh Virtual Call of the IMAG, 19 September 2023](#)
- [Eighth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 22 November 2023](#)
- [Ninth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 15 February 2024](#)
- [Tenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 9 April 2024](#)

### Face to Face Outcome Documents

- [First Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG](#)
- [Second Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG](#)

### Coordination Group Meeting Documents

- [1<sup>st</sup> Face to Face Meeting of the Coordination Group, 16 March 2023](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 18 May 2023](#)
- Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 1 February 2024

### Joint IMAG and MESAG Meeting Documents

- [1<sup>st</sup> Face to Face Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 16 March 2023](#)
- [Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 20 June 2023](#)
- [Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 1 November 2023](#)

Annex 3 List of GEO-7 Collaborating Centers

Name of the institution/organization	Country	Region	Track Record with GEO	Thematic area 1: Developing scenarios and modelling of solutions pathways for the three interdependent systems, energy, food and materials/waste.	Thematic area 2: Providing scientific information and expertise for respective region/sub region and/or thematic areas relevant to the analysis conducted in GEO-7.	Thematic area 3: Providing support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policymaking at global, regional and national levels; Additional information on these supporting services can be consulted here.	Thematic area 4: Supporting UNEP's outreach and communication efforts for the dissemination of the GEO findings.	Thematic area 5: Providing technical expertise in the GEO process e.g., digitalization of key process elements
Busara Center for Behavioural Economics	Kenya	Africa	No					
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)	Egypt	Africa	Yes					
Centro de los ODS para America Latina (CODS)	Colombia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Yes					
Department of Agronomy/University of Agriculture Peshawar	Pakistan	Asia and the Pacific	No					
Environmental Pulse Institute (EPI)	United States	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
GRID-Arendal	Norway	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
Institute for Environmental Assessment and Water Studies (IDAEA)	Spain	Western Europe and Other regions	No					

Name of the institution/organization	Country	Region	Track Record with GEO	Thematic area 1: Developing scenarios and modelling of solutions pathways for the three interdependent systems, energy, food and materials/waste.	Thematic area 2: Providing scientific information and expertise for respective region/sub region and/or thematic areas relevant to the analysis conducted in GEO-7.	Thematic area 3: Providing support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policymaking at global, regional and national levels; Additional information on these supporting services can be consulted here.	Thematic area 4: Supporting UNEP's outreach and communication efforts for the dissemination of the GEO findings.	Thematic area 5: Providing technical expertise in the GEO process e.g., digitalization of key process elements
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Japan	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					
Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	Slovakia	Western Europe and Other regions	No					
Millennium Institute	United States	Western Europe and Other regions	No					
PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Netherlands	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
Programa de Investigacion en Cambio Climatico (UNAM)	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean	Yes					
Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE)	China	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					
Universidad Veracruzana	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean	No					
Korea Environment Institute	South Korea	Asia and the Pacific						
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	India	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					

Name of the institution/organization	Country	Region	Track Record with GEO	Thematic area 1: Developing scenarios and modelling of solutions pathways for the three interdependent systems, energy, food and materials/waste.	Thematic area 2: Providing scientific information and expertise for respective region/sub region and/or thematic areas relevant to the analysis conducted in GEO-7.	Thematic area 3: Providing support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policymaking at global, regional and national levels; Additional information on these supporting services can be consulted here.	Thematic area 4: Supporting UNEP's outreach and communication efforts for the dissemination of the GEO findings.	Thematic area 5: Providing technical expertise in the GEO process e.g., digitalization of key process elements