Proposal for GEO-6 Meaningful Contribution to UNEA-3

The High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group met on Oct. 24 to discuss the content and form of a meaningful contribution to the third United Nations Environment Assembly from the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). The Advisory Group decided that a meaningful contribution would include a progress report, in the form of an Information Document, accompanied by a Discussion Document to inform the Ministerial Segment of UNEA-3. The Discussion Document would help orientate a debate on environmental, economic and social outlooks and their implementation.

Proposed Content of the Progress Report

The progress report will review major findings and conduct new analysis where necessary, starting from the GEO-6 regional assessments and incorporating findings from other relevant assessments. The progress report will provide key facts in the following areas:

Environmental State, Trends and Responses:
- Presentation of the key drivers of environmental change (e.g. economic development, population/demographics, climate change), key findings from the GEO-6 regional assessments and ongoing global assessments on the current state and trends of the environment, in the key areas of air, fresh water, ocean/marine, land and biota.
- Presentation of how environmental changes have impacted key cross-cutting areas including: food, energy, human health, resource use, environmental disasters, chemicals and waste, culture, education and society, gender, and polar regions, along with ecosystem and societal responses to these changes.

Policies, Goals, Objectives and Environmental Governance: A Preliminary Review of their Effectiveness:
- Assessment of where environmental policy responses have been effective.
- Assessment of which areas require an improved policy response so that countries can meet their international goals and voluntary actions for the environment, economy and human society.
- Assessment of governance models that are effective in preventing environmental degradation and progressively improving the environment, and how such models can be applied in different contexts.

Proposed content of the Discussion Paper for the Ministerial Segment

Implications of these findings for environmental, economic and social outlooks
- An update on the GEO-6 foresight and outlooks activity intended to inform environmental decision making.
- How GEO-6 could underpin the UNEA 3 and 4 outcomes in relation to the High Level Political Forum themes of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world and transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies and policy development that is needed to meet international goals and voluntary actions for environment, economy and human society.
- Options that could be considered by Ministers to achieve the UNEA outcomes, High Level Political Forum themes and their own objectives on environmental, economic and social outlooks.

Decisions requested from the UNEA Bureau

- Can the UNEA Bureau recommend the preparation of a resolution for UNEA-3 to allow Member States to amend Environment Assembly Resolution 1/4 in order to allow for the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook and its accompanying Summary for Policy Makers to be delivered at UNEA-4?
- Does the UNEA Bureau believe that a Ministerial discussion on the types of forward-looking analysis (outlooks) that could inform environmental decision making would be useful and informative to Ministers and their representatives?