



Our Ref: Science Division/UNEA/GEO-6/1/pb

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### **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 on-going 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?