

Preparations for the Global Environment Outlook 6 (GEO-6)

- GEO-6 is the flagship report of UNEP, and therefore the EU+MS believe that quality must always be assured. However, with a full report to be delivered in 2019 only at UNEA-4, the progress report at UNEA-3 should provide relevant inputs for the meeting and the policy makers, contributing to the implementation of the environmental pillar of the SDGs.
- We would welcome further thinking on how the GEO-6 assessment work can contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda framework including the GSDR and HLPF. There is the need to ensure the maximum visibility of GEO-6 and in particular the Summary for Policy Makers. Given the importance of the GEO-6 process and products, the EU+MS would welcome the Secretariat's efforts to regularly update on the progress made.
- The EU+MS encourage a robust interaction throughout the process between the HLG, SAP and the global authors, while respecting their scientific independence. We welcome the recent appointment of the two co-chairs (Dr. Paul Ekins and Dr. Joyeeta Gupta) but we would welcome the swift appointment of authors following a clear and streamlined structure. This includes a very limited number of coordinating lead authors and review editors to ensure efficiency, and a sufficient but manageable number of lead authors to ensure good thematic, geographical and disciplinary coverage in the overall writing team. All authors should be assigned with clear responsibilities for specific sections of the agreed GEO6 outline. Authors could build on the regional assessments, existing scientific knowledge and thematic assessments to undertake the overall global GEO6 integrated assessment.
- The EU+MS support a clearer accountability of the whole process, to be achieved also aligning the Secretariat support and project planning with the tasks to be undertaken. The Secretariat function and the project planning of GEO-6 should be strengthened to ensure a more smooth and efficient process involving the high level group and UN Member States as appropriate in an efficient and effective manner.
- The EU+MS support the UNEP approach that the global assessment builds on the regional assessments and encourages UNEP to make use of information from other relevant global assessments, for example from IPCC, International Resource Panel and IPBES and to continue engagement in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators, to help assess gaps in the environmental data and information to support SDG indicators.
- The EU+MS acknowledge the figures presented by the Secretariat for the budget of GEO-6 and UNEP Live for the period 2017-2019 and is concerned with the shortfall. However, the allocations of core funds for these activities up-to-date are significant and we should ask the UNEP Secretariat for more detailed information, and for a clearer correspondence between budget figures and milestones / deliverables achieved.
- In the overall framework of activities for UNEP Live and GEO-6, the EU believes that a better balance should be pursued; UNEP should provide a breakdown of historic and projected costs split between GEO-6 and UNEP Live.
- The postponement of the Joint HLG-SAP-CLA meeting from October 2016 to February 2017 is a possible threat to the regular schedule of activities; therefore, the EU would ask HLG to overlook on the process, in accordance with its mandate.

- From the procedural point of view, to deliver the full report at UNEA-4 in 2019 would require an amendment to Resolution EA.1/4. The EU would therefore welcome the Secretariat to clarify which steps would put in place for a new Resolution to confirm the new date.
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