



## Concept Note for a session at the United Nations Environment Assembly

March 13, 2019, 10:00 – 18:00

### Global Environment Outlook (GEO) half-day session

#### Summary

The GEO-6 team will hold a 3 hour (half-day) session at UNEA4 to address the key findings of the GEO-6 report, have an interactive discussion with key stakeholders and to introduce one of GEO's first derivative products, the GEO for Youth. Specifically, this will include presentations and a moderated discussion from the co-chairs of the GEO-6 advisory bodies and the assessment's lead authors, an interactive dialogue with major groups and key stakeholders, a brief session on the GEO for Youth process and finally a discussion on 'jobs of the future' and the day-to-day sustainability actions that people can take.

#### Overview and context

The Global Environment Outlook session will take place on the morning on Wednesday, March 13 directly after the launch of the GEO report. Those attending will be ministerial delegation, high level officials, GEO authors and fellows, co-chairs of both the GEO and advisory bodies, member states and key stakeholders, and media representatives.

#### Objectives

The objectives of the GEO half-day is to first launch the GEO that morning and facilitate the presentation and discussion of its key findings and recommendations with members states and a wide range of stakeholders. The session is expected to:

- expose ministers and stakeholders to the main findings of GEO and the implications for them as policy makers and citizens
- inform ministers and stakeholders about the inclusiveness and credibility of the GEO-6 scientific process underpinning this flagship assessment of UN Environment
- involve ministers and stakeholders in a discussion on how to achieve transformational change and promote innovation in environmental policy
- raise awareness on the GEO for Youth process
- Offer a platform to brainstorm ideas on how to make progress across the environmental dimension of the UN Agenda 2030, to build a more sustainable future and reach an ideal world by 2050.

- Finally, engage ministers and stakeholders, including youth representatives, in brainstorming on opportunity for business innovation, the new jobs of the future and day-to-day sustainability actions that each one of us can take, starting today.

### **Agenda Specifics**

The GEO-6 session will begin just after the launch of the main GEO report on the morning of March 13, 2018. The GEO-6 Day will open with a 45 minutes moderated dialogue with the co-chairs of both the assessment and advisory bodies for discussion of scientific credibility and the main findings of the GEO-6 and what those findings mean for governments. The session will then move into an hour of interactive discussion by major groups and stakeholders to governments. This discussion will role-play generations from both 2020 and 2050 to develop innovative pathways that will include the sustainable jobs, and actions needed to reach a prosperous and greener 2050.

The GEO Day will then move into a short 20 minute session on the GEO for Youth to discuss their future deliverable products that are to instill additional environmental consciousness for future generations. GEO for Youth will then move into a Q&A discussing the sustainable jobs of the future.

Stemming off this, the next hour-long session will be communicating to the ministers and members states about the transformational change that is essential to achieve those future jobs and daily sustainability actions to be built into the culture.

The following afternoon will then be succeeded with a lunch break for two hours. There will then be presentations for three other reports, namely by the International Resource Panel, Global Chemical Outlooks and the Global Waste Management Outlook. The order of these three reports have yet to be decided.

## Programme

	Time	Theme / Structure	Speakers' Panel
GEO Half-Day	10:00 – 10:45	Introduction and Moderated Dialogue	GEO Co-Chairs, Advisory Panel Co-chairs (SAP, HLG)
	10:45 – 11:45	Interactive Discussion, How do we reach a sustainable 2050	Major Groups and Stakeholders
	11:55-12:15	GEO for Youth	GEO for Youth Authors, Co-Chairs
	12:15-1:00	Discussion of Transformational Change, Jobs of the Future and Daily Sustainable Actions	Secretariat, GEO Co-Chairs
Lunch	1:00-3:00	Lunch Break	
Introduction	15:00-15:10	Common introduction (IRP/GCO/GWMO)	Speaker (TBC)
GRO 2019	15:10 – 16:20	Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want	Janez Potocnik, IRP Co-Chair (TBC) Astrid Schomaker, IRP Co-Chair (TBC) 2-3 x IRP Steering Committee representatives (TBC)
GCO-II and GWMO	16:20 – 17:30	Global Chemicals Outlook, Global Waste Management Outlook	TBC
Discussion on interlinkages	17:30-18:00	Discussion on interlinkages and integrated policy options	Panel

# Addressing sustainability challenges through integrated innovative solutions: Insights from the Global Resource Outlook 2019, the Global Chemicals Outlook II and Regional Waste Management Outlooks

## Background

UNEA has mandated specialized assessments reports which address the topics of resource management, chemicals and waste respectively. Since the respective reports have interlinkages they are presented in a joint session. The three assessments covered include:

1. Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want
2. Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II)
3. Regional Waste Management Outlooks

## Objectives

- Present findings of specialized assessments reports mandated by UNEA and how they relate to and complement each other and the GEO report.
- Examine the interface of assessments of global resource flows, chemicals, and waste management in a broader sustainability context.
- Identify opportunities for integrated policy options to advance resource efficiency, sustainable chemicals and materials management, waste management, and circularity.

## Global Resource Outlook 2019

### Objectives

- Present the main scientific findings of the report of the International Resource Panel relating to the state, trends and outlook for sustainable natural resource management;
- Present the policy-relevant recommendations derived from the scientific analysis, and in the framework of innovations for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production;
- Facilitate a Panel discussion whereby Member States share reflections on the content of the report;
- Engage United Nations Environment Assembly participants in a discussion on how such research and its findings can support achievement of international environmental and sustainability objectives.

### Overview

Setting the scene: The Co-Chairs of the International Resource Panel (Janez Potocnik, former European Commissioner for the Environment and/or Izabella Teixeira, Former Minister of Environment for Brazil) will present the scientific evidence on the state, trends and outlook of sustainable resource management. International Resource Panel Steering Committee Co-Chair Astrid Schomaker will subsequently present the policy implications of these scientific findings.

Discussing the implications: 2-3 of the International Resource Panel Steering Committee Member State representatives will be invited to comment, in an open and dynamic panel discussion, on how the findings

of the report support their national and international sustainability obligations. The implications of the findings and potential next steps will be investigated.

*Comments from the floor:* The moderated Panel discussion will be followed by an open discussion, where participants can ask questions and share reflections on the content of the report, and how such findings can support their work at the Environment Assembly and beyond.

### **Global Chemicals Outlook II and Global/Regional Waste Management Outlooks**

#### **Objectives**

- Present the key findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II) and the regional waste management outlooks
- Alert stakeholders to the relevance of chemicals and waste issues in the broader context of sustainable development, highlighting risks and opportunities
- Explore linkages with the GEO and the report of the Global Resources outlook
- Provide an opportunity to reflect on possible further linkages between chemicals and waste management assessments

#### **Overview**

- Presentation of key findings and messages of the GCO-II and regional waste management outlook
- Moderated panel discussion including representatives from government, private sector, civil society, and academia
- Opportunity for questions and answers; discussion with the audience

## Annex 1: UNEA Mandates

### ***Mandate for Report of the International Resource Panel***

UNEP/EA.2/Res.8 on Sustainable Consumption and Production 'invites the International Resource Panel ... to make available reports relevant to this resolution, including on the state, trends, and outlook of sustainable consumption and production, to a future meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, but not later than 2019'. The IRP report *Assessing global resource use: A systems approach to resource efficiency and pollution reduction* was submitted to UNEA-3 as the interim response to UNEP/EA.2/Res.8 (paragraph 13). The *Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want* report that will be submitted as an official document to UNEA-4 seeks to respond in full to the 2016 invitation of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The report also responds to the subsequent Resolution issued at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly UNEP/EA.3/Res.4 on Environment and Health (paragraph 37) that '(w)elcomes the report by the International Resource Panel... welcomes further work of the International Resource Panel ... and encourages the International Resource Panel to make available reports to be considered, as relevant, at the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly'.

### ***Mandate to prepare the Global Chemicals Outlook II***

The GCO-II is being developed in response to the mandates received through Decision 27/12 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2013, and Resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016.

UNEA 2 Resolution 2/7 requested UN Environment to

(a) Submit by the end of 2018 an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook, including a summary for policymakers, addressing inter alia the work carried out particularly in relation to lacking or inadequate data to assess progress towards the 2020 goal, the development of non-chemical alternatives, and the linkages between chemicals and waste, in coordination with the Global Waste Management Outlook, and providing scientific input and options for implementation of actions to reach relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets up to and beyond 2020;

(b) Solicit feedback from countries and other stakeholders on the proposed plan for updating the Global Chemicals Outlook as outlined in UNEP/EA.2/INF/20, and ask the Global Chemicals Outlook steering committee to consider this feedback and to consider possible adjustments to the proposed plan, as appropriate, at its first meeting;

(c) Ensure that the updated Global Chemicals Outlook addresses the issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment;

Governing Council Decision 27/12 requested UN Environment to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, and to enhance transparency through regionally balanced stakeholder involvement, inter alia, with a view to developing in the future a tool for assessing progress towards the achievement of the sound management of

chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the existing 2020 goal, taking into account and building upon other existing sources of information.

***Mandate to prepare the Global and Regional Waste Management Outlooks***

Welcoming the Rio+20 Outcome document, “The future we want”, and in response to the UN Environment Governing Council’s decision (GC 27/12), the Global Waste Management Outlook was published in 2015. The mandate requested UN Environment to develop a global outlook of challenges, trends and policies in relation to waste prevention, minimization and management, considering the materials life cycle, building on available data, best practices and success stories, taking into account the Global Chemicals Outlook and other relevant initiatives, to provide guidance for national policy planning.

In response to the positive reactions towards the Global Outlooks and the increasing demands from governments, the UNEA-2 Resolution 2/7 (2016) requested UN Environment to prepare for regional waste management outlooks and to issue an update of the Global Waste Management Outlook, which complement the update of the Global Chemicals Outlook. The mandate requested UN Environment to ensure that the outlook addresses the interlinkages between chemicals and waste; the options for implementation of actions to achieve relevant SDGs; and strategies for increasing waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery and ensuring that such strategies address the need to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner.

## Annex 2: Further Information on the Agenda item to discuss the Global Resource Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want

### Objectives

- Present the main scientific findings of the report of the International Resource Panel relating to the state, trends and outlook for sustainable natural resource management;
- Present the policy-relevant recommendations derived from the scientific analysis, and in the framework of innovations for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production;
- Facilitate a Panel discussion whereby Member States share reflections on the content of the report;
- Engage United Nations Environment Assembly participants in a discussion on how such research and its findings can support achievement of international environmental and sustainability objectives.

### Overview

*Setting the scene:* The Co-Chairs of the International Resource Panel (Janez Potocnik, former European Commissioner for the Environment and/or Izabella Teixeira, Former Minister of Environment for Brazil) will present the scientific evidence on the state, trends and outlook of sustainable resource management. International Resource Panel Steering Committee Co-Chair Astrid Schomaker will subsequently present the policy implications of these scientific findings.

*Discussing the implications:* 2-3 of the International Resource Panel Steering Committee Member State representatives will be invited to comment, in an open and dynamic panel discussion, on how the findings of the report support their national and international sustainability obligations. The implications of the findings and potential next steps will be investigated.

*Comments from the floor:* The moderated Panel discussion will be followed by an open discussion, where participants can ask questions and share reflections on the content of the report, and how such findings can support their work at the Environment Assembly and beyond.

### About the report

The goals of the report are to:

- a. Provide the international community with an overview of the present state of natural resource use, including material resources, land and water.
- b. Provide objective and accurate information about the environmental, economic and social impacts of the present resource use trends.
- c. Demonstrate, using scenario models, a business as usually trajectory for resource use up to 2060 and its implications;
- d. Present a forward-looking scenario that demonstrates how decoupling of natural resource use from environmental impacts while increasing economic prosperity and human well-being is possible with concerted global policy action;
- e. Identify a package of policy proposals that can support the transformation of global economies and societies towards sustainability.



## **Annex 3: Further Information on the Agenda on the Global Chemicals Outlook II and Global/Regional Waste Management Outlooks**

### **Objectives**

- Present the key findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II) and the regional waste management outlooks
- Alert stakeholders to the relevance of chemicals and waste issues in the broader context of sustainable development, highlighting risks and opportunities
- Explore linkages with the GEO and the report of the Global Resources outlook
- Provide an opportunity to reflect on possible further linkages between chemicals and waste management assessments

### **Overview**

- Presentation of key findings and messages of the GCO-II and regional waste management outlook
- Moderated panel discussion including representatives from government, private sector, civil society, and academia
- Opportunity for questions and answers; discussion with the audience

### **About the GCO and GWMO**

The GCO-II, including its summary for policy-makers, will be launched prior to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) as a flagship publication of UN Environment. It seeks to alert policy-makers and other stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to the critical role of chemicals in the context of sustainable development. Forward-looking in nature, the GCO-II provides a set of options for action for consideration by decision-makers, including to inform discussion at UNEA-4 and in the context of the ongoing discussions on a future framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The GCO-II is closely linked with the Global Environment Outlook, the Global Resources Outlook and other major UN Environment reports.

The Global Waste Management Outlook (2015) provides a pioneering scientific global assessment on the state of waste management and a call to action to the international community. It establishes the rationale and the tools for taking a holistic approach towards waste management and recognizing waste and resource management as a significant contributor to sustainable development and climate change mitigation. The second Global Waste Management Outlook will be prepared in due course. Since 2017, a series of regional waste management outlooks have been produced, which includes "Mountain Regions", "Asia", "Central Asia", "Africa" and "Latin America and Caribbean". The regional outlooks capture the current status of the waste management and identify challenges and opportunities of the integrated sound waste management for the region. Prior to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), the "Small Island Developing States (SIDS)" outlook as well as "Gender and Waste Assessment" will be launched as UN Environment's flagship publications. The "West Asia" outlook will also be released in early 2019.