UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

GEO 6
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK

HEALTHY PLANET HEALTHY PEOPLE

# Drivers of Environmental Change

**Sustainable urbanization** is an opportunity to increase citizen's well-being while **decreasing their environmental impact**

Without changes in **production** and **consumption patterns**, **population growth** will continue to increase **environmental pressures**

**Economic development** resulted in increase of resource use and environmental damage. It is the **number-one policy priority** inmost countries, but it must **coexist with sustainable consumption and production**

The **world's population** is expected to reach **10 billion by 2050**, it will become **older**, **more urban** and will live in smaller households

**Technological advances** have resulted in both **positive** and **negative impacts** on the environment

**Human population** trends and economic development have been the primary drivers of **environmental change**

The fast rate of **urbanization** may increase the world's urban population to **66% by 2050,** but **30%** of **urban residents** will have **no access to basic services**

**Climate change** will amplify existing risks and create new **risks for natural and human systems**