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**Outcomes Document of the first GEO for Youth authors meeting – *UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, June 25-27, 2018***

A selected group of authors met at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok to scope out the work for drafting the derivative product, GEO for Youth, including:

Develop the storyline, structure and deliverables of the Global GEO for Youth, report, and agree on the work plan for its preparation, including:

- develop the structure and length, report style in e-book format;
- identify key advocacy, communication and educational material supporting the main report [GEO-6];
- develop preliminary ideas on content for each chapter and section: narratives, data, indicators, case studies, etc.
- develop the work plan, timetable and drafting responsibilities,
- Identify new potential authors

Expose young upcoming scholars and integrated environmental assessment practitioners to global science-policy process:

- interaction with multidisciplinary scientists from across the world;
- understanding of collaborative mechanisms in policy consensus building, as well as the GEO participatory approach and the assessment methodology.

On these issues the authors, decided:

- The structure of the Global GEO for Youth should be different than the main report. It should focus on how earth and human systems are linked together and how actions within human systems can affect or be affected by earth systems;
- The report should answer three main questions:
  - What are the findings from the main Global Environment Outlook report that will affect Youth?
  - What are the implications of these findings for Youth?
  - What actions can Youth take to achieve a more sustainable world?
- Several ways should be used to reach beyond the author team to bring in ideas or content for specific areas. Initially, these efforts could focus on:
  - Developing a questionnaire to obtain ideas about the jobs of the future that might contribute to achieving sustainability.

- Obtain descriptions and stories from key individuals and companies in these new sectors that will contribute to achieving sustainability;
- Develop a questionnaire to obtain ideas of personal behaviour change that could contribute to achieving sustainability.
- Run a competition for visual authors.
- The GEO for Youth report should focus on the career opportunities that Youth may have as well as the advantages and benefits of taking individual and collective actions to achieve sustainability.
- Educating Youth about the connection of their actions to the various human and earth systems is a crucial objective of producing the report. Raising awareness of how actions by Youth can have effects across the systems and how those cascade effects can have bigger implications.
- The GEO for Youth report should be politically and culturally neutral and focus more on creating demand for more sustainable behaviours, products and jobs.
- Although the findings from the main report can be depressing, the GEO for Youth should focus on positive actions that can be taken to achieve a more sustainable future.
- Equity issues, diversity, reconnecting Youth to nature should all be considerations as the report is drafted.
- Using Youth-appropriate language, extensive and interesting visuals as well as multimedia should all be considered as the report is being drafted.

### Meeting Summary

- Authors were informed of the main elements of the Global Environment Outlook main report and how these can be linked up to the GEO for Youth derivative product.
- The Secretariat also informed authors of the proposed process for creation of GEO for Youth and what is likely required from the authors over the next year.
- Finally, the Secretariat gave an overview of the approach within UN Environment for creating education materials or products.

### *Information gathering*

- Through small discussion groups authors gathered evidence from the main Global Environment Outlook chapters of the main findings in the areas of Air/Climate, Oceans/Freshwater, Land/Biodiversity and Cross-cutting issues.
- Based on these findings authors tried to identify the implications for Youth of these findings;
- Finally, authors tried to identify actions that Youth can take to take advantage of these implications, start new careers and make behavioural changes.
- A number of important implications and actions were identified by the authors and these were considered in the process of creating the annotated outline for the GEO for Youth e-book.

### *Annotated Outline*

- The annotated outline was originally drafted by the Secretariat and reviewed and approved by the authors.
- The outline is comprised of four main sections:
  - An introduction to Earth and Human Systems, their interactions and impacts. This section is mainly a compilation of the findings from the main Global

Environment Outlook report which will impact youth in the near to longer term. The chapter has sub-sections on Drivers of Environmental Change, Air/Climate, Oceans/Freshwater, Land and Biodiversity as well as Cross-cutting issues.

- The next chapter focuses on Sustainable Futures and how different these will be from the present. This chapter helps Youth imagine these futures and target their actions towards achieving them.
- The next chapter focuses on the Opportunities presented by these new futures, particularly in the areas of jobs, prosperity and human health. This chapter is meant to be optimistic and present the new jobs and opportunities that a more sustainable future can offer.
- Finally, the last chapter focuses on the individual actions that Youth can take on a day-to-day basis that will lead to a more sustainable future (from empathy to action). The intent here is for Youth to create demand for cleaner and greener products and behaviours, thus driving markets to respond to this demand.
- Authors were asked to contribute to various chapters and, through this process, the author teams were formed. Structurally, the teams will be lead by coordinating lead authors with the support of lead authors and contributing authors.

#### *Outreach opportunities*

- In order to obtain the broadest possible input to the publication and also to create awareness of its existence, a few outreach opportunities were decided upon that will also provide key data elements for the analysis and reach out to key stakeholder groups. These outreach opportunities include:
  - In defining the jobs and opportunities of the future the authors felt it would be helpful to conduct a webinar or circulate a questionnaire to key youth groups to find out which areas of employment they believe will help the world achieve greater sustainability;
  - Once this list is compiled the authors agreed to conduct interviews with key leaders in these new employment areas to obtain descriptions of the types of jobs these new sectors can offer.
  - The authors also decided to conduct interviews with key thought leaders in the area of sustainability to gather stories of how individual actions can lead to bigger systemic changes. These interviews will help populate the final chapter of the e-book.

#### *Format of the report*

- Authors also considered that the e-book format might not be the only way the information from GEO for Youth should be presented. Efforts should be made to explore other media, including:
  - Video, short clips
  - Compelling infographics or other types of visuals
  - Social media outreach using narratives and stories
- The group decided that they would also like to conduct a ‘visual author’ competition to strengthen the visual aspects of the publication.

**Annex 1: Participants List**

<b>GEO-6 Global Authors' Meeting for Youth 25-27 June 2018 UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand</b>						
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