

Technical Summary Launch



The Technical Summary had a successful launch on 17th December 2020.

The **Technical Summary** of GEO-6 distills the science and data in the main report and synthesizes the information to make it more accessible to students and scientists, making it more useful both for teaching and learning at the university level.

The objective of the webinar is the presentation of the key findings and a discussion on how these can be integrated in courses at the university level. Panelists will include university professors who have participated in the GEO process and use GEO as teaching tool, to discuss their experience and provide advice and lesson learned for university students and lecturers.

The webinar had over 100 registered and was a successful launch. This webinar was organized as the launch to improve the reach of the report's key messages as well as showcase how the report can be used as a teaching tool in universities.

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To view the presentations provided by our speakers, please use this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19n8ys5jkFqSFqs9cjkOpH6RT03XcTijQ?usp=sharing>

To get a copy of the webinar recording, please use this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4460387033078322192>

If you would like to get in touch with any of the speakers or reach out with regards to how to incorporate GEO into teaching, please write to us at caroline.kaimuru@un.org and we will connect you.

For more GEO-6 resources, please visit:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>

Adapt to Survive: Business Transformation in a Time of Uncertainty

The new GEO for Business Briefs are practical and solutions-oriented. They are developed with business partners and targeted at small to medium-sized enterprises that may be operating with the supply chains of large multinationals and are exposed to international trade, or only supply domestic markets. The world is witnessing dramatic changes in the environment and in the economy, and 'Business as Usual' is challenged.

This first brief looks at why business transformation is critical and how it can be made possible. Key Messages include:

(i) the scale of global environmental challenges is unprecedented, and this has major impacts on business, especially when half of all greenhouse gas emissions need to be eliminated by 2030, with near zero emissions achieved by 2050; (ii) environmentally unsustainable food production and urban waste and pollution are major threats to human and planetary health. The brief looks at ways businesses can adapt, survive and contribute to tackling to these emerging challenges, showing how business transformation is urgent, critical and possible.

The launch of this first brief is scheduled for early 2021 and will also involve media outreach. For more info: [GEO for Business](#)



GEO for Cities: Second Round Peer Review Process

The second order draft of GEO for Cities has been delivered to secretariat following the updated timeline. The document is more complete with the inclusion of an introduction chapter. The Co-chairs assisted with creating a clear and coherent narrative as well as adapting the text to a nontechnical city decision-maker audience and non-native English speakers.

The Secretariat supported with formatting the document in the review version. The official review period will last a month from 12 November to 13 December. Various agencies and individuals showed their interest in the GEO for Cities process since the start of the review process.

The next steps will include addressing comments received after the review period, which will start after 13 December in which several chapter calls will then be organized with the authors.

The planned launch of this report is scheduled for April 2021.

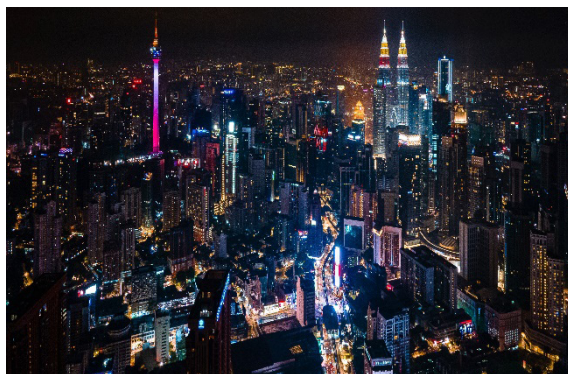


Photo by Yong Chuan Tan on Unsplash



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Progress Report: Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue, Synthesis Report and Science-Policy Interface

UNEA-4 Resolution 23, *Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook*, among other things, also requested the Executive Director to:

- “prepare a proposal for science-policy input on the global environment, in consultation with Member States and making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders, in commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme” (para 7)
- “continue to promote greater coherence and coordination of global assessments undertaken within the United Nations system and in cooperation with relevant international bodies and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements” (para 10)

To implement this resolution, UNEP’s Science Division was tasked to work on three inter-linked elements:

1. The Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD)
2. The Transforming Our World for Planet and People Report (working title, but also known as the Synthesis Report)
3. The Legacy Publication: Review of 50 years of action at the Science-Policy Interface, and an outlook into the future (working title)

The Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD) is an informal ad-hoc process that brings together Co-chairs and Secretariats of the major assessments to enhance synergy, explore further collaboration on methodologies, and join forces in communications and outreach efforts. The group has met three times (two in-person meetings and one virtual) since the beginning of the process in 2018 and held several teleconferences. The next virtual meeting is planned for January 2021. The second meeting of the AGAD, which took place during UNEA-4 in March 2019, inspired the idea of producing a first UNEP Synthesis Report.

The Synthesis Report, now titled ‘Transforming Our World for People and Planet’, aims to translate the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and

follow up on. Over forty of the world's most renowned scientists (20 authors and 23 members of the Scientific Advisory Group), led by Sir Robert Watson and Ivar Baste are working on this publication. The team is now finalizing the report that will be launched in February 2021, with its summary available in all UN languages.

In recent weeks, the UNEP's Science and Law Divisions, in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the University of Nairobi (UoN) are jointly taking first steps towards the production of a new Legacy Publication on the Science-Policy interface, to celebrate the 50 years since the foundation of UNEP in 1972. This publication will serve as an input to the UNEP@50 commemoration events to be held in 2022. The document will include a review of the development of the global environmental science-policy interface (SPI) over the last 50 years and an outlook to the future that assesses new trajectories, emerging trends, and potential game-changers for strengthening the SPI and making progress toward the SDGs and other internationally agreed environmental goals. Additionally, the publication will include a review of innovative methods and best practices based on lessons learned from the past 50 years and the analysis of future scenarios from major global assessments.

More info on the Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue can be found [here](#).

More info on the Synthesis Report can be found [here](#).

For more info on the new Legacy Publication on the Science-Policy interface @50, you may contact: rachel.kosse@un.org and adele.roccato@un.org

Progress Report: GEO for Youth



The GEO-6 for Youth report was initially set to be launched at the ECOSOC Youth Forum in March 2020, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The team has been working tirelessly with the authors and designers to update the text to include Covid-19 related messages. The text now includes references to SG's and Inger Andersen speeches on the pandemic, references to the UNEP report on zoonotic diseases, as well as messages on the role of youth in "building back better". This is the only recent UNEP product completely focused on Youth and the first fully e-publication. The report offers an interactive, digital

alternative to traditional print publications enhancing global accessibility, to engage young people through dynamic graphics and videos. The team is now working with the Communications Division to plan the launch of the report, which will potentially take place at the Youth Environment Assembly, in February 2021.

The launch event will be a webinar focused on green jobs and sustainable careers for young people. For more information contact adele.roccato@un.org or sharif.shawky@un.org

Happy Holidays



The GEO Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a Properous New Year