

Reference: UNE-2022-00643

17 June 2022

Dear Minister,

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and provides an integrated assessment on the state of the global environment. It presents the environmental trends for air, climate, water, land and biodiversity, drawing on all the major global assessments from international science panels and the United Nations bodies. The assessment reveals the interactions and feedback loops between social, economic and environmental drivers to assess the effectiveness of different policy responses towards achieving more environmentally sustainable pathways.

UNEP is initiating the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers. In accordance with the resolution entitled the “Future of the Global Environment Outlook” that was adopted at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), the process will be supported by an Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), which will play a critical role in providing guidance to UNEP’s Executive Director, authors and experts on the policy relevance of their work and by providing leadership in the preparation of the draft of the Summary for Policymakers. In order to perform these important functions, the Group will meet regularly through conference calls and face to face meetings to develop recommendations to help move the process forward. It is therefore important to establish the membership of the IMAG based on nominations from Member States and Stakeholders.

Member States are welcome to provide nominations of qualified individuals who could be members of the IMAG no later than 15 July 2022 to the [nomination portal](#). Please note, that up to five individuals from each regional group will be selected by the Secretariat. Nominees must be available to participate in the IMAG for the entire period of the preparation and finalization of GEO-7 and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, which is likely to last until the end of 2025. The nomination process and draft terms of reference for the IMAG are outlined in the annexes to this letter.

Members of the IMAG will be selected by the Secretariat on the basis of the criteria outlined in Annex II, taking into account gender and geographic balance, and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

My colleague, Mr. Pierre Boileau (pierre.boileau@un.org), Head of Global Assessments Unit, Science Division, will serve as the UNEP Secretariat focal point and stands ready to provide additional information to your teams.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Andersen
Executive Director

To: Ministers responsible for the Environment
cc: Permanent Representatives to UNEP

Annex I: Draft Terms of Reference for the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) to support the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

The Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) is expected to consist of 30-35 members nominated by Member States (20-25) and Stakeholders (5-10) with a gender and geographically balanced composition across all United Nations Regions. The task of the IMAG is to assist UNEP's Executive Director and to provide advice in the implementation of the UNEA-5 resolution on the future of the Global Environment Outlook ([UNEP/EA.5/RES.3](#)) as well as in the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook. More specifically, the IMAG is expected to:

- Convene an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to establish a set of procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the Global Environment Outlook process outlined in the resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES.3;
- Conduct nomination and selection processes for external experts who will contribute to the Global Environment Outlook process, including members of advisory groups, authors, fellows, peer reviewers and review editors, ensuring geographic balance across all United Nations regions as well as disciplinary and gender balance;
- Ensure that the Global Environment Outlook process draws from the evidence base of peer-reviewed literature, national peer-reviewed assessments in various languages, and other international and United Nations-led assessments, data and analysis, and information from other credible sources, such as the World Environment Situation Room and elements of knowledge generation within and outside the United Nations Environment Programme;
- Establish a multidisciplinary expert scientific advisory group responsible for overseeing the scientific integrity of the Global Environment Outlook process, pursuant to the terms of reference and guidance for the selection process set out in the annex to resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES.3;
- Develop a flexible, multi-year workplan and time-bound budget, setting out a programme of activities, such as assessments and support services, according to the needs identified by the Environment Assembly in resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES.3;
- Strengthen the science-policy interface by developing, for each assessment, a scoping document and a summary for policymakers prepared by experts, to be considered for review and endorsement by representatives of Member States at ad hoc open-ended meetings;
- Scope and approve the undertaking of intergovernmental and expert-led assessments approved by the Environment Assembly in accordance with the multi-year workplan and time-bound budget;
- Continue the Global Environment Outlook fellows programme for youth to enhance the participation of younger generations;

Annex II: Nomination and selection process of the members of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group

The members of the IMAG may be nominated by Member States, members of the specialized agencies and UNEP-accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders.

The Nomination process aims to identify the best available expertise representing a range of disciplines, with geographic balance across all UN regions as well as gender balance, limited to a maximum of 25 members. The nominations should be received through the [Nominations Portal](#) on the GEO Community of Practice.

Submission of nominations must be received by **30 June, 2022 at the latest**. The Secretariat will consider all the supporting documentation e.g. CVs, cover letter, clarifying the identity of the Member State, members of the specialized agencies and UNEP-accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders. The names, profiles and Curricula Vitae of all nominees will be made available through the GEO Community of Practice. The Secretariat will only accept nominations that are submitted by Member States, members of specialized agencies and UNEP-accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders. The Secretariat can accept late nominations, subject to consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

The following criteria will be applied by the Secretariat in the selection of members to the IMAG:

- Availability to participate in monthly online calls as well as up to 5 three-day face to face meetings in the period 2022 to 2025.
- Significant documented professional experience with international environmental affairs and/or international sustainable development;
- Comprehensive understanding of global environmental assessment processes and their role in informing policy makers;
- Extensive documented expertise with the international environmental policy agenda and assessment work;
- Demonstrated previous experience with intergovernmental processes in relation to environmental policy and sustainable development;