

Reference: EWAD/BSB/GEO/2023-03/011

3 November 2023

Dear Expert,

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which provides an integrated assessment of 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 United Nations bodies. The assessment also looks at the interactions and feedback loops between social, economic and environmental drivers to assess the effectiveness of different policy responses towards achieving more environmentally sustainable solutions pathways in the realm of the current global environmental changes of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, and land degradation.

As requested by Member States in [Resolution EA.5/3](#), UNEP initiated the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, to be launched at UNEA-7. To launch the preparation of GEO-7, the [scope and annotated outline of GEO-7](#) were reviewed and adopted by Member States, stakeholders and experts at the Ad Hoc Open-Ended meeting in Nairobi in October 2022. GEO-7 will continue to assess the state and trends of the global environment as well as provide an outlook that will assess the possible environmental and socio-economic implications of the transformational changes needed to achieve an environmentally sustainable world by 2050. Additionally, GEO-7 will propose solutions pathways that could transform the interdependent global energy, food and materials/waste systems and their supporting economic and financing models. These transformations are necessary to solve the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, together with land degradation.

GEO-7 will require a broad range of reviewer expertise, ranging from natural sciences to policy, economics, and social sciences, as well as expertise in outlooks and scenarios, for this ambitious endeavor. Annex I provides a detailed list of these areas of expertise, based on the adopted annotated outline for GEO-7.

Experts are invited to apply for a Peer Reviewer role for GEO-7 through the link [Reviewer application portal](#).

Reviewers should be available to participate in the GEO-7 peer review periods, currently planned for February-March 2024 and October-November 2024. The terms of reference, ethical responsibilities and management of review comments for this role is included in Annexes II, III and IV. The proposed GEO-7 calendar and timeline can be consulted [here](#). Applications should be submitted no later than 22 December 2023, through the link above. Our colleague, Mr. Pierre Boileau (pierre.boileau@un.org), Head, Global Assessments Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, will serve as the focal point and stands ready to provide further information as needed.

Yours sincerely,



Jian Liu

Director,
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Robert Watson

Co-chair of GEO-7



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Annex I: Areas of expertise required for GEO-7

State of the Environment and Outlooks	Policy, technology and behavior change
Environmental themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air (atmosphere) - Biodiversity - Land and soil - Oceans and coasts - Freshwater 	Solutions pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy and political economy analysis - Policy development - Policy effectiveness - State and evolution of technological change - State and evolution of behavioral change
Triple planetary crisis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change - Biodiversity and nature loss - Pollution and waste Additional issues to be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land degradation 	Transformational solutions pathways for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic and financial systems - Energy systems - Food systems - Materials/waste/circularity systems - Environmental change adaptation (including Climate Change) as it applies to these systems
Outlooks and scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modelling transformational pathways in energy, food and circularity - Environmental and socioeconomic impacts of business-as-usual scenarios - Environmental and socioeconomic impacts of with commitments scenarios - Environmental and socioeconomic impacts of target-seeking scenarios - Regional and sub-regional outlooks - Scenarios based on literature reviews 	Analysis of solutions pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic impacts of solutions pathways - Social impacts of solutions pathways - Impacts on indigenous peoples of solutions pathways - Cost-benefit analysis Sustainable development goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity impacts of solutions pathways - Gender impacts of solutions pathways - Impacts on poverty and hunger - Impacts on human well-being¹
Data and Knowledge sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital data management and display - Mapping and geographical information systems - Citizen science 	Drivers pressures of environmental change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic development - Population and demographics - Technological change - Urbanization - Lifestyles - Governance

¹ As defined in [GEO-6 Glossary](#)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shocks- Land-use change- Resource exploitation/use- GHG emissions- Pollution
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Annex II: Terms of Reference for GEO-7 peer reviewers

The main task of the GEO-7 expert peer reviewer will be to:

- Suggest specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft report.
- Point out other priorities, emerging and cross-cutting issues or evidence which may not have been highlighted but would be considered a serious omission if these were left out of the final report and include details of appropriate sources/references.
- Point out any errors, inconsistencies and/or contradictions of facts/data within and across different sections/chapters.
- Indicate any information which you consider should be moved to another Chapter.
- Indicate any information which you consider would be particularly appropriate for graphical presentation rather than as text.
- Indicate any information which you consider could be better placed in a box rather than in the main text (and vice versa).
- Indicate any information which you consider should be moved to the technical annex of the chapter.
- Point out non-essential material that could be deleted, with explanations, as appropriate, about why a change needs to be made.
- Indicate where additional referencing/citing or cross-referencing between sections is needed.
- Provide additional source documents (with full reference details), information and data to fill data gaps or update existing data, if necessary.
- Provide suggestions for alternative boxes and illustrations.

Annex III. Ethical Responsibilities of Reviewers

- **Competence:** Reviewers should accept responsibility for reviewing a chapter only if they have adequate expertise to provide an authoritative assessment of the chapter. It is the responsibility of the reviewer to make his/her degree of competence known to the Secretariat.
- **Confidentiality:** Draft chapters/manuscripts of the GEO-7 Assessment are confidential materials; the reviewer may not share or discuss the content of the chapters with anyone outside the review process unless necessary and approved by the Secretariat and the coordinating lead authors.
- **Conflict of interest:** A potential reviewer with a conflict of interest or risk of biases must either decline the role of reviewer or disclose the conflict of interest to the UNEP Secretariat. Where in doubt, reference should be made to the criteria for selection of reviewers coordinated by the Secretariat.
- **Constructive critique:** Reviewers are required to provide comments that will help authors improve the contents of the chapters. Positive aspects of the material under review should be acknowledged and negative aspects identified constructively, with an indication of needed improvements. It is important to note that comments are intended to be suggestions to authors to improve the chapters; hence should be in an encouraging tone.
- **Specificity:** Reviewers must be as specific as possible in their comments. Their judgements must be explained and supported clearly, such that the editors and authors can understand the basis for the comments.
- **Integrity:** All comments should be impartial, written with integrity in mind, and capable of withstanding public scrutiny – all reviews will be made publicly available at the conclusion of the GEO-7 process.
- **Timeliness:** Reviewers are expected to respond to the request for review and submit their comments in accordance with the overall [GEO-7 work-plan and production schedules](#).

Annex IV. Managing Review comments

You can submit your written comments on the whole draft report, the chapter(s) assigned to you or other chapters that you would like to review, on the GEO-READ review portal, the details of which will be provided to you later. In doing so, please note the following:

- 1) **Consult and follow the guidance that will be shared with the reviewers on how to use the GEO-READ review portal.**
- 2) Submit your review comments in English in the GEO-READ review portal.
- 3) In case of general or overview comments on the entire report or chapter please **clearly label the chapter(s) that they refer to by number and name** or indicate if they refer to the entire report.
- 4) Specific comments on the material in the chapter should follow any general comments and **must be labeled by page number and line number.**
- 5) Comments that refer to a table or figure must identify the page number and the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers.
- 6) ***Please refrain from commenting on grammar, spelling, or punctuation, unless it affects the meaning or clarity of the presentation. Professional editing will be done in the final draft.***

NB: You may not cite or quote the draft report other than in your review. You may not represent any material in the draft report as reflecting the preliminary findings of GEO-7.