

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 3 December 2024
09:00 – 12:00 and 13.00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 2: Update on the status of the production of the Seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).

This background document has been developed by the Secretariat to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives on overall progress made in the implementation of [UNEA resolution 5/3: Future of the Global Environment Outlook](#). More specifically, it includes detailed information on the following aspects of the GEO-7 process:

- The Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers
- Update on the terminology to refer to the environmental crises in the GEO-7 report
- The intergovernmental and expert peer review process from 1 November 2024 until 15 January 2025
- Overview of 2025 timeline for the production of GEO-7
- Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7

Member States are invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the further implementation of this resolution.

1. The Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers

GEO-7 is assessing the interdependencies across the global environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste and land degradation which are having severe human health and well-being impacts and their impacts on the environmental systems of air and climate, land and soils, oceans and coasts, freshwater and biodiversity. This assessment of the state of the global environment will be complemented by scenarios that assess the significant negative impacts if current trends continue and the potential environmental, social and economic benefits of different transformative scenarios to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals. To complement these scenarios, GEO-7 will assess how key human systems, that are at the root cause of this environmental degradation, can be transformed to achieve these internationally agreed environmental goals. This analysis of how to transform the global economics and finance, energy, food, and materials/waste systems will illustrate to policymakers how they could proceed in their own transformations, ensuring coherence across these different policy areas.

The content of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the main report and the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) is based on the [GEO-7 scoping document](#), which was reviewed and approved by representatives of Member States at the ad hoc open-ended meeting in October 2022¹.

2. Update on the alternate terminology for the ‘triple planetary crises together with land degradation’

During the last briefing to the CPR subcommittee in September 2024, Member States expressed their concern on the use of the term “triple planetary crisis”. For this reason, the assessment co-chairs with the approval of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) suggested on the use of the terminology “global environmental crises”. This shortened term would refer to the crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste and land degradation. The term, ‘global environmental crises’ will be explained in the introduction chapter of GEO-7 main report and in a footnote in the SPM of GEO-7.

3. The intergovernmental and expert peer review process from 1 November 2024 until 15 January 2025

The SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM was submitted for Intergovernmental and expert peer review on 1 November 2024, and the drafts will be available for comments till the 15th of January 2025.

The Secretariat has followed the recommendations from the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) that significant efforts had to be made to recruit more peer reviewers to the process and that a focus on the balance of expertise be the priority in selecting reviewers, while also striving to achieve gender and geographic balance. This should help ensure sufficient external review of the GEO-7 report and its SPM.

The Secretariat extended the reviewer nomination deadline twice, for an additional 2 weeks to ensure Member States and members of specialized agencies could share their reviewers' nomination list with the GEO Secretariat, ensuring their participation in the GEO-7 review process and the final deadline was on 25 October. Nevertheless, the [reviewer application portal](#) remains open for nominations from Member States and members of specialized agencies.

As of 31 October 2024, approximately 1955 reviewers were registered in the GEO READ platform where the GEO-7 draft is being reviewed. The distribution of the reviewers is indicated below.

¹ UNEA resolution 5/3 requested the development of a scoping document to be considered for review and endorsement by representatives of Member States at an ad hoc open-ended meeting.

Distribution of reviewers (by 31 October)								
	Number	%		Number	%		Number	%
Eastern Europe	90	5	Male	1085	55	Government-nominated	109	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	694	35	Female	856	44	Self-nominated	1846	94
Asia and Pacific	308	16	Not to say	14	1			
Western Europe and Other Groups	339	17						
Africa	524	27						
Total	1955			1955			1955	

So far, 42 Member States and members of specialized agencies have submitted nominations for intergovernmental reviewers, and these are indicated below. Delegations not included in the list below are encouraged to submit nominations for government reviewers to ensure participation in the GEO-7 review process of the SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM.

Eastern Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and Pacific	Western Europe and Other Groups	Africa	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Argentina	Cambodia	Canada	Algeria	
Montenegro	Brazil	China	France	Ethiopia	
Russian Federation	Costa Rica	Iraq	Germany	Kenya	
	Guatemala	Japan	Italy	Libya	
	Panama	Oman	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Madagascar	
	Peru	Pakistan	Sweden	Mauritius	
	Saint Lucia	Philippines	Britain and Northern Ireland	Morocco	
	Trinidad and Tobago	Republic of Korea	United States of America	Namibia	
	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	Sri Lanka		Senegal	
		Thailand		South Africa	
		State of Palestine (members of specialized agencies)		United Republic of Tanzania	
	3	9	11	8	11
					42

4. Overview of the timeline and process to produce GEO-7

Following the successful start of the review of the SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM, the Secretariat is working to start off the production of the GEO-7 report and its accompanying SPM. The table below shows upcoming key milestones for the production of the report until its launch during UNEA-7 in December 2025.

Dates:	Activity:
1 Nov 2024 – 15 Jan 2025	GEO-7 Second Order Draft Review of the Main Report and the First Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers
16 Jan – 15 March 2025	Authors address comments from intergovernmental and expert peer review
15 March – 15 April 2025	Review Editors assess the quality of response to peer review comments
15 April – 1 July 2025	Authors finalize their chapters after addressing the review editor suggestions and science editor edits
15 August – 31 October 2025	Online review of the Second Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers
3 –7 November 2025	Summary for Policymakers review and approval meeting
8 – 12 December 2025	Launch of GEO-7 and its accompanying SPM at UNEA-7

The review of the SOD of the SPM by Member States will run for 10 weeks starting 15 August 2025. Member States may submit written comments to the SOD of the SPM by 7 October 2025. This will then be followed

by the SPM review and approval meeting currently planned for 3-7 November 2025 after which the SPM will be finalized and laid out in preparation for the launch at UNEA-7.

5. Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their knowledge systems are crucial to our environment and ensuring that their voices are heard and included in global reports is fundamental to the production of reports that aim at informing policymakers and looking at solutions for the global environmental crises. The [GEO-7 scoping document](#) outlined the need for inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) into the GEO-7 report. It was agreed by the assessment Co-chairs in consultation with IMAG and MESAG that a GEO IK & LK Task Force would be created to oversee this work.

Four IK&LK dialogues have been planned with Indigenous Peoples and representatives of Local Communities (the first two have already taken place). The aim of the dialogues is to promote learnings about different ways of conceptualizing the environment, the Humans-Nature relations, environmental changes and their impacts on indigenous and local communities, possible actions to be taken in response to changes/impacts and desirable futures and possible pathways. These dialogues are being facilitated by selected members of the IK & LK Task Force and by a facilitation team who has experience with designing and moderating Dialogues with Indigenous Peoples.

- The first IK&LK Dialogue was held from 25 to 27 March 2024 (virtually).
- Second IK&LK Dialogue was held from 11-13 June 2024 in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Third IK&LK Dialogue will be held from 12-16 January 2025 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Fourth IK&LK Dialogue will be organized in the margins of UNEA-7.

The main outcome from the Dialogues will be a series of reports that will be published so GEO-7 authors can reference them in the GEO-7 report. All Dialogues are drafted by the facilitation team and the Task Force members involved and validated by the Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Local Communities (LCs) participants.

For more information on any of these points, please reach out to unep-ewad-geohead@un.org