

Our Ref: UNEA/GEO/CoordGroup/

28 August 2025

Outcomes Document**The Coordination Group Meeting for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)
August 28, 2025**

On August 28, 2025, the GEO-7 Coordination Group met to consider the following agenda items:

1. Review and discussion on the organization of the GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting
2. Review and provide advice on progress on the potential sensitive issues with draft responses
3. Review and provide advice on the progress of the GEO-7 outreach and communication plan
4. Any Other Business

On these agenda items, the meeting decided that:

- The Secretariat would consider other communication activities and opportunities highlighted by the members of the Coordination group such as presentation to OECPR, press release after the SPM meeting, 10-minute plenary session in UNEA-7 etc.
- The Coordination group members would follow up on the presentation of GEO-7 during the UNEA-7 plenary session.
- The Secretariat would consult the INC plastics team on how the representation of gender was resolved during the plastics negotiation.
- The Coordination Group members should send comments on the draft potential sensitive issues documents by the weekend for incorporation by the assessment co-chairs.
- The Secretariat committed to circulating a revised version of the sensitive issues document ahead of the next Coordination Call once the assessment co-chairs revise the document based on the input received.
- The Secretariat would explore what the options are if there is no agreement on the SPM and assessment co-chairs would prepare a potential response.
- The Secretariat to include the "Assessment of confidence" table while sending a reminder about the SOD SPM review.

Rapporteur	Signature
Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Acting Head Global Assessment Unit	

Meeting Summary August 28, 2025

The meeting was chaired by the Secretariat.

1. Review and provide advice on the progress of the GEO-7 outreach and communication plan

The Secretariat presented an overview of ongoing and planned communications activities, including news stories, social media posts, and side events at UNEA noting the critical role of the coordination group in advancing communication efforts after the Third Authors meeting in

September 2024.

Concerns were raised by several members about the limited visibility of GEO-7 to date while highlighting the importance of proactive engagement with international wire services and members called for securing a 10-minute plenary presentation slot at UNEA, noting it would have more impact than side events alone. Reaching out to the UNEA presidency was suggested and the Omani representative in the Coordination group together with IMAG and assessment co-chairs offered to follow up. It was also suggested that the Q&A portion of press briefings to anticipate politically sensitive questions and strengthening messaging on equity and gender within the communications products.

Other suggestions that were raised included having a presentation of the GEO-7 main findings with the regional groups during OECPR preceding UNEA-7, making use of relevant national focal points and having GEO-7 related activities during the Science Policy Dialogue forums. A press conference after October SPM meeting was also suggested to avoid having the report leaked prior to the launch in December 2025. This would enable media pick up prior to the various COPs in Oct/Nov. Having collaborating centres involved was also welcomed and it was recommended if they could be focused on specific tasks e.g. CEDARE participating in the AMCEN.

The Secretariat welcomed the recommendations presented on communications and would share them with the relevant communications colleagues for consideration.

2. Review and provide advice on progress on the potential sensitive issues with draft responses

The Secretariat presented the updated draft of potential sensitive issues and proposed responses. Assessment co-chairs provided an overview requesting for additional items that may need inclusion into the list.

Additional issues were raised during the discussion, including the importance of acknowledging sentiment in the room as some issues could be emotional, the narrative on the triple planetary crisis and fossil fuels. The need to integrate gender considerations and ensure consistent terminology across the SPM was highlighted based on recent experience with the INC plastics negotiations. The importance of having the responses to the potential issues traceable back to the main report was also noted including the importance of noting that the SPM is a collection of the most policy relevant findings. It was emphasized that responses should remain concise and scientifically grounded, while maintaining a balance between political sensitivities and scientific accuracy. Comments around conflict were also mentioned and the importance of framing them around UN resolutions that already exist. The Secretariat noted that conflicts was not present in the SPM but the main report. However, colleagues working on conflict had checked the language around conflicts to ensure that it was politically accurate.

Discussions on the approval of the SPM itself were tabled, and various scenarios were described to which the group agreed that watering down the SPM was not agreeable, and assessment co-chairs agreed to draft a potential response for various scenarios that may represent themselves in the meeting. The Secretariat also mentioned that they will be meeting with the legal focal point and would pose some of these questions ahead of the next coordination group meeting.

The group agreed that Coordinating Lead Authors will be engaged to refine responses to ensure clarity and direct referencing to the GEO-7 main report. The Secretariat committed to circulating a revised version of the sensitive issues document ahead of the next Coordination Call once the assessment co-chairs revise the document based on the input received. Assessment co-chairs requested for input and comments on the document by the weekend to ensure timely inclusion into the document.

3. Review and discussion on the organization of the GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting

The Secretariat updated the group on the preparation of the Second Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). It was confirmed that the 15 August SPM version will serve as the formal basis for the October SPM Review and Approval Meeting, with written comments from Member States due by 12 October. The SPM was shared with Member states including nominees to the October SPM Review and Approval meeting, CPR members, authors and advisory groups. It was reiterated that transparency requires Member States to present written comments verbally at the meeting for them to be considered.

Members emphasized the importance of ensuring that governments understand this requirement. The group agreed that the Secretariat will circulate clear written instructions, and a guidance note to Member States, with the draft to be reviewed by the Coordination Group before circulation. It was further agreed that Co-Chairs and authors would maintain an internal version of the SPM to reflect changes made in response to verbal comments. This internal version will not be shared with Member States.

4. Any Other Business

Logistics of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting: The Secretariat provided updates on logistical preparations for the October SPM Review and Approval Meeting. It was confirmed that the meeting will be held from 27–31 October in Nairobi, with in-person preparatory sessions scheduled for 25–26 October, and a debrief meeting on 1 November. Sessions may extend into the evening but cannot run into the weekend due to venue constraints. Members were requested to follow up with their countries if they are yet to nominate representatives to the meeting. Updated invitation letters will be sent to bureau members, reflecting their role in presiding over the meeting rather than representing their countries.

CPR September briefing: The Secretariat also noted that the CPR will be briefed in September on the state of preparations for the SPM review and Approval meeting and will be reminded to nominate representatives to the meeting as well as submit written comments on the Second Order Draft of the SPM by 12th of October.

Preparatory call of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Bureau: The Secretariat provide an overview of the preparatory call of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Bureau noting that they had agreed to chair various parts of the SPM as a way of organising the sessions over the 5 days of the SPM Review and Approval Meeting. It was also mentioned that a legal and governance affairs focal point had been assigned to the GEO-7 to ensure comprehensive preparations of the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting.

Next call of the GEO-7 Coordination group:

Finally, the Coordination Group agreed that the next call will take place in mid-to-late September, with a doodle poll to confirm the date. A draft agenda of the SPM Review and Approval Meeting will be shared beforehand and the assigned GEO-7 legal and governance affairs focal points would join the meeting.

Annex 1: Participants List

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Region(s) of Representation
Lorenzo	Ciccarese	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings, MESAG member	Western European Group
Rosemarie	Casimiro	MESAG vice-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Maria del Mar	Viana Rodriguez	MESAG co-chair	Western European Group
Gian Carlo	Delgado	MESAG Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Edgar	Gutierrez-Espeleta	Assessment co-chair	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Bob	Watson	Assessment co-chair	Western European Group
Arthur	Ejlis	IMAG co-chair	Western European Group
Miroslav	Havranek	IMAG vice-chair, vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Eastern European Group
Anna	Mampye	IMAG co-chair, rapporteur of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	African Group
Nicholas	King	MESAG Co-chair	African Group
Ervin	Balázs	MESAG Vice-chair	Eastern European Group
Alberto	Capra	Vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Thuraya	Al Sariri	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Asia Pacific Group
Maarten	Kappelle	Chief, UNEP Scientific Assessments Branch	
Ignacio	Sanchez Diaz	UNEP, Head of GEO Unit	
Caroline	Kaimuru	UNEP, IMAG Secretariat Support	
Atina	Aliyeva	UNEP, GEO team	
Adele	Roccato	UNEP, GEO team	
Yunting	Duan	UNEP, GEO team	
Grace	Odhiambo	UNEP, GEO team	
Muthoni	Kangethe	UNEP, GEO team	

Apologies

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Region(s) of Representation
Nyovani	Madise	Assessment co-chair	African Group
Ana	Julieta	IMAG Rapporteur	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Rosemarie	Casimiro	MESAG vice-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ying	Wang	Assessment co-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Rolenas	Baereleo	IMAG vice-chair	Asia Pacific Group