Our Ref: UNEA/GEO/CoordGroup/ 23 July 2025

**Outcomes Document**

**The Coordination Group Meeting for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)**
**July 23, 2025**

*On July 23, 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 feedback on the revised logistical note for Member States to the GEO-7 Review and Approval Meeting in October
3. Review and provide advice on the progress on the potential sensitive issues ahead of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting
4. Any Other Business

**On these agenda items, the meeting decided that:**

- To ensure transparency on the written comments submitted by Member States by 12th October, Member States will be required to re-state their comments verbally during the SPM review and approval meeting.
- The Secretariat should provide clear instructions to Member States when sharing the SPM and logistical note.
- The Secretariat should provide remote connection for Member States who are not able to attend the SPM review and approval meeting in person.
- The Secretariat will draft the instructions on the organisation of the SPM review and approval meeting and share via email with the coordination group for approval before its shared with Member States.
- There will be in person preparatory meetings ahead of the SPM review and approval meeting on 25th and 26th October followed by coordination group meeting on the 1st of November.
- An updated invitation letter will be shared with the Coordination Group, outlining their roles as Bureau members and not country representatives. The updated letters will include amended dates to ensure that the Coordination Group are present in Nairobi on the 25-26th October and 1st November.
- The Secretariat will share updated invitation letters to the meeting attendees noting the capacity of the bureau members in the letter and the in-person preparatory meetings.
- The Secretariat share a draft agenda of the SPM review and approval meeting with the coordination group for comment.
- The Secretariat will ensure that the validation opinions of the IMAG and MESAG are made available to Member States prior to the SPM review and approval meeting.
- The Secretariat will include communication in the next meeting's agenda and circulate prepared comms material to the group.

| **Rapporteur** | **Signature** |
|---|---|
| Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Acting Head Global Assessment Unit | |

***Meeting Summary July 23, 2025***
The meeting was chaired by the Secretariat.

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

The Secretariat provided an overview of the SPM review and approval processes of the IPCC and IPBES assessments as examples of how the GEO-7 SPM meeting could be organized, taking note that the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting would follow the guidance provided in the GEO-7 Procedures Document. It was highlighted that Member States will have between 15th August and 12th October to provide written comments, and the 15th August version of the SPM would be the formal basis of the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting in October given that there will not be enough time for Member States to review a new version prior to the meeting.

To ensure transparency of the written comments submitted by Member States by 12th October, the Coordination group decided that Member States will be required to re-state their comments verbally during the meeting. Clear instructions noting this guideline will have to be provided to Member States. Member States that will not be able to participate in person will have the option to participate remotely. It was also noted that the importance of the written comments needs to be highlighted to Member States as it would enable the assessment co-chairs and authors to prepare suggested responses ahead of the meeting.

The group also decided that, to keep in line with the GEO-7 procedures, a new internal version of the SPM draft will be produced by the assessment co-chairs and authors to respond to the verbal comments made by Member States. This version would not be circulated to Member States.

Finally, the Secretariat indicated that they would share a draft of the instructions and guidelines on the organization of the SPM review and approval meeting as agreed via email for approval by the Coordination group members.

2. **Review and provide feedback on the revised logistical note for Member States to the GEO-7 Review and Approval Meeting in October**

The Secretariat noted the connection between this agenda item and the previous agenda item noting that the agreed details on the organization of the SPM review and approval meeting will be reflected in the logistical note of the meeting that was requested by Member States in the CPR sub-committee meeting in June. The Secretariat noted that the changes suggested by the group were considered and incorporated in the new version of the note. It was noted that Member States should be encouraged not to make political statements during the meeting but focus on specific comments and suggestions that are evidence-based while ensuring line of sight to the GEO-7 main report. The validation opinions of the IMAG and MESAG will be made available to the meeting delegates ahead of the meeting thus there will be no need to have them presented.

It was also mentioned that the meeting sessions could run up to 9pm if needed as there's no flexibility to extend the meeting beyond the 31st October given a conference happening in Nairobi immediately after the SPM review and approval meeting. It was suggested that the daily meetings start at 9am with 1.5 hrs for lunch, and that there be no coffee breaks, but that coffee will be available to delegates throughout the day.

The Coordination group requested that they receive updated invitation letters to the SPM review and approval meeting indicating that they will be presiding over the meeting as bureau members and not representing their countries. The updated letter would also account for the 2-day prior preparatory meetings on 25th and 26th October just before the SPM review and approval meeting and a debrief meeting on 1 November after the SPM review and approval meeting.

The Secretariat agreed to draft an agenda for the SPM review and approval meeting and share it with the group for comment.

3. **Review and provide advice on the progress on the potential sensitive issues ahead of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting**

The Secretariat indicated that the latest version of the potential sensitive issues document is yet to be circulated to the group as the assessment co-chairs were working on a version provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat mentioned that authors who were present in Jeju had an opportunity to look through the issues identified and proposed a few more.

The assessment co-chairs noted that they will be revising the draft responses to the potential sensitive issues to ensure the political and scientific aspects of the issues are well captured. They noted that they will work with relevant Coordinating Lead Authors to revise the responses. The group noted that line of sight references to the main report should be included in the draft responses to enable immediate responses.

Members raised comments around the communication plan for GEO-7 to which the Secretariat responded that there have been articles on GEO-7 on the website. The Secretariat informed the group of the various communication activities and noted that they will collect all the materials prepared so far and distribute them to the group and present on the communication strategy in the next meeting. Members suggested that a mention of GEO-7 during the plenary in UNEA-7 will be helpful and IMAG indicated that this could be added in its validation report. The IMAG and assessment co-chairs could also reach out the UNEA presidency and speak to the matter so as to raise the profile of GEO-7.

In conclusion, the Secretariat mentioned that a short summary of the findings from the SPM visuals iterative exercise will be shared with IMAG and MESAG when ready.

4. **Any Other Business**

*Logistics of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting:* The Secretariat informed the Coordination Group that a reminder to Member States requesting nominees to the SPM Review and Approval Meeting will be shared soon together with the revised logistical note.

*Upcoming preparatory calls of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Bureau:* The Secretariat stated that the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Bureau would have a preparatory meeting the following week with the assessment co-chairs.

*Next call of the GEO-7 Coordination Group:* The Secretariat informed the Coordination Group that the next call would be scheduled for the week of the 18th or 25th of August and doodle poll would be circulated accordingly.

## 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 |
| Ana | Julieta | IMAG Rapporteur | Latin America 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 |
| Anna | Mampye | IMAG co-chair, rapporteur of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings | African Group |
| Nicholas | King | MESAG Co-chair | African 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 | |
| Martha | Stokes | UNEP, MESAG Secretariat Support | |
| Atina | Aliyeva | UNEP, GEO team | |
| Adele | Roccato | UNEP, GEO team | |
| Yunting | Duan | UNEP, GEO team | |

**Apologies**

| First Name | Last Name | Role in GEO-7 | Region(s) of Representation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nyovani | Madise | Assessment co-chair | African Group |
| Miroslav | Havranek | IMAG vice-chair, vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings | Eastern European Group |
| Ervin | Balázs | MESAG Vice-chair | Eastern European Group |
| Gian Carlo | Delgado | MESAG Rapporteur | Latin American and Caribbean Group |
| Ying | Wang | Assessment co-chair | Asia and the Pacific Group |
| Rolenas | Baereleo | IMAG vice-chair | Asia Pacific Group |