

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 17 June 2025
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 note has been prepared by the Secretariat to support discussions under agenda item 2, namely, update on the status of the production of the Seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).

It includes detailed information on the following aspects of the GEO-7 process:

- Progress on the development of Second Order Draft of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)
- Progress on the GEO-7 validation opinion process by GEO-7 Advisory Groups
- Update on preparations for the SPM Review and Approval Meeting in October 2025
- Update on the GEO-7 launch, communication and outreach plan

1. Progress in the development of Second Order Draft (SOD) of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)

Following the completion of the review of the first order draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM), the author team led by the assessment's co-chairs is currently working on revising the SPM while addressing comments received on the SPM. The revised SPM contains 3 parts that look at:

- the current situation and underlying causes,
- the solution pathways to transform the systems of economics/finance, materials/waste systems, energy, food and management of environmental systems.
- and the regional and socio-economic dimensions of the solution pathways.

To advance the drafting of the SPM, the assessment co-chairs and a core group of authors will have an in-person meeting from 2-6 June 2025, on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The meeting will be focused on advancing the drafting of the SPM which will continue until 15th August 2025 when the second order draft (SOD) of the SPM will be shared with Member States for their review. The meeting, co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, will happen in parallel to the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) meeting that will be providing the validation opinion on the scientific integrity of GEO-7, as agreed in the GEO Procedures document adopted in September 2022 (for details, see under 2.). The GEO Secretariat will provide an update on the progress made during the SPM drafting meeting in June.

2. Progress on the GEO-7 validation opinion process by GEO-7 Advisory Groups

The [GEO Procedures](#) document establishes 'validation' as one of the clearance and endorsement processes of the GEO reports. It outlines that either the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) or the Intergovernmental and Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) provide their endorsement that the preparation of the GEO report has been duly followed. In the face-to-face meeting of the two bodies in September 2024, both bodies agreed to provide their separate validation opinions.

The MESAG will advance the development of their validation opinion in a parallel meeting (2-5th June) during the SPM meeting in June in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. Both the IMAG and MESAG will present their validation opinion ahead of the ad hoc open-ended meeting that will review and approve the SPM in October 2025. The MESAG's validation opinion will assess the scientific integrity and policy relevance of the GEO-7 process.

3. Update on Preparations for the SPM Review and Approval Meeting

The dates and location for the SPM review and approval meeting have now been confirmed for October 27-31, 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. This change in date from 3-7 November 2025 to the new October dates was necessary to accommodate the meeting in the schedules of the UNON complex in Nairobi, Kenya.

The change of date will not affect the review of the SPM as Member States may submit written comments to the SPM's SOD between 15 August 2025 and 12 October 2025. This will then be followed by the SPM review and approval meeting confirmed for 27-31 October 2025 after which the SPM will be finalized, designed and laid out in preparation for its launch at UNEA-7.

UNEP will share an invitation letter with Member States requesting that they nominate a representative for each Member State, who will participate in the SPM review and approval meeting. Due to the recent austerity and cost saving measures employed within the UN, UNEP will only offer travel support to one representative per developing country, and this will be on a first-come-first-served basis, taking into account

regional and gender balance. Member States with offices in Nairobi are encouraged to nominate representatives that are currently based at representations in Nairobi.

4. Update on GEO-7 Outreach and Communication Plan

In collaboration with UNEP's Communication Division, the GEO Secretariat has developed a launch, communication and outreach plan that aims to raise the profile of GEO-7, inform policy, drive awareness and action, and increase reach and impact. The plan includes components such as (social) media engagement, translations for specific assets and public advocacy assets that will be distributed through regional offices, UN country teams, collaborating centres and relevant networks.

With regards to the launch of GEO-7 at UNEA-7 in December 2025, the GEO-7 will be launched on the first or second day of UNEA to be able to feed into the discussions that will be taking place among Member States and other audiences at UNEA.

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