

Briefing on the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) – Draft 2

12th ASC

GEDS Development Process

GEDS responds to UNEA resolution 4/23 and the CPR's request for an implementation roadmap



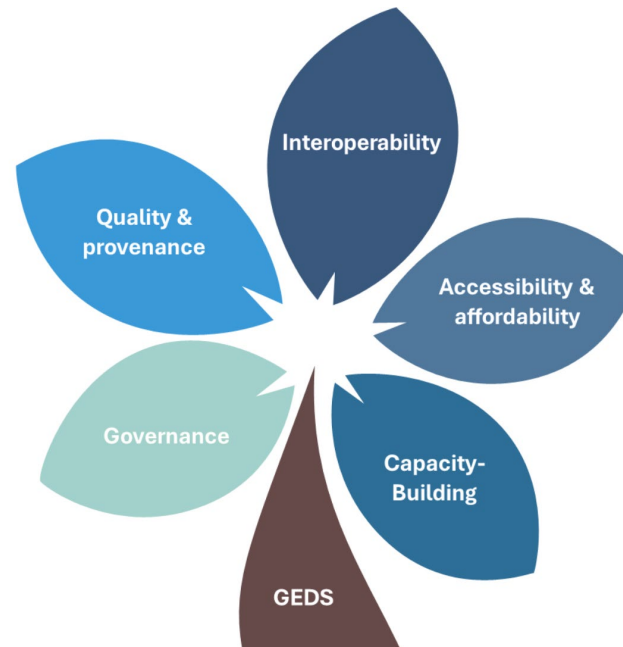
10 regional consultations with 5 UN regions

- 2024 consultations: **73 MSs**
- 2025 consultations: **50 MSs**
- Feedback form shared in August



UN-SPBF 2nd & 3rd HLEG Meetings on Data

Consultations with 100+ attendees from private sector, academia and standards organizations and others



Major Groups and expert inputs



Engagement and inputs from stakeholders: citizen science, indigenous people, UN, UNEP, Standards organizations private sector, NGOs, academia with the outreach more than 500 stakeholders since 2023.

MEAs

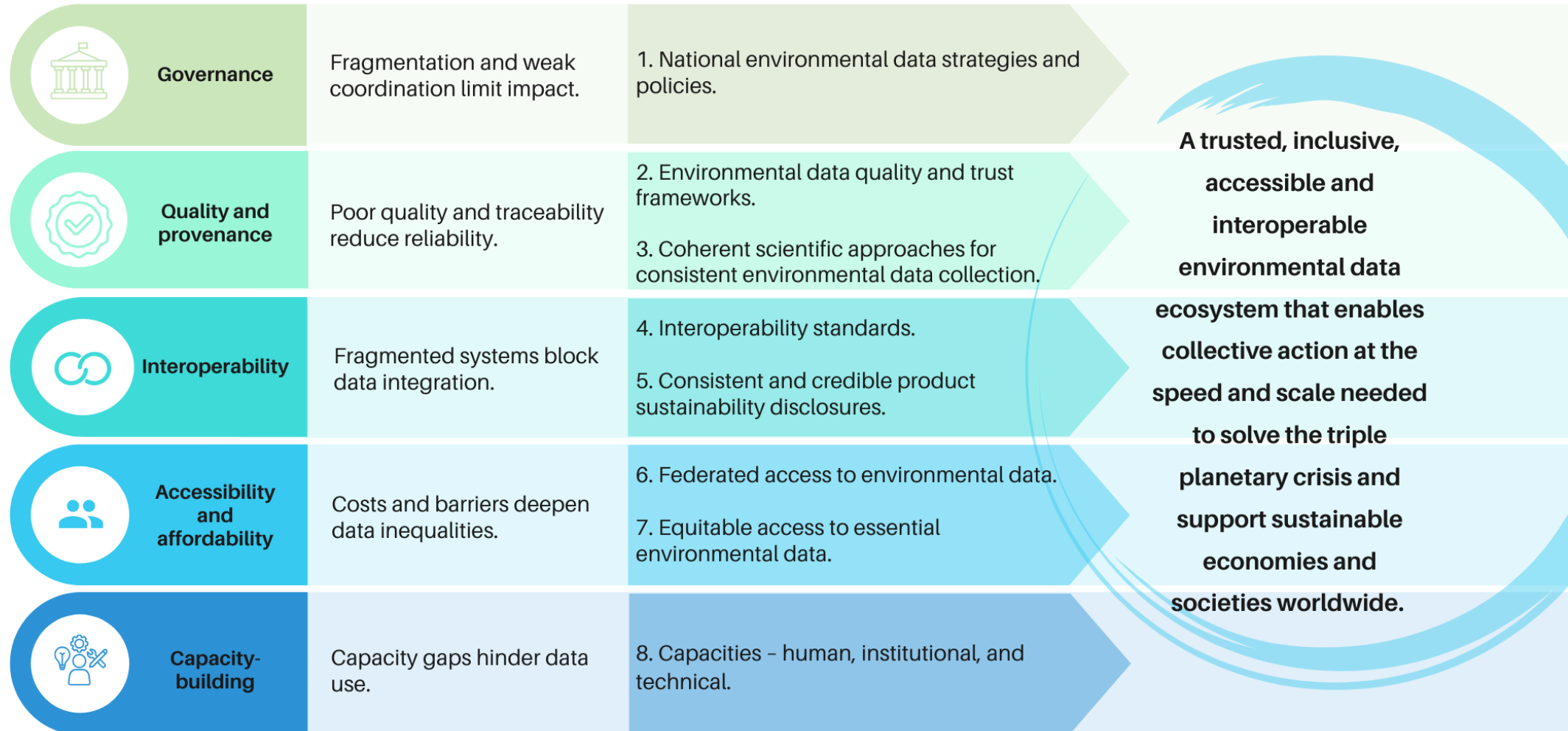


Consultations with MEAs secretariats

GEDS was built through iterative multi-stakeholder consultations. Since 2023, UNEP reached 300+ stakeholders to formulate a more action-oriented and inclusive GEDS.

Addressing the challenges: 8 strategic intervention points

Targeted intervention points where coordinated action would help realize the GEDS vision



UNEP's Role in implementing GEDS

Realizing the GEDS vision through focus areas where UNEP is well-positioned to enable change

Intervention point	UNEP actions	Partners actions
1. National environmental data strategies and policies.	1. Develop a guidance framework for national environmental data strategies	
2. Data quality and trust frameworks.	2. Establish a global mechanism for environmental data quality assurance	Piloting and uptake
3. Coherent scientific approaches for consistent environmental data collection.	3. Facilitate greater global alignment around essential variables and scientific standards	
4. Interoperability standards.	4. Convene an Expert Group on Environmental Data Interoperability Standards	by governments, regional organizations, development agencies, multilateral banks, and other entities responsible for implementation
5. Consistent and credible product sustainability disclosures.	5. Facilitate improvements to product sustainability disclosures	
6. Federated access to environmental data.	6. Develop WESR as a federated platform that maintains data sovereignty with national and regional nodes	
7. Equitable access to essential environmental data.	7. Establish a Global Environmental Data Utility	
8. Capacities – human, institutional, and technical.	8. Create a capability assessment framework & a capacity-building model	

Indicative timeline, milestones and costs for UNEP actions

Action 1

Member States could mandate UNEP to **develop a “Guidance Framework for Environmental Data Governance”** to support countries in creating and strengthening national environmental data strategies and policies by 2035.

UNEP: design and delivery of global framework

Partners: implementation of national strategies



Phase 1: Foundations 3 years

Co-develop guidance framework, conduct global and regional consultations, and pilot in 3–5 countries.
Indicative budget

Phase 2: Acceleration & upscaling 3 years

Support regional adaptation and uptake, provide technical assistance and training, and expand the toolkit.

Phase 3: Mainstreaming 4 years

Promote broader roll-out through peer learning, update tools based on lessons and integrate with digital strategies.

Indicative Budget 2026 - 2035

Total: \$4.35M

UNEP: \$1.55M

Partners: \$2.8M

Potential activities, timeline and resource needs

Action 1

Timeline	Activities	Delivery	Est. cost
Framework development (3 years)	Expert group coordination and drafting of guidance framework	UNEP	\$250,000
	Development of templates and adaptable tools	UNEP	\$200,000
	Consultations and piloting in c. 3-5 countries representing different institutional and capacity contexts	Partners*	\$700,000
	Analysis of feedback and refinement of the framework	UNEP	\$150,000
Phase 1 subtotal			\$1.1 million
Regional uptake and capacity support (3 years)	Supporting adaptation to regional contexts and legal frameworks	Partners	\$300,000
	Technical assistance to the first wave of countries	Partners	\$1,000,000
	Expansion of toolkit	UNEP	\$200,000
	Development of e-learning and trainer-of-trainer tools	UNEP	\$250,000
Phase 2 subtotal			\$1.45 million
Broader roll out and learning (4 years)	Support roll-out through regional peer learning networks and South-South exchange	Partners	\$800,000
	Facilitate cross-regional consultations and document implementation case studies	UNEP	\$250,000
	Update of the framework	UNEP	\$250,000
Phase 3 subtotal			\$1.1 million

Total indicative budget (2026–2035): **\$4.35 million**

UNEP activities: **\$1.55 million**

Member State and development partner activities: **\$2.8 million**



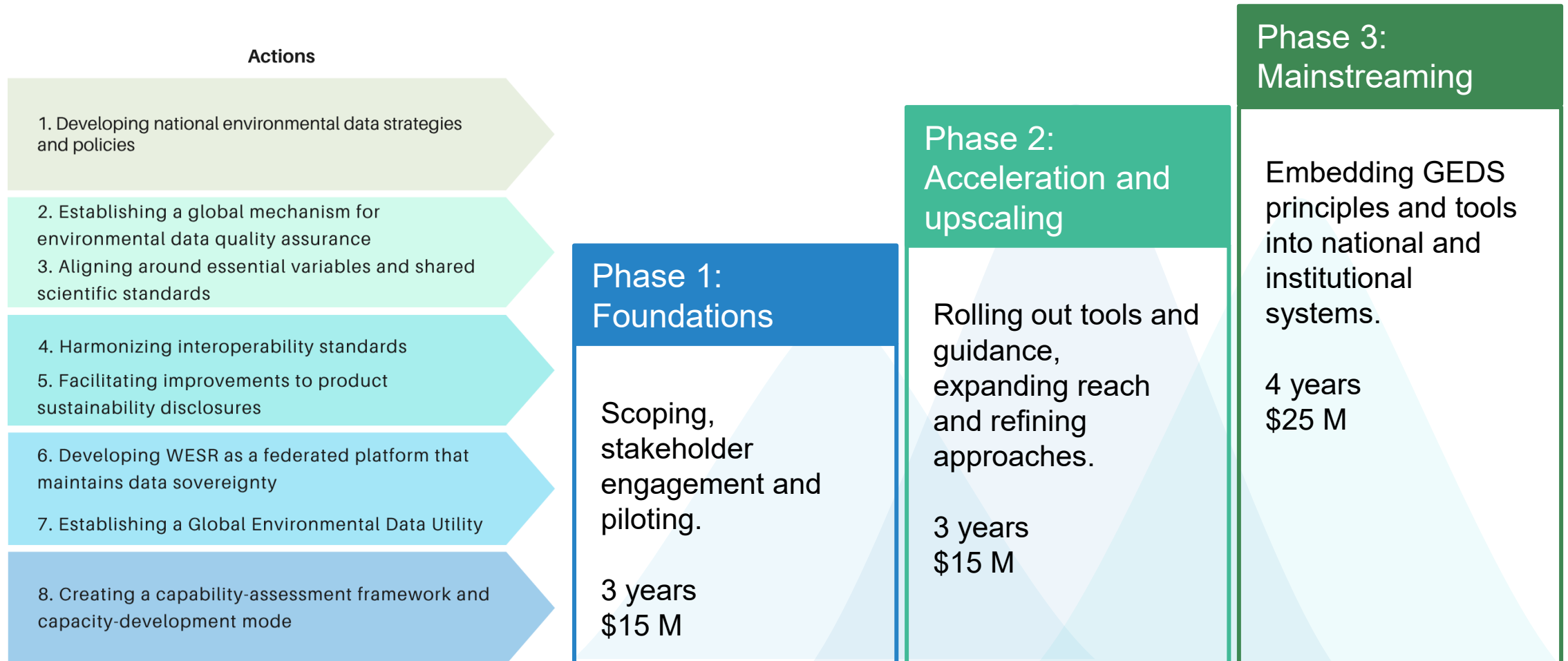
Summary of actions and indicative budgets

2026-2035

Action	UNEP activities	Country and development partner activities	Indicative budget (2026-2035)
1.Developing a guidance framework for national environmental data strategies	\$1.55 million	\$2.8 million	\$4.35 million
2.Establishing a global mechanism for environmental data quality assurance	\$2.45 million	\$1.2 million	\$3.65 million
3.Facilitating greater global alignment around essential variables and scientific standards	\$6 million	\$4.3 million	\$10.3 million
4.Convening an Expert Group on Environmental Data Interoperability Standards	\$2.8 million	\$1.5 million	\$4.3 million
5.Facilitating improvements to product sustainability disclosures	\$7.3 million	\$5.4 million	\$12.7 million
6.Developing WESR as a federated platform that maintains data sovereignty	\$3.8 million	\$1.3 million	\$5.1 million
7.Establishing a Global Environmental Data Utility to ensure affordable access to essential environmental data	\$3.3 million	\$5.6 million	\$8.9 million
8.Creating a capability-assessment framework and capacity-development mode	\$3.65 million	\$2.25 million	\$5.9 million
Total indicative budget 2026-2031	\$30.85 million	\$24.35 million	\$55.2 million

Proposed GEDS Implementation Phases

Phased approach for each action



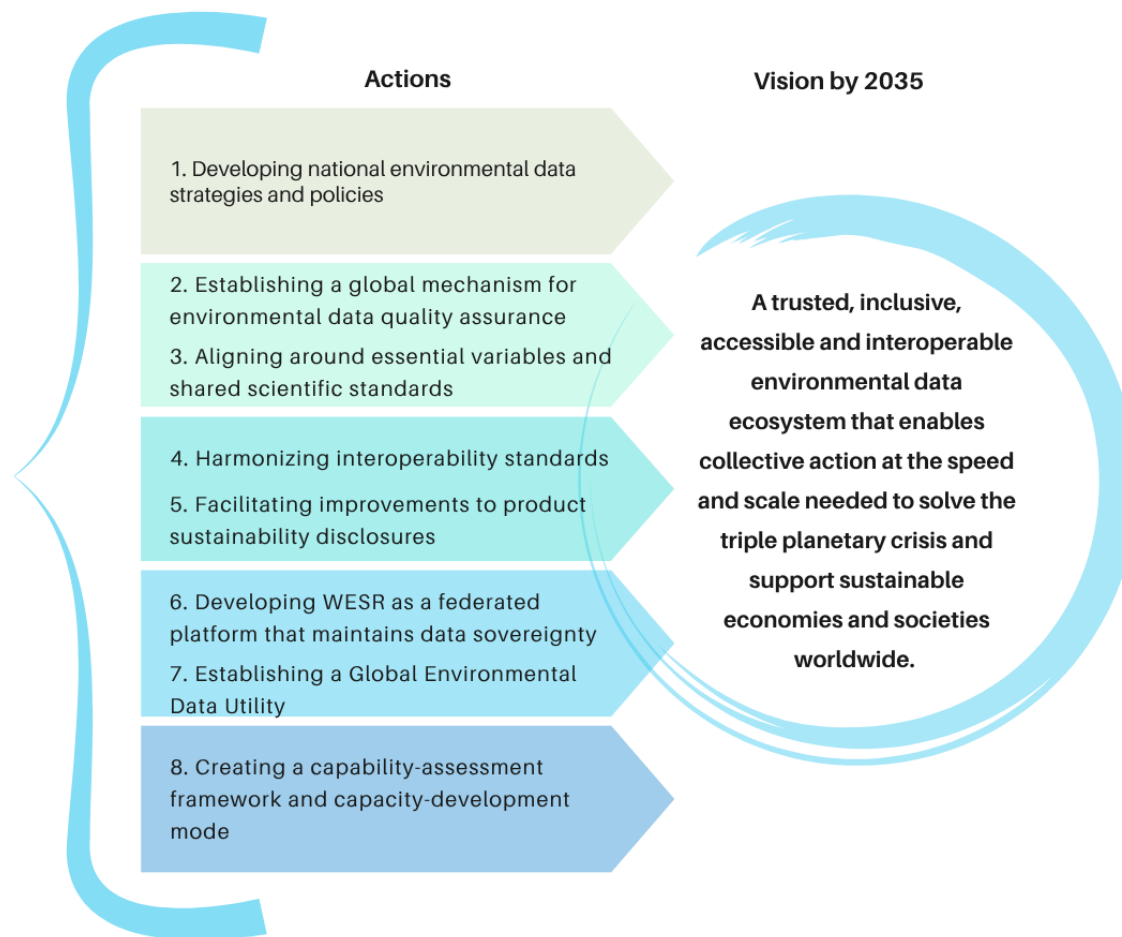
Proposed Implementation mechanism

A proposed steering committee will oversee the implementation of actions by UNEP and partners



Steering committee

A high-level **multi-stakeholder council of experts and leaders**, appointed primarily for their expertise in environmental data and leadership in sustainability, while also ensuring Member State representation meets **geographic and gender balance**.

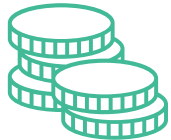


Proposed Funding mechanism

Flexible pooled funding model



- **Consortium-Based Model:** Enables phased, coordinated investment aligned with evolving GEDS priorities and implementation stages.



- **Funding Sources:** Independent pooled fund drawing from a mix of government contributions, philanthropic foundations, and private sector partners. Donors could include Member States, multilateral funds, climate and digital foundations, and ESG-aligned corporations



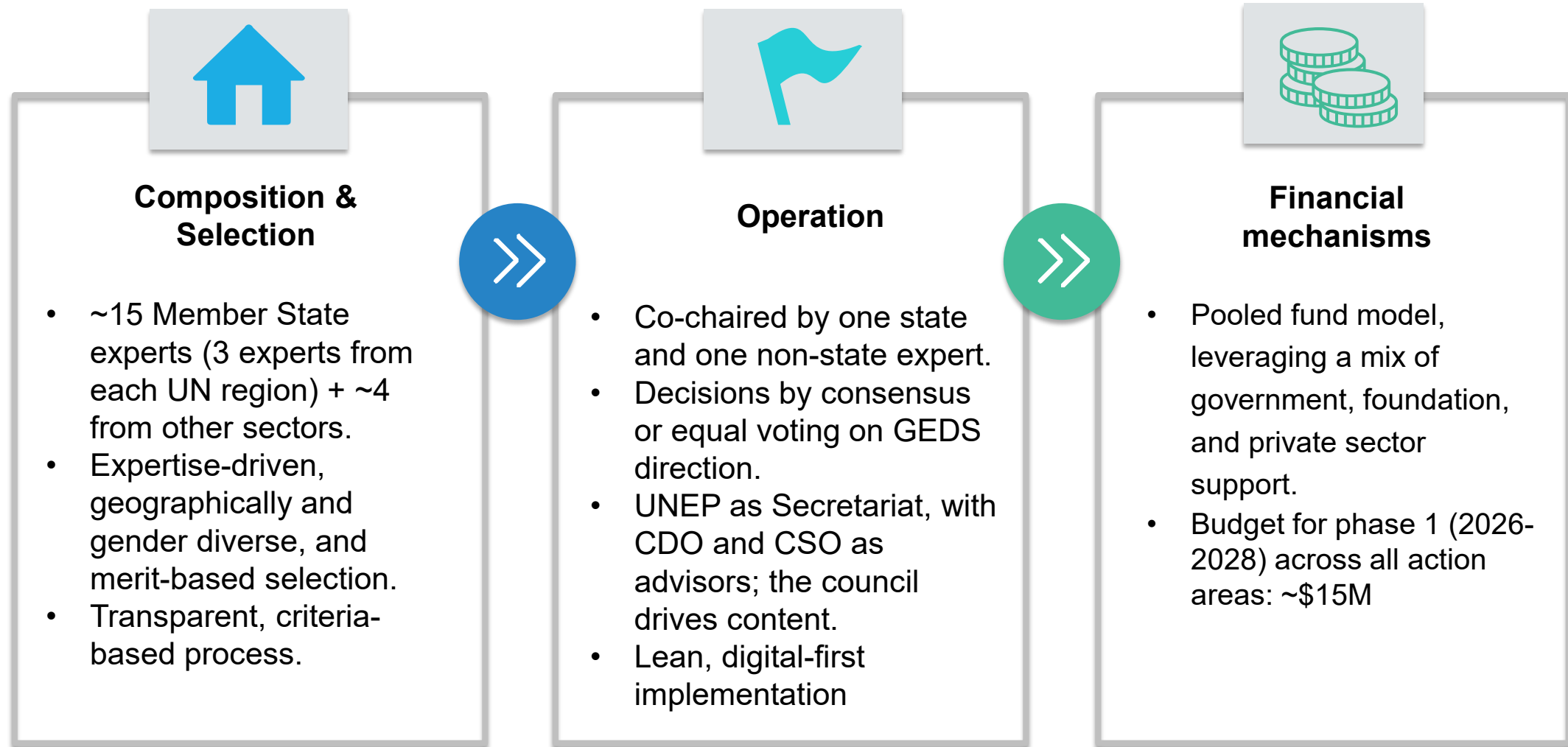
- **Fundraising & Stewardship:** Fundraising by Member States, UNEP and Partners. A small donor coordination group may be established to oversee alignment and transparency.



- **Two-Part Budget Structure:**
 - UNEP Core Functions – Strategy stewardship, framework/tool development, stakeholder consultations, platform development.
 - Piloting & Uptake – Application and validation in selected countries, led by national governments and partners (e.g. development banks, regional bodies).

Steering Committee: composition and operation

A flexible and adaptive implementation model and funding mechanism



Proposed Action Points for the ASC

Next steps

- 1 Endorse the GEDS Implementation Plan
- 2 Mandate UNEP to establish a Steering Committee
- 3 Approve the proposed Funding Mechanism



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02.09.2025

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