



United Nations Environment
Programme

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March 14-16, 2023

Original: English

Planning Meeting of the GEO-7 Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG)

Location: United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)

Meeting Room B
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
www.unescap.org/uncc

March 14-16, 2023

Meeting objectives:

1. MESAG members are informed of the GEO-7: mandate, process, scope.
2. Provisional terms of reference are presented to the MESAG, discussed and agreed.
3. Discuss a process for monitoring the scientific integrity of GEO-7. Agree on the approach of MESAG and its interactions with the GEO experts to ensure the scientific credibility of the GEO-7 assessment.
4. Discuss and provide advice on new methods being developed in GEO-7 and how these can ensure the scientific credibility of the GEO-7 assessment.
5. Provide guidance to UNEP on additional authors and the selection of fellows and review editors.
6. Discuss the procedure of issuing a validation opinion for the GEO-7 process to UNEPs Chief Scientist.
7. Establish a process for working collaboratively with the IMAG and the GEO-7 co-chairs.
8. To develop and approve the MESAG's 2023-24 work plan.
9. Develop recommendations for the Secretariat and GEO-7 co-chairs to help ensure the conceptual, analytical and scientific consistency and rigour in the development and implementation of the multi-year work plan and programme of activities, such as assessments and supporting services.

Provisional Agenda

Tuesday March 14, 2023 – 09h00 to 17h00

Online participants may join the meeting with this link: [TBD](#)

09h00 – 09h15

Item 1: Welcome from the Secretariat and introduction of the MESAG: co-chairs, vice-chairs and rapporteur.

- The co-chairs of the meeting will present the agenda and proposed objectives of the MESAG meeting.
- Any new MESAG members are invited to introduce themselves to the group.

09h15 – 10h00

Item 2: Introducing GEO-7: mandate, process, scope.

Session objectives: MESAG members are informed of the GEO-7: mandate, process, scope.

Supporting documents: [UNEA Resolution 5/3](#), [GEO procedures document](#), [GEO-7 scoping document](#), [GEO-7 timeline](#), GEO-7 presentation

10h00 – 10h30

Item 3: Presentation of MESAG terms of reference

Session objectives: Provisional terms of reference are presented to the MESAG, discussed and agreed.

Supporting documents: Draft terms of reference, [GEO procedures document](#)

Expected discussion/decision: Approval of the MESAG terms of reference.

10h30 – 11h00

Item 4: Coffee Break

11h00 – 13h00

Item 5: Monitoring the scientific credibility of GEO-7.

Session Objectives: Discuss a process for monitoring the scientific integrity of GEO-7. Agree on the approach of MESAG and its interactions with the GEO experts to ensure the scientific credibility of the GEO-7 assessment.

Supporting Document: Previous scientific guidance from GEO processes and best practice guidance procedures.

Expected discussion/decision: Draft MESAG procedure

13h00 – 14h00

Item 6: Lunch

14h00 – 15h30

Item 7: Presentations from experts working on solutions pathways and outlooks methods being developed in GEO-7.

Session objectives: Discuss and provide advice on new methods being developed in GEO-7 and how these can ensure scientific credibility of the GEO-7 assessment.

Supporting Document: Verbal briefing on new solutions pathways and outlooks methods

Expected discussion/decision: Agreed approach to assessing and offering an opinion on suggested new methods in GEO-7.

15h30-16h00

Item 8: Coffee Break

16h00 – 16h55

Item 9: Discussion on how to provide scientific oversight and advice on additional authors, review editors and fellows.

Session objectives: Provide guidance to UNEP on additional authors and the selection of fellows and review editors. Establish procedures for providing scientific oversight and advice on additional authors to be selected in the gap filling exercise.

Supporting document: list of already selected authors, areas of expertise and alignment with outline.

Expected discussion/decision: Draft MESAG procedure.

16h55 – 17h00

Item 10: Closing of the meeting

17h00- 18:30

Item 11: Reception

Wednesday March 15, 2023 – 09h00 to 17h00

Online participants may join the meeting with this link: [TBD](#)

09h00 – 09h10

Item 12: Brief recap of the previous day.

Session objectives: Co-chairs will give an overview of the previous day

09h10-10h30

Item 13: Continued discussion on how to provide scientific oversight and advice on additional authors, review editors and fellows.

Session objectives: Provide guidance to UNEP on additional authors and the selection of fellows and review editors. Establish procedures for providing scientific oversight and advice on additional authors to be selected in the gap filling exercise.

Supporting document: list of already selected authors, areas of expertise and alignment with outline.

Expected discussion/decision: Draft MESAG procedure.

10h30 – 11h00

Item 14: Coffee Break

11h00 – 13h00

Item 15: Discussion on the development of MESAG's proposed 2023-24 work plan.

Session objectives: Review and agree or request changes to the MESAG's 2023-24 work plan

Supporting documents: Draft 2023-24 MESAG work plan

Expected discussion/decision: Approval of or suggestions for modifying the 2023-24 work plan

13h00 – 14h00

Item 16: Lunch

14h00 – 15h30

Item 17: Continued discussion on the development of MESAG's proposed 2023-24 work plan.

Session objectives: Review and agree or request changes to the MESAG's 2023-24 work plan

Supporting documents: Draft 2023-24 MESAG work plan

Expected discussion/decision: Approval of or suggestions for modifying the 2023-24 work plan

15h30-16h00

Item 18: Coffee Break

16h00 – 17h00

Item 19: Discuss the procedure of issuing a final validation opinion of the GEO process to UNEPs Chief Scientist.

Session objectives: MESAG experts suggest different procedures of issuing final validation opinion of the GEO process to UNEP's Chief Scientist.

Supporting document: procedure established by the GEO-6 Scientific Advisory Panel for issuing their final opinion.

Expected discussion/decision: Suggestions on procedures for the final validation opinion of the GEO-7 process to UNEP's Chief Scientist.

Thursday March 16, 2023 – 09h00 to 17h00

Online participants may join the meeting with this link: [TBD](#)

09h00 – 09h10

Item 20: Brief recap of the previous day.

Session objectives: Co-chairs will give an overview of the previous day

09h10 – 10h30

Item 21: Discuss the GEO-7 multi-year work plan and programme of activities, including supporting services.

Session objectives: Receive advice on the feasibility and implementation of the GEO-7 multi-year work plan

Supporting Document: Draft work plan developed from adopted scoping document.

Expected discussion/decision: Advice to the Secretariat and GEO-7 co-chairs on the multi-year work plan and programme of activities, including supporting services.

10h30 – 11h00

Item 22: Coffee Break

11h00 – 13h00

Item 25: Joint session of the full IMAG and MESAG

Session objectives: Roundtable introductions and discussion of how the two advisory bodies can best work together.

Supporting Document: Membership lists for IMAG and MESAG

Expected discussion/decision: Suggested approaches for IMAG and MESAG to best work

Item 23: Continued discussion on the GEO-7 multi-year work plan and programme of activities, including supporting services and enhancing the impact of GEO-7

13h00 – 14h00

Item 24: Lunch

14h00 – 15h30

Item 25: Continued discussion on the GEO-7 multi-year work plan and programme of activities, including supporting services and enhancing the impact of GEO-7.

Session objectives: Receive advice on the feasibility and implementation of the GEO-7 multi-year work plan. Discuss the outreach and awareness-raising strategy, the supporting services and other opportunities to increase the impact of GEO-7.

Supporting Document: Draft work plan developed from adopted scoping document.

Expected discussion/decision: Advice to the Secretariat and GEO-7 co-chairs on the multi-year work plan and programme of activities, including supporting services and outreach.

together

15h30-16h00

Item 26: Coffee Break

16h00 – 18h00

Item 27: Coordination Meeting with Co-chairs of the assessment, IMAG, MESAG and ad-hoc meetings

