UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/GEO-7/Third
Authors Meeting/

United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.: General
14th November, 2024

Original: English

Nearly 200 experts from over 80 countries gathered in Nairobi from 2-5 September 2024 for the third authors meeting of the seventh Global Environment Outlook process to complete the following tasks:

1. Work to achieve a Second Order Draft (SOD) quality of the chapters for intergovernmental and expert peer-review, by;
   - Arrive at near-final draft of text for the 21 chapters;
   - Ensure appropriate charts, graphs, maps and infographics are included;
   - Reduce overlap and duplication in the content within and across chapters;
   - Address any gaps that have been identified within and across chapters;
   - Ensure that the chapter meets the word count limits;
   - Arrive at near-final Executive Summaries for each chapter;
   - Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge across the chapters;
   - Ensure that climate change adaptation and behavioural science and cultural elements are included in the SOD, following the guidance from the task groups.
2. Enable cross-chapters discussions aimed at developing further interlinkages, adding cross-references, eliminating duplication and achieving coherence.
3. Raise awareness about GEO-7 through a science-policy dialogue on transforming the global food system - including regional discussions.
4. Raise awareness of the important work GEO-7 is doing in-country to support national State of the Environment and Outlook reports and university level educational material

Meeting Summary

Opening Plenary

The Nairobi meeting began with an opening plenary welcoming participants, emphasizing the collaborative effort towards the GEO-7 report. Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director, opened the session by acknowledging the significant contributions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the dedicated efforts of GEO-7 authors and experts. She stressed the urgency of incorporating a solutions-oriented approach within the GEO-7 report to address the "triple planetary crisis"—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Inger highlighted the need for policies grounded in strong scientific integrity that provide actionable insights for sustainable development.

Following Inger Andersen, Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh, the Minister Plenipotentiary from the Jordan Embassy, expressed gratitude for the collaboration with UNEP and emphasized the meeting's importance in shaping a policy-relevant GEO-7. He articulated a keen interest in the solutions that GEO-7 would propose, which are crucial for Jordan and other nations facing similar environmental challenges. Al-Tarawneh stressed that the recommendations should consider the diverse socio-economic and environmental contexts of different countries to ensure practicality and effectiveness.

Three of the GEO-7 co-chairs—Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, Ying Wang, and Nyovani Madise—then took the stage to commend the authors for their progress on the initial drafts of the report. They underscored the need for continued cooperation to address the extensive environmental challenges discussed in the report and emphasized the importance of maintaining a coherent narrative across all chapters.

The Secretariat's presentation outlined the meeting's structure and objectives, focusing on creating a unified narrative to address how we can solve the triple planetary crisis along with land degradation. The discussion emphasized transforming key economic, energy, food, and environmental systems rather than merely mitigating their impacts. The meeting stressed the necessity of phasing out fossil fuels, enhancing energy efficiency, and transforming the global food system to reduce emissions.

The plenary concluded with questions from meeting participants, who expressed concerns over the accuracy of modelling data and highlighted the importance of environmental education in bridging the gap between scientific understanding and practical policy implementation. These discussions set the stage for the detailed sessions to follow, aimed

at refining the GEO-7 report to offer clear, scientifically backed policy pathways for sustainable development.

Closing Plenary

The assessment co-chairs noted that the work conducted by the chapter teams during the week was outstanding, and inter-chapter collaboration was exemplary. It was acknowledged that drafting such a comprehensive report can be a difficult process, often with pieces being taken apart before being put back together. The gender and geographic balance of the GEO-7 team was noted and commended. The assessment co-chairs described the GEO-7 report as 'a matrix' (with chapters 'hand-shaking' each other), being both 'dynamic' and 'transformative'.

The Secretariat was also thanked for their hard work and successful co-ordination, as were the graphic designers who attended the meeting and had productive conversations with the chapter authors.

The GEO-7 co-chairs noted that the report needs to consider the implications for the planet, and also for human-wellbeing. The first part of the report will outline the crises and the fact that these are undermining progress towards the SDGs. Part two will explain that if key economic and social systems can be transformed, then this will help solve the crises. Everything is inter-related. The important role of Chapter 21 was highlighted, with the need to explicitly state the role of different actors in these transformations, and the need to describe the implications for transforming the five systems on the SDGs and the planetary crises was emphasised. The need for underpinning statements with clear and well referenced evidence in both the main chapter text and the Executive Summaries was re-iterated. The assessment co-chairs further advised to provide examples at the regional and sub-regional level where possible, and to ensure that the narrative being developed will consider the impact on other chapters.

The GEO-7 co-chairs also noted that the makeup of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) core team strived for gender balance, with a final make-up of 8 women and 5 men. The SPM will be drafted in three parts and that improving the text of the chapters will lead to improved Executive Summaries, and the improved Executive Summaries will inform the SPM. Executive summaries should be clear, concise, and evidence based. Everyone was reminded that the GEO-7 should speak truth to power.

The 3rd authors meeting has helped identify the gaps that need to be addressed before the Second Order Draft peer review deadline. Additionally, chapter teams were reminded to

address any outstanding comments from the First Order Draft on the GEO-READ platform by the 18th of October.

Chapter teams were reminded that IK & LK experts have joined their teams as Lead Authors.

Chapter teams were reminded to use the UN M49 Standard List of regions and sub-regions, and to use the official names of countries according to this list. They were also reminded that the final report will use the UN base map for the development of all maps. Chapter teams should provide the Secretariat with any data that they are using to construct maps so that these maps can be constructed. The Secretariat will develop a cover page for all chapters undergoing the peer review, explaining that the maps currently used will be updated with the UN base map.

Authors and fellows should work together to collect the data behind all graphs and figures so that the digital version of the GEO-7 can be constructed. Additionally, chapter teams were encouraged to support their fellows to produce high quality reference lists by providing full and complete references for all citations.

The GEO authors and fellows will begin defining the terms and concepts that they have added to the glossary during the November/December timeframe. Chapters should let their Secretariat liaisons know if there are any terms in their chapter that they believe to be particularly politically sensitive. This is the first time that GEO is building its own glossary. It is using the IPCC glossary methodology to do this.

The meeting was closed by once again thanking everyone to be kind and respectful to each other and for paying attention to the information shared from the Secretariat. It can be very difficult to organise a meeting of this scale, especially with the change from a 5 day meeting to a 4 day meeting, but everyone helped make the week a success.

Part A: Overview and Context

Chapter 1: Introduction

At the beginning of the week, the Chapter 1 team faced several key challenges. The word count exceeded the word count limit, standing at 10,000 words instead of the required 5,000. The content also lacked sufficient clarity, requiring improved references, figures, and the incorporation of feedback from IK&LK and BSC perspectives. There were overlaps and gaps with the State and Trends Chapters (Chapters 3-8), and geographic distribution data was underdeveloped. Furthermore, the chapter's visuals needed refinement to align with

UNEP standards, and there was a pressing need for a clearer narrative for policymakers, emphasizing action-oriented solutions.

Despite the progress made, a few gaps remain to be addressed before the SOD submission. Consistency checks are still needed across the latest versions of other GEO-7 chapters to ensure homogeneity. The team is also reviewing the chapter's terminology and definitions to align with the Glossary. Further work is required on the chapter's visuals and graphics to fully meet UNEP's standards. Lastly, ongoing efforts are focused on maintaining the word count limit, requiring additional cuts while retaining essential information for a cohesive final chapter.

Chapter 2: Historical, current and projected drivers and pressures of environmental change

At the beginning of the week, the Chapter 2 team faced several challenges, including the need to strengthen the integration of IK&LK perspectives into the environmental narrative and to distinguish clearly between the environmental impacts of industrial societies and indigenous peoples. There was also a focus on finalizing the "Drivers, Pressures, and Planetary Crises" infographic, which was still under development. The chapter's alignment with cross-cutting issues (BSC, CCA, IK&LK) and the State and Trends Chapters (3-8) needed improvement to ensure coherence across the report. In addition, the team sought to enhance the quality and accuracy of data, especially regarding the state and trends of natural systems. To address these gaps, discussions were held with GEO-7 authors and editors from related chapters, ensuring a more integrated and synergistic approach to content and visuals.

Despite the progress made, a few challenges remain before the SOD submission. The team continues to improve the narrative flow that connects drivers, pressures, planetary crises, and the cross-cutting themes, ensuring these elements are seamlessly integrated into the chapter. The "Drivers, Pressures, and Planetary Crises" infographic still requires finalization. Additionally, consistency checks with the latest concepts, analyses, and references across other GEO-7 chapters are necessary to maintain coherence. Finally, further work is needed to ensure that the chapter adheres to the overall report structure, particularly in terms of incorporating key edits and maintaining the balance between detail and brevity.

PART B: State and Trends of the Environment

Chapter 3: Air – atmosphere

At the beginning of the week, the Chapter 3 team faced several challenges, including ensuring the inclusion of IK & LK, BSC, and CCA elements, as well as resolving content overlaps with Chapter 2 (Drivers and Pressures) and Chapter 4 (Land and Soils). Cross-referencing with other chapters was crucial to maintaining consistency, and there was a need to edit the draft to meet the word count limit. The team also aimed to advance work on citations, references, figures, and boxes, while continuing to develop Chapter 3 toward its SOD submission. During the Nairobi meeting, the team worked closely with other chapters to address content duplication, particularly in relation to wildfires, and focused on emphasizing unique contributions, such as the impacts of unmet emission goals and the effects of COVID-19 on air quality. Visuals and case studies were also prioritized, with collaboration across teams to ensure consistency.

As the SOD submission approaches, a few remaining gaps need to be addressed. The executive summary requires further editing to be more concise and impactful. Cross-referencing with other chapters on atmosphere-land-ocean interactions remains a priority to ensure a cohesive narrative throughout the report. The team must also highlight emerging issues related to pollutants, their sources, and interactions while identifying key policy-relevant messages for solution pathways. There is ongoing work to improve the chapter's overall coherence, narrative flow, and references, as well as finalizing or redrawing figures and boxes to meet the standards of the GEO-7 report.

Chapter 4: Land and Soils

At the beginning of the week, Chapter 4 faced challenges in integrating IK&LK comments and aligning with the refreshed guidance for State and Trends chapters. Overlaps with Chapter 3 (wildfires, dust storms, and biodiversity impacts) and Chapter 4's focus on land and soil were identified and addressed. The team worked to distinguish Chapter 4's emphasis on soil biodiversity and soil carbon sequestration in international agreements. Significant progress was made in refining the chapter's structure, reducing content overlap, and incorporating gender perspectives. Collaborations with Chapter 17 and feedback from the BSC Task Group helped improve the chapter's focus on soil health and food security.

Despite the progress made, several gaps remain before Chapter 4 can be finalized for SOD submission, including refining the coherence of the terrestrial biodiversity section and

ensuring IK&LK integration is complete. The team is also incorporating the most recent references and addressing all comments. The executive summary needs revision to reflect the updated content, and careful review is required to avoid redundancies and meet the word count limit. Final adjustments to figures and text will ensure the chapter is ready for submission.

Chapter 5: Oceans and Coasts

At the beginning of the week, Chapter 5 aimed to coordinate with Chapters 2, 4, and 6 to ensure complementarity in addressing drivers, pressures, land, soils, and freshwater topics. Another key goal was to integrate indigenous and local knowledge (IK&LK) more comprehensively and ensure diversity in examples throughout the chapter. During the week, the team made significant progress, including creating a cross-chapter box on ocean, atmosphere, and weather connections and refining the liaison matrix between State & Trends and policy chapters. They also decided to introduce four thematic boxes on industrialization, Neobiota, fisheries, and emerging treaties. Productive discussions with Chapter 3 on ocean-atmosphere dynamics and the Planetary Crises chapter on quantitative assessments further strengthened the content.

Several gaps remain to be addressed before Chapter 5 is finalized. The team is revising the pollution and biodiversity sections to align with updated guidelines, and efforts are ongoing to complete the BSC section. Additional work is required to update references and ensure graphs, maps, and infographics are accurate and visually cohesive. Completing the restructuring of the biodiversity sections is also a key task.

Chapter 6: Freshwater

At the beginning of the week, Chapter 6 faced several key challenges, including reorganizing the chapter to align with revisions in the State and Trends chapters and filling in gaps related to the water-energy nexus, Arctic impacts, and the economics of water. Cross-cutting issues like the overlap with Chapter 7 (food and water security) and the water-food nexus with the Land chapter also needed coordination. The team worked extensively on integrating model assumptions from the Solutions Pathways section and ensuring consistent messaging. In addition, they initiated efforts to source primary data for maps and graphs, with support from Fellows, and planned extensive cross-chapter discussions with Chapters 11, 12, and the Planetary Crises team to maintain a cohesive narrative across chapters.

As the SOD deadline approaches, the team still faces the challenge of reducing the chapter's word count, which has expanded to over 15,000 words due to reviewer requests for additional content. The chapter also requires further work to simplify graphics, making them more policy-relevant. Ongoing efforts include ensuring consistent messaging between the Freshwater, State and Trends chapters, and the policy, solutions, and outlooks chapters, including refining interlinkages between freshwater and food, energy, and economic systems. Finally, the team needs to incorporate responses from reviewers, the UNEP Chief Scientist, and Co-chairs into the final text, ensuring that all feedback is reflected before the chapter is finalized for the SOD submission.

Chapter 7: Implications of environmental change on the SDGs, and internationally agreed environmental goals

At the start of the week, the Chapter 7 team focused on strengthening the common themes section and tightening the storyline for each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). They worked on refining summary tables, checking references, and ensuring synergy between Chapter 7 and Chapter 11. Coordination was essential to address inquiries from IMAG and MESAG, while responses to BSC comments and Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (ILK) texts were reviewed for inclusion. The team also cross-checked the chapter's text on SDGs against Chapter 1 for consistency. Overall, Chapter 7 was summarized to a high degree, minimizing concerns about overlaps. Lead authors focused on streamlining content, reducing tables, and cutting down text for each SDG section by around 50%, ensuring that the chapter remained concise yet impactful.

As the chapter nears submission, several tasks remain. The team needs to address IMAG's request to exclude "internationally agreed environmental goals" from the title and finalize a working title. The word count remains a challenge, with plans in place to further reduce text through figures and infographics. Strengthening the section on common themes across the SDGs is a priority, along with developing an overall synthesis and assessment figure. Additionally, consistency checks are required to align the impacts of planetary crises on human systems with other chapters. Given the chapter's innovative approach to connecting planetary crises with SDGs, managing reviewer expectations and ensuring coherence across the report is key to finalizing the SOD.

Chapter 8: Interlinkages across environmental changes, scales and geographic regions and sub-regions

Chapter 8 concentrated on strengthening the five regional sub-sections and telecoupling section of the chapter by aligning sub-section structures and approaches and ensuring to incorporate elements including BSC, CCA and IK & LK. Chapter 8 also met with other chapters including chapters 2 and 20, as well as the planetary crises group.

The chapter needs to continue to address the planetary crises diagram development, and ensure close co-ordination with chapter 20. This will be done by working closely with the task groups and forces, conducting further literature reviews and then editing to ensure the word count is met and the narrative is smooth.

PART C: System Transformation and Outlooks

Chapter 9 (now Chapter 12): What are the elements and levers of transformative change?

At the beginning of the week, Chapter 9 focused on refining key messages to align with the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and turning key principles into actionable requirements for transformation. The team ensured the levers of transformation were understood as domains of intentional action, while the principles of system transformations were integrated into the methodology outlined in Chapter 13 and used as criteria for evaluating solutions in Chapters 14-19. Significant efforts were made to finalize the section on new policy design and directionality, as well as improving contributions from IK&LK and BSC. Cross-chapter discussions with Chapter 13 and others were essential for ensuring coherence, especially as Chapter 9 was renumbered to Chapter 12 to better align with Chapter 13, which will share a matrix that integrates principles and steps for system transformation.

Key gaps remain to be addressed, including translating the suggestions from the SPM into revisions for the chapter and executive summary. Section 6, which deals with new policy design and pathways, is still in the drafting stage. Figures are pending completion, and alignment with Chapter 21 and the regional chapters needs to be finalized. Additionally, further coordination is required for case-based interactions with the systems chapters. The chapter must undergo final cleaning and alignment with the overall document, ensuring that all review comments are addressed before submission.

Chapter 10: Approaches, methodology and philosophy

At the start of the week, the Chapter 10 team improved the links and storyline with Chapters 9 and 13 to create a more cohesive narrative. Strengthening the executive summary (ES) with relevant messages for the scientific community was a priority, along with finalizing narratives that incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK&LK) insights. Efforts were made to streamline messaging and model results with Chapters 14-20 to ensure consistency. A new section on challenges and limitations was developed, and the team also began drafting technical appendices. In addition, discussions were held on producing a scientific paper outlining the applied methodology, with plans to publish it before the GEO-7 launch.

Several tasks remain before Chapter 10 can be finalized. The text and executive summary require further cleaning to ensure clarity and coherence. The ES needs to be strengthened with messages tailored to the scientific community, and the team is moving forward with plans to publish the methodology paper ahead of GEO-7. Additionally, ongoing efforts are focused on refining model results and aligning them with solution pathways across other chapters. Lastly, integrating IK&LK into the narratives, remains a priority for creating a comprehensive and inclusive chapter.

Chapter 11: Staying on the path we are on – global implications

At the beginning of the week, Chapter 11 focused on strengthening the executive summary (ES) and streamlining the storyline with Chapter 12 on current trends. The team worked to refine graphs and address uncertainties across the chapter while ensuring synergy with Chapter 2 (Drivers) and Chapter 7 (SDG impacts). Environmental impacts, which had gaps in the FOD, were filled with new modelling results, and most figures were revised to ensure policy relevance. Significant progress was made in addressing overlaps with Chapters 2 and 7, and the integration of modelling results was advanced, ensuring alignment with the broader narrative and solution pathways in Chapters 19 and 20. A guidance document was developed to standardize the use of scenario results and ensure consistency across chapters.

Key tasks remain for finalizing Chapter 11. The executive summary needs to be finalized, and messages on the current trends scenario should be extended using existing literature. The storyline across the chapter must be updated to reflect the latest model runs, and a new section on tipping points should be added, linked to the current trends scenario. HWB must be expanded with literature projections, and synergies with Chapters 3-7 addressed.

Finally, the section on economic damage needs to be strengthened, ensuring that the chapter is comprehensive and ready for SOD submission.

Chapter 12: Transformation Pathways – global implications

At the start of the week, the Chapter 12 team focused on streamlining the storyline and messaging with Chapter 11 (current trends) and ensuring consistency between the outlooks, solution pathways, and relevant chapters. Bilateral meetings were planned to address these goals, with particular attention given to discussing uncertainty in model projections, both within available model runs and in the context of broader literature. The team worked on identifying risks and critical enabling conditions to minimize potential trade-offs while maximizing synergies in system transformations. Further efforts were made to improve the descriptions of challenges and limitations in the methodology, particularly regarding modelling blind spots. Additionally, Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK&LK) insights were integrated into the "Challenges and Opportunities" section.

The team needs to finalize the text and executive summary, further presenting and discussing results in the context of existing literature. A key task is producing a table at the end of Chapter 12 to act as a "handshake" with the Solution Pathways chapters, ensuring alignment. The team also plans to map solutions to Global Goals and present key quantitative and qualitative results per Global Goal and system. Continued efforts will focus on ensuring consistency with Chapters 10-12, which emphasize the importance of coordinated transformations to achieve Global Goals.

PART D: Solutions Pathways Towards Transformation

Chapter 13: Methodological approach to solutions-focused pathways

Chapter 13 focused on refining the 6 principles and 7 steps linkages in a matrix with chapter 9 (now chapter 12). They identified the need to work towards the robust integration of the 7 steps within the systems chapters and refine the key messages of the chapter. Additionally, the chapter noted the need to incorporate a wider range of knowledge from the IK & LK, BSC and CCA Task Force and Task Groups.

Next steps for the chapter include continuing to work with solution pathways chapters, and exploring any frameworks that have been potentially missed in the 7 steps (i.e., whole of government approach). The chapter also needs to respond to feedback from the IMAG and MESAG, and refine their text ahead of the SOD deadline.

Chapter 14: Solution pathways for transformation of economic systems

At the start of the week, the chapter identified the need to review and integrate the economic system modelling results as these needed aligning with the chapter 14 narrative. It was also noted that the chapter needed to clearly present the synergies between different systems and develop case studies for each pathway. Overlaps with other chapters were highlighted as requiring assessment and elaboration.

Chapter 14 agreed that next steps for the team would include further highlighting examples of solution pathways in practice, making them clearer in the text, and integrating IK & LK.

Chapter 15: Solution pathways for transformation towards circularity

Chapter 15 outlined their intentions to meet with the modelling and scenarios teams to discuss modelling results and align with data and projections from the Global Resources Outlook, as well as meeting with other chapters to strengthen cross-discussions. Specific elements of chapter 15 were identified as requiring development (e.g., decisions on terminology, sections in the circular economy section).

At the closing plenary, chapter 15 noted the next steps for the team would include incorporating modelling results, finalizing policy alignment with solutions pathways, incorporating discussion outcomes from the week into appropriate sections, finalizing terminology, expanding synergies and linkages with other chapters, and reducing the word count.

Chapter 16: Solution pathways for transformation of energy systems

Chapter 16 opted to focus on reducing overlaps with other chapters, especially the solutions pathways chapters. Continuing discussions with modelling chapters was also a priority, as was improving coordination on the levers and ensuring that equal attention was given to climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste as well as land degradation.

Further work is required to: incorporate cross-linkages to other solution pathway chapters based on cross-cutting topics identified (bioenergy, energy transition minerals, land use), respond to outstanding comments to be addressed from the FOD, ensure consistent terminology use, add text on bioenergy at different scales and fully update the chapter to inform the executive summary.

Chapter 17: Solution pathways for transformation of food systems

Chapter 17 sought to better integrate outlooks modelling results into the chapter, improve input from the IK & LK Task Force and BSC and CCA Task Groups, improve the discussion of implications between systems chapters, consider figures in more detail, decide on which case studies to include, and remove duplication across the solutions pathways and with other chapters.

Further action required includes: development of IK & LK content, implementing actions identified during the third authors meeting, refining the executive summary and contributing to the SPM. However, it was noted that the structure of the chapter is vastly improved.

Chapter 18: Solution pathways for transformation of environmental systems

Chapter 18 identified several important focus areas for the week: moving the five solution pathways into actions and levers, better considering the modelling outcomes and scenarios, including IK & LK as well as BSC and CCA content, refining and agreeing on cross-cutting themes, improving the narratives on nature-based solutions, developing the text on certain areas (conservation and restoration of ecosystem and biodiversity, bioenergy, reducing climate risks across systems).

The chapter team had a productive week addressing these topics, and agreed that their major outstanding actions were writing, refining text, and organizing text.

PART E: Implications for Regions and Groups of Countries and Driving the Transformations

Chapter 19: Implications for different economic development context

Chapter 19 noted several priorities for the week, including the need to focus more on solutions and opportunities, improving coherence with other chapters particularly with respect to describing the modelling results, communicating insights succinctly, finalizing figures and case studies, and summarizing insights for each country group.

Further actions required ahead of the SOD deadline include: working on a compelling narrative for policy makers beyond environmental policy and attractive to central agencies of finance, treasury and planning; using modelling results to illustrate the narrative and to fill gaps by providing insights into long-term impacts, trade-offs, and optimized pathways for achieving sustainability goals across different economic contexts creating strong linkages across the whole GEO including transition theory, solution pathways, modelling

chapters and retrofit chapter 19 accordingly; and collaborating, keep up the good spirits and achieve a good outcome.

Chapter 20: Regional similarities and differences

At the beginning of the week, the Chapter 20 team needed to step up efforts to complete the SOD, focusing on refining the executive summary to highlight regional differences and explore trade-offs and synergies between regions. Facilitated discussions among the Regional CLAs were essential for responding to GEO-7 policy questions. The team aimed to verify word count compliance, formulate transformative strategies that go beyond business-as-usual (BAU), and develop figures, infographics, maps, and case studies. There was an emphasis on ensuring consistency across regions, particularly in articulating similarities and differences. Efforts to integrate Indigenous and Local Knowledge (IK&LK), Behavioural, Social, and Cultural (BSC), and Climate Change Adaptation perspectives were also critical to ensuring coherence and quality across the chapter.

The team still has approximately 20% of the writing to complete, with figures, maps, and infographics requiring further discussion and elaboration. An overarching review of all five regions is needed to ensure consistency, particularly in integrating modelling results with expert opinions and literature. There are also alignment tasks with Chapters 8 and 19 to ensure a cohesive narrative. Finally, the chapter must address word count, referencing, and cross-referencing issues, ensuring that all regions' key messages are consistently presented and differences effectively highlighted.

Chapter 21: Driving the transformations

Chapter 21 was clear on their intentions for the week. They agreed to: refine the three steps that outline what is needed for transformation, reflect on the fact that transformation is not a linear process and there are likely to be a disruptions and feedback loops in the three steps, better capture inputs from cross-cutting groups and chapters (especially IK & LK), and strengthen connections between the three steps and the need for accelerating transformation.

By the end of the week, the chapter had made significant progress and identified outstanding gaps. They noted that there are currently different perspectives on transformation, and there should be consistency; operationalization of transformation needs to be addressed at regional and country level; conceptualization and operationalization of acceleration (of transformation) needs to be addressed; drawbacks of focusing only on the speed of change need to be detailed; conceptual and analytical

framework for framing complexity and interlinkages between crises, systems and their pathways, agents of change (e.g. systems thinking) need to be included; inputs from IK & LK, BSC and CCA need to be included; and the chapter storyline needs to be strengthened.

Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) Task Force

The IK & LK Task Force highlighted several challenges needs to overcome at the start of the week: bridging the different knowledge systems and epistemologies; acknowledging that IK & LK content was not fully considered at the scoping stage but that it should be included in chapters; ensuring IK & LK key messages are present in the executive summaries; and improving coherence and consistency in style and terminology. The Task group planned to: prepare five chapeaux texts; continue working with the authors; and agree on terminology and style in order to provide guidance to the authors.

The IK & LK Task Force identified the following outstanding gaps at the end of the week: the need to finalise inclusion of IK & LK content into chapter text and executive summaries; finalising the chapeaux text and figures; providing further guidance for authors regarding terminology and style.

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Task Group

The CCA Task Group outlined three main actions at the start of the week: continuing communicating with all chapters (several meetings were already planned, and the First Order Draft had been reviewed prior to the in-person meeting); linking drivers & pressures, global and regional vulnerability narratives to adaptation solutions (solution chapters), global and regional scenario outputs, and the SPM key messages; and ensuring integration with other task groups and task forces for relevant chapters and content (e.g. contribution to the global & regional 'Chapeau' of the planetary crisis team).

The CCA Task Group made significant progress during the week, and identified the remaining outstanding gaps in the closing plenary: ensuring a clear representation of CCA messages in the report; the need to follow-up with chapter authors to verify that the agreed-upon CCA key messages are integrated as outlined in previous task force meetings; further developing graphs and tables on CCA; ensuring that data visualization is aligned with the key messages, providing clear and actionable insights; and taking the IMAG and MESAG comments into account.

Behavioural, Social and Cultural (BSC) Task Group

The BSC Task Group early in the week and agreed that it was a priority to meet with other Task Groups/Forces, as well as chapters.

At the end of the meeting, the BSC Task Group identified the following gaps: ensuring that there is strong scientific credibility behind BSC-related messages in the SPM, the need to ensure that planetary crises discussions include relevant BSC references, continuing to work closely with chapters especially chapter 21, and identifying further support needs.

Fellows

At the beginning of the week, the fellows met to discuss several key tasks in preparation for the SOD delivery. One of the main responsibilities was gathering the underlying data for the graphics to be reproduced, ensuring that copyright issues are avoided by identifying contacts who might have access to non-public data. The fellows were encouraged to explore the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) for available data. Additionally, they were tasked with managing references, with reminders sent to authors to provide clear guidance on cited publications. The Secretariat reassured the fellows that sufficient time would be given for working on references and formatting, with a week allocated after the chapter deadline of October 18.

The remaining tasks for the fellows include finalizing the collection of data for the graphics, liaising with the GEO Secretariat where necessary, and ensuring that all references are properly formatted and complete. As the deadline for author submissions approaches, fellows will need to coordinate closely with authors to address any outstanding issues related to data, references, and formatting before the final draft is delivered to the Secretariat by October 25. Ensuring timely and organized collaboration with authors will be key to successfully meeting the SOD submission deadline.

Lead Review Editors

During the Third Authors' Meeting, the Lead Review Editors engaged extensively with co-chairs, cross-chapter authors, task groups (BSC, IK&LK, CCA), and members of IMAG and MESAG to present their findings from the First Order Draft (FOD) review. A primary focus was ensuring the comprehensive completion of the FOD review process, with a deadline for authors to finalize responses on the READ platform by October 18, 2024. New features, such as the 'Finalize' function for marking responses as complete, were introduced to streamline the process. Emphasis was placed on the critical importance of fully incorporating reviewer feedback into the updated draft. Recommendations also included enhancements to the READ platform, such as augmenting the reviewer database and introducing bulk finalization options for efficiency. The importance of communicating these

new functionalities to authors was underscored, with the aim of improving overall quality and ensuring scientific credibility.

Key tasks remain for the Lead Review Editors as they guide the SOD submission process. Authors must ensure the timely completion of all comment responses on the READ platform by the set deadline. The proposed training program on the READ platform, aimed at ensuring proficiency among all reviewers and authors, needs to be implemented. Additionally, continuous support, such as user guides and tutorials, should be provided to accommodate diverse learning needs. Further improvements in communication among authors, review editors, and task groups through scheduled virtual meetings and collaborative workspaces are essential to ensuring smooth collaboration and addressing any remaining gaps. These steps will ensure that all feedback is integrated effectively and that the SOD process proceeds seamlessly.

Annex 1 - Participants List

	In-person participants				
No.	**Role**	**Title**	**Family Name**	**First Name**	**Affiliation**
1	FEL	Mr.	Abo-Taleb	Aseel Ibrahim Mohammed	Global Youth and Sustainability Organization (GYSO)
2	LA	Dr.	Acquaye	Adolf	Khalifa University of Science and Technology
3	LA	Dr.	Akamani	Kofi	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
4	LA	Dr.	Akinsemolu	Adenike	Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Afe Babalola University
5	LA	Dr.	Al Khourdajie	Alaa	Imperial College London
6	CLA	Dr.	Alexander	Peter	School of Geosciences, The University of Edinburgh
7	LA	Dr.	Aliyu	Aliyu	University of Lincoln
8	LA	Ms.	Alkharusi	Maryam	None (freelancer)
9	LA	Dr.	Amiraslani	Farshad	Ulster University
10	LA	Dr.	Arquitt	Steve	Millennium Institute
11	CLA	Ms.	Arya	Apoorva	Circular Innovation Lab
12	CLA	Dr.	Asrar	Ghassem	Universities Space Research Association-Retired
13	LA	Dr.	Awad Ahmed	Quosay	University of Khartoum
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