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30 September 2025

**GEO-7 Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) Meeting Summary,
September 23, 2025**

The Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) met for its nineteenth virtual call to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review and feedback on the GEO-7 SPM Review Process
2. GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting
3. GEO-7 Communication activities
4. Final review and feedback on the final validation opinion report of the IMAG
5. Any other business

On these items the IMAG decided that:

- The SPM review process was robust, transparent, and satisfactory.
- The recommendations on the SPM review process will be taken forward in the joint IMAG–MESAG recommendations that will be discussed in November.
- The Secretariat provide greater Member State engagement during the October SPM review and approval meeting,
- The Secretariat make use of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum at UNEA-7 and prepare more region-specific messaging.
- The Secretariat provide a generic GEO-7 presentation to IMAG members for use in their outreach activities.
- To issue a positive IMAG validation opinion, annex the internal working document for transparency, and finalize the signature process by 30 September 2025.

Rapporteur	Signature
Ana Julieta Calvo Obando	

Summary of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG).

Review and feedback on the GEO-7 SPM Review Process

The GEO-7 Lead Review Editor presented the GEO-7 SPM Review Editors' report and noted that a total of 1715 comments from 312 reviewers were received on the SPM. In the analysis presented, it was noted that Part 3 of the SPM showed high acceptance, while Part 2 of the SPM had a 51% rejection rate due to the restructuring of the SPM that happened after the review. Overall, it was noted that the contentious issues that arose in the SPM review were well managed, and the integrity of the process was preserved. Recommendations offered in the report included improving the review

platform functionality, refining rejection categorization, providing clearer guidance to reviewers, and addressing technical issues.

IMAG members agreed that the SPM review process was robust, transparent, and satisfactory. It was also agreed that the recommendations on the SPM review process should be taken forward in the joint IMAG–MESAG recommendations report, and not in the IMAG validation opinion.

GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting

The Secretariat outlined the modalities of the hybrid meeting of the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval meeting scheduled for 27–31 October in Nairobi. It was highlighted that the meeting will focus solely on approval of the SPM, with the main report being accepted without line-by-line review. Sessions will run three times daily, a morning, afternoon and evening session. The indicative structure for the meeting would be covering Part 1 of the SPM on Day 1, Part 2 of the SPM on Days 2 and 3, Part 3 of the SPM on Day 3, and final approval of outstanding issues identified on Days 4 and 5. IMAG members were reminded that one funded delegate per developing country will be supported, with nominations due by 25 September.

IMAG Co-Chairs and other IMAG members were noted to be participating in the physical meeting alongside Coordinating Lead Authors and assessment co-chairs.

GEO-7 Communication activities

The Secretariat presented the GEO-7 communications and outreach strategy and noted key achievements to date such as four web stories, two YouTube videos, op-eds, social media content, and Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge dialogues. Planned activities that were highlighted included the development of pre-launch content, videos, an interactive visualization of the SPM, and greater media engagement, especially around UNEA-7 where GEO-7 would be launched.

The UNEA-7 launch package will include a press event launch on 9 December, an official side event, an exhibition, and regional launches with regional offices and collaborating centres. The Secretariat is also working on ensuring the participation of GEO-7 experts at different events during UNEA-7, including the Youth Environment Assembly and a dialogue on Indigenous Peoples role in advancing solutions for a resilient planet.

IMAG members welcomed the presentation and suggested greater Member State engagement during the October SPM review and approval meeting, use of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum at UNEA-7, and more region-specific messaging. The Secretariat confirmed it would provide a generic presentation for members to highlight GEO-7 in their areas of influence and a more tailored content and regionalized messaging post-launch.

Final review and feedback on the final validation opinion report of the IMAG

The Secretariat presented the updated internal working document and the final draft validation opinion letter. Key updates included the integration of input from the Review Editors and updates on outreach activities.

IMAG agreed to issue a positive validation opinion, annex the internal working document for transparency, and finalize the signature process by 30 September 2025.

Any Other Business

IMAG final meeting closing:

IMAG members expressed their appreciation to the Co-Chairs, Secretariat, and all IMAG members for their commitment since the beginning of the GEO-7 process. They emphasized the importance of IMAG's role in providing policy guidance and ensuring the credibility and legitimacy of GEO-7. The IMAG concluded by thanking the members and the Secretariat for the great work and the achievements by the IMAG and the upcoming milestones in the final stretch of GEO-7. IMAG members also thanked the IMAG co-chairs for their exceptional chairing of the IMAG and expressed continued support for the GEO process.

IMAG/MESAG joint meeting in November:

It was noted that there will be a final joint meeting of the IMAG/MESAG in November and the Secretariat would share a doodle for it. The meeting will focus on recommendations for the overall GEO process.

List of Participants

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Dr. Leila Bendifallah	Professor, M'hamed Bougara University, Algeria	Algeria	African Group
Dr. Lisa Eriksson (Alternate)	Senior Advisor, Transport Analysis, and the Department for Outlook and Policy	Sweden	Western European Group
Dr. Marek Haliniak	General Counsellor in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Strategy and Analysis, Poland	Poland	Eastern European Group
Mr. Takashi Otsuka	Director of Knowledge and Communications, Strategic Management Office, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Hayama, Japan	Japan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mr. Arthur EIJS	Policy coordinator Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Land Use - Ministry of Infrastructure & water management, department of International Affairs	Netherlands	Western European Group
Ms. Anna Mampye	Director: State of Environment Information in the Branch, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	South Africa	African Group
Mrs. Dušica Pešević	Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Eastern European Group
Mr. Kenset Amaury Rosales Riveiro	Coordinator, Information Unit, Environment and Climate Change; Ministry of Environment and Resources Natural Resources (MARN)	Guatemala	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Gillian Stanislaus	Environmental Programme Officer, Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	Trinidad & Tobago	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr. Thuraya AL Sariri	Assistance Director General of Nature Conservation at MECA-Oman	Oman	Asia and the Pacific Group
Eng. Julieta Calvo	National Center for Geoenvironmental Information, Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Christina Komorski	Director, Information & Indicators Division, Sustainability Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	Western European Group
Ms. Yi Huang	Professor, School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China	China	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ms. Claudia Kabel	German Environment Agency (UBA), academic staff member, International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer	Germany	Western European Group
Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Major Group
Ms. Merylene Chitharai	Lan Manager at UKZN Howard College	South Africa	Faith-based groups
Ms. Ruth Viola Spencer	Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	Antigua and Barbuda	Women
Dr. Fabian Wagner	Dean, Capacity Development and Academic Training, IIASA, Austria	Germany	Science and Technology
Ms. Ingrid Coetzee	Director, Nature & Health; ICLEI Africa	South Africa	Local authorities
Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka	President and founder of welfare Togo; co-facilitator of UNEP NGO major group	Togo	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Prem Singh Tharu	Regional Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) under Environment Programme	Thailand	Indigenous Peoples

Apologies

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand	Director of the Southern Research Station at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	United States	Western European Group
Ms. Neyra Herrera	Chief of Environmental Statistics; ministry of environment-Panama	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Miroslav Havránek	Director of the Czech Environmental Information Agency	Czechia	Eastern European Group
Ms. Margarita Guerra (Alternate)	Ministry of environment- Panama	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr. Modibo Sacko	Vice President of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CONACILSS), Mali	Mali	African Group

Dr. Keri Holland (Alternate)	Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Environmental Quality in the Bureau of Oceans, International and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State	United States	Western European Group
Mr. Silvio Albuquerque e Silva	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP; Embassy of Brazil in Kenya	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Alexandra Gurgel Valente da Costa (Alternate)	Environment Analyst, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr. Jerome Lugumira Sebadduka	Natural Resources Management Specialist (Soils and Land Use), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Uganda	Uganda	African Group
Mrs. Maha Maayta	Director of the Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Jordan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mr. Toghrul Feyziyev	Advisor, International cooperation division of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Eastern European Group
Mr. Thomas Chali	Senior Policy Advisor on Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Management in Tanzania	Tanzania	African Group
Ms. Meri Harutyunyan	Chief specialist of Strategic Policy Department, Ministry of Environment, Armenia	Armenia	Eastern European Group
Mr. Carlos Cordero Vega (Alternate)	Director of the Planning Secretariat of the Environment and Energy Sector, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr. Salla Rantala	Development Manager, Environmental Policy Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	Finland	Western European Group
Mrs. Rolenas Baereleo	Principal Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation; Department of Environmental protection and Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Asia and the Pacific Group
Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Major Group
Mr. Jan-Gustav Strandenaes	Advisory board member of sustainability/environment governance project at the University of Stockholm	Norway	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Dominic Kailash Nath Waughray	Senior Advisor to the CEO World Business Council for Sustainable Development	India	Business and industry
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf	Sustainability Research Program Director at Gulf Research Center (GRC)	Egypt	Science and Technology
Ms. Zahra Abu Taha	Recycling officer at ZATARI refugees camp, Oxfam	Jordan	Children and youth