Our Ref: UNEA/GEO/CoordGroup/6 24 September 2025

Outcomes Document

The Coordination Group Meeting for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)
September 24, 2025

On September 24, 2025, the GEO-7 Coordination Group met to consider the following agenda items:

1. Review and discussion of the agenda and modalities of the GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting.
2. Review and provide advice on progress on the potential sensitive issues ahead of the GEO-7 SPM negotiation and approval meeting.
3. Any other business

On these agenda items, the meeting decided that:

- That an Excel-based reference system will be developed, whereby authors could link sensitive issues to supporting references for the SPM review and approval meeting.
- That a preparatory meeting with the authors attending the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting in Nairobi will be scheduled to review and discuss any government comments received on the SPM.
- To follow the GEO-7 procedures to pre-empt any discussions by Member States that could delay the review and approval process
- The potential sensitive issues document will be not be shared outside of the group
- The IMAG secretariat will confirm that there is no mention of the potential sensitive issues document in IMAG's validation opinion
- The coordination group will provide comments on the soon to be circulated script that will contain meeting modalities.
- That the Secretariat will circulate a doodle poll to determine availability for the next Coordination Group call.

Rapporteur	**Signature**
Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Acting Head Global Assessment Unit	

Meeting Summary August 28, 2025
The meeting was chaired by the Secretariat.

Review and discussion of the agenda and modalities of the GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting.

The Secretariat presented the Agenda of the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting scheduled for 27-31 October in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat legal focal point highlighted key points from the GEO-7 procedures document such as the line-by-line approval of the SPM. while simultaneously responding to the questions from the coordination group. The group noted that line by line approval could be problematic as lines themselves may not make sense by themselves. It was agreed that it is indeed important to follow the GEO-7 procedures as adopted by Member states to pre-empt any issues and thus the comments would be collected on each paragraph while respecting the line by line (understood as full sentences) approval.

The discussion then focused on the logistical aspects of the GEO-7 SPM meeting, including the procedures for submitting comments, proposing amendments, recording approvals pertaining to the SPM, as well as ensuring appropriate access to all relevant supporting documentation for the meeting.

Review and provide advice on progress on the potential sensitive issues ahead of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting.

The Secretariat shared the updated version of the document on the potential sensitive issues with the Coordination Group who noted that the document is straightforward and well presented.

The IMAG co-chair recalled that the IMAG had decided to attach its internal working document, which served as the basis for preparing the validation opinion. In this regard, the IMAG co-chair cautioned that, should a Member State seek further clarification, it might discover the existence of the potential sensitive document. The IMAG co-chair advised exercising particular care with the wording and recommended limiting references strictly to matters of content and process. Specifically, the suggestion to remove issues that had been labelled as political, as well as deleting comments related to gender discussions. However, the IMAG co-chair reiterated that there had been no suggestion to release the document prior to the SPM review and approval meeting. Consequently, the co-chair proposed removing the reference to the sensitive issues document from the internal working materials. The Secretariat clarified that while the internal working document itself contains no such explicit references, the IMAG meeting documents do mention the matter. However, since these documents have never been made available to Member States, non-active call summary links could be used to ensure the references cannot be traced back.

The MESAG co-chairs questioned whether the Secretariat would be obliged to provide the document on sensitive issues if explicitly requested by governments. The Secretariat clarified that as per the procedural documents, the document on sensitive issues does not need to be shared.

The assessment co-chairs further noted that, in relation to sensitive issues, the Coordination Group would be informed by email of those issues raised in GEO-6. The MESAG co-chairs recalled that during the last GEO cycle, South Africa proposed including hyperlinks in the electronic version of the SPM to connect key messages directly to the detailed GEO-6 report. As GEO-7 is intended to be more digitally oriented, it was

suggested that this approach should be adopted to the current GEO cycle as well. The Secretariat welcomed this proposal and undertook to discuss it internally with the team.

The Secretariat further proposed convening a preparatory session with authors who will attend the SPM review and approval meeting in Nairobi. During this session, the Secretariat would clarify expectations and introduce an Excel-based reference system, whereby authors could link sensitive issues to supporting references. This approach would reduce the time required during the SPM review and approval meeting to locate evidence and justification.

The Secretariat also reported that governments may submit written comments on the SPM until 12th October. The assessment co-chairs proposed holding a meeting with the authors attending Nairobi shortly after the deadline to review and discuss any government comments received on the SPM. The Secretariat agreed to this proposal and committed to scheduling the call accordingly.

Any Other Business

Logistics of the GEO-7 SPM review and approval meeting: The Secretariat noted that 55 member states have registered to attend the SPM review and approval meeting. the importance of increasing the efficiency of GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting's logistics, as well including preparation documents, technical parameters, preparing for potential difficulties and the need for support tools was highlighted. The need for clear rules from the start of the GEO-7 SPM Drafting Meeting was indicated as a priority for everyone included.

Next call of the GEO-7 Coordination Group: During the upcoming Coordination Group call, the Secretariat proposed that members provide comments on the draft script, which will be shared with them in advance. The Secretariat suggested holding the next call on the week of 20th October as the latest possible date and confirmed that a doodle poll will be circulated to determine availability.

Annex 1: Participants List

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Region(s) of Representation
Lorenzo	Ciccarese	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings, MESAG member	Western European Group
Maria del Mar	Viana Rodriguez	MESAG co-chair	Western European Group
Anna	Mampye	IMAG co-chair, co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	African Group
Gian Carlo	Delgado	MESAG Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Edgar	Gutierrez-Espeleta	Assessment co-chair	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Bob	Watson	Assessment co-chair	Western European Group
Arthur	Eijs	IMAG co-chair	Western European Group
Miroslav	Havranek	IMAG vice-chair, vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Eastern European Group
Alberto	Capra	Vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Nicholas	King	MESAG Co-chair	African Group
Ana	Julieta Calvo	IMAG Rapporteur	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Ervin	Balázs	MESAG Vice-chair	Eastern European Group
Thuraya	Al Sariri	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings, IMAG member	Asia and the Pacific
Maarten	Kappelle	Chief, UNEP Scientific Assessments Branch	
Ignacio	Sanchez Diaz	UNEP, Head of GEO Unit	
Caroline	Kaimuru	UNEP, IMAG Secretariat Support	
Atina	Aliyeva	UNEP, GEO team	
Adele	Roccato	UNEP, GEO team	
Yunting	Duan	UNEP, GEO team	
Martha	Stokes	UNEP, GEO team	
Grace	Odhiambo	UNEP, GEO team	
Ruoxi	Li	UNEP, GEO team	
Paula	Kawka	UNEP, GEO team	
Gerhard	Kreutzer	UNEP, Legal Office	
Juan Carlos	Vasquez	UNEP, Governance Affairs Office	

Apologies

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Region(s) of Representation
Nyovani	Madise	Assessment co-chair	African Group
Rosemarie	Casimiro	MESAG vice-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ying	Wang	Assessment co-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Rolenas	Baereleo	IMAG vice-chair	Asia Pacific Group