

OurRef: UNEA/GEO/CoordGroup/2

May 18, 2023

Outcomes Document**The Coordination Group Meeting for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)****May 18, 2023**

On May 18, 2023, the GEO-7 Coordination Group met to consider the following agenda items:

1. Update on GEO-7 progress (gap filling process, resource mobilization efforts, progress on drafting, IK/LK task force)
2. Preparations for the June Authors workshop (cross-chapter coordination, writing sprint towards Sept. 15 deadline)
3. Update on the September modelling and solutions pathways workshop
4. Encouraging more active contributions from IMAG and MESAG members in upcoming work
5. AOB

On these agenda items, the meeting decided:

- The Secretariat should provide an overview of cross chapter collaboration across the GEO-7 process.
- The Secretariat will continue to rely on the MESAG and IMAG in the development of the ILK approach in GEO-7.
- To discuss the possible need or request for more active contributions from IMAG and MESAG members at a later Coordination Group meeting.
- The MESAG will issue guidance on Artificial Intelligence for GEO-7 experts.

Rapporteur	Signature
Pierre Boileau	<i>Pierre Boileau</i>

Meeting Summary May 18, 2023**Update on progress (gap filling completed, resource mobilization efforts, progress on drafting, IK/LK task force)**

The Secretariat updated the group that after the gap-filling process, there are 206 GEO-7 authors with 41 fellows in total. This presents some challenges with the budget as there is still a funding gap.

On resource mobilization, the Secretariat announced the recent contribution from the Chinese government for 500,000 USD to the GEO-7 process. The Secretariat also mentioned the approval of funding from the European Union, for slightly over 500,000 USD. Given the additional, higher number of authors in the process, the Secretariat tentatively estimated that the funding gap will remain around 3.5 to 4 million USD.

The IMAG co-chair asked about the amount in the budget dedicated to supporting services and mentioned a potential 100,000 USD specifically to work on supporting services as an add-on. The IMAG co-chair indicated an update would be available in a few weeks and that an understanding of the budget and the allocation for supporting services will be important to confirm the funding availability.

The GEO-7 chapters were mentioned to be progressing well after guidance from the assessment co-chairs on initial chapter outlines and author teams are currently drafting. Most chapter teams were said to meet biweekly to discuss content and updates and the Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) have a deadline of 15 September to have a zero-order draft prepared in advance of the internal review.

On Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge, the Secretariat explained that this is a new pursuit for GEO-7 compared to

previous GEOs, so the Secretariat will be relying on expert advice and guidance from IPBES as well as other experts in the field. The Secretariat will continue to also rely on the expertise and guidance of IMAG and MESAG to support advancing the IK/LK approach.

On Collaborating Centres, both the IMAG and MESAG in recent calls approved the approach presented by the Secretariat. The MESAG co-chair flagged a comment from the MESAG monthly meeting about ensuring there was a clause on underperformance to avoid difficult situations where collaborating centres do not deliver on agreed activities. The Secretariat agreed and explained that a draft letter will be provided to fulfill this need, and this will be included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU does not commit UNEP to any financial support for the collaborating centres but will establish the nature and subject matter of the collaboration.

Preparations for June workshop (cross-chapter coordination, writing sprint towards Sept. 15 deadline).

The Secretariat provided an overview of how the various authors would attend the June 26-29 workshop with all authors expected to attend the first day while the rest of the days would require participation of authors from certain sections of the report. The draft agenda is under preparation and the Secretariat together with the assessment co-chairs will work on strategies to engage all authors across time zones on relevant topics.

Update on September meeting

The Secretariat provided a briefing on the preparations for the workshop at Tongji University in Shanghai from 4 to 7 September 2023. This had been made possible by the contributions from the Chinese government. The workshop is intended to allow authors in the solutions pathways and outlooks chapters to collaborate and advance their chapters to finish their zero-order drafts. The agenda for the workshop is yet to be confirmed.

An IMAG vice-chair asked about the expectations of hosting any future workshops to which the Secretariat explained that local costs are typically catered for by the host including meals, meeting rooms and accommodation. The MESAG co-chair mentioned some tentative support with hosting meetings shared during the in-person MESAG meetings in Bangkok and indicated a possibility of the Spanish ministry hosting a meeting or workshop.

The MESAG co-chair asked for an understanding of cross-chapter collaboration to track any challenges the authors may be facing early in the process.

Encouraging more active contributions from IMAG and MESAG members in upcoming work

The Secretariat introduced some concerns from an assessment co-chair on the engagement of IMAG and MESAG in the GEO-7 process so far. The IMAG and MESAG co-chairs raised some specific questions about the concern. It was agreed that this agenda item is moved to the next Coordination Group meeting so that the assessment co-chair that initially raised those concerns can explain his thoughts directly to the group.

Any other business

The MESAG co-chair raised a question about any guidance on ChatGPT and the possible use of this technology by authors because referencing by the program is insufficient at this stage. The Secretariat explained that UNEP is forming an internal task force on AI and that any guidance developed by that group will be used to inform policies developed for GEO-7. The guidance for use of these technologies in GEO-7 will be reviewed and approved by the MESAG.

Annex 1: Participants List

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Geographic Region(s)
Lorenzo	Ciccarese	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings, MESAG member	Western European Group
Rosemarie	Casimiro	MESAG vice-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Maria del Mar	Viana Rodriguez	MESAG co-chair	Western European Group
Gian Carlo	Delgado	MESAG Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Edgar	Gutierrez-Espeleta	Assessment co-chair	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Arthur	Ejlis	IMAG co-chair	Western European Group
Miroslav	Havranek	IMAG vice-chair, vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Eastern European Group
Anna	Mampye	IMAG co-chair, rapporteur of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	African Group
Rafael	Monge	IMAG Rapporteur	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Nicholas	King	MESAG Co-chair	African Group
Ervin	Balázs	MESAG Vice-chair	Eastern European Group
Caroline	Kaimuru	UNEP, IMAG Secretariat Support	
Pierre	Boileau	UNEP, Head of GEO Unit	
Adele	Roccato	UNEP, GEO team	
Edoardo	Zandri	Chief, UNEP Scientific Assessments Branch	
Matt	Billot	UNEP, MESAG Secretariat Support	
Rachel	Kosse	UNEP, MESAG Secretariat Support	

Apologies

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Geographic Region(s)
Nyovani	Madise	Assessment co-chair	African Group
Ying	Wang	Assessment co-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Rolenas	Baereleo	IMAG vice-chair	Asia Pacific Group
Alberto	Capra	Vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Thuraya	Al Sariri	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Asia Pacific Group