

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 17 April 2025
09:00 – 12:00 and 13.00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 4: Update on the status of the production of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).

This background document has been developed by the GEO Secretariat to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives on overall progress made in the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/3: Future of the Global Environment Outlook. More specifically, it includes detailed information on the following aspects of the GEO-7 process:

- Results of the Intergovernmental and expert peer review of the Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers (1 November 2024 – 22 January 2025)
- Progress on the production of the GEO-7 report and its Summary for Policymakers
- Progress on the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7
- Progress on the implementation of GEO Supporting Services

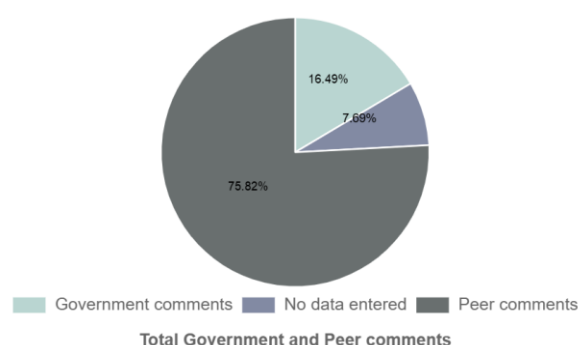
Following the presentation, the Committee is invited to take note of the briefing and engage in an exchange of views with Committee members and the Secretariat.

1. Results of the Intergovernmental and expert peer review of the Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers (1 November 2024 – 22 January 2025)

The GEO Secretariat followed the recommendations from the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) that significant efforts had to be made to recruit more peer reviewers to the process and that a focus on the balance of expertise be the priority in selecting reviewers, while also striving to achieve gender and geographic balance.

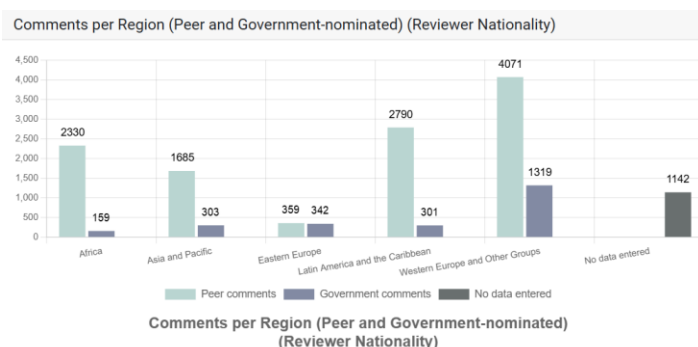
The Second Order Draft (SOD) of the main report and the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) review ran from 1 November 2024 – 22 January 2025. The Secretariat extended the review deadline for an additional week to ensure Member States and members of specialized agencies could share their peer review comments with the GEO Secretariat, ensuring their participation in the GEO-7 review process. The review garnered 14,830 comments of which 2,845 were on the SPM. 2,131 peer reviewers were registered in the peer review platform, the Global Environment Outlook Review Editing Analytical Database (GEO-READ) of which 781 submitted review comments. 100 government reviewers from 33 Member States also provided comments.

The distribution of comments is indicated below:



The below graphic shows the comments received per region:

SOD Comments Per Region



Authors addressed the review comments from 23 January to 22 March 2025 to ensure that the Review Editors assess the responses between 23 March and 22 April of 2025.

2. Progress on the production of the GEO-7 report and its Summary for Policymakers

Following the completion of the review of the SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM, the GEO Secretariat has begun the production of the GEO-7 report and its accompanying SPM. Graphics production and science editing of the main report has begun and is envisioned to run till end of July 2025.

To advance the drafting of the SPM, the assessment co-chairs and a core group of authors will have an in person meeting from 2-6 June 2025, in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The meeting will be focused on advancing the drafting of the SPM which will be ongoing until 15th August 2025 when the SOD of the SPM will be shared to Member States for review. The meeting, co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, will happen in parallel to the MESAG meeting that will be providing the validation opinion on the scientific integrity of GEO-7.

The table below shows upcoming key milestones for the production of the report until its launch during UNEA-7 in December 2025.

Dates:	Activity:
1 Nov 2024 – 15 Jan 2025	GEO-7 SOD Review of the Main Report and the FOD of the Summary for Policymakers
23 Jan – 22 March 2025	Authors address comments from intergovernmental and expert peer review
23 March – 22 April 2025	Review Editors assess the quality of response to peer review comments
April 2025	Production of GEO-7 begins (graphic design, science and copy editing)
23 April – 1 July 2025	Authors finalize their chapters after addressing the review editor suggestions and science editor edits
15 August – 12 October 2025	Online Intergovernmental review of the SOD of the SPM (only for Member States nominated experts)
3 –7 November 2025	SPM review and approval meeting by Member States
8 – 12 December 2025	Launch of GEO-7 and its accompanying SPM at UNEA-7

The review of the SOD of the SPM by Member States will run for 10 weeks starting 15 August 2025. Member States may submit written comments to the SOD of the SPM by 12 October 2025. This will then be followed by the SPM review and approval meeting planned for 3-7 November 2025 after which the SPM will be finalized and laid out in preparation for the launch at UNEA-7.

3. Progress on the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7.

The [GEO-7 scoping document](#) outlined the need for inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) into the GEO-7 report. The GEO-7 process will have 4 Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge dialogues as indicated in the last CPR briefing of December 2024. The aim of the dialogues is to promote learnings about different ways of conceptualizing the environment, the Humans-Nature relations, environmental changes and their impacts on indigenous and local communities, possible actions to be taken in response to changes/impacts and desirable futures and possible pathways.

These dialogues are being facilitated by selected members of the 18 experts of the IK & LK Task Force and by a facilitation team who has experience with designing and moderating dialogues with Indigenous Peoples and with the support of the GEO Secretariat.

The third dialogue was held from 12-16 January 2025 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It focused on the review of the SOD of GEO-7, IK&LK Chapeaux and FOD of the SPM. The dialogue had 20 participants and resulted in 1,316 comments, which were collected and uploaded to the READ platform where the reviews of the GEO-7 report is taking place.

2 virtual meetings were organized prior to the dialogue to present the objectives of the dialogue and provided an opportunity for the participants to get to know each other. On the first day of the meeting, a field trip was organized to an Indigenous community to set the tone for the dialogue sessions. In addition, support groups for regular communication were set up and more caucus time provided.

The dialogue also presented some key messages that Indigenous People would wish to see reflected in the GEO-7 report and those were shared to the GEO-7-chapter teams for their consideration.

4. Progress on the implementation of GEO Supporting Services.

[UNEA resolution 5/3](#) decided that the GEO should identify intergovernmentally defined needs and terms for the provision of support for capacity- building, knowledge generation and policymaking and in line with UNEP mandate, should provide support services for addressing those needs in partnership with relevant institutions as appropriate. These services are essential for enhancing the understanding of GEO findings and translating them into policies.

The GEO has begun providing some of those services such as training workshops on the GEO methodology to support the development of national environmental outlooks in partnership with UNEP regional offices and country teams. Recent recipients of this training have included Malawi, Pakistan, Jordan and Bahrain (demand-driven) with more such workshops envisaged after the launch of the GEO-7 report.

In the area of knowledge generation, the Secretariat regularly convenes and participates in the Ad hoc Global Assessments Dialogue (AGAD). AGAD brings together different assessment processes, especially UN led assessment processes, to try and find synergies across the different assessments which allows for collaborative links to other assessment process such as IPCC and IPBES, thus avoiding duplication. Outcomes of this collaboration process include the use of the GEO-READ platform by the Global Resources Outlook, the development of the GEO-7 glossary platform with the support from IPCC, the sharing on issues related to artificial intelligence as well as several jointly organized outreach events.

In collaboration with expert institutions through the GEO collaborating centres, the GEO Secretariat is working on developing science to policy seminars that are envisaged to support Member States in identifying priority environmental issues for policy translation and increase the outreach of the GEO-7 findings and the implications at regional and national level. The seminars will be developed in a modular way depending on the request of each country so it could be delivered as a half-day seminar, full-day seminar or two-day deep dive seminar. A pilot of the seminar will be conducted in early 2026 after the launch of GEO-7 before being made widely available to Member States.

For more information on any of these points, please reach out to unep-ewad-geohead@un.org