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GEO-7 Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) Meeting Summary, July 9, 2025

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

1. Review and feedback on the SPM figures
2. Review and feedback on the draft validation opinion of the IMAG
3. Any other business

On these items the IMAG decided:

- To complete the survey on the SPM figures developed by Tyndall Centre as part of the iterative testing for the SPM figures.
- That the feedback and summary of results from the iterative testing of the SPM figures will be shared with the IMAG members.
- That the recommendations provided by the IMAG on the SPM figures will be shared with the authors and graphic designers for the next iteration of figures.
- That the validation opinion of the IMAG would be the two-page letter, and the larger document would be the IMAG internal background document.
- The IMAG internal background document would be shared as a link in the IMAG validation letter.
- That IMAG members would provide any further comments on the validation opinion letter and internal IMAG background document by end of the month.
- That IMAG would share their approach to the inclusion of the background document as a link in the two-page validation opinion to MESAG.
- That the IMAG would meet in the week of 22nd September to finalize their validation opinion.
- That there will be a joint IMAG-MESAG meeting in November to finalize recommendations

Rapporteur	Signature
Ana Julieta Calvo Obando	ANA JULIETA CALVO OBANDO (FIRMA) PERSONA FISICA, CPF-01-1206-0574. Fecha declarada: 29/07/2025 08:07:40 AM Esta es una representación gráfica únicamente, verifique la validez de la firma.

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 SPM figures

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, a GEO Collaboration Centre supporting communication, provided a presentation on the SPM figures and its accompanying survey. The experts explained the iterative process of the development of the SPM figures, especially the user testing phase where IMAG members could provide feedback as an external audience that is separated from the drafting process. It was noted that a summary of the feedback on all figures would be shared once all the responses had been compiled. The key SPM figures and guidance on the text accompanying the respective figure were projected on the screen. IMAG members shared

their comments and views, and the assessment co-chair present provided further information on the figures where needed.

The IMAG welcomed the discussion and the progress being made in developing the SPM figures. Specific recommendations were shared for key figures, and it was agreed that the Tyndall Center team would pass those on to the authors and graphic designer for the next iteration of the figures. Lastly, the IMAG was requested to fill in the survey if they were yet to do so to ensure a more comprehensive picture of the feedback for all figures.

Review and feedback on the draft validation opinion of the IMAG

The IMAG co-chair provided an update of the validation process of the MESAG and IMAG noting the recent updates to the MESAG process following the in person meeting of the MESAG in June to work on their validation opinion. It was explained that the MESAG decided to provide its validation opinion ahead of the IMAG, so that the IMAG can take MESAG's opinion into account when providing its own validation. The MESAG validation will be in the form of a two-page letter that will be shared to member states. The background documents used to craft the validation will only be shared with the Chief Scientist and not member states.

The co-chair reflected on the IMAG approach that also includes the IMAG validation opinion in a two-page letter format that will be sent to member states considering MESAG's validation opinion and a link to the larger background document, should member states want further background information. It was noted that since IMAG contains member state representatives, it would be useful to include the link to the larger background document so that there is equal access among member states. Lastly, a timeline towards providing the final IMAG validation opinion before the October SPM meeting was shared noting that the IMAG call will be scheduled in the week of 22nd September.

The IMAG members welcomed the discussion and the progress towards providing an IMAG validation opinion. Members were also requested to share any further comments on the validation opinion letter and internal IMAG background document by end of the month. IMAG also agreed that they would share their approach to the inclusion of the background document as a link in the two-page validation opinion to MESAG.

Any Other Business

GEO-7 Meetings:

The Secretariat informed the IMAG that a coordination meeting is scheduled to take place on 23rd July. An initial preparatory call for the bureau of the Ad hoc Open-Ended Meeting chairing the SPM meeting and assessment co-chairs was also mentioned to ensure a successful SPM review and approval meeting.

In addition, the Secretariat announced that a joint meeting between IMAG and MESAG will be held in November 2025 to discuss recommendations for the GEO-7 process. Invitations to this meeting have already been circulated. During this session, the assessment co-chairs are expected to present the outcomes of the SPM meeting and the IMAG to provide feedback on the status of the Validation Opinion Report. A discussion will also be held on the proposal to separate the recommendations section into a standalone document. The Secretariat will share a doodle for the IMAG September meeting and joint IMAG-MESAG meeting for November in due course.

Lastly, the Secretariat mentioned that some nominations from member states for the GEO-7 SPM Review and Approval Meeting, taking place on 27th to 31st October, had been received and more were expected during the deadline. IMAG members were encouraged to reach out to their colleagues to ensure that nominations from their countries are sent in good time.

The IMAG concluded by thanking the Secretariat for the ongoing work 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-7 process.

List of Participants

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Dr. Leila Bendifallah	Professor, M'hamed Bougara University, Algeria	Algeria	African 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
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
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
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
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. Claudia Kabel	German Environment Agency (UBA), academic staff member, International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer	Germany	Western European Group
Dr. Lisa Eriksson (Alternate)	Senior Advisor, Transport Analysis, and the Department for Outlook and Policy	Sweden	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
Mrs. Dušica Pešević	Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	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. Marek Haliniak	General Counsellor in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Strategy and Analysis, Poland	Poland	Eastern European 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	Jordan	Asia and the Pacific Group

	Environment, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan		
Mr. Toghrul Feyziyev	Advisor, International cooperation division of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Eastern European Group
Dr. Thuraya AL Sariri	Assistance Director General of Nature Conservation at MECA-Oman	Oman	Asia and the Pacific 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
Ms. Ingrid Coetzee	Director, Nature & Health; ICLEI Africa	South Africa	Local authorities
Dr. Fabian Wagner	Dean, Capacity Development and Academic Training, IIASA, Austria	Germany	Science and Technology
Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka	President and founder of welfare Togo; co-facilitator of UNEP NGO major group	Togo	Non-governmental organization