

Our Ref: UNEA/GEO/IMAG/MESAG

24 June 2025

Outcomes Document**The Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)
June 24, 2025**

On 24 June 2025, the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) met to consider the following agenda items:

1. IMAG and MESAG involvement in the iterative design on SPM visuals
2. Outcomes from the GEO-7 Summary for Policymakers (SPM) Drafting Meeting, 2-6 June 2025
3. The progress of the development of the IMAG and MESAG Validation Opinions
4. GEO-7 Summary for Policymakers (SPM) review and approval meeting, 27-31 October 2025
5. Any Other Business

On these agenda items, the meeting decided:

- The Tyndall Centre will provide IMAG and MESAG members with a concise summary of the key insights and results derived from the feedback collected during the IMAG meeting scheduled for 9th July and the MESAG meeting for 10th July.
- The Secretariat will finalize the formatting and layout of the SPM which will be submitted to Member States on 15th August.
- The intergovernmental review period will run from the 15th August to 26th October, with Member States submitting comments until 12th October.
- MESAG's validation opinion is expected to be finalized and sent out during the first week of October; IMAG's validation opinion will be submitted a few days to one week after MESAG's.
- The Secretariat will convene a coordination call during that week to confirm timelines and support the synchronized submission of both validation letters.
- IMAG members will liaise with their respective governments to ensure the timely nomination of nominees for the SPM Review and Approval meeting, who may nominate representatives until 1st September.
- Recommendations on the GEO-7 process will be finalized during a joint IMAG-MESAG call to be scheduled for November.
- The Secretariat will circulate a draft of the recommendations prior to the joint meeting to allow members time to review and provide comments.

Rapporteur	Signature
Eng. Ana Julieta Calvo Obando	

Meeting Summary June 24, 2025

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

IMAG and MESAG involvement in the iterative design on SPM visuals

The Tyndall Collaborating Centre delivered a presentation outlining a proposal to engage members of IMAG and MESAG in the co-creative design and testing of visuals for the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). Drawing on its expertise in cognitive psychology and science communication, the Tyndall Centre will support this process by advising on how key messages in the SPM can be conveyed more clearly and accessibly and their proposal builds on Tyndall's prior experience supporting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), where it contributed to improving the clarity and usability of visuals in scientific reports.

To facilitate this, an online survey will be conducted and launched on 30th of June and remain open until 11th of July. The Secretariat will circulate an email to members of the advisory bodies, containing the survey link, the access password and further instructions for participation. It was explained that the forthcoming survey enables the SPM authors to assess whether the drafted figures are being interpreted and understood as intended by their target audience. In cases where multiple design options exist for certain figures, the survey will also enable the collection of user preferences regarding alternative visual approaches. It was noted that participation in the survey is voluntary and conducted in members' individual capacities. Participants are free to skip any questions they do not wish to answer and may save their responses midway and resume later, allowing flexibility and convenience in completing the survey. To ensure that responses are submitted, participants must navigate to the final screen of the survey and select the "submit" button. The survey may be completed anonymously and consists primarily of multiple-choice questions, supplemented by open-ended questions where participants are invited to provide qualitative feedback on the figures. Upon successful submission, participants will receive an automatic confirmation email acknowledging receipt of their input.

It was agreed that the findings from the survey will be shared with the GEO-7 SPM authors, assessment co-chairs and graphic design team. Not all suggestions will necessarily be included in the final GEO-7 visuals, but they will be used to inform decisions on how to improve the visuals.

In addition, the Tyndall Centre will provide IMAG and MESAG members with a concise summary of the key insights and results derived from the feedback collected during the IMAG meeting scheduled for 9th July and the MESAG meeting for 10th July.

Outcomes from the GEO-7 Summary for Policymakers (SPM) Drafting Meeting

The Secretariat delivered a presentation to participants summarizing the key outcomes of the SPM drafting meeting held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The meeting was generously hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Korean Environment Institute (KEI).

As part of that week's programme, the GEO-7 experts were invited to participate in the celebrations of World Environment Day (WED), with the Republic of Korea serving as this year's host. This provided an important opportunity for the GEO-7 team to engage not only with representatives of the host government but also with officials from other countries and various subject-matter experts. In addition to participating in WED side events, the GEO-7 assessment and MESAG co-chairs attended the Science-to-Policy Forum convened by KEI. These engagements served to elevate the visibility of the GEO-7 process and strengthen its policy relevance.

It was explained that the SPM drafting meeting itself progressed very successfully, with all predefined objectives being fully achieved. The meeting was attended by Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) from various chapters, as well as members of the Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) Task Force, the Behavioural, Social and Cultural (BSC) Task Group, the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Task Group, and the GEO-7 assessment co-chairs.

The objective of the meeting was to advance the development of the SPM. Initial joint discussions among all authors were followed by a structured division into three working groups, each tasked with

refining a specific section of the SPM. During the meeting, the authors succeeded in sharpening key messages and ensuring coherence and alignment (line of sight) with the corresponding chapters of the main GEO-7 assessment report. In addition, the group reached consensus on the figures and graphics to be included in the SPM. The authors collaborated closely with the graphic designer supporting the visual content to improve clarity and consistency across the SPM, and addressed the overall flow of the SPM, including the cross-referencing and linkages among its three main sections.

Finally, participants discussed and agreed on the next steps in the process, including the timeline for finalizing the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the SPM. In line with this timeline, the SOD is scheduled to be submitted to Member States by 15th August. Authors have been given until 30th June to submit their final comments on the SPM draft. These inputs will be reviewed and discussed by the CLAs and the assessment co-chairs, in coordination with the Secretariat. Subsequently, a copy-editing process will be conducted to ensure linguistic accuracy, terminological consistency, and clarity of expression.

In the final days leading up to 15th August, the Secretariat will also finalize the formatting and layout of the SPM. A formal review period will follow, running from the 15th August to 26th October. Member States will be invited to submit comments by 12th October. These comments will be instrumental in informing the authors and assessment co-chairs as they prepare for the SPM Review and Approval meeting.

The progress of the development of the IMAG and MESAG Validation Opinions

The IMAG recalled that both advisory bodies have been engaging in close coordination to develop their respective validation opinions. In parallel with the SPM drafting meeting held in Jeju, the MESAG continued its work on preparing the validation opinion. During that period, MESAG developed a first draft of the validation letter, drawing on ten key criteria outlined in the terms of reference from the GEO-7 scoping document.

IMAG further recalled that, during its in-person meeting held in Nairobi in September 2024, it had agreed to submit a letter to UNEP's Executive Director, providing feedback and observations on the GEO-7 process from a policy perspective. Following this decision, IMAG received a positive response from the Executive Director.

While continuing to align its approach with that of the MESAG, IMAG maintains a distinct focus on policy considerations. IMAG expressed satisfaction with the progress of its report.

IMAG confirmed that its validation opinion is based on the ten GEO principles adopted during the GEO Procedures meeting. However, in adopting a concise two-page format for its submission, IMAG has not included the full level of detail contained in its comprehensive internal report. This streamlined approach aligns with that of the MESAG. IMAG stated that their draft of the validation opinion has been circulated among IMAG members and is currently under review, pending further discussion and consensus among the group.

MESAG emphasized that the impact of the validation process would be strengthened if both advisory bodies submitted their respective letters in close coordination, as the scientific and policy lenses are complementary. In this context, IMAG noted its intention to sequence its submission to follow that of the MESAG, believing that the scientific credibility of MESAG's opinion will enhance the legitimacy and policy relevance of IMAG's own reflections.

The Secretariat presented the indicative timeline for the submission of the validation opinions, noting that the schedules of both advisory bodies are closely aligned. The Secretariat will subsequently finalize the IMAG validation opinion, ensuring its submission a few days to one week after MESAG's. This sequencing will also ensure that both opinions are disseminated at least two weeks before the October meeting.

To facilitate this process, the Secretariat will convene a coordination call during that week to confirm

timelines and support the synchronized submission of both validation letters.

GEO-7 Summary for Policymakers (SPM) Review and Approval Meeting

The Secretariat reminded participants that the final dates for the SPM Review and Approval meeting have been confirmed for 27th to 31st October, and the meeting will be held in Nairobi. IMAG members were encouraged to liaise with their respective governments to ensure the timely nomination of nominees to this meeting.

In this regard, the Secretariat has already shared formal invitation letters with Member States, who may nominate their representatives until 1st September. Due to the current financial constraints within the United Nations, resources to support the participation of representatives from developing countries will be limited, though some financial support will be made available.

The Secretariat clarified that this meeting will serve as the third open-ended meeting under the GEO-7 process. All Member States will be invited to review the SPM up to 26th October and will be requested to submit written comments by 12th October. The period between the comment submission deadline and the opening of the meeting will be used by the assessment co-chairs and a selected group of CLAs to review the content, addressing the inputs received from Member States.

Additionally, the Secretariat announced that, based on the positive assessments, the meeting will formally accept the full GEO-7 report without reopening discussion on its content, thereby allowing the following sessions to focus on reviewing and finalizing the SPM.

In preparation for the SPM Review and Approval meeting, the Secretariat has initiated logistical arrangements, including the reservation of the conference venue. To ensure the timely conclusion of the meeting, sessions are scheduled to take place during the morning, afternoon, and evening throughout the week. The objective is to finalize and adopt the SPM by the close of business on 31st October.

Any Other Business

Developing and sharing IMAG and MESAG recommendations on the GEO-7 process: The Secretariat recalled that the Coordination Group agreed to develop a set of process-related recommendations independently from the validation opinions. This separation is intended to preserve the objectivity of the validation opinions.

As the IMAG has already made substantial progress in formulating its initial recommendations, and the MESAG is still in the process of finalizing theirs, the Secretariat proposed that the recommendations will be finalized during a joint IMAG-MESAG call to be scheduled for November. This collaborative approach is intended to ensure consistency and complementarity between the perspectives of the two advisory bodies.

In advance of this meeting, the Secretariat will circulate a draft of the recommendations to allow participants time to review and provide comments. During the call, the Secretariat also intends to discuss an appropriate timeline for the dissemination of the recommendations, which will take place after the official launch of GEO-7.

Proposed dates for the next IMAG-MESAG call: Members agreed to convene the next IMAG-MESAG joint call in November. To determine a suitable date, the Secretariat will circulate a Doodle poll to collect members' availability.

Finally, the Secretariat noted that the GEO-7 Coordination Group will hold a separate meeting in July, and over the coming months to the October meeting continuing its oversight and support of the process.

Annex 1: Participants List

IMAG

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Dr. Leila Bendifallah	Professor, M'hamed Bougara University, Algeria	Algeria	African Group
Ms. Anna Mampye	Director: State of Environment Information in the Branch, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	South Africa	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
Dr. Marek Haliniak	General Counsellor in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Strategy and Analysis, Poland	Poland	Eastern European Group
Ms. Claudia Kabel	German Environment Agency (UBA), academic staff member, International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer	Germany	Western European Group
Eng. Julieta Calvo	National Center for Geoenvironmental Information, Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean 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
Dr. Lisa Eriksson (Alternate)	Senior Advisor, Transport Analysis, and the Department for Outlook and Policy	Sweden	Western European 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
Ms. Gillian Stanislaus	Environmental Programme Officer, Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	Trinidad & Tobago	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Neyra Herrera	Chief of Environmental Statistics; ministry of environment- Panama	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Major Group
Ms. Merylene Chitharai	Lan Manager at UKZN Howard College	South Africa	Faith-based groups
Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka	President and founder of welfare Togo; co-facilitator of UNEP NGO major group	Togo	Non-governmental organization
Ms. Ingrid Coetzee	Director, Nature & Health; ICLEI Africa	South Africa	Local authorities
Mr. Prem Singh Tharu	Regional Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) under Environment Programme	Thailand	Indigenous peoples

MESAG

Names	Affiliation	Region(s) of Representation
Dr Amal Moufarreh	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development	African Group
Dr Belay Simane	Addis Ababa University	African Group
Ms Catherine Ganzleben	European Environment Agency	Western Europe Group
Dr Dolores Armenteras Pascual	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr Ervin Balázs	Centre for Agricultural Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Eastern European Group
Dr Inna Stecenko	Transport and Telecommunication Institute	Eastern European Group
Mr James Ford	Priestley International Centre for Climate	Western European Group
Prof Joyeeta Gupta	University of Amsterdam	Western European Group
Dr Lorenzo Ciccacese	Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	Western European Group
Dr Maria del Mar Viana Rodriguez	Spanish Ministry for the Environment	Western European Group
Dr Mónica Moraes	Bolivian National Academy of Science and Universidad Mayor de San Andrés	Latin American and Caribbean Group

Ms Nagwa El Karawy	Ministry of Environment	African Group
Dr Nicholas King	Wilderness Foundation Africa	African Group
Dr Nijavalli Ravindranath	Center for Sustainable Technologies	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr Shau Hwai Aileen Tan	Sub-Commission for Western Pacific (WESTPAC)	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ms Tatiana Kuznetsova	Federal Service for the Supervision of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation	Eastern European Group

Additional Guests	
Jordan Harold	Tyndall Centre
Irene Lorenzoni	Tyndall Centre

Apologies

IMAG

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
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
Mrs. Rolenas Baereleo	Principal Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation; Department of Environmental protection and Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Asia and the Pacific 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. Thuraya AL Sariri	Assistance Director General of Nature Conservation at MECA- Oman	Oman	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr. Salla Rantala	Development Manager, Environmental Policy Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	Finland	Western European 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
Mr. Miroslav Havránek	Director of the Czech Environmental Information Agency	Czechia	Eastern European Group
Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand	Director of the Southern Research Station at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	United States	Western European 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
Mrs. Dušica Pešević	Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Eastern European Group
Ms. Christina Komorski	Director, Information & Indicators Division, Sustainability Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	Western European Group
Dr. Jerome Lugumira Sebadduka	Natural Resources Management Specialist (Soils and Land Use), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Uganda	Uganda	African Group
Ms. Margarita Guerra (Alternate)	Ministry of environment- Panama	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Yi Huang	Professor, School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China	China	Asia and the Pacific 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
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
Ms. Ruth Viola Spencer	Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	Antigua and Barbuda	Women
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
Dr. Fabian Wagner	Dean, Capacity Development and Academic Training, IIASA, Austria	Germany	Science and Technology

MESAG

Names	Affiliation	Region(s) of Representation
Dr Alban Thomas	INRAE - French national research institute for agriculture, food and environment	Western European Group
Mr Alberto Capra	Secretariat of Environmental Policy in Natural Resources (SPARN), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, Republic of Argentina	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr Asha Singh	Environmental Governance Consulting	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr Eric Davidson	University of Maryland	Western European Group
Dr Gian Carlo Delgado-Ramos	Institute of Geography, National Autonomous University of Mexico	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr Majid Shafie Pour Motlagh	University of Tehran	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr Ousséni Arouna	National University of Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics	African Group
Dr Razieh Ghayoumi	Biodiversity and Biosafety Group, Research Center for Environment and Sustainable Development, Department of Environment	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ms Rosemarie Casimiro	Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr Sandra Correa	Mississippi State University, USA	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr Janez Potocnik	UNEP International Resource Panel	Eastern European Group
Ms Tambe Honourine Enow	Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)	African Group
Dr Yonglong Lu	Xiamen University	Asia and the Pacific Group