

Reference: UNE-2022-02168

24 October 2022

Dear experts,

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which provides an integrated assessment of the state of the global environment. It presents the environmental trends for air, climate, water, land and biodiversity, drawing on all the major global assessments from international science panels and United Nations bodies. The assessment also looks at the interactions and feedback loops between social, economic and environmental drivers to assess the effectiveness of different policy responses towards achieving more environmentally sustainable pathways.

UNEP is initiating the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers. All information and documents pertaining to the first GEO-7 procedural and scoping meetings held in September and October 2022 are available [here](#).

In accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/3, entitled the "Future of the Global Environment Outlook", this process will be supported by a Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) which will play a critical role in providing guidance to UNEP's Executive Director, authors and experts on the scientific credibility of the GEO process. To perform these important functions, the MESAG will meet regularly through conference calls and face to face meetings to develop recommendations to help move the process forward. It is therefore important to establish the membership of the MESAG based on nominations from Member States, members of specialised agencies, UNEP-accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders, other specialized scientific institutions and groups of assessment experts.

Specialized scientific institutions and groups of assessment experts are invited to provide nominations of qualified individuals who could be members of the MESAG. The MESAG will comprise 25 to 30 members that will be selected by the Executive Director, with the advice of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group and based on the criteria outlined in the Annex below, ensuring disciplinary and gender balance as well as balanced geographical representation across the five United Nations regions. Nominees should be available to participate in the MESAG for the entire period of the preparation and finalization of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, likely until mid-2025. Nominations should be submitted no later than 15 December 2022, through the [nomination portal](#).

My colleague, Mr. Pierre Boileau (pierre.boileau@un.org), Head, Global Assessments Unit, Science Division, will serve as the focal point and stands ready to provide further information as needed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Inger Andersen".

Inger Andersen
Executive Director

Experts to the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG)

Annex: Responsibilities of the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group(MESAG) and selection process, to support the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

1. The Advisory Group is responsible for presiding over expert meetings, providing scientific oversight, selecting experts and representing the Global Environment Outlook process. It will comprise 25 to 30 members and be composed so as to ensure disciplinary and gender balance as well as balanced geographical representation across the five United Nations regions, while taking into account the guidance set out in subparagraph (b) below.
2. The following guidelines should be taken into account in nominating and selecting the members of the multidisciplinary expert scientific advisory group:
 - a. Ability to carry out the functions set out in paragraph 1 above;
 - b. Scientific environmental expertise with regard to both natural and social sciences;
 - c. Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the work of the Global Environment Outlook process;
 - d. Experience in communicating science, promoting it, and incorporating it into policy development processes;
 - e. Ability to both lead and work in international scientific and policy processes;
 - f. Ability to communicate science and scientific findings to multiple stakeholders, including youth.