

Briefing of the Options Paper to the Committee of Permanent Representatives



The Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting was held on 14 July 2020 as an Online Meeting chaired by H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil.



The update on the consultation process of the Future of Global Environment Outlook was the 4th Agenda Item. The Secretariat presented an update on the upcoming peer review and consultation process of the Future of Global Environment Outlook (GEO) found [here](#), including preparations for the online consultation sessions (webinars), and the current status of the Options Paper for the Future of GEO. Member States were invited to provide guidance on the peer review/consultation process, as well as inform the Secretariat of their preferred way of communicating with government experts.

Update on EA.4/RES.23 - Future of GEO Process

The 'Future of GEO' process was launched at UNEA-4 to develop various options for the future of the Global Environment Outlook. This process will deliver these options with recommendations to the fifth UN Environment Assembly. In developing these options, the 36 Member State Steering Committee (created in response to EA.4/RES.23), which was formed to oversee and manage the Future of GEO process, is considering the current and desired function of GEO in the overall landscape of assessments which are 'keeping the world environment situation under review', one of the core UNEP mandates. This will lead to a desired purpose and function of GEO to determine its future form and governance. While assessment reports typically answer the what and why questions regarding the changes in the environment, there is a need for presenting solutions to enable Member States on how to respond to these challenges. In this regard the Steering Committee will be seeking to establish how GEO can be used to engage other non-environmental decision makers in the design of integrated and coherent policies that consider the economic, social and environmental dimensions of these complex problems.

The process is advancing to a very crucial phase where Member States, stakeholders and other global assessment experts will be consulted for a month, from mid-August to mid-September. It is in this phase that input will be sought from MEAs, other divisions of UNEP and regional offices to ensure that the Steering Committee has the best advice possible on the future GEO, for UNEA-5 consideration.

The Options Paper review of process included the nomination of Steering Committee held in April 2019, nominations were requested for Future of GEO Steering Committee. The SC was established as a subsidiary body of UNEA. In August, the CPR was briefed, and they requested that further nominations should be sought to ensure geographic and gender balance. The Steering Committee was officially formed in September 2019 and

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