



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

Briefing, Committee of Permanent Representatives, 14/07/2020

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Pierre Boileau, UNEP GEO Secretariat

Review of process so far

- **Nomination of Steering Committee** – in April 2019, nominations were requested for Future of GEO Steering Committee.
- **CPR briefed in August 2019** – request by CPR to seek further nominations to ensure geographic and gender balance.
- **Steering Committee of 37 Member States officially formed in Sept. 2019** – First calls held in Sept. and Oct. to prepare face to face meeting in Prague.
- **Oct. 31 – Nov. 1 meeting Prague** – approved terms of reference and issues paper for consultant to prepare draft options paper.
- **Czech Republic nominee resigned in Dec. 2019** – Committee of 36 members continued.



Science Division

UNEP/GEO-6/SC/pb1

Member Excellencies,

I have the honor to refer to the upcoming task of electing the officers to lead the Steering Committee on the future of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). As specified in UNEA-4 resolution 23, this Steering Committee will oversee and manage the development of an options paper on the future of GEO and conduct a broad consultation process to ensure the options are in line with the core mission and mandate of UN Environment and the needs of Member States. Through these broad consultations it will be possible to take stock of lessons learned from the various evaluations of GEO, *inter alia*, the completed GEO-6 process, as well as from the Evaluation of the 'Environment Under Review' Sub-programme. This options document, including an assessment of the impact of the various options and recommendations, will be submitted by the Steering Committee to the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.4/RES.23).

To this end, the Secretariat would like to draw your attention to the UN Environment Assembly Rule of Procedure Rule 63 on subsidiary organs of the United Nations Environment Assembly and expert groups, paragraph 3 which says, "each subsidiary organ shall elect its own officers".

In light of the above, the Secretariat would like to propose that, from the existing membership of the Steering Committee (see Annex 1), each regional grouping should nominate one individual who could be considered for the position of co-chair, vice-chair or rapporteur, to be elected at the next virtual meeting of the Steering Committee and to lead the future deliberations of the Committee. Further to this, I would appreciate it if you could undertake a consultation among your respective regional group to identify committed and experienced candidates, from the current membership of the Steering Committee, that could be nominated for election at the said virtual meeting.

The Secretariat would appreciate nominations through email to pierre.boileau@un.org with copy to unenvironment-science-geohead@un.org by 10 September, 2019.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Boileau".

Pierre Boileau
Head, Global Environment Outlook
UNEP

UN
environment
United Nations
Environment Programme

7 August 2019



FROM BUILDING BLOCKS TO INTEGRATED OPTIONS: SOLICITING INPUT FROM THE FUTURE OF GEO STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER ON THE DESIGN OF INTEGRATED OPTIONS

Prepared by the IISD Future of GEO team

May 15, 2020

Name of Steering Committee member:

General comment: While it is useful to have these options put on paper, it is very difficult at this stage to formulate a preferred option, and I would agree with other SCM that more work should be done by you as consultants on realistic options, based on possible models as well as the feedback we give you.

Key must be

- complying with UNEP's mandate – original and subsequent, including the Rio+20 outcome document (TFWW) paragraphs 88 and 90
- basing the assessments and recommendations on the best available scientific evidence
- to provide information on the key global drivers of environmental deterioration, synergies and interlinkages
- recommendations related needed action internationally, including the role of key sectors, especially but not limited to economic sectors.

Procurement process and facilitated workshop

- **3-month procurement process** – Secretariat issued an expression of interest followed by a Request for bids.
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) selected** – through competitive bidding process.
- **Due to COVID-19** – first facilitated workshop with Steering Committee was held virtually.
- **Intent of workshop: to gather experience and thoughts of SC members** – extensive expertise on assessments within the Steering Committee.
- **SC members expressed interest in helping to develop the options paper** – resulted in development of 'building blocks' papers for input from SC members.

Zero draft received and commented on

- **Review by the Bureau of the SC and the Secretariat** – requests to shorten the document and provide more rationale for proposed options.
- **Review by the SC** – need for better links between mapping papers and proposed options.
- **July 2nd SC call** – current draft of options paper not ready for broader review and consultation.
- **Prefer two-track approach** – Consultant will be requested to produce a background paper and co-chairs will prepare a summary document.
- **Broad consultation from mid-Aug. to mid-Sept.** – main consultation document will be co-chair's summary.

Options for the Future of the Global Environment Outlook

Draft Zero for review by the FOG secretariat

May 27, 2020

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Thank you

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