Statement by the Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook held in Berlin from 21 – 23 October 2014

UNEP/IGMC.2 Rev.2

Strengthening the Science Policy Interface: Building the Evidence Base for the Post-2015 Agenda

23 October 2014

Organisation of work

The Global Intergovernmental Multi-stakeholder Consultation (IGMS) met in Berlin from 21-23 October 2014. It was attended by 133 delegates, with more than 100 governments represented.

The meeting was opened by Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP.

The election of officials followed. Idunn Eidheim (Norway) and Dr. Majid Shafie-Pour (Iran) were elected Co-Chairs. Dr. Peter Denton (Major Groups and Stakeholders) was elected Rapporteur.

Background

Reference was made to the Rio+20 outcome document, earlier Governing Council decisions, and specifically to UNEA Resolutions 4 and 10.

The Secretariat presented the recommendations of the independent evaluation of GEO-5 which stated the need to:

“(1) facilitate stakeholder engagement; (2) enhance capacity building; (3) increase the use of grey literature and indigenous knowledge; (4) promote relevance at all scales; (5) increase developing country participation; (6) facilitate access to information; (7) use results based management and evidence for evaluations; and (8) improve financial planning and funding.”

Participants at the IGMS noted the findings of the evaluation and expressed the need to facilitate broader participation by major groups and stakeholders, in particular from the private sector and NGOs and to increase outreach to target audiences. The analysis should draw on diverse knowledge systems, including by using accepted guidelines for the use of peer reviewed scientific literature, grey literature, data and indigenous and local knowledge. A clear process and organizational structure is needed to ensure credibility, legitimacy and relevance. The assessment should build on and be consistent with previous GEOs, as well as the work of other relevant intergovernmental organizations and processes including such as MEAs, in order to maintain its branding and role in keeping the environmental situation under review.
Under Agenda Item Four, the meeting participants discussed options and timing for GEO-6.

**Structure for the content of GEO-6**

Participants at the IGMS supported that GEO-6 would be an integrated environmental assessment, using the Drivers – Pressures – State – Impacts – Response (DPSIR) approach in the GEO conceptual framework. The Report will build on regional assessments and include an intergovernmentally negotiated Summary for Policy Makers. The analysis will aim at presenting findings and delivering products to targeted audiences among decision makers, across the public and private sectors at global to local levels.

GEO-6 will reflect three broad, analytical components.

**Global Environment: State and Trends**

The first component will include an analysis of the environmental state and trends for air, biota, land and water and their multiple contributions to environment and human wellbeing. This will be achieved through an analysis of interactions with cross-cutting issues such as climate change; environmental disasters; food; energy; human health; economic development; resource use; chemicals and waste; and culture and society, and relevant policies.

**Environmental Policies, Goals and Objectives: A Review of Policy Responses and Options**

The second component will provide a policy analysis of the links between the state and trends in the environment and global and regional environmental goals and objectives, including those reflected in national policy responses, and an assessment of progress towards them.

**Global Environment Outlook**

The third component will be comprised of an integrated analysis of megatrends and environmental change, and refer to the outputs of modeling, scenarios and regional outlooks. The analysis will take into account the Global Sustainable Development Report and provide support to the environmental components of the post-2015 agenda.

**Timing of GEO-6**

Participants expressed broad support for the following delivery dates: GEO-6 regional assessments to be delivered by early 2016 and the complete GEO-6 including its Summary for Policy Makers to be delivered not later than 2018, at an appropriate event to be determined in consultation between UNEP and governments. Regional assessments will be undertaken during 2015. The Executive Director of UNEP will report on progress to UNEA 2 in 2016.