

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
(CSTD)**

**Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 15-19 April 2024**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2023 to
implement the outcomes of the WSIS**

Submission by

United Nations Environment Programme

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 27th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Secretary General's report on progress made in 2023 in the implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Specific area of Work:

C3 – Access to Information and Knowledge

C7 – ICT Applications. E-Environment

Executive Summary

Activities undertaken by all stakeholders, progress made, and any obstacle encountered

The Ministerial Declaration (EA.1/2019), Resolution 4/23, UNEA 4, 2019 as well as the Action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, request UNEP and the Executive Director to present progress reports (2021, 2023 and 2025) on the implementation of a Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) and the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). The approved MTS, Medium Term Strategy of UNEP 2022 - 2025, approved in February 2021, aligns the requests on GEDS/WESR with an enabler Digital Transformation and Science Policy Sub-Programmes.

Developing a global environmental data strategy by 2025 in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies. Making regular updates (with progress reports in 2021 and 2023 and a final report in 2025) to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and United Nations Environmental Assembly (193 members states) on the progress of developing the global environmental data strategy and how it fits into the broader delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. UNEP successfully provided the 2.0 Edition of the Conceptual Framework for the Development of a Global Environmental Data Strategy, completed for Review and Approval of the UNEP Data Governance Group at the May 2023.

Development of an innovative integrated geospatial data, information, and knowledge platform to promote the access, use and sharing of geospatial data across all agencies. This was kickstarted by the Masai Declaration and approval of One UN Geospatial Situation Room 2023 – One UN Geospatial Intelligence platform as a project within the UN Geospatial Network in July 2023.

Analytical Overview

A brief analytical overview of trends and experiences of activities undertaken

The development and implementation of the global environmental data strategy is aligned with the overall UN Data Strategy and the UN Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies. UNEP has revised the 1st edition of the 'Concept Data Strategy' document and produced the 2nd edition referred as the Conceptual Framework for the Development of a Global Environmental Data Strategy version 2.0 (GEDS 2.0, available at [Conceptual Framework for the Development of GEDS version 2.0](#)).

This 2.0 edition strengthened its adaptability by providing scenario-based pathways, interoperability and accountability. It drives the overall strategic trend from supply driven to demand driven and provide a flexible and agile framework to respond to the advancing technologies. In this revision, it particularly improved its adaptability, actionability, and accountability. The GEDS 2.0 introduces a novel multi-scenario methodology at its core to empower subordinate entities in tailoring their strategic approaches to real-world organizational contexts. This innovative framework provides the much-needed flexibility and relative autonomy, significantly augmenting the practicality and adaptability of GEDS. Furthermore, it serves as a strategic bridge, effectively linking the UN Data Strategy and the UNEP Midterm Strategy, providing actionable guidance to subordinate entities.

Notably, it also systematically shifts the strategy from a supply-driven model to a demand-driven one, encompassing a transition from a top-down approach to a diversified management paradigm. The third key aspect of the 2.0 edition is the emphasis on enhancing processing capabilities. It introduces a forward-looking perspective on addressing rapid technological advancements within the societal landscape. The

approach touches upon critical facets such as data frameworks, computational prowess, inter-platform coordination, and the ecosystem of data supply, providing a comprehensive interface framework for dealing with these challenges.

The revision of WESR to NESR beyond CCA to NESR (2023-2025) achieved a significant qualitative leap. This edition marks a pivotal moment in enhancing the operational capacity of WESR at the national level, with a clear emphasis on defining mechanisms for specific technical support to different countries. Notably, this version not only underscores the quality leap but also introduces a holistic approach to technical support capabilities. It provides a comprehensive overview, establishing operational frameworks that seamlessly link the WESR strategy to the data strategies of various nations. Based on WESR data, it furnishes actionable guidance for regions and countries, resulting in tangible localized impacts. This transformation signifies a groundbreaking step forward for WESR in effectively implementing the objective of "keeping the world environment under review."

In 2023, UNEP successfully elevated and transferred the operation of WESR to a UNEP-wide level, establishing it as the single gateway for monitoring the global environment. A new design and content management system of the WESR platform is already available (available at <https://data.unep.org>). This restructuring seamlessly integrated WESR with a more robust resource platform to ensure its success. Subsequent to its incorporation into UNEP's comprehensive data management framework, WESR underwent a thorough upgrade, encompassing improvements to its technological infrastructure, management hierarchy, platform framework, and funding model. This upgrade equips WESR with highly interoperable, demand-driven supply, and adaptive capabilities, enabling it to sustain its operations amidst the rapidly changing technological landscape.

On Geospatial data, UNEP is chairing the UN Geospatial Network within the UN GGIM, Committee of experts on Global Geospatial information Management of the ECO-SOC. The network has reached 43 UN agencies, funds and Programmes. With the aim of coherence and coordination of Geospatial across the UN system, and standardizing and harmonizing data sharing, during the year of 2023, the UN-GGIM conference was held at Nairobi Headquarter, it successfully launched the One UN Geospatial Situation Room 2022 & 2023, and the Masai Declaration which as the foundation for One UN, One Map and One humanity.

Part Three

Innovative Policies, programme and Projects and Future actions or initiatives to be takes

- Work towards global, regional, and national development of trusted, accessible, peer-reviewed and relevant data and statistics to support planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the environmental SDGs, and multilateral environmental agreements, e.g., through the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics, supported by the UNEP World Environment Situation Room.
- Strengthen synergies between existing science and data platforms and initiatives, amongst others the Green Digital Infrastructure, global and regional assessment reports, and global earth observations.
- Improve uptake and usage of One planet early warning platform and One UN geospatial situation room.

Earth Observation from space and remote platforms and derived services such as the NASA and Copernicus Services by national and regional users. Engage with governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society to develop or adapt Copernicus services to user needs. Explore the integration of the NASA Globe and Copernicus Services into the World Environment Situation Room.

To be submitted by 31st October 2023

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