



High-Level Breakfast on Advancing the Global Environmental Data Strategy

UNEA-7 affiliated event

Date: Wednesday, 10 December 2025

Time: 7:00 - 10:00 am

Location: Tribe Hotel

Overview

The Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) represents UNEP's vision for a coherent, interoperable, and inclusive global data ecosystem to support evidence-based environmental action. Following extensive consultations with Member States, UN partners, and technical experts, the Strategy has reached its final version and is ready to move from design to implementation.

This high-level breakfast aims to convene a group of high-level government representatives and key partners in the private sector and academia in an informal setting to exchange perspectives on how to collectively advance GEDS implementation. It will focus on advancing its seven intervention points— national data strategies, data quality and provenance, interoperability standards, federated platforms, access to priority datasets, affordability and inclusion, and capacity development.

This event provides a strategic platform to reaffirm political support, align implementation priorities, and mobilize partnerships linking environmental data, digital transformation, and responsible AI governance.

With the Strategy finalized, the focus now turns to operationalization—translating GEDS' seven intervention points into concrete actions through partnerships, pilots, and investments. This session will help identify where Member States and partners can lead or collaborate to deliver results across these areas.



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Objectives

- **Identify and connect Member States** willing to champion specific GEDS intervention points or pilot initiatives of GEDS (2026–2029).
- **Foster an open, high-level exchange** on how governments and partners can contribute to GEDS implementation beyond UNEP's core activities under the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS).
- **Gather initial inputs** on potential collaborative mechanisms and partnerships under **GEDS intervention points**, including the Interoperability Expert Dialogue.
- **Explore opportunities for engagement** of private sector and technical partners, including those represented in national delegations and in Kenya
- **Build momentum** toward a shared roadmap for the GEDS launch and coordination framework, to be presented in 2026.
 - **Identifying pilot initiatives or collaborative projects** demonstrating the value of interoperable data systems in environmental monitoring, reporting, and policymaking.

Programme

07:00 – 07:45 | Arrival and Networking Breakfast

Informal gathering over coffee and light breakfast. Participants take seats.

07:45 – 07:50 | Welcoming remarks

07:50 – 08:00 | Key-note: From Design to Implementation of GEDS

- **Dr. Sally Radwan**, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP

08:00 – 08:20 | Ambassadorial Reflections

Scaling Ambition Through Collaboration: The Next Chapter for Digital Governance

- **H.E. Daniel Schaer**, Ambassador of Estonia to Kenya. Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT

From UNEA Resolutions to National Action: the role of data in advancing environmental governance.

- **H.E. Philip Thigo**, Special Envoy on Technology, Republic of Kenya



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The role of knowledge transfer and capacity building in enhancing data management: the Italian experience

- **H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco**, Ambassador of Italy to Kenya and Seychelles. Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT

08:20 – 09:00 | Panel 1: Advancing Global Data Framework Through International Cooperation.

Moderator: Mr Ian Wafula, BBC correspondent for Africa

- **Mr Nikolaj Bock**, Expert on International Affairs, European Environment Agency
- **Ms Reyna Ubeda**, Lead of Sustainable Standardization, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mr Adam Stingemore**, Chief Development Officer, Standards Australia (ISO Member)
- **Dr Charity Wayua**, Director for Africa, IBM Research

09:00 – 09:30 | Panel 2: AI for People and Planet: Responsible Innovation for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Mrs Carmen Marquez Ruiz, EU Climate Pact Ambassador

- **Ms. Kristi Klaas**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
- **H.E. Alexander W. McDonald**, High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya
- **Dr Girmaw Abebe Tadesse**, Principal Research Scientist and Manager, Microsoft AI for Good Research Lab
- **Mr. Snehar Shah**, CEO, iX Africa

09:30 – 10:00 | Roundtable Discussion: Accelerating GEDS Implementation

Moderator: Dr. Sally Radwan, UNEP

Guiding questions:

- What collaborative mechanisms can drive interoperability, capacity, and inclusion?
- How can partnerships with the private sector and academia strengthen GEDS pilots and implementation?

Open floor for interventions (a' 2-3min)

10:00 – 10:30 | Closing Remarks, Networking Coffee

Opportunity for bilateral exchanges and follow-up discussions on collaboration opportunities under GEDS.



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