



Reflection on the proposal by Sri Lanka on a new nitrogen resolution for UNEA 5.2

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UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives
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Air Quality



Climate



Water Quality



**Why
Nitrogen?
\$200 billion of N
wasted annually**

Soil Quality



Biodiversity



Air Quality



Climate



Water Quality



Soil Quality

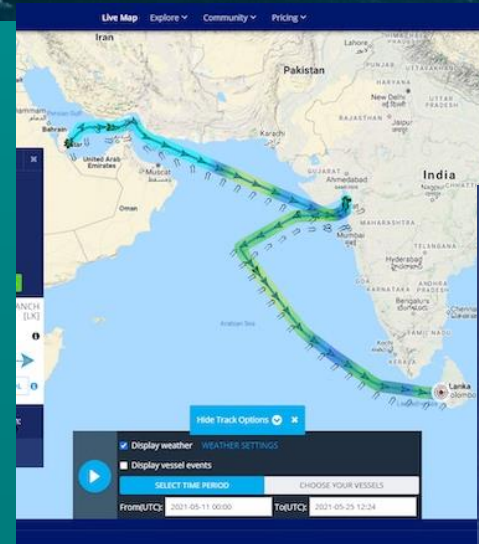


Biodiversity

Nitrogen

Everywhere and Invisible

- *X-Press Pearl* - May 2021
- Ship carrying nitric acid (HNO_3)
- HNO_3 leak may have started fire
- Reported high NO_x emissions from burning ship
- 1100 tonnes of urea....
- Massive coastal impacts that will take years to recover



UNEA5.2 Resolution on sustainable nitrogen management

- Urgency of moving forward addressing nitrogen pollution
- **Building on UNEA4 resolution (March 2019)** which identified the issue in UNEA for first time.
- **Colombo Declaration (October 2019)** agreed by 14 countries agreed to accelerate action including:
 - National Road Maps for nitrogen pollution
 - Identified goal to halve nitrogen waste by 2030 as contribution to SDGs
 - Recognition to establish Interconvention Nitrogen Co-ordination Mechanism (INCOM)

Timing and Urgency

- To reach the 2030 goal to halve nitrogen waste, need to start **now**. Cannot wait until UNEA6 (2 or 3 years time), as several years needed to mobilize the transition by 2030.
 - **Nitrogen and Air pollution**. Nitrogen Share 24M YLL per year. \$400 billion worth of health loss per year (*Science*, 5 Nov 2021)
 - **Nitrogen destroying biodiversity**, terrestrial and water pollution, coastal dead zones.
 - **Climate change and ozone depletion** from nitrous oxide, solutions need a joined up approach across the nitrogen cycle.
- Builds on the work already done by UNEP and INMS in following up UNEA 4/14 resolution.

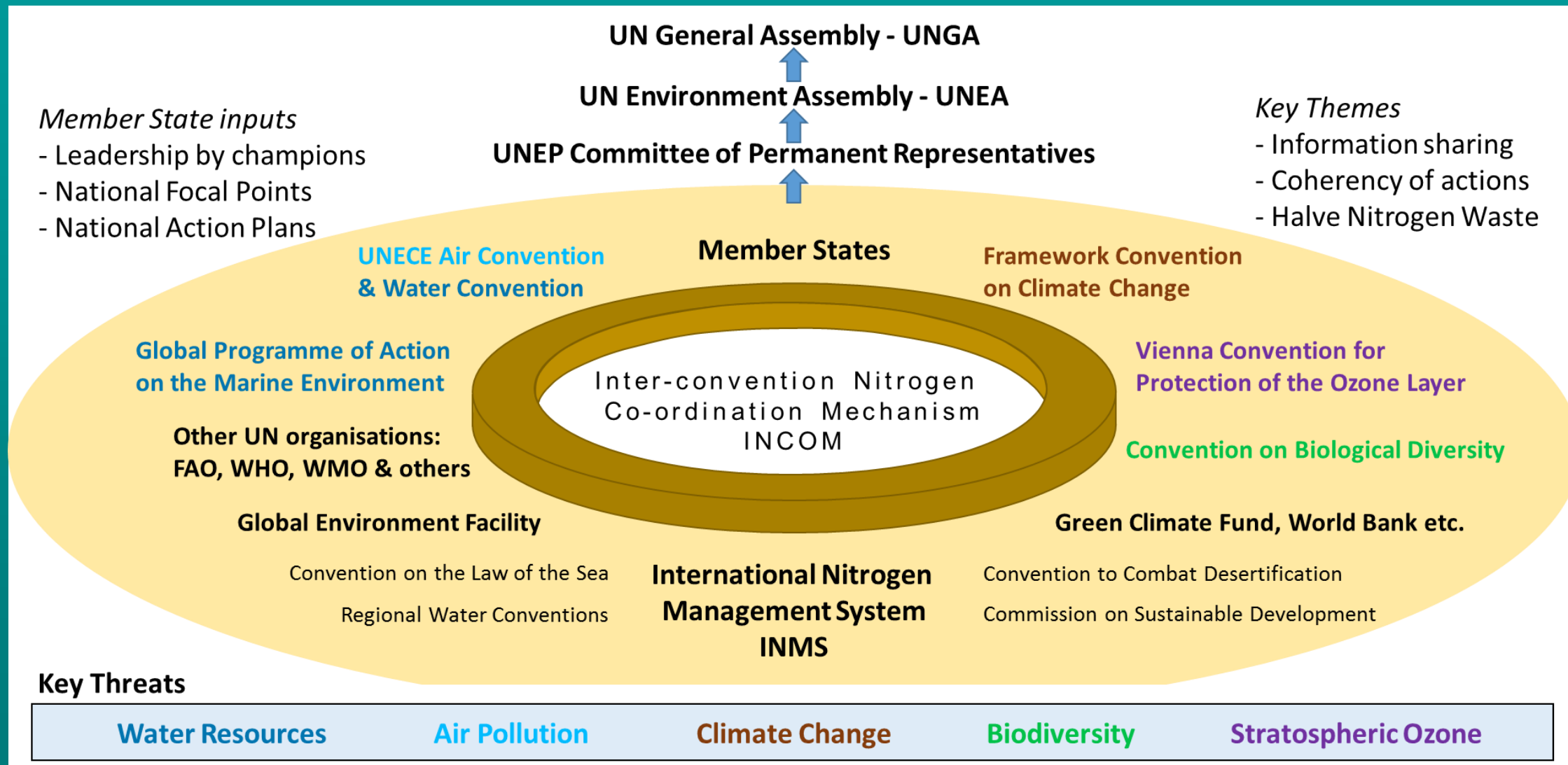
Interconvention Nitrogen Co-ordination Mechanism (INCOM)

- INMS 4 High-Level Meeting (at UNEP Nairobi, April 2019) showed preference among options:
 - **Option 1:** Status Quo = fragmentation between policy areas
 - **Option 2:** One Convention leads for others = limited by mandates
 - **Option 3:** Nitrogen Convention. Preference to work with existing conventions
 - **Option 4:** Inter-convention mechanism = better communication and knowledge sharing to accelerate coordinated action

Draft Resolution to UNEA5 builds on the Colombo Declaration

- Adoption of option 4: Inter-convention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM)
- Establishment of National Road Maps (Action Plans) as critical for mobilization change and better coordination within country
- A broad framing of ambition to halve nitrogen waste
- Need to establish secretariat

Establishing an intergovernmental process on nitrogen



Emerging elements *still to be incorporated* in revising the draft UNEA5.2 resolution

- **Other recent outcomes** by the relevant conventions. e.g. UNECE Guidance Document on Integrated Sustainable Nitrogen Management (ECE/EB.AIR/149)
- **Definitions** Total nitrogen wasted has been defined as the sum of all forms of reactive nitrogen (N_r) lost as pollution plus denitrification to N_2 , which is equally a waste of N_r resources #
- **UN Global Nitrogen Campaign** Welcoming awareness raising
- **NitroFinance** Promoting investment to recover \$100 billion/yr
- **Roadmap: 2022 to 2024**

Nitrogen innovation for the circular economy

- **Agriculture** Less nitrogen waste means more available for food production, allowing inputs to be reduced
- **Industry** Gaseous nitrogen recovery for cleaner air & circular economy
- **Wastewater** Nutrient recovery & recycling for innovative products
- **Landscapes** designed for C & N co-benefits (water, air, climate, nature, resilience...)
- **Reduced Food-Prints** for healthy & sustainable diets

