

Terms of Reference of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

Background

The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly ([UNEA-4](#)) adopted a first resolution on “Sustainable nitrogen management” (resolution 4/14). Subsequently, the resumed fifth session of UNEA ([UNEA-5.2](#)) adopted a second resolution on “Sustainable nitrogen management” (resolution 5/2).

To facilitate the implementation of resolution 4/14 and to strengthen the engagement and ownership of the implementation process by Member States and stakeholders, the Executive Director of UNEP decided to convene a Working Group on Nitrogen. The mandate of the Working Group was further extended after the adoption of resolution 5/2.

Resolution 5/2 operative paragraph 3(d) also requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to invite Member States to nominate focal points to join the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen. Focal points will participate in the meetings of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen and serve as contact point between UNEP and their country.

The UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen is Co-Chaired by two Member State representatives, Ms. Purvaja Ramachandran, Director, National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India and Mr. Mihai Constantinescu, Institutional Coordinator, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania.

Objective

The overall objective of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen is to facilitate the implementation of UNEA resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 on “Sustainable nitrogen management”.

Terms of Reference

- Prepare a roadmap for further implementation of resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 on “Sustainable nitrogen management” in the period leading up to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly;
- Follow up on the relevant tasks set out in resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 within an agreed timeframe;
- Provide technical and policy recommendations options to accelerate actions to significantly reduce nitrogen waste globally by 2030 and beyond through the improvement of sustainable nitrogen management;
- Share information on voluntary national action plans, as available, according to national circumstances;

- Identify possible modalities for the options being considered for improved coordination of policies across the global nitrogen cycle at the national, regional and global levels, including, among other options, for an intergovernmental coordination mechanism for nitrogen policies, as specified in subparagraph (a) of resolution 4/14;
- Provide a forum for the dissemination and communication of information related to the implementation of UNEA resolutions 4/14 and 5/2; and
- Participate in experts' groups meetings / roundtables / dialogues organized by the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen or in collaboration with GPNM.

Focal points

Focal points should be nominated through an official communication by a Member State submitted to unep-nitrogenworkinggroup@un.org. Focal points should:

- Possess good knowledge and understanding of both technical and policy aspects of sustainable nitrogen management;
- Have experience in intergovernmental processes; and
- Be available to participate in meetings of the Working Group until the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.¹

Stakeholder engagement

UNEP Major Groups and other Stakeholders:

- UNEP recognizes the importance of engaging Major Groups and other Stakeholders as partners and appreciates the perspectives they bring to the table, valuable research and advocacy functions they perform and their role in helping foster long-term, broad-based support for UNEP's mission.
- Major Groups and Stakeholders organizations accredited to the UN Environment Assembly² may participate in the meetings of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen as Observers.
- The nine Major Groups are as follows:
 - Farmers
 - Women
 - The Scientific and Technological Community
 - Children and Youth

¹ Should the Focal Point not be available, an official communication from the Focal Point delegating participation to a designated alternative Focal Point should be communicated to the secretariat.

² <https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement/major-groups-modalities/major-group-categories>

- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities
- Workers, and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities

Members of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management:

- At the discretion of the Co-Chairs, members of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and of the UNEP Major Groups and other Stakeholders can be invited to attend the meetings of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen as observers, including representatives of the science community who may be invited to present relevant scientific views, as needed.