

Informative document for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen.

### **Note on the *ad hoc* Task Team to examine the possible Terms of Reference for an Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM)**

**Summary:** At the first meeting of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen, it was agreed to establish an *ad hoc* Task Team to examine the possible Terms of Reference for an Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM) as described in NWG Briefing-1/Inf. Doc. 2. It was originally envisaged that the Task Team would report back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Nitrogen Working Group ahead of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5). The Task Team met seven times, allowing it take into consideration experience from UNEA-5, and reflect on both UNEA resolutions 4/14 and 5/2. This note summarizes the approach and membership of the Task Team. The report prepared by the Task Team is submitted in an accompanying document to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen.

#### **Approach taken by the Task Team**

1. The Task Team adopted the approach as set out in the document, NWG Briefing-1/Inf. Doc. 2, <sup>1</sup> with some refinements according to need:
  - a. Membership was established as agreed, representing a range of expertise on international conventions and programmes including from interested Member States to consider the options for establishing possible Terms of Reference (ToRs) for an Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM).
  - b. The work of the Task Team was conducted over a longer period than originally anticipated, which allowed for the incorporation of valuable findings linked to engagement at UNEA-5.2.
  - c. The establishment document noted that the Task Team may make proposals for consideration by the Nitrogen Working Group. In the light of experience from UNEA-5.2, the group agreed to focus on further consideration of options “*for facilitating improved coordination of policies across the global nitrogen cycle*” (UNEA resolutions 4/14 & 5/2), to inform consensus development by the Working Group.
  - d. The Task Team worked using e-meetings and email from June 2020 to December 2022, including seven e-meetings over this period.
  - e. The Task Team was chaired by the Director of the GEF/UNEP project “Towards the establishment of an international nitrogen management system” (INMS), benefiting from the project funding as part of its work under INMS Component 4.
  - f. In addition to contributions to the Task Team from the UNEP Law Division, the INMS funding enabled the expert legal involvement of Tallavey Sustainability in preparing the group report.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps1.unep.org/resolution/?q=UNEP-Nitrogen-Working-Group>

## Membership of the Task Team

2. The membership of the Task Team was extended during the process according to need and availability. UNEP and INMS thank the following members for their time and constructive contributions:

### **a. Expertise from Inter-governmental conventions and programmes:**

- Anna Engleryd, Chair of the Executive Body of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency).
- David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Annie Cung, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Sakhile Koketso, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Caridad Canales, Programme Management Officer, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Dirk Nemitz, Programme Office, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Programme Officer for the Koronivia Joint Process.
- Habib El-Habr, Former Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).
- Mahesh Pradhan, Former Coordinator of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and former UNEP focal point for the UNEA-4 Resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management (UNEP/EA.4/Res.14), UNEP Ecosystems Division.
- Sonja Köppel, Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention.
- Lea Kauppi, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, UNECE Water Convention.
- Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Water Convention Secretariat.
- Till Spranger, Expert on intergovernmental nitrogen policy processes. Chair, Working Group on Strategies of Review of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

### **b. Representatives of Member State governments**

- Brazil: Ricardo Medeiros de Andrade, Director of the National Water Agency (ANA).
- Brazil: Flavia Oliveira, Water Resources Specialist, National Water Agency (ANA).
- Germany: Stefanie Wolter, Integrated Nitrogen Management Team & National Focal Point to the UNEP Nitrogen Working Group, Ministry of Environment.
- India: Ramesh Ramachandran, Director National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Ministry of Environment Forestry and Climate Change, India, and National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group. Chair of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management.
- Romania: Mihai Constantinescu, Ministry of Waters and Forests, Romania, and National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group.
- South Africa: Noluzuko Gwayi, Senior Policy Advisor/Director: International Chemicals & Waste Cooperation & National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group, Department of Environmental Affairs.

- Sri Lanka: Janaki Amarathunga, Director (International Relations) & National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources.
- Sri Lanka: Ishara Jayawardena, Former joint-National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources.
- Turkey: Ağça Gül Yılmaz, Environmental and Urbanization Expert & National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group, General Directorate of Environmental Management, Air Management Department.

**c. Representatives of UNEP/GEF/INMS**

- Isabelle Van der Beck, UNEP GEF International Waters Task Manager for INMS, Washington DC.
- Steffen Hansen, Global Environment Facility Secretariat (GEF Sec), Washington DC.
- Diane Klaimi, Programme Management Officer - MEAs Support and Cooperation, Law Division, UNEP, Nairobi.
- Maria Manguiat, Senior Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP, Nairobi.
- Tessa Goverse, Head of Pollution-Free Systems and Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), UNEP, Nairobi.
- David Kanter, Lead Activity 2.4 INMS, INMS Project Management Board (PMB), nitrogen policy expert and Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).
- Clare Hamilton, Tallavey Sustainability (independent legal expert, via INMS).
- Stephanie van der Poel, Programme Officer, Ecosystems Division, UNEP, Nairobi.
- Nicole Read, Project Manager, GEF/UNEP INMS project. UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- Martha Schlegel, Nitrogen Projects Officer, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- Mark Sutton, Director, International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), and Vice-chair of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.