

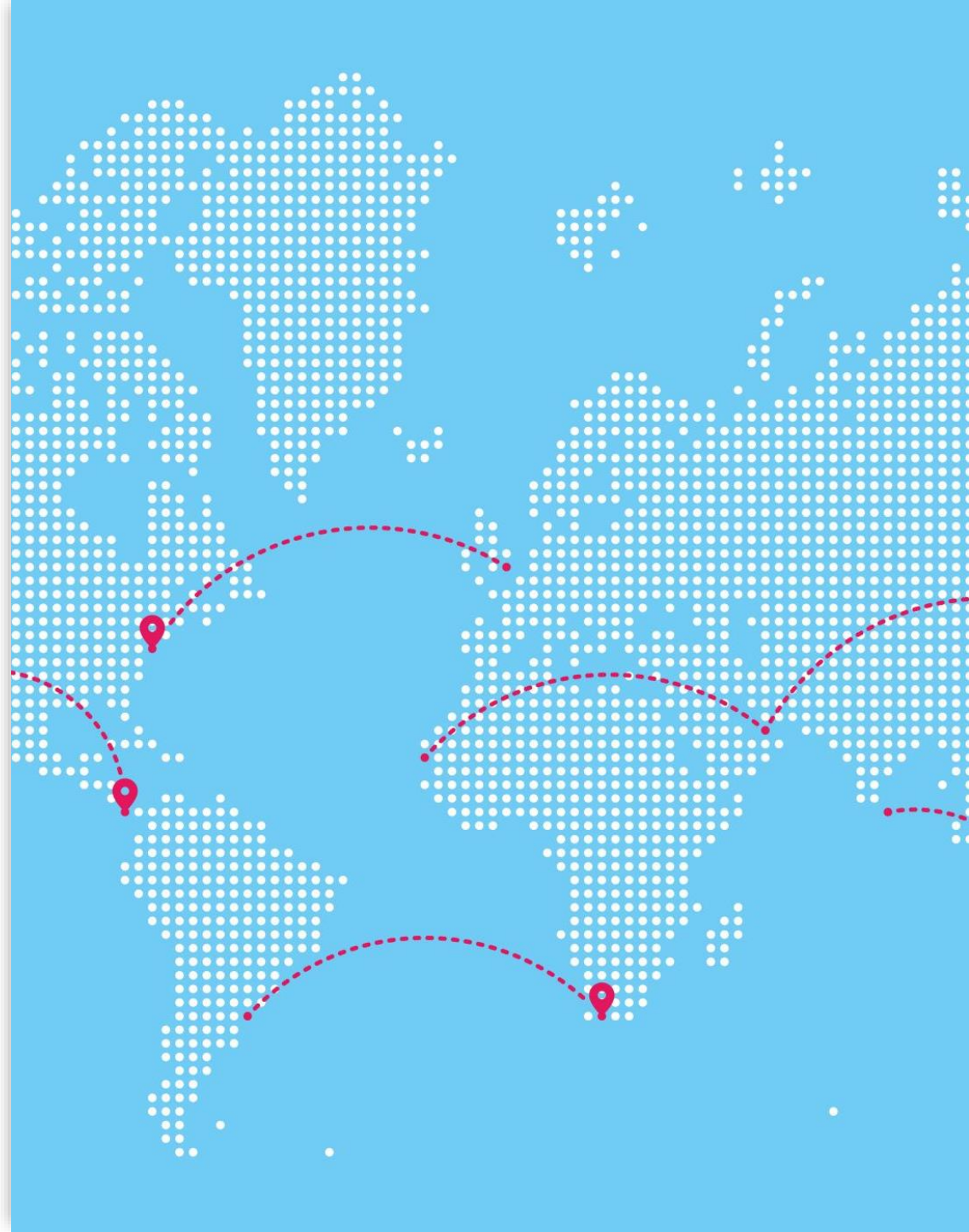
Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

Presentation to the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen
Sixth meeting
Virtual, 26–27 June 2024

Alvin Gachie, Legal Officer, Law Division (based on research conducted by Baskut Tuncak, Consultant)
26 June 2024

Overview

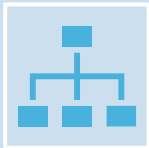
- I. Background
- II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed
- III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors



I. Background



United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) UNEA 5.2 resolution 5/2 on Sustainable nitrogen management



The UN Environment Management Group (EMG)



Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V)

I. Background

2023 UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) EMG nexus dialogue on sustainable nitrogen management.

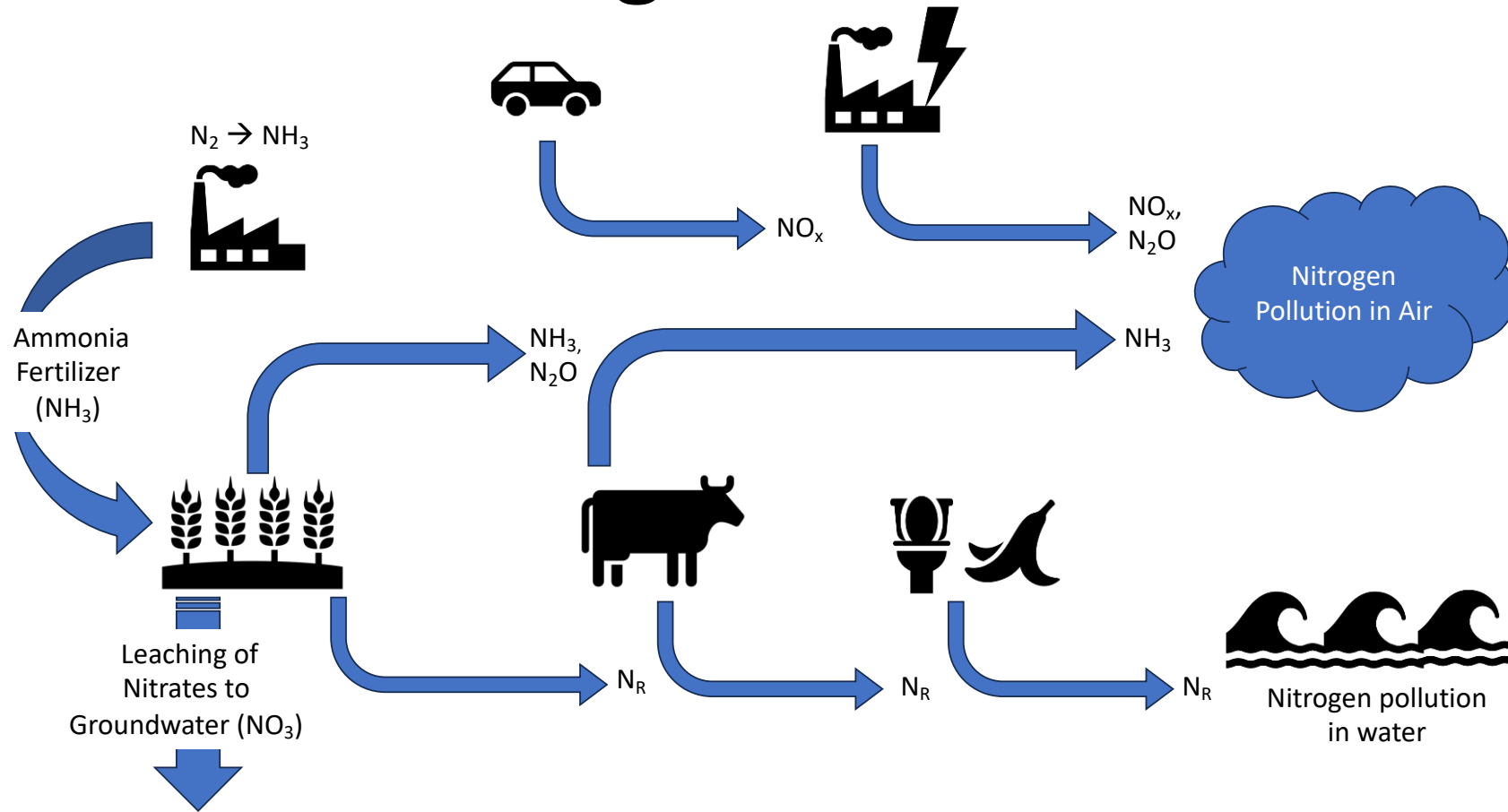
EMG Recommendation: Mapping to be done of the mandates and activities within the UN to address nitrogen waste.



UNEP's Law Division prepared

- (1) a **mapping** of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed; and
- (2) specific **guidance** on legal, policy, and regulatory changes required to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors to lead to establishment of integrated regulatory and policy changes required to reduce nitrogen waste globally

II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed



II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

Global Treaties and Other Agreements

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

UNFCCC

CBD

UNECE Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

The Global Chemicals Framework

II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

Regional Treaties and Other Agreements

UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)

UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

Helsinki Convention – Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area

OSPARCOM – Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

London Convention and its Protocol – Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter

Barcelona Convention

MARPOL – International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships



II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

Institutions, Initiatives, and Platforms (Intergovernmental Scientific Bodies)

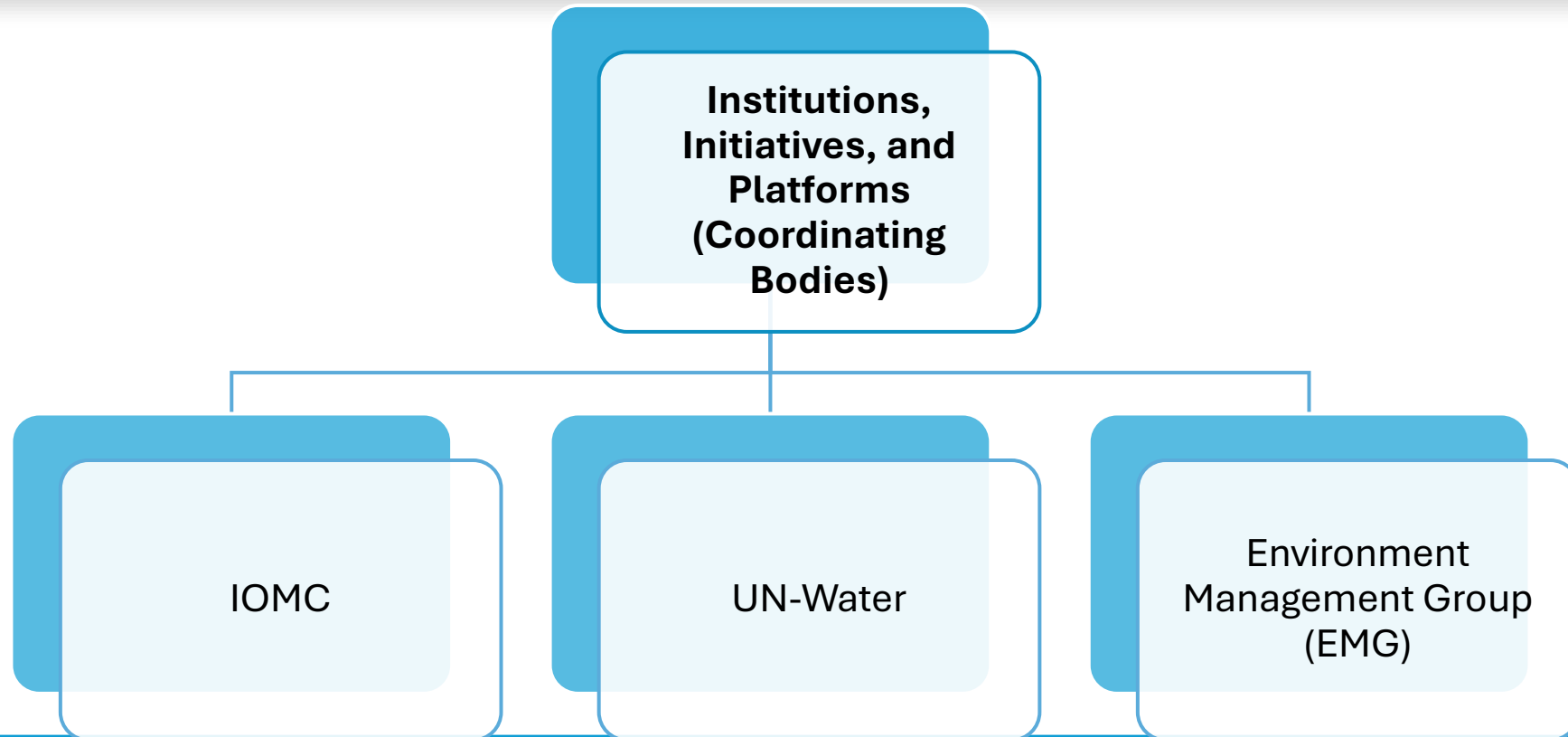
IPCC

IPBES

Proposed Science Policy Panel



II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

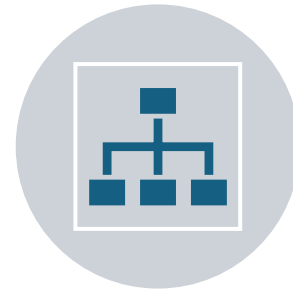


II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

UN System Approach and Guiding Questions



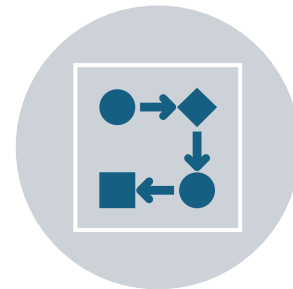
Are there any gaps where UN activities are insufficiently supporting member states in addressing nitrogen pollution?



Are there any UN organizations or initiatives that are not included in the report, with a potential role in the UN system approach?



Are there additional opportunities, or ongoing activities, on nitrogen pollution among UN organizations that are already in the report?

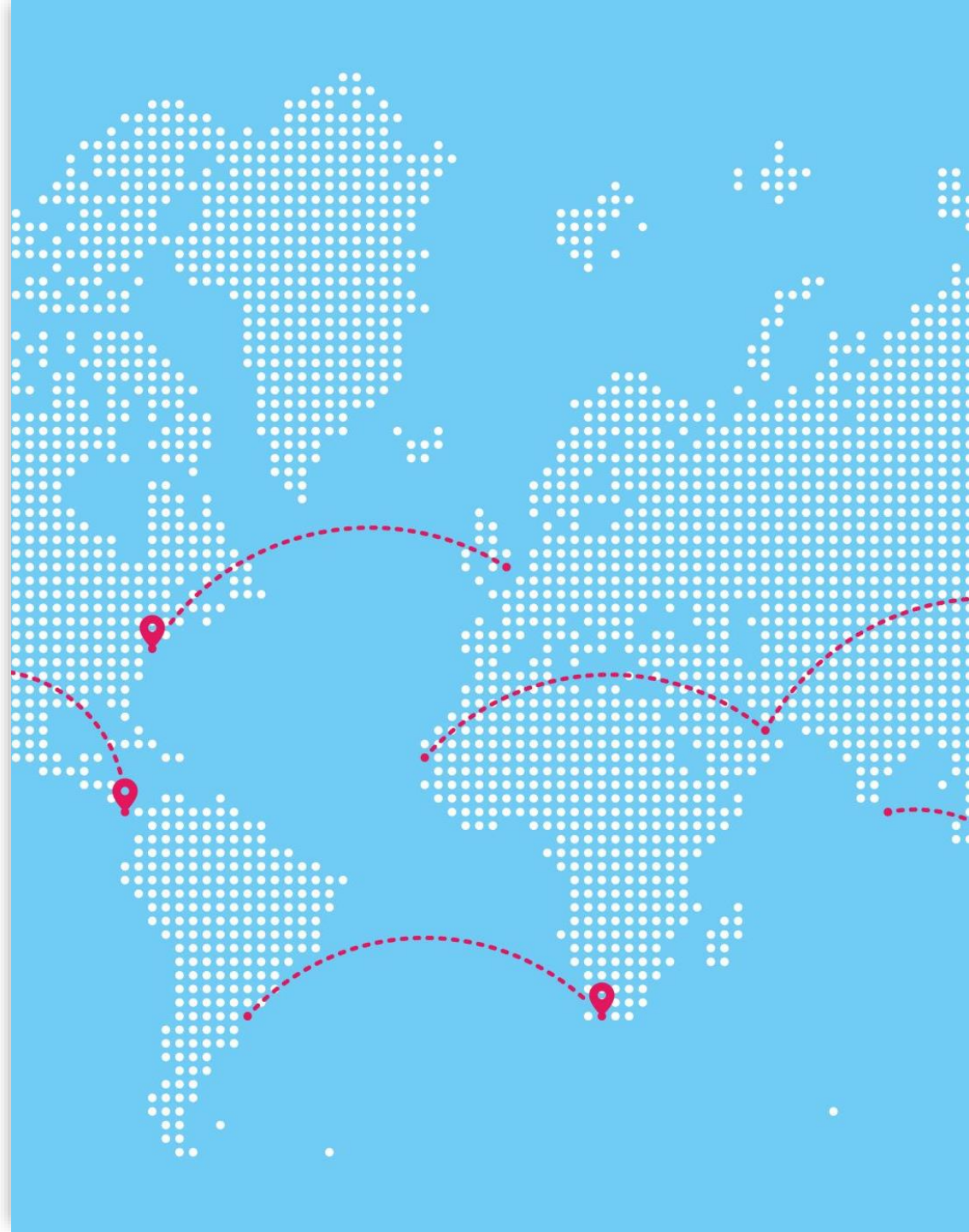


Do you see specific opportunities for collaboration among UN organizations?

II. Mapping of the international context in which excess nitrogen is addressed

Conclusion

- This report explores each treaty, agreement, institution, and initiative, summarized above, emphasizing their contributions to reducing nitrogen pollution and promoting sustainable nitrogen management practices globally and regionally.





III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

Overview

- Sources of nitrogen pollution and their effects on human health and the environment.
 - Examples of national priorities.
 - A broader framework for addressing nitrogen: an integrated approach.
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III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

- An overview of the sources and effects of nitrogen pollution, identifying key sectors responsible for emissions.
- Significant impact of nitrogen pollution on the environment, human health, and the economy.
- How nitrogen compounds affect ecosystems and biodiversity, pose health risks, and incur economic costs





III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

- Aligns its recommendations with global goals and targets related to nitrogen pollution, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Discusses the impact of nitrogen pollution on biodiversity, climate change, air quality, and the interaction with other chemical pollutants.
 - Underscores the importance of addressing nitrogen pollution within the broader context of global environmental and health objectives.
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III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

- Examples of national efforts to reduce nitrogen pollution are provided, showcasing environmental and health-based measures.
 - actions targeting atmospheric nitrogen compounds
 - initiatives to protect ecosystems
 - regulations to improve air quality
 - measures to prevent nitrogen pollution in water bodies.
 - Sector-specific efforts covering sustainable practices in food and agriculture, emission reductions in energy and manufacturing, and strategies to lower nitrogen emissions from transportation
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III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

Integrated approach to the mitigation of nitrogen pollution

Substantive elements	Procedural elements
Addressing all relevant forms of nitrogen	Applying a whole of government approach
Synergizing efforts with other pollutants	Utilizing a variety of measures and tools
Accounting for all adverse impacts	Engaging all relevant stakeholders
Integrating all sources and sectors	Cooperating internationally



III. Guidance on an integrated approach to legal, policy and regulatory changes to reduce the nitrogen footprint from sectors

Integrated approach to the mitigation of nitrogen pollution

- Comprehensive management of all nitrogen compounds, coordinated efforts to tackle multiple pollutants, and a thorough evaluation of all adverse effects.
 - Need to include all relevant sectors and sources in mitigation strategies and to apply a whole-of-government approach.
 - Utilizing a variety of measures and tools, involving all key stakeholders, and fostering international cooperation are also crucial elements of the recommended approach
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Thank you



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