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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session**

Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022*

Draft resolution on sustainable nitrogen management**

Submission by Sri Lanka

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Notes with concern that global economy-wide¹ nitrogen use is currently inefficient with extremely large proportion of anthropogenic reactive nitrogen lost to the environment,

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution, A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recalling Sustainable Development Goals and all interrelated targets,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.14 of 15 March 2019 and reaffirms the importance of the long-term elimination of multiple threats of nitrogen pollution resulting from anthropogenic reactive nitrogen, with adverse effects on terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, biodiversity, human health, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), in the establishment of the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) to link science and policies on sustainable nitrogen management, including contributions from the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), the South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) and the ‘GCRF-South Asia Nitrogen Hub (SANH)’ established with support from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) of United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI),

* In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its meeting held on 8 October 2020 and by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Environment Assembly was adjourned on 23 February 2021 and is expected to resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

¹ M. A. Sutton and others, *Our Nutrient World: The Challenge to Produce More Food and Energy with Less Pollution* (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh, on behalf of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the International Nitrogen Initiative, 2013).

Noting the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the International Nitrogen Management System, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on 29-30 April 2019 as a follow-up to the UNEA-4 resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.14).

Calls on the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program to:

1. *Support* the ambition to halve nitrogen waste from all sources by 2030 as agreed in the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management of 24, October 2019, offering the potential to save US\$ 100 billion annually,
2. *Consider* the proposed Roadmap for Action on Sustainable Nitrogen Management 2022 -2024 of the Colombo Declaration, including its activities to establish an Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM) to address nitrogen pollution, continuing its work from 2022 with including reporting of its work to the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the Secretariat to better facilitate communication and coherence across Nitrogen policies, consistent with mandates of existing conventions and MEAs,
3. *Secretariat to support* in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies and other international organizations, development partners, philanthropic agencies, academic and civil society organizations for implementation of the Colombo Declaration, through cooperative mechanisms to mobilize human, financial and technical resources, including capacity- building and transfer of know-how and technology for promoting innovation on anthropogenic nitrogen use and recycling, emphasizing the opportunities for the circular economy,
4. *Coordinate* existing platforms to catalyze a comprehensive Global Assessment on quantitative and qualitative nitrogen cycling covering scientific aspects, policy, regulation, implementation, nitrogen budgeting, impacts, solutions, and valuation of natural Nitrogen fixation, while identifying the best available knowledge including descended traditional agricultural wisdom and assessing the opportunities offered for Nitrogen management, where appropriate mainstreaming it through policy, implementation and regulatory channels,
5. *Facilitate*, with relevant United Nations bodies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and, as appropriate, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to sensitize citizens to understand the natural Nitrogen cycle and how anthropogenic activities alter its balance,
6. *Report* to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Sixth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.