

Terms of Reference for the Co-Chairs of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen, established under UNEA resolution 4/14

Introduction

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

To facilitate the implementation of both resolutions 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. To date, the Group has met once from 8 to 9 June 2020, and the proceedings and report of the meeting are available [here](#).

Resolution 5/2 operative paragraph 3(d) requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to invite Member States to nominate focal points to join the United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on Nitrogen.

The focal points of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen will serve as contact point between UNEP and their country. They will be responsible for disseminating and communicating information related to the implementation of UNEA resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 and participate in the meetings of the Working Group.

The UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen will be co-Chaired by two Member State representatives. To this end, the UNEP Executive Director is calling for nominations from Member States for the Co-Chairs of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen. The below Terms of Reference aim to inform the nomination of two Co-Chairs to serve the Working Group.

Role

The Co-Chairs of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen will work together to:

- Lead the meetings of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen, with support of the Secretariat;
- Ensure that the meetings successfully follow up on the relevant tasks set out in resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 within an agreed timeframe;
- Provide leadership in technical and policy aspects of sustainable nitrogen management;
- Determine the most appropriate modality for meetings of the Working Group in close consultation with UNEP, and subject to funding availability;
- Ensure that all interested Member States have the opportunity to participate actively in the meetings of the Working Group;
- Encourage the participation of relevant partners and stakeholders;
- Address concerns that Members States may have on the process.

Selection criteria

Potential Co-Chairs should:

- Be nominated through an official communication by a Member State submitted to unep-sgb@un.org;
- Possess good knowledge and understanding of both technical and policy aspects of sustainable nitrogen management;
- Have experience of exercising a leadership role in intergovernmental processes;
- Be available to facilitate the undertakings of the Working Group until the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly;
- Engage bilaterally with other Member States at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi as well as in capitals;
- Be in a position to attend meetings in person within and outside Nairobi.

Selection process

The appointment of the two Co-Chairs will be coordinated by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under the leadership of the President of the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly, taking into account the need for geographical balance and gender parity.

Member States are invited to submit nominations for the Co-Chairs to the Secretariat (unep-sgb@un.org), no later than 15 September 2022.

Member States are also invited to submit nominations of focal points to unep-nitrogenworkinggroup@un.org, no later than 15 September 2022.