**RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT FOR UNEA-3**

**Recognizing** the multiple pollution threats resulting from anthropogenic reactive nitrogen, with adverse effects on the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, on air pollution and on greenhouse gas emissions, resulting beyond the recognized benefits of nitrogen use for food and energy production,

**Noting** that global economy-wide nitrogen use efficiency is only around 20%, so that 80% of anthropogenic reactive nitrogen is wasted, leading to pollution that threatens human health, wellbeing and ecosystem services and contributes to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion,

**Concerned** that human alteration of the global nitrogen cycle already greatly exceeds the planetary boundary, while climate change is anticipated to further exacerbate nitrogen pollution losses,

**Recognizing** the existing actions already taken by countries as part of national action plans and intergovernmental agreements linked to water quality, air quality, climate and biodiversity,

**Acknowledging** that current policies related to reactive nitrogen in many countries are fragmented, limiting the extent to which a coherent global policy response has so far been developed,

**Realizing** that the lack of policy coherence on the global nitrogen cycle is resulting in unquantified trade-offs between different forms of nitrogen pollution and contributing to the barriers to adoption of policies for cleaner water, cleaner air, climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity protection,

**Welcoming** the recent establishment of the International Nitrogen Management System as a science support system for policy development across the nitrogen cycle, including working with regional groups and actors to allow regional perspectives to be developed within the global context,

**Reflecting** on the outcomes of the recent Malé deliberations of the policy, planners and experts from nitrogen management from South Asian Seas region organized jointly by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and the International Nitrogen Management System in September 2017[[1]](#footnote-1), which highlighted human alteration of the nitrogen cycle in South Asia as an urgent issue with increasing human and livestock, agricultural intensity and industrial activities contributing to a substantial worsening of nitrogen pollution unless action is taken;

**Here call on UN Environment to**

***Consider the options to facilitate better coordination of policies*** across the global nitrogen cycle at the national, regional and global levels, including consideration of the case to establish an intergovernmental coordination mechanism on nitrogen policies, and consider the case for developing an integrated nitrogen policy, which could enhance the gravity of common cause between multiple policy domains,

***Support exploration of the options*** for better management of the global nitrogen cycle and how these could help achieve Sustainable Development Goals, including sharing of assessment methodologies and emerging technologies for recovery and recycling of nitrogen and other such nutrients,

***Facilitate assessment of the multiple environmental, food and health benefits*** of possible goals for improved nitrogen management, quantifying the net economic benefits for food and energy production, freshwater and marine environmental quality, air quality, greenhouse gas mitigation and stratospheric ozone depletion mitigation, underpinned by the development of reference values, while ensuring coordinated management of the relevant datasets to allow development of the integrated and sustainable nitrogen management regime,

***Facilitate the promotion*** ***of appropriate training*** and capacity for policy makers and practitioners for developing widespread understanding and awareness of the nitrogen cycling and opportunities for action

***Support development*** ***of a coherent and evidence-based policy approach for sustainable nitrogen management.***

1. Regional Workshop on ‘Capacity Development for the National Authorities to formulate Nitrogen Management Policy and its Implementation at National and Regional level’ in South Asian Seas (SAS) Region. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)