

CYMG's Statement at the 5th Meeting of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

9 - 10 January 2024 | Nairobi, Kenya

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Rabeb Aloui speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group.

We applaud the countries which have already set up their sustainable nitrogen management plans and call on focal points present in this meeting representing their respective countries to recognize the critical importance of establishing clear and **inclusive national action plans (NAPs)** for sustainable nitrogen management.

To address the challenges posed by the increase by the nitrogen pollution, we advocate for a **comprehensive, supply chain approach encompassing technological, policy, and behavioral interventions** affecting nitrogen production, consumption, and recycling.

We urge the implementation of integrated sustainable nitrogen management practices to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of nitrogen pollution. Scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have estimated that nitrous oxide comprises roughly 6% of greenhouse gas emissions, and about three-quarters of those nitrous oxide emissions come from agriculture. That's why we emphasize the need to **reduce nitrogen losses from livestock housing and manure storage, promote nutrient recovery, and minimize losses from fertilizers** through precision agriculture and responsible use.

We suggest **aligning national nitrogen action plans (NAPs) with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSA)**. This alignment will enhance the effectiveness and integration of sustainable nitrogen management efforts at the national level.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as we progress in our discussions on the future work of the working group, it is crucial to highlight the necessity of **an inclusive process**. We strongly advocate for the active **involvement of major groups and stakeholders**. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of enabling access for young people, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to the future work of the WG.

Nitrogen dioxide is among the air pollutants that can induce various adverse health outcomes, impacting respiratory, cardiometabolic, immune, and neurological functions. Although detrimental to all individuals, children and pregnant women face an elevated susceptibility to these harmful effects. **Infants and children**, in particular, are at an increased risk due to higher air intake levels relative to their body weight, exposing their developing organs during a crucial vulnerability period.

Yet, **nitrogen pollution lacks broad visibility and requires coherent action** to address the multiple global challenges it poses. We stress the importance of coordinated global governance to effectively tackle nitrogen-related issues and ensure a sustainable future for our planet.

Finally, we stand united in our commitment to fostering global cooperation and urging all member states to prioritize the development and implementation of **clear and inclusive national action plans for sustainable nitrogen management**.