



Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) Statement for the Fourth meeting of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

I am Rabeb Aloui speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group. We appreciate the progress you've made so far, as the Children and Youth Major Group, it is our first time being invited to the Nitrogen Working Group, and we greatly appreciate the opportunity.

Why we are here today? because the impact of nitrogen dioxides, on children's health is a matter of growing concern. A 2017 paper authored by professors from Harvard and Boston University shed light on this issue, the study showed that both ambient and home exposure to nitrogen dioxide can have detrimental effects on children with asthma. Their research revealed a strong link between nitrogen dioxide exposure and asthma symptoms, as well as a significant decrease in lung function among affected children. Furthermore, the study raised questions about the potential health implications of Nitrogen dioxide exposure within school classrooms.

As a Children and Youth Major Group we are steadfastly committed to aligning with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions 4/14 and 5/2. These resolutions underscore the critical importance of accelerating actions to combat the global nitrogen waste crisis by the year 2030 and beyond. We recognize the urgency of this matter and advocate for concerted efforts worldwide to enhance sustainable nitrogen management.

By doing so, we aim to mitigate the adverse impacts of excessive nitrogen pollution on our environment, ecosystems, and the health of current and future generations. In line with UNEA resolutions, we call for a collective commitment to implement innovative and sustainable solutions that will significantly reduce nitrogen waste, safeguarding the well-being of our planet and securing a more sustainable future for all.

To effect meaningful change, we are championing a multi-faceted approach that ranges from promoting sustainable nitrogen management and reducing high-nitrogen food consumption to advocating for the responsible use of synthetic fertilizers and the adoption of innovative on-farm technologies. These measures, driven by regulation and supported by evidence-based advice and investment, hold the potential to make a significant impact in the next decade.

We also emphasize the importance of reducing synthetic fertilizer input through sustainable management and recycling to close the nutrient loop, and ensuring the long-term health of our ecosystems and agriculture. Also, the use of precision farming techniques to optimize fertilizer use, and promotion of organic farming techniques.



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We suggest the creation of an international organization or council dedicated to coordinating global nitrogen policies, this would facilitate collaboration among experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from various countries. This body could work towards developing and implementing cohesive strategies.

We encourage member states to share nitrogen-related data and adopt standardized measurement methods. This approach will enhance the monitoring and assessment of nitrogen flows and impacts on a global scale. We call for more collaboration among sectors such as agriculture, industry, transportation, and environmental protection. These sectors should work together to address nitrogen-related challenges holistically.

We call for the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the action plan, including government agencies, farmers, industry representatives, environmental organizations, and local communities.

We call for the promotion of research and innovation in nitrogen-reduction technologies and practices. This includes supporting the development of cleaner industrial processes, low-emission agriculture, and sustainable transportation solutions. We need to establish clear and time-bound goals and targets for reducing nitrogen pollution and improving nitrogen use efficiency.

We urge member states to prioritize nitrogen pollution reduction within their national environmental agendas. By placing nitrogen management at the forefront of policy discussions and environmental planning, governments can catalyze meaningful change at the local, regional, and global levels.

As young leaders, we look to you, esteemed delegates, for guidance and support. Together, we can make a profound difference in safeguarding our planet for future generations.

Thank you !

Submitted on behalf of the constituency by:

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