

## Proposal for an *ad hoc* Task Team to examine possible Terms of Reference for the Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM)

Note prepared by the Director of INMS with the assistance of UNEP

### Summary

The first e-Briefing for the Nitrogen Working Group established by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP provides the opportunity to hear views on the possible Terms of Reference (ToRs) and approach for the Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM).

It is proposed to commission a small Task Team to examine possible ToRs for INCOM following the e-briefing on 8-9 June. This note sets out the process, possible membership and mandate to the ToRs Task Team.

During the e-Briefing, representatives of UN Member States and Inter-governmental conventions will be invited: a) to give feedback on developing the ToRs for INCOM, including on opportunities, format and flexibility, b) to commission the ToRs Task Team, and c) to confirm proposed membership of the ToRs Task Team. The feedback will be used by the Task Team to provide an outline proposal on ToRs to the next e-briefings of the Nitrogen Working Group.

### Proposed Approach of the ToRs Task Team

The following is proposed, subject to guidance from Member States:

1. To form a Task Team of around 15 Members representing a range of expertise on international conventions including from interested Member States to consider the options for establishing Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM).
2. The Task Team should use email and e-meetings, as necessary, to consider options, meeting from 10 June 2020 up to UNEA-5 (23-27 February 2021) to conduct its work.
3. The Task Team should report a first indication of its proposals to the Nitrogen Working Group in the form of an informal note circulated three weeks in advance of the second Nitrogen Working Group e-briefing in September-October 2020 (date to be confirmed).
4. The Task Team should use feedback from the Nitrogen Working Group to refine and further develop proposals to be discussed in subsequent e-briefings of the Nitrogen Working Group.
5. Based on guidance from the Nitrogen Working Group, the Task Team should aim to have draft final ToRs ready by 10 February 2021, allowing the Nitrogen Working Group to report the proposed ToRs to the Open-ended meeting of CPR that proceeds UNEA-5.
6. This timing is planned with the aim, so far as practicable, to allow the Open-Ended CPR to agree the proposed ToRs for INCOM, enabling launch of INCOM at UNEA-5.

While the Task Team is asked to make proposals, it is for the wider membership of the Nitrogen Working to propose revisions and to agree draft proposals. These can then be passed back to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and UNEA-5 for finalization.

### **Proposed Membership of the ToRs Task Team**

To be effective, it is recommended that the ToRs Task Team consist of no more than around 15 members. The focus of INCOM is on: a) interconvention partnership and b) intergovernmental partnership, c) building on the engagement with UNEP/GEF/INMS. It is therefore proposed that the ToRs Task Team draws its members from intergovernmental conventions/programmes and Member States with the support of UNEP/GEF/INMS.

The following membership of is proposed:

#### **Expertise from Inter-governmental conventions and programmes:**

- **Anna Englyrd**, Chair of the Executive Body of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency).
- **David Cooper** (tbc), Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- **Dirk Nemitz**, Programme Office, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Programme officer for the Koronivia Joint Process.
- **Habib El-Habr**, Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) / **Mahesh Pradhan**, Coordinator of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), UNEP Ecosystems Division.
- **Till Spranger**, Expert on intergovernmental nitrogen policy processes. Vice Chair, Working Group on Strategies of Review, of the Air Convention.

#### **Representatives of Member State governments**

- **India:** Ramesh Ramachandran, Director National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Environment Forestry and Climate Change, India, and National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group. Chair of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management.
- **Romania:** Mihai Constantinescu, Ministry of Waters and Forests, Romania, and National Focal Point to the Nitrogen Working Group.
- **Another Member State** is invited to foster geographical balance.
- **Another Member State** is invited to foster geographical balance.
- **Another Member State** is invited to foster geographical balance.

#### **Representatives of UNEP/GEF/INMS**

- **Isabelle Van der Beck**, UNEP GEF International Waters Task Manager for INMS, Washington DC.
- **Steffen Hansen** (tbc), Global Environment Facility Secretariat (GEF Sec), Washington DC.
- **Arnold Krielhuber** (tbc), Environmental Law Division, UNEP
- **Representative of the UNEP Secretariat of Governing Bodies** (tbc)
- **Mark Sutton**, Director, International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), Steering Committee Member of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), and Vice-chair of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM).