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Working Group of the Parties

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 16–18 December 2020

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the work programme for 2018–2021, including financial matters

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021*

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to a decision taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its third session (Budva, Montenegro, 14-15 September 2017) (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/6/Add.1, decision III/3, para. 9). It provides an overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to implementation of the 2018–2021 work programme for the Protocol during the period 1 January 2019 to 1 October 2020.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



I. General considerations

1. The present report provides an overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to implementation of the 2018–2021 work programme for the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRPR/2017/6/Add.1, decision III/3, para. 9) during the period 1 January 2019 to 1 October 2020.¹ During the reporting period, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) continued to observe a high degree of caution in its allocation of resources, mainly owing to the fact that many contributions were not yet available at the beginning of the financial year, thus creating uncertainty as to the availability of sufficient funds. The secretariat made various efforts to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund. The secretariat will continue to pursue synergies with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and other partners, in order to maintain a satisfactory number of activities and share implementation costs. Capacity-building of authorities and advisory support to Parties was provided throughout the implementation of different work areas, including on technical assistance, promotion and the compliance mechanism.

2. For the sustainability of the work under the Protocol, it is crucial to ensure staff funding on a long-term basis. The extension of contracts for staff funded under the trust fund depends on the availability and the level of the contributions received. Since the current financial scheme is based on voluntary contributions and provides no guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, making the funding of extrabudgetary posts unpredictable and far from secure. As for the previous years, the secretariat was therefore obliged to give priority to securing funds for staff costs, which need to be reserved for at least one year before issuing a staff contract. The secretariat was able to allocate sufficient funds for staff and for activities in the reporting period only owing to savings accumulated at the end of each preceding year.

II. Contributions and pledges

3. The “adjusted contribution” columns in tables 1 and 2 below are intended to offer a more realistic picture of the actual resources available for use in a given year. Contributions by Parties and signatories are often intended for use in a year other than the year in which the contribution was deposited and/or received. The adjusted contribution figure in a given year is derived from the actual contribution in that year, minus any part of that contribution that was intended for use in a different year, plus any contributions made in years other than the reference year but intended for use in the reference year. Owing to the lack of timely funding for any specific year, the secretariat is obliged to use the available funds, as necessary. Table 3 below contains pledges for 2015–2021 as of 1 October 2020. Amounts presented in all tables are rounded up to whole numbers.

¹ For a substantive overview of the implementation of the work programme during the reporting period, see ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/5.

A. Financial contributions and pledges

Table 1
**Contributions received in 2019 and for 2019 for the Convention and the Protocol as of
 1 October 2020**

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2019</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2019</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	3 010	3 010	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	3 010	3 010	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	3 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	3 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Armenia ^a	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2017, 2018, 2019, received in 2019
Austria	—	11 365	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	4 964	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	11 140	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	5 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Belarus	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Belgium (Federal)	22 222	22 222	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 051	1 051	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Belgium (Walloon Region)	3 938	3 938	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Bulgaria	1 654	1 654	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	3 000	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Cyprus	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Czechia	—	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	10 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	5 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	10 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Denmark	—	21 400	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	10 700	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
Estonia	574	574	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	574	574	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
European Union	113 636	113 636	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	12 170	12 170	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Finland	5 025	5 025	For the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2019
France	—	76 651	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	72 303	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	34 130	34 130	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2019</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2019</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Germany	60 000	60 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	27 871	27 871	Additional contribution for the Protocol on PRTRs 2019 to support the participation of experts from countries with economies in transition and NGOs
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2019
Hungary	5 000	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Iceland	1 500	1 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Ireland	—	5 688	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	3 413	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	5 556	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	3 333	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Italy	113 636	113 636	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	54 785	54 785	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention 2019 to strengthen capacities of experts from countries with economies in transition, including non-Parties, and for outreach and promotion to non-ECE countries and international processes
	1 189	—	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention, received in 2019
Kazakhstan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Kyrgyzstan	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2019
Latvia	2 000	2 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	—	1 116	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2020
Lithuania	—	2 323	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2017
Luxembourg	1 669	1 669	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	1 112	1 112	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Malta	977	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2019
Montenegro	—	974	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	474	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	550	550	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	1 100	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	550	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Netherlands	49 779	49 779	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	22 222	22 222	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
North Macedonia	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2010, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2011, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2012, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2013, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2019

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2019</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2019</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	200	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2010, received in 2019
	200	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2011, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2012, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2019
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2019
Norway	19 985	19 985	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	32 698	32 698	Additional contribution to the Aarhus Convention 2019 to promote the work on and synergies in the area of human rights and the environment, including with international human rights and other relevant international forums concerning the protection of environmental defenders.
	19 985	19 985	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	—	55 040	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2019 to support participation of experts from countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and NGOs, and associated staff costs to support organization of meetings and travel arrangements of these experts, received in 2018
	52 716	—	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020 to support participation of experts from countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and NGOs, and associated staff costs to support organization of meetings and travel arrangements of these experts.
Poland	5 708	5 708	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	3 000	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Portugal	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Romania	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Serbia	1 600	1 600	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Slovakia	—	864	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2018
	—	568	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	836	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	550	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Spain	5 580	5 580	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Sweden	34 970	34 970	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	17 970	17 970	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
Switzerland	41 152	41 152	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, of which 20,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
	71 648	71 648	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, of which 50,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
Tajikistan	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
Ukraine	3 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2019

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2019</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2019</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	3 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2019
	3 000	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
United Kingdom	—	46 512	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2018
	46 512	—	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Total	1 057 575	1 079 465	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	302 727	306 427	

Abbreviations: NGO, non-governmental organization.

Note: No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Convention for 2019: Azerbaijan, Greece, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Turkmenistan. No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Protocol for 2019: Belgium, Israel, Malta, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

^a Note that this contribution is not reflected in the tables of contributions for 2017 and 2018.

Table 2
Contributions received in 2020 and for 2020 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 1 October 2020

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2020</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2020</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	—	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Austria	—	11 140	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	5 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Belarus	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Belgium (Federal)	22 727	22 727	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 043	1 043	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Bulgaria	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
	1 608	1 608	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Cyprus	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Czechia	—	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	10 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020 received in 2019
Denmark	21 380	21 380	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	10 680	10 680	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Estonia	558	558	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	558	558	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
European Union	12 170	12 170	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
	117 786	117 786	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Finland	8 000	8 000	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
France	—	72 303	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2020</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2020</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	70 575	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2021, received in 2020
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Germany	60 000	60 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	29 412	29 412	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Hungary	5 000	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Iceland	1 500	1 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Ireland	—	5 556	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	3 333	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Kazakhstan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	985	985	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Latvia	1 116	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2020
	2 000	2 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Lithuania	—	2 323	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2017
Malta	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2020
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2020
	1 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2020
	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Montenegro	—	1 100	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	550	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Netherlands	55 187	55 187	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	22 075	22 075	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Norway	44 985	44 985	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
	—	52 716	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020 to support participation of experts from countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and NGOs, and associated staff costs to support organization of meetings and travel arrangements of these experts, received in 2019
Slovakia	—	836	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2019
	—	550	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Slovenia	4 123	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2020
	4 123	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2019, received in 2020
	4 123	4 123	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Sweden	34 980	34 980	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	17 980	17 980	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Switzerland	42 149	42 149	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, of which 20,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
	73 761	73 761	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, of which 50,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
United Kingdom	—	46 512	For the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2019
Total	687 083	828 065	

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2020</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2020</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	197 230	269 322	

Table 3
Pledges for 2015–2021 as of 1 October 2020

(in original currency)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Austria	\$	5 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2021
Belgium (Walloon Region)	€	3 465	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
European Union	\$	12 170	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2021
France	€	30 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Germany	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Israel	\$	5 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Poland	€	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
Republic of Moldova	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2017
	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2018
	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2019
	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2018
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Romania	\$	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020
Serbia	\$	1 700	For the Aarhus Convention 2020
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2016
	\$	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Spain	€	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2020

B. In-kind contributions

4. The following in-kind contributions were received during the reporting period:²

(a) Support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, support for travel of non-governmental and governmental delegates, representatives of the judiciary and a number of participants from Aarhus Centres to the meetings of subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol;

(b) From the Government of Spain, support for promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in Latin American and Caribbean countries, in the countries in the Mediterranean region and North Macedonia in 2018 and 2019.

² In-kind contributions for activities under the Aarhus Convention only are mentioned in the report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/4), submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017).

III. Expenditures

5. The costs shown in tables 4 and 5 below are estimated and projected. The costs are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered under the United Nations regular budget. Figures are rounded up and are provisional and may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations. Expenditures reported are related to implementation of the Protocol's 2018–2021 work programme. Expenses related to the Aarhus Convention are reported to the Convention's bodies.

Table 4
January–December 2019 estimated expenditures

(in United States dollars)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Description</i>
One P-3 staff post to support the work under the Protocol on PRTRs	125 390	P-3 staff costs (80 per cent full-time equivalent) for January–December 2019
Secretarial support	37 630	30 per cent of G-5 staff costs for January–December 2019 ^a
Travel of experts and participants	48 960	Working Group of the Parties, Compliance Committee and Bureau meetings
Travel of staff	2 750	Travel of staff to service International PRTR Coordinating Group meeting and to participate in expert meetings
Technical, other operational and support costs	3 690	Technical, other operational and support costs (including IT cost, financial administration, etc.).
Subtotal	218 420	
13 per cent programme support	28 400	
Total	246 820	

Abbreviations: IT, information technology.

^a The remaining 70 per cent of G-5 staff costs is dedicated to the work under the Aarhus Convention and costs are reported to the bodies of the Aarhus Convention.

Table 5
January–December 2020 (projected) expenditures

(in United States dollars)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Core expenditures</i>	<i>Other expenditures</i>
A. Compliance mechanism	Travel of experts and participants	20 000	—
	Expert missions	5 000	—
	Subcontracts	5 000	—
B. Technical assistance	Travel of experts and participants, organizational costs (including capacity-building workshops)	—	10 000
	Subcontracts	—	7 000
C. Information exchange on a technical level	Ad hoc expert meetings (Travel of experts and eligible participants)	—	10 000
	Subcontracts (including maintenance and improvement of PRTR.net and the PRTR online tool on national implementation reports)	5 000	—
D. Reporting mechanism		— ^a	—

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Core expenditures</i>	<i>Other expenditures</i>	
E.	Awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes	Travel of experts and the secretariat	10 000	—
		Subcontracts	—	5 000
F.	Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Travel of experts, participants and the secretariat (including Working Group of the Parties and its session on capacity-building, Bureau)	40 000	—
G.	Technical assessment of the provisions of the Protocol		5 000	—
H.	Horizontal support areas	Staff training	500	—
		Technical, other operational support costs (including IT cost, financial administration, etc.)	5000	—
Subtotal (activities)			95 500	33 000
Staff requirements	One P-3 staff member (Protocol on PRTRs; PRTR.net)		177 000	—
	Secretarial support (G-staff)		37 630 ^b	—
Subtotal (staff requirements)			214 630	—
Programme support costs (13 per cent)			40 317	4 290
Total			350 447	37 290

^a No expenditures in this work area are forecasted for 2020.

^b G-5 staff member is required in order to provide administrative support for activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol. The staff costs for January–December 2020 are shared with the Convention as follows: 70 per cent of costs are covered by the contributions for the Convention and 30 per cent by the contributions for the Protocol.