

## **24th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention**

**(Virtual, 1-3 July 2020)**

### **Agenda item 6: Implementation of the work programmes, including financial matters**

#### **Norway**

Norway would like to thank the Secretariat for its report on implementation of the work programme and the status of financial contributions and expenditures. Judging from the report the challenges linked to the current system of voluntary contributions and the fluctuating level of and timing of payment of contributions persist. This points to the need to strengthen the current financial arrangement based on voluntary contributions to secure more stable, evenly distributed and early contributions.

Norway would like to take the opportunity to express its support for the EU encouragement to the Secretariat to seek synergies and make use of digital tools to the extent possible.

Given the concerns expressed by the Ecoforum and the Secretariat as to the possible effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Parties. Contributions, Norway would like to confirm its intention to continue its regular contribution on the same level as we have in previous years, that is with 20.000 USD to the Convention and the same amount to the Protocol, subject to the annual budgetary decisions of the Parliament. Any additional contributions would have to be considered for each year.