

**25th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention
(Virtual, 7-8 June 2021)
Agenda item 9(j): Financial arrangements**

Norway

Norway would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for preparing the draft decision on financial arrangements.

As you know from previous discussions at the last Meeting of the Parties and Working Group of the Parties, Norway prefers a mandatory financial scheme based on adjusted UN scale of assessed contributions. We believe this would be the best solution based on the principles of an equitable sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management.

Judging from the previous discussions, the prospect of reaching consensus on the introduction of a mandatory scheme may not be great. However, we are not giving up on our aim to secure more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding of the activities under the Convention. And we believe this should be kept on the table for final discussion at the upcoming Meeting of the Parties.

We therefore support keeping the option C on a mandatory contribution scheme based on an adjusted UN scale of assessments on the table, as proposed in the draft decision.

As for option B of recommendatory contributions, this could have been a possible compromise worth considering if it would have contained more specific recommendations as to the contributions from each Party.

Norway also supports keeping the inclusion of the goals of the financial arrangements and the concerns about the uneven distribution of contributions currently in brackets in the preamble of the draft decision. We further support the proposal to increase the minimum amount expected to be contributed by each Party.

Thank you Chair,