

**25th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention
(Virtual, 7-8 June 2021)
Agenda item 9 (d): Application of the Principles of the Convention in International
Forums**

Norway

Thank you Chair,

Norway would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for the draft decision on application of the principles of the Convention in International Forums. We also thank France for its continued leadership on this issue.

We support the draft as originally proposed.

We have the following comments to the amendments proposed by ECO Forum:

Paragraph 3 bis: We support the paragraph proposed by ECO Forum with the amendment proposed by the EU and its Member States (to replace "*in line with*" with "*taking into account*").

Paragraph 4: Norway would welcome clarification as to the meaning of regular cooperation. Does "regular" refer to meetings or procedures to be carried out at specific stages or points in time? Or does it simply mean regular contact of any kind as appropriate? If it is the latest meaning that is the intention, we can support it.

Paragraph 9(b): Norway can support inclusion of the additional issues as proposed. We do however note that this would require prioritizing between all the issues mentioned in the paragraph in the preparation of the thematic sessions to be convened, as it may be difficult to find time to cover all the issues mentioned.

Paragraph 9(c): Norway can support the inclusion of the impact of COVID-19 on public participation in international forums among the cross-cutting issues to be adressed.

Paragraph 9(e): Norway would welcome clarification as to the support and guidance the Working Group would be expected to provide to Parties, and does the regular and close cooperation refer to existing general or specific

cooperation or to an expectation to instigate such cooperation if it does not already exist?

Paragraph 10(c): Norway can support the inclusion of additional thematic forums among those the Secretariat is requested to oversee development of tailored guidance material to. This is subjected to the availability of resources in the chapeau of the paragraph and the addition could require stronger prioritization by the Secretariat between the forums mentioned.

Thank you Chair