

25th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention

(Virtual, 7-8 June 2021)

Agenda item 12: Implementation of the work programme for 2018-2021, including financial matters

Norway

Thank you, Chair

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 encourage the Secretariat to seek synergies and make use of digital tools to the extent possible.

Norway would like to confirm its intention to continue its regular annual 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.

Thank you Chair.