

United Kingdom statement on Aarhus Convention financial contributions:

We would like to thank both the Bureau and the Secretariat for the preparation of this document prior to the Meeting of the Parties, and for their delicate handling of the matter at recent meetings, cognisant of the recent lack of consensus regarding financial contributions, the implementation of the UN scale of assessments and the minimum contributions towards the functioning of the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol.

In the light of the discussions held at the last Meeting of the Parties, as well as the June session of the Working Group of the Parties held this year, we seek to clarify our position on the matters relating to financial arrangements. We continue to view the voluntary scheme of discretionary financial arrangements to be the most suitable option currently, as per draft decision VII/6 on financial arrangements under the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol.

The Bureau and the Secretariat conduct effective work in ensuring the functioning of the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol. With this in mind, we would like to ensure this work is safeguarded, and would support the minimum contribution by Parties or signatories to be raised from \$500 to \$1000 USD per calendar year. We encourage fellow Parties and signatories of the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol to provide certainty and further ensure the smooth running of the Bureau and Secretariat by ensuring that financial contributions are met in a timely manner at the start of each calendar year.