

Ref.: 2023/OES/180T/ENV/101

13 June 2023

Excellency,

I would be grateful if you would kindly transmit the enclosed letter from Mr. Aurimas Saladžius, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), to H. E. the Minister of Environment, for attention.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Olga Algayerova

H. E., the Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva
Parties to the Aarhus Convention



Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Aarhus Convention)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: public.participation@un.org

Aurimas Saladžius

**Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental
Matters**

7 June 2023

Your Excellencies,

**Re: Financial contribution to the Aarhus Convention work programme (2022–2025)
to support the Compliance Mechanism and the Rapid Response Mechanism**

I write on the behalf of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) regarding financial support required for the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2022-2025.

Particularly, I would like to draw your attention to an expressed serious concern by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18-21 October 2021) with regard to the low level and irregularity of the financial contributions, which impacts the implementation of the work programme. This concern is notably alarming in view of the:

- expanded workload and complexity of the work of the Compliance Committee, including with regard to advisory support and capacity building for the Parties concerned; and
- the introduction of the new Rapid Response Mechanism, which represents the first international mechanism specifically safeguarding environmental defenders to be established within a legally binding framework either under the United Nations system or other intergovernmental structure.

For sustainability of the work and effective delivery on commitments, it is crucial to ensure funding on a predictable and long-term basis. Since the current financial scheme adopted by the Meeting of the Parties is based on voluntary contributions and provides no guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, making the funding of these critical work areas unpredictable and far from secure.

I therefore would like to bring this serious situation to your attention and call on all Parties to consider increasing their annual voluntary contribution and, in the meantime, to provide additional contributions specifically for these work areas as soon as possible.

Kindly liaise directly with the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention on any questions related to financial contributions. I would like to emphasize that your support will greatly facilitate the planning and implementation of the above work areas under the Convention.

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the support of each Party, which is essential for the successful implementation of the Convention's activities.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Aurimas Saladžius

To: The Ministers of Environment of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
Cc: Permanent missions to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva of the
Parties to the Aarhus Convention
National focal points of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention