

**27th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus
Convention (WGP 27)
(Geneva 26-28. juni 2023)**

Agenda item 8: Work programme and financing

Norway

Thank you Chair,

And thank's to the Secretariat for reporting on the implementation of the work programme and the related contributions and expenditures.

Norway takes this opportunity to inform the Working Group of Norway's intention to maintain its annual contribution of 45.000 USD, divided equally between the expenditures under the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol, in order to support financial sustainability and predictability and thus also the effective functioning and follow-up of the Convention. This intended financial contribution is as usual subject to the annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities,

As stated previously in the meeting, Norway last year made an additional contribution of NOK 350.000, to be used primarily for the Rapid Response Mechanism.

It remains to be seen whether an additional contribution to the work under the Convention will also be possible for this year.

We note the precarious financial situation and the restraints it puts on the work on the follow-up of the Convention, especially the highly important work of the Compliance Committee, as we heard from the Chair of the Committee yesterday. We also note the calls from civil society for the provision of the necessary resources for the work of the Committee, which they described as crucial.

The Parties to the Aarhus Convention have a collective responsibility to contribute to the effective functioning and follow-up of the Convention, in order to achieve its goals. Although contributions can be and are made in different ways, stable, predictable and fairly shared financial contributions are a necessary foundation.

Based on the secretariat's report and the letter sent by the Chair of the Aarhus MOP via the UNECE Executive Secretary to all Aarhus Parties, including our Minister of Climate and Environment, the current financial mechanism based on voluntary contributions continues to pose challenges for ensuring predictable, stable and equitably shared funding. We therefore believe that we should continue to explore options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding.

Thank you, Chair.