

Statement by Ukraine

We, as representatives of Ukraine, on behalf of the state and on our own behalf, express our gratitude and respect to the Chair, the Secretariat, all colleagues and delegates for their support and the opportunity to attend this 27th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. We also express our respect and gratitude for the support of our country and its government agencies in the most difficult times. Since Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, our partners have united and consolidated their support, ranging from weapons to international technical assistance in various areas of public administration.

Today, Ukraine is waging a war on two fronts: on the one hand, it must resist full-scale aggression from Russia, and on the other hand, it must overcome obstacles to public access to environmental information while the Russian Federation commits environmental crimes against all of humanity every day, starting with phosphorus bombs, the blowing up of the Kakhovka dam, and ending with the daily killing of dozens of civilians, including volunteers, environmental activists and scientists.

Today, we are here in this hall, communicating with like-minded people, listening to the development and achievements, while our hearts are with our families and following every alarm and message about the rocket attack directed at our hometown. We, like every other Ukrainian, fall asleep here after reading the news and learning that no Russian planes have taken off.

Despite this, we are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the development of our country as a party to the Aarhus Convention. We are doing everything in our power, doing everything in good faith and with a view to the bright future that every citizen of Ukraine believes in, to become a worthy member of the European Union. We believe in the victory and the peace formula of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi for a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace in Ukraine for the security of the whole world!!!

Now we would like to show you a video in which our Minister of Environmental Protection Ruslan Strilets will clearly tell you about the consequences of the terrible war on the environment that is destroying everything around: <https://youtu.be/f464EW-NZqo>