

27<sup>th</sup> WGP meeting of the WGP, Aarhus Convention  
26-28 June 2023, Geneva

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

Russia's unjustified and unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine has devastating impacts on people's lives and livelihoods, further aggravating many crises, including environmental ones. Deterioration of the air and water quality, degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems, including risks to neighboring countries are alarming.

Challenges that Ukraine is facing, including recent destruction of the dam at Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant is critical. The downstream flooding puts the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians living in around and even beyond. It intensifies the already dire humanitarian situation and worsens the damage caused to valuable ecosystems and biodiversity of the country.

Georgia condemns Russia's war of aggression against its sovereign neighbour and reaffirms its full support and solidarity to Ukraine and Ukrainian people.

In this situation Ukraine's efforts towards implementation of environmental international obligations under the treaties to which the country is a Party is even more appreciated. We believe that advice that the country is seeking "on whether the adoption by the Ukraine of certain measures in the country is compatible with its obligations as a Party to the Aarhus Convention" will be implemented thoroughly to assist environmental democracy at the national level.

We, the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, the Working Group of the Parties within its competence, can think of means to support the Ukraine and Ukrainian people in the given critical situation by exploring the ways and methods that will be consistent with and not undermining the principles of the Aarhus Convention.

Georgia considers that all the efforts should be done in this direction, and we are deeply convinced that the same understanding is in this room.

Thank you