

**Twenty-seventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
(Geneva, 26 - 28 June 2023)**

Statement by Switzerland

Regarding agenda item 8 (Implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025, including financial matters):

“Switzerland is aware, that so far, there are no mandatory financial arrangements in place for the Aarhus Convention, and any contributions made by Parties are done so voluntarily. However, we would like to take a moment and encourage countries in a position to do so, to assess their contributions accordingly. Since the establishment of the Aarhus Convention, we have achieved many advancements and have adopted great new measures in order to strengthen the Convention’s objectives, one of them being the first of its kind (of course referring to the rapid response mechanism). The implementation and efficacy of these mechanisms and the increased volume and complexity of work require an equivalent number of resources. In this regard we especially would like to thank the staff for their unwavering dedication and invaluable work for the Aarhus Convention. As for Switzerland, we are committed to maintain our ongoing contributions for the foreseeable future and look forward to the continuing cooperation to further the implementation of the work programme.”