

Dear members of the Committee,

We express our great respect and gratitude for your support of Ukraine in such difficult times of Russia's armed aggression on the territory of our country.

We understand the importance of the implementation of the decisions of the Aarhus Convention Committee by the countries that are its Parties, and we do everything possible to fulfill the requirements of the Convention as soon as possible and within the prescribed period.

But due to military aggression we are constantly faced with higher-priority issues that arise every day on our way and do not allow us to fully and quickly fulfill our obligations. These include calculations of environmental damage, procedures for dealing with waste arising from military operations, how to save and preserve our resources, operational actions in emergency situations and environmental disasters, and other issues that in one way or another affect our country's economy.

Currently, the Ministry of Environment, together with the parties involved in the issue of Decision VII/8r of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, is coordinating the Action Plan of the decision. We are trying to form it in such a way that the measures can be carried out quickly and smoothly, and taking into account the realities of today, this process needs additional time for its implementation.

At the same time, we inform you that as soon as the Action Plan for the implementation of decision VII/8r is approved, we will immediately send it to the Committee for review.

After the implementation of the first steps, Ukraine will definitely inform the Committee with the first progressive report.

Thank you and best regards,

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine