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Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025,
including financial matters**

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2022–2025*

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021). It provides an overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2022–2025 for the reporting period 1 January 2023–30 April 2024.

* The present report was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control, as more time was required to finalize it.

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I. General considerations

1. The present report provides an overview of the contributions and estimated and projected expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) for 2022–2025,¹ from 1 January 2023 to 30 April 2024 inclusive (the reporting period). During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to observe a high degree of caution in its allocation of resources, mainly owing to the fact that many contributions were not yet available at the beginning of the financial year, thus creating uncertainty as to the availability of sufficient funds. The secretariat made various efforts to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund. The secretariat will continue to pursue synergies with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations specialized agencies and other partners in order to maintain a satisfactory number of activities and share implementation costs. Capacity-building of authorities and advisory support to Parties were provided by staff throughout the implementation of different work areas, including on technical assistance, promotion and the compliance mechanism.

2. For the sustainability of the work under the Convention, it is crucial to ensure staff funding on a long-term basis. The extension of contracts for staff funded from the Aarhus Convention trust fund depends on the availability and level of contributions received. Since the current financial scheme is based on voluntary contributions and provides no guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, making the funding of extrabudgetary posts unpredictable and far from secure. As in previous years, the secretariat was therefore obliged to prioritize securing funds for staff costs, which need to be reserved at least one year in advance of the issuing of a staff contract. The secretariat was able to allocate sufficient funds for staff and for activities during the reporting period only owing to savings accumulated at the end of each preceding year.

3. It should be noted that the volume and complexity of the legal work of the Convention's Compliance Committee has significantly increased, including with regard to advisory support and capacity-building for Parties concerned, which requires the secretariat's greater engagement in terms of legal skills and time allocation. Furthermore, in order to ensure immediate support to the new work area on the rapid response mechanism, the required tasks were redistributed between and absorbed by the existing staff, mostly those supporting the compliance mechanism, while the recruitment of the remaining staff is ongoing.² Also, pursuant to paragraph 18 of decision VII/9 (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021), the secretariat submitted a request to allocate regular budget resources to strengthen secretariat capacity for that purpose, which resulted in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/253 on special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/RES/78/253). It should be noted that the General Assembly decided to allocate only general temporary assistance funding for the rapid response mechanism on environmental defenders for 2024. This funding will be included in the annual ECE budget proposals to be submitted to the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly for consideration each year.³

¹ See ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1, decision VII/5, annex I, item X.

² In the period 2022–2024, in line with the adopted work programme, the secretariat was undertaking the recruitment of two Legal Affairs Officers (P-3). One staff member joined the secretariat in July 2023. The recruitment of the second staff member is expected to be completed in 2024. Costs for a Junior Professional Officer who joined the secretariat in October 2020 were fully covered by Italy by October 2022; for 2023, Italy covered 50 per cent of the costs and the remaining 50 per cent of the costs were allocated from the Convention's trust fund; for 2024–2025, full costs will be covered from the Convention's trust fund. To meet demands for legal work, one Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3) was replaced with one Legal Affairs Officer (P-4). Germany offered to support a Junior Professional Officer for two years, who is expected to join the secretariat end 2024/early 2025.

³ See General Assembly resolution 78/253 (sect. X, para. 3). This funding includes the following items (annual expenditures): P-3 Legal Affairs Officer; consultancy (\$15,000) and travel of staff (\$17,500).

4. To ensure the continuity of work and effective delivery on commitments, the secretariat regularly had to reconsider the distribution of tasks among its staff members to guarantee the timely delivery of work when there were competing priorities. Furthermore, the heavy workload and the continuous demand for the secretariat's input place a great strain on staff, in particular in the work area on the compliance mechanism, a new work area on the rapid response mechanism and the work areas on capacity-building and promotion of the Convention; the professional staff concerned consistently worked at more than 100 per cent and, in periods of peak workload, at considerably more than 100 per cent. Other interlinked areas of work where the secretariat lacks human resources are capacity-building and promotion. There is a real need to strengthen cooperation with other relevant organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and processes dealing with human rights and the environment, and to devote more effort to promoting the Convention among non-ECE countries and in other international forums (e.g., international forums dealing with climate change, chemicals or health and international financial institutions). There has been a substantial increase in demand from countries, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and international organizations for advisory expert support from the secretariat on the above-mentioned issues. Usually, these requests are made on an urgent basis, for example, immediately before and often during the other multilateral environmental agreements' Meeting of the Parties sessions or Implementation/Compliance Committee meetings. Support by the secretariat is pursued through providing substantive inputs to numerous reviews and documents prepared under other forums, liaising with those forums, delivering presentations and training sessions at relevant meetings, and acting as a "help desk" to respond to the many requests from countries and organizations. Currently, due to a lack of capacity, the secretariat has to turn down the vast majority of requests. The heavy workload and the continuous demand for the secretariat's input place staff under great strain and lead to serious frustration among the countries and organizations concerned.

5. After considering the relevant elements presented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Pattern of Conferences (A/78/96)*, the General Assembly did not establish a mandate or provide required guidance on rules of procedures, conditions of service for interpreters, security, authentication and universal access for the continuation of provision of online or hybrid meeting services. In the absence of such a mandate and legislative framework, hybrid and virtual meeting services are no longer being provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva effective 22 January 2024. Should services for virtual or hybrid meetings serviced by the United Nations Office at Geneva be requested in exceptional circumstances, these will be covered through extrabudgetary contributions, including costs for remote participation, and use of the authorized platforms. The secretariat therefore has to adjust its working methods and meeting organization to take into account these requirements.

II. Contributions

6. The "Adjusted contribution" columns in tables 1–2 are intended to offer a more realistic picture of the actual resources available for use in a given year. Contributions by Parties and signatories are often intended for use in a year other than the year in which the contribution was deposited and/or received. The adjusted contribution figure in a given year is derived from the actual contribution in that year, minus any part of that contribution that was intended for use in a different year, plus any contributions made in years other than the reference year but intended for use in the reference year. Owing to the lack of timely funding for any specific year, the secretariat is obliged to use the available funds, as necessary.

Please note that there is an ongoing liquidity crisis at the United Nations due to the lack of payment of regular contributions thereto by several Member States, which creates serious challenges for the use of United Nations regular budgetary resources. The liquidity crisis implied a freeze of recruitment on this post as well as consultancy- and travel-related expenditures. The secretariat is currently holding internal consultations regarding time frames related to receiving funds, establishing the above-mentioned post and initiating a recruitment process. Considering the growing need in the work area on the rapid response mechanism and the unstable situation with general temporary assistance funds, it is suggested that the current extrabudgetary post (P-3 Legal Affairs Officer) supporting the rapid response mechanism be maintained also in the new work programme for 2026–2029.

Amounts presented in all the tables below are rounded to whole numbers; amounts may also reflect changes based on exchange rate fluctuation between receipt of pledge and deposit of funds and possible bank charges. Table 3 contains information on pledges for the current 2022–2025 work programmes as of 30 April 2024.

A. Financial contributions and pledges

7. For convenience, a full overview of contributions for 2023 and 2024 for both the Convention and the Protocol current 2022–2025 work programmes is provided in, respectively, tables 1 and 2.

Table 1
Contributions received in 2023 and for 2023 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 30 April 2024

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	3 000	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	3 000	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Austria	—	10 288	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
	82 508	82 508	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	10 672	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	5 171	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2022
	5 336	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Azerbaijan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
Belgium (Federal)	—	15 538	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	—	22 198	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme (rapid response mechanism), received in 2024
	15 070	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 034	1 034	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
Belgium (Walloon Region)	3 722	3 722	For the Aarhus Convention 2023

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	3 722	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2021, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
	500	500	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2021, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
	500	500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Bulgaria	2 723	2 723	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	3 000	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Cyprus	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Czechia	—	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
	5 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	10 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2022
	10 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Denmark	21 380	21 380	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	10 680	10 680	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Estonia	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
European Union	109 170	109 170	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	27 382	27 382	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	12 170	12 170	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Finland	10 707	10 707	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	3 533	3 533	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
France	—	58 140	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
	16 146	16 146	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	10 917	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
	10 917	10 917	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Germany	60 000	60 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	20 000	20 000	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025
	27 987	27 987	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Hungary	—	4 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	—	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024
Iceland	1 500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
	1 500	1 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
Ireland	—	7 996	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
	27 412	27 412	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (Compliance Committee)
	81 878	81 878	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	8 449	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	4 797	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2022
	5 069	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Italy	116 649	116 649	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	21 575	21 575	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (e.g., capacity-building and public participation in decision-making)
	10 787	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Kazakhstan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Kyrgyzstan	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2020, received in 2023
	500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2021, received in 2023
	—	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
Latvia	2 000	2 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	—	1 067	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024
	1 066	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
Lithuania	—	1 195	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2020
	1 437	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	1 079	—	Additional contribution for 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	1 437	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2025, received in 2023
	1 079	—	Additional contribution for 2025 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	1 437	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2026, received in 2023
	1 079	—	Additional contribution for 2026 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	—	1 195	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2020
	1 079	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
	1 079	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2025, received in 2023
	1 079	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2026, received in 2023
Luxembourg	20 263	20 263	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	—	21 668	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (of which \$10,834 for rapid response mechanism and \$10,834 for Compliance Committee), received in 2024
	1 643	1 643	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Malta	—	977	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
Montenegro	1 065	1 065	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 665	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	1 065	1 065	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
	1 110	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Netherlands	54 885	54 885	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	32 017	32 017	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025
	21 954	21 954	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
North Macedonia	1 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Norway	22 492	22 492	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	10 405	10 405	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (Compliance Committee)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	35 002	—	Additional contribution in 2022 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism), received in 2023
	22 492	22 492	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Poland	—	5 394	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
Portugal	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Rep. of Moldova	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Romania	1 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
	1 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
Serbia	1 900	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023
	1 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2021, received in 2023 ^a
	1 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023 ^b
Slovakia	—	1 066	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2022
	5 476	5 476	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	1 079	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	533	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2022
	1 079	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Slovenia	3 767	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2023 ^c
	2 153	2 153	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
	2 153	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2023
Spain	11 013	11 013	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	11 013	11 013	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2023</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2023</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Sweden	34 990	34 990	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	17 990	17 990	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Switzerland	44 639	44 639	For the Aarhus Convention 2023 (of which CHF 20,000 to support work aimed at, e.g., providing advisory support and assistance to countries with economies in transition so as to strengthen capacities of their experts)
	80 552	80 552	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023 (of which CHF 50,000 to support work aimed at, e.g., providing advisory support and assistance to countries with economies in transition so as to strengthen capacities of their experts)
Ukraine	—	977	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	—	977	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024
United Kingdom	39 535	39 535	For the Aarhus Convention 2023 (of which \$4,651 for rapid response mechanism)
	11 682	11 682	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Total	1 311 024	1 335 342	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	307 032	275 017	

Abbreviations: PRTRs, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

^a In ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2023/4, this contribution, together with the contribution for the Protocol on PRTRs for 2022, was recorded as a 2023 contribution to the Aarhus Convention. This omission is hereby corrected.

^b In ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2023/4, this contribution, together with the contribution for the Protocol on PRTRs for 2021, was recorded as a 2023 contribution to the Aarhus Convention. This omission is hereby corrected.

^c In ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/6 and ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2023/4, this contribution was recorded as a 2023 contribution to the Aarhus Convention. This omission is hereby corrected.

Table 2
Contributions received in 2024 and for 2024 for the Convention and the Protocol as of
30 April 2024

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2024</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2024</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	3 000	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	3 000	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Austria	—	10 672	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	81 345	81 345	Additional contribution in 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	—	5 336	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Belgium (Federal)	15 538	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	22 198	—	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism), received in 2024
Bulgaria	2 673	2 673	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
Cyprus	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Czechia	—	5 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	10 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Denmark	21 380	21 380	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	10 680	10 680	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
European Union	107 296	107 296	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	26 824	26 824	Additional contribution for 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	12 170	12 170	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Finland	10 941	10 941	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	3 611	3 611	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
France	65 646	65 646	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
Germany	60 000	60 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	28 446	28 446	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Hungary	4 500	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	1 000	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024
Ireland	—	8 449	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	80 472	80 472	Additional contribution in 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	26 824	26 824	Additional contribution in 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (Compliance Committee)
	—	5 069	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Italy	—	10 787	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2024</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2024</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Kazakhstan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	1 000	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Kyrgyzstan	1 000	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	1 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	1 000	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2024
Latvia	1 067	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024
Lithuania	—	1 437	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	1 079	Additional contribution for 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (rapid response mechanism)
	—	1 079	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Luxembourg	21 668	—	Additional contribution in 2023 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (of which \$10,834 for rapid response mechanism and \$10,834 for Compliance Committee), received in 2024
Montenegro	—	1 665	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	1 110	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Norway	22 493	22 493	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	22 493	22 493	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Poland	5 394	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2024
	5 394	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	5 470	5 470	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
Portugal	1 609	1 609	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Romania	500	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2024
Slovakia	—	1 079	For the Aarhus Convention 2024, received in 2023
	—	1 079	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024, received in 2023
Sweden	34 990	34 990	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	17 990	17 990	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Ukraine	977	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2022, received in 2024
	977	—	For the Aarhus Convention 2023, received in 2024
	977	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2022, received in 2024
	977	—	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023, received in 2024

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2024</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2024</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Total	737 519	718 195	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	106 520	135 460	

Note: No financial contributions or formal pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Aarhus Convention for the previous and current work programmes: Armenia (2024), Azerbaijan (for 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024), Belgium (for 2024), Bosnia and Herzegovina (for 2024), Estonia (for 2024), Greece (for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), Guinea-Bissau (for 2022, 2023, 2024), Hungary (for 2024), Iceland (for 2024), Latvia (for 2024), North Macedonia (for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), Republic of Moldova (for 2021, 2022, 2024), Romania (for 2023, 2024), Serbia (for 2024), Slovenia (for 2023, 2024), Turkmenistan (for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for 2024). No financial contributions or formal pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs for the previous and current work programmes: Belgium (for 2022, 2023, 2024), Bosnia and Herzegovina (for 2019, 2024), Bulgaria (for 2024), Estonia (for 2024), France (for 2024), Israel (for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), Italy (for 2023), Latvia (for 2024), North Macedonia (for 2022, 2023, 2024), Poland (for 2022, 2023, 2024), Republic of Moldova (for 2022, 2024), Romania (for 2024), Serbia (for 2023, 2024), Slovenia (for 2024), Switzerland (for 2024) and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for 2024).

Table 3
Pledges for the current 2022–2025 work programmes as of 30 April 2024

(Original currency)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Croatia	\$	3 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	\$	3 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Georgia	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	\$	1 000	Additional contribution in 2024 to support implementation of Aarhus Convention work programme for 2022–2025 (Compliance Committee)
	\$	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Luxembourg	€	18 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	€	1 500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Malta	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	\$	5 500	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2017–2024
Netherlands	€	50 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	€	20 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Portugal	€	1 500	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	\$	1 373	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2025
Romania	\$	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2023
Serbia	\$	2 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
Spain	€	10 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	€	10 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024
Switzerland	CHF	40 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024 (of which CHF 20,000 to support work aimed at, e.g., providing advisory support and assistance to countries with economies in transition so as to strengthen capacities of their experts)
Tajikistan	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2022
	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2023
	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Ukraine	\$	1 000	For the Aarhus Convention 2024
	\$	1 000	For the Protocol on PRTRs 2024

B. In-kind contributions

8. The following major in-kind contributions were made in the reporting period:⁴

(a) Support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the travel of non-governmental and governmental delegates and a number of representatives of Aarhus Centres to the meetings of subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol; as well as for relevant activities of the Aarhus Centres related to the Convention and the Protocol and partially for travel of the secretariat to the relevant events;

(b) Support from the United Nations Development Programme for the travel of members of the judiciary for the 2023 Judicial Colloquium and the fifteenth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (Geneva, 3–5 April 2023) and partially for travel of the secretariat to the relevant events;

(c) Support from the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the ECE Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation funds, and the United Nations Development Programme to the international round table “Aarhus Convention: Effective Public Participation for Good Governance, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Development” (Tashkent, 1–2 June 2023);

(d) Support from a large number of organizations to the missions of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders;⁵

(e) Support from the Ford Foundation to the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders to strengthen the capacity of the Special Rapporteur’s mandate, build its visibility and profile, and expand its range of activities in the protection of human rights defenders at risk;⁶

(f) Support from Freedom House to the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders to strengthen the capacity of the mandate, build its visibility and profile, and expand its range of activities in the protection of human rights defenders at risk;⁷

(g) Support from the European Centre for Not-for-profit Law to the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders by providing direct support for the layout, the communication material and the proofreading by a professional translator of the Special Rapporteur’s Position Paper entitled “State repression of environmental protest and civil disobedience: A major threat to human rights and democracy”;

(h) Support to several missions of the secretariat, including from the Irish Environmental Network, to support the secretariat’s participation at an event to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Aarhus Convention and at various meetings between the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders and senior government officials, environmental and human rights organizations and environmental defenders (Dublin, 28–29 September 2023).

⁴ This is not an exhaustive list. In-kind contributions to support activities for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers only will be included in the report to the Protocol’s Working Group of the Parties.

⁵ See Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/4).

⁶ \$200,000 for 2023 and \$200,000 for 2024.

⁷ \$192,900.78 for 2024.

III. Estimated and projected expenditures

9. The estimated and projected expenditures for 2023 and 2024 shown in, respectively, tables 4 and 5, are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and the Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. Figures are rounded up and may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations. Reported estimated expenditures are those related to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention 2022–2025 work programme in 2023 and projected expenditures are those related to the implementation of the 2022–2025 work programme in 2024. Protocol-related expenses are reported to the bodies of the Protocol.

Table 4
January–December 2023 estimated expenditures

(United States dollars)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
I. Access to information	Staff time	61 167 ^a
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	31 804
Subtotal		92 971
II. Public participation	Staff time	10 195 ^b
	Subtotal	
III. Access to justice	Staff time	61 167 ^c
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	64 513
Subtotal		125 680
IV. Genetically modified organisms	Staff time	10 195 ^d
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	27 722
Subtotal		37 916
V. Compliance mechanism, including: V.1 – Compliance Committee; and V.2 – Rapporteur on matters related to art. 3 (8)	Staff time	348 433 ^e
	Subcontracts/consultancies	44 110
	Travel, DSA (V.1, experts/participants)	68 224
	Travel, DSA (V.2, Special Rapporteur-related)	51 450
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	7 138
	Subtotal	
VI. Capacity-building ^f	Staff time	40 778 ^g
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	10 754

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	6 815
Subtotal		58 347
VII. Reporting mechanism	Staff time	— ^h
Subtotal		—
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention	Staff time	10 770 ⁱ
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	1 760
Subtotal		12 530
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Staff time	21 540 ^j
Subtotal		21 540
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including preparations for the seventh ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff time	35 233 ^k
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	61 121
Subtotal		96 353
XI. Eighth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties		— ^l
Subtotal		—
XII. Horizontal support areas	Staff time (secretarial support) ^m	110 082
	Technical, other operational and support costs (including equipment, IT licences and services, financial, office and travel administration, banking fees, etc.)	83 502
Subtotal		193 585
Total (work areas I–XII)		1 168 471
Programme support costs (13 per cent)		151 901
Grand total		1 320 372

Abbreviations: Almaty Guidelines, Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums; DSA, daily subsistence allowance; IT, information technology.

Notes: Staff costs in notes *a–m* below are estimated by multiplying expected Professional (P) and General Service (G) staff time in each work area by the estimated annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. A breakdown by individual staff members follows.

^a Professional staff support, including responsibility for electronic information tools under the Convention, one P-3 staff at 30 per cent of full-time equivalent (FTE) for January–December 2023.

^b Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^c Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 30 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^d Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^e Professional staff support for servicing activities for V.1 and V.2, total for one P-4 staff at 80 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023, one P-3 staff at 95 per cent of FTE for July–December 2023 and one P-2 staff at 100 per cent of FTE for April–December 2023.

^f This work area encompasses activities related to coordination, and that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (e.g., access to information, public participation in decision-making, access to justice or genetically modified organisms) are covered under those activity areas and under the “Compliance mechanism” area, as appropriate.

^g Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 20 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^h Staff costs are reported under work area X.

ⁱ Professional staff support, one P-4 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^j Professional staff support, one P-4 staff at 10 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023.

^k Professional staff support, including provision of legal advice and general tasks, total of one P-4 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2022, two P-3 staff, of which one at 10 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023 and one at 5 per cent of FTE for July–December 2023.

^l Costs are to be reported under work area X.

^m Secretarial staff support, one G-5 staff at 70 per cent of FTE for January–December 2023 (70 per cent of G-5 staff, as the staff devotes 30 per cent of her work time to the Protocol).

Table 5
January–December 2024 projected expenditures

(United States dollars)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
I. Access to information	Staff time	56 700 ^a
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 500
Subtotal		106 000
II. Public participation	Staff time	56 700 ^b
	Subcontracts/consultancy	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 500
Subtotal		106 000
III. Access to justice	Staff time	66 200 ^c
	Subcontracts/consultancy	5 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 500
Subtotal		74 700
IV. Genetically modified organisms	Staff time	9 500 ^d
	Subcontracts/consultancy	2 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 500
Subtotal		15 000
V. Compliance mechanism, including: V.1 – Compliance Committee; and V.2 – Rapporteur on matters related to art. 3 (8)	Staff time	644 700 ^e
	Subcontracts/consultancies	30 000
	Travel, DSA (V.1 experts/participants)	90 000

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	Travel, DSA (V.2 Special Rapporteur-related)	55 300
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	36 200
Subtotal		856 200
VI. Capacity-building ^f	Staff time	37 800 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	3 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	3 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 000
Subtotal		46 800
VII. Reporting mechanism	Staff time	— ^h
Subtotal		—
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention	Staff time	11 100 ⁱ
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	5 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 000
Subtotal		24 100
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Staff time	22 200 ^j
	Subcontracts/consultancies	2 000
	Travel, DSA (experts)	5 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	5 000
Subtotal		34 200
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including preparations for meetings of the Working Group of the Parties, the Bureau and the eighth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff time	39 500 ^k
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	65 000
	Travel, DSA (staff missions)	3 500
Subtotal		108 000
XI. Eighth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties		— ^l
Subtotal		—
XII. Horizontal support areas	Staff time (secretarial support) ^m	101 100
	Technical, other operational and support costs (including equipment, IT licences and services, financial, office and travel administration, printing, banking fees, costs to cover organization of hybrid meetings, etc.)	101 800

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	Training (staff)	4 000
Subtotal		206 900
Total (work areas I–XII)		1 577 900
Programme support costs (13 per cent)		205 127
Grand total		1 783 027

Notes: Staff costs in notes *a–m* below are estimated by multiplying expected Professional (P) and General Service (G) staff time in each work area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. A breakdown by individual staff members follows. Estimates are given for the full calendar year and also include new staff whose recruitment is ongoing and has not been completed.

^a Professional staff support, including responsibility for electronic information tools under the Convention, one P-3 staff at 30 per cent of full-time equivalent (FTE) for January–December 2024.

^b Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 30 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^c Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 35 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^d Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^e Professional staff support for servicing activities for V.1 and V.2, one P-4 staff at 80 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024, total of two P-3 staff at 165 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024 (one P-3 staff at 95 per cent of FTE, and one P-3 staff at 70 per cent of FTE), and one P-2 staff at 100 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^f This work area encompasses activities related to coordination, and that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (e.g., access to information, public participation in decision-making, access to justice, or genetically modified organisms) are covered under those activity areas and under the “Compliance mechanism” area, as appropriate.

^g Professional staff support, one P-3 staff at 20 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^h Staff costs are reported under work area X.

ⁱ Professional staff support, one P-4 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^j Professional staff support, one P-4 staff at 10 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024.

^k Professional staff support, including provision of legal advice and general tasks, one P-4 staff at 5 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024, total for two P-3 staff at 15 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024 (one P-3 staff at 10 per cent of FTE, one P-3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE).

^l Costs are to be reported under work area X.

^m Secretarial staff support, one G-5 staff at 70 per cent of FTE for January–December 2024 (70 per cent of G-5 staff, as the staff member devotes 30 per cent of her work time to the Protocol).