

# **Twenty-eighth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (Geneva, 2 - 4 July 2024)**

## **Statements by Switzerland**

### **Regarding agenda item 5 (Thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums):**

Thank you Chair, dear esteemed Colleagues. Switzerland fully supports the right to peaceful protest at sea and is also aware about the importance of promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums. However, we would like to caution members, that the promotion and exchange of experiences cannot equate a possible applicability of the Aarhus Convention in international waters, as the interpretation of the territorial scope of the Convention has recently been called into question.

### **Regarding agenda item 7b (Preparations for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, Future financial arrangements):**

Thank you Chair. Switzerland thanks the secretariat for the detailed documentation. Switzerland has always advocated for a mandatory scheme of contributions, in the Aarhus Convention but also more generally in all the UNECE Conventions and Protocols. We believe that this is the only coherent and responsible way to secure the implementation of the work programmes under these instruments. This being said, Switzerland also reiterates that if the scheme of contributions should become mandatory (or at least recommendatory), according to the adjusted UN scale of assessment as provided in Annex II of the accompanying document, the cost of the work programme must be controlled simultaneously. Switzerland will therefore also advocate for priorities to be set on core issues in the work programme. We also support Norway's contribution to this discussion.