

**28th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
Geneva, 2-4 July 2024**

Agenda item 6 (a) (ii) Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders

UK Intervention

The UK welcomed the creation of the Rapid Response Mechanism and was pleased to support the election of the Special Rapporteur.

The UK has been following the actions of the Special Rapporteur and his engagement with other Parties to the Convention with interest.

The UK welcomed the Special Rapporteur to London earlier this year and has also been the subject of letters and statements.

The UK is in a pre-election period, so we reserve our position on the matters raised during both the open dialogue and this session today, as well as the matters referred to in the Special Rapporteur's letters and statements.

But, as we prepare for the next Meeting of the Parties, we look forward to working constructively with the Special Rapporteur, the Convention's Secretariat and other Parties to the Convention to ensure that the Rapid Response Mechanism is a success.