

**28th Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention
(2-4 July 2024)**

Agenda item 7(a): Future work programme

Norway

Thank you Chair,

Norway supports the proposal from the Bureau assisted by the Secretariat for the draft elements of the future work programme for the period 2026-2029.

The proposed work-programme entails additional costs. These additional costs are however linked to issues and functions that are important to ensure that the rights and obligations of the Convention are well known, fully and correctly implemented and applied and also promoted in other relevant processes and foras. Civil and political human rights, including the rights provided by the Convention in the environmental field, are crucial in order for us to address the challenges we face due to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution and obtain the sustainable development goals.

This does not mean that we should not carefully consider the proposed activities, work methods and related costs and possibilities for prioritization and cost-reduction without putting the efficient implementation and application of the Convention and the enjoyment of the rights it provides at risk.

Cost issues are also related to the discussion on future financial arrangements which will be discussed tomorrow.

Thank you, Chair