

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

Agenda item 7(b): Future Financial arrangements

Norway

Norway thanks the Secretariat and the Bureau for preparing the document on draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention.

As you know from previous discussions at the last MOP, Norway prefers a mandatory financial scheme based on adjusted UN scale of assessed contributions. We believe this would be the best solution based on the principles of an equitable sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management.

Judging from the previous discussions, the prospect of reaching consensus on the introduction of a mandatory scheme may not be great. However, we are not giving up on our aim to secure more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding of the activities under the Convention. And we still have some time left for discussions on this issue before the next Meeting of the Parties.

We would therefore support keeping the option of a mandatory contribution scheme based on an adjusted UN scale of assessments on the table, as proposed in the document on draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention.

As for the option of recommendatory contributions, this could have been a possible compromise worth considering if it would have contained more specific recommendations as to the contributions from each Party.

We would also support the proposal made by the Bureau of the PRTR Protocol to consider increasing the minimum contribution to 2.000 USD.

Norway is also supportive of including a call upon all Parties to increase their contributions to cover the activities set out in the work programme, taking into account the increased work-load of the compliance mechanism. We would however appreciate clarification from the Secretariat as to the need for this call to be included if the option of a mandatory contribution scheme based on an adjusted UN scale of assessments is chosen by the Parties. We further support the proposal for a requirement of a minimum amount expected to be contributed

by each Party, and believe a further increase of this amount should be considered.

Thank you Chair