

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

Agenda item 9: Implementation of the work programme for 2022-2025

Norway

Thank you Chair,

Norway takes this opportunity to inform the Meeting of the Parties of Norway's intention to maintain and consider possibilities for increasing its annual contribution of 45.000 USD, divided equally between the expenditures under the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol, subject of course to the annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities, in order to support financial sustainability and predictability and thus also the effective functioning and follow-up of the Convention. This is an increase from Norway's contributions from earlier years, which was 40.000 USD. As a consequence of Norway's budgetary procedures, Norway's annual contribution is paid early in the year they are meant to cover expenditures for.

The work-programme for the current period up to the next Meeting of the Parties in 2025 entails costs. These 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, biodiversity loss and pollution and obtain the sustainable development goals.

This does not mean that we should not carefully consider the costs and possibilities for reducing them without putting the efficient implementation and application of the Convention and the enjoyment of the rights it provides at risk.

Thank you Chair