



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 09 October 2025**

**WK 13353/2025 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**ENV**

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## **MEETING DOCUMENT**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on International Environment Issues (UNECE Aarhus)
Subject:	WPIEI (Aarhus): Preparation for the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (MOP8): Draft EU+MS position paper - comments from delegations

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Following the call for comments (WK 12464/2025 INIT), delegations will find attached comments from BG, DE, EE, PL and RO.

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
31 July 2025

Original: English

**BULGARIA****Economic Commission for Europe****Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on  
Access to Information, Public Participation  
in Decision-making and Access to Justice  
in Environmental Matters****Eighth session**

Geneva, 17–19 November 2025

Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work and operation of the Convention:  
financial arrangements****Draft decision VIII/6 on financial arrangements under the  
Convention****Prepared by the Bureau\****Summary*

At its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) mandated the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties to explore options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding, and requested them to make the appropriate proposals for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session. The present document was prepared pursuant to paragraph 14 of decision VII/6 on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1).

The Working Group considered the Draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/8) at its twenty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 2–4 July 2024). The secretariat reported that the Bureau of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfer Registers proposed to increase the minimum contribution to \$2,000. Several delegations provided their comments on the document. The Working Group: (a) took note of comments provided by participants; and (b) requested the Bureau to prepare a draft decision on financial arrangements in the light of the Working Group's comments, for its submission to the twenty-ninth meeting of the Working Group for consideration and approval and subsequent submission to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration. The draft decision was circulated to Parties and stakeholders for comments prior to its finalization for the twenty-ninth meeting of the Working Group.<sup>a</sup>

\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

The major issues for consideration by the Working Group included: (a) whether the scheme of financial arrangements should be mandatory (option C), recommendatory (option B), or voluntary (option A); (b) whether the United Nations scale of assessments should apply to contributions; and (c) whether to increase the minimum contribution from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The present document was prepared by the Bureau on the basis of the above-mentioned outcomes of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Working Group and comments received through open-ended consultations among national focal points and stakeholders.<sup>b</sup> At its twenty-ninth meeting the Working Group of the Parties considered and approved, as revised at the meeting, the draft decision on financial arrangements under the Convention (AC/WGP-29/CRP.6) and submitted it for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session.<sup>c</sup> The present document sets out this draft decision.

<sup>a</sup> ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/2, paras. 70–73.

<sup>b</sup> See <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/public-participation/consultation-draft-documents-eighth-session-aarhus>.

<sup>c</sup> See [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/WGP-29\\_List\\_of\\_decisions\\_outcomes\\_04.07.2025.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/WGP-29_List_of_decisions_outcomes_04.07.2025.pdf)

*The Meeting of the Parties,*

Recalling article 10 (3) of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), which states that the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis,

Recalling also its decisions I/13,<sup>1</sup> II/6,<sup>2</sup> III/7,<sup>3</sup> IV/7,<sup>4</sup> V/7,<sup>5</sup> VI/6<sup>6</sup> and VII/6,<sup>7</sup> through which an interim voluntary scheme of contributions, open to contributions from Parties, signatories and other States having opted to participate therein, has been established and maintained,

*Having considered* the outcomes of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/9) *where the United Nations scale of assessments has been explored as a possible guide* and recalling discussions and decisions at each of the previous sessions of the Meeting of the Parties on financial arrangements under the Convention *including the considerations of voluntary options about the need* to establish *adequate* financial arrangements based on the goals of stability, predictability and an equitable sharing of the burden,

*Recognizing* the need to:

- (a) Ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement the Convention's work programme for 2026–2029, adopted through decision VIII/5,
- (b) Also ensure a scheme of financial contributions that is transparent and accessible to all Parties, signatories and other States and organizations wishing to contribute,
- (c) Establish financial arrangements under the Convention based on the principles of an equitable sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management,

*Expressing its serious concern* that the financial burden has not been evenly distributed during the current intersessional period in terms of amounts and timeliness, with several Parties and signatories not contributing at all, and that the current level of Parties' contributions is also insufficient to cover the activities proposed in the work programme for 2026–2029,

*Believing* that alternative options to the financial arrangements in place under the Convention should be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at its next session to ensure that the arrangements meet the goals of stability, predictability and an equitable sharing of the burden,

1. **Option A for voluntary contributions:** *[Agrees to continue to use the existing interim scheme of contributions as reflected in decision VII/6 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1), based on the following principles:]*

~~**Option Abis for voluntary contributions:** *[Agrees to continue to use the existing interim scheme of contributions as reflected in decision VII/6 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) while encouraging Parties to consider contributing as indicated in Annex to this decision, based on the following principles:]*~~

(a) The Parties should collectively strive to ensure that the costs of the activities of the work programme that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget are covered through the financial scheme;

**Commented [WU1]:** Although Bulgaria prefers Option A for voluntary contributions, we are flexible on this matter and may support also Option Abis for voluntary contributions if most of the member states decide to do so. Against that background, we regard the compromise proposal of Germany as very appropriate: on the one hand, the voluntary scheme is kept without any conditionalities and additional engagements for the member states, but on the other - the United Nations scale of assessments is noted and this could be used as a voluntary guide for calculation of the contributions in order to be achieved more stable and predictable financing. Nevertheless, for the sake of clarity we would like to propose redrafting the paragraph in the spirit of the proposal of Germany.

<sup>1</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.14.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.10.

<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.15.

<sup>4</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1.

<sup>5</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1.

<sup>7</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1.

(b) No Party or signatory is expected to contribute less than \$2,000 for the Convention's work programme in its contribution for a given calendar year;

(c) Contributions shall be made in cash and shall not be earmarked for a particular activity;

(d) Additional contributions may be made in cash or in kind and may be earmarked for a particular activity;

(e) Contributions in cash shall be made through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Trust Fund for Local Technical Cooperation (Aarhus Convention project);

(f) If allowed by the domestic budgetary procedures of each Party, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by 1 October of the preceding year, or, where this is not an option, it is recommended that contributions be made in the first six months of the calendar year, so as to secure payment of staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the respective programme of work;

(g) To keep administrative costs related to fund management to a minimum, insofar as possible and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, contributions should preferably be paid net, with possible charges at the expense of donors, concentrated as much as possible within the intersessional period, by, for example, making multi-annual or annual contributions continuously (for every calendar year) and by merging contributions for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers into one transfer, if appropriate;

(h) Parties pledge, where possible, prior to the adoption of a work programme by the Meeting of the Parties, their expected annual or multi-annual financial and in-kind contributions. Signatories, other interested States and organizations may also wish to indicate their expected contributions;

2. *Requests* Parties to contribute each year or to make multi-annual contributions towards the costs of activities under the work programme, in accordance with the scheme referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Invites* signatories, other interested States and public entities, as well as the private sector, in accordance with the 2015 Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector,<sup>8</sup> to contribute, in cash or in kind, towards covering the costs of the work programme;

4. *Calls upon* countries with economies in transition to finance, to the extent possible, their own participation in the activities;

5. *Calls upon* international organizations working in countries with economies in transition to support the participation of representatives of those countries and non-governmental organizations in the meetings and other activities;

6. *Encourages* Parties that have historically contributed generously to maintain, or return to, their previous levels of contribution;

7. *Calls upon* all Parties to substantially increase their annual voluntary contribution to cover fully the requirements of the work programme, taking into account the expanded workload and complexity of the tasks regarding compliance matters, including with regard to advisory support and capacity-building under the Compliance Committee for the Parties concerned and the pressing need for safeguarding of environmental defenders leading to a rise in the number of related requests;

8. *Also calls upon* all Parties to increase their additional annual contribution to support the work of the Compliance Committee due to its increased workload;

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Global Compact, report, 2015 (revised). Available at [www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3431](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3431). This source will be checked closer to the adoption date.

9. *Requests* all Parties to ensure the equitable distribution of the financial responsibility for implementation of the work programme, and requests the Bureau to liaise with Parties where appropriate concerning the achievement of this goal;

10. *Requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to allocate in the Convention trust fund, by 1 October of each year, the sum required for the extension of the contracts of extrabudgetary staff of the secretariat for the upcoming year, as a priority, and also costs needed for implementation of activities in the first quarter of the upcoming year;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare annual reports specifically indicating contributions, and reflecting any changes to:

(a) The estimated costs of activities for the next calendar year;

(b) The composition of the Parties, for review by the Working Group of the Parties, in order to strive to ensure that the level of contributions matches the level of funding needed for the implementation of the work programme;

12. *Requests* the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to provide an estimation of the operational costs needed for the effective functioning of the Convention, which should be clearly distinct from the cost of other activities that are subject to availability of resources;

13. *Requests* the Working Group of the Parties to consider, in the light of the above-mentioned annual reports, whether changes would be required in the content or time frame of the work programme in the event that the level of actual and/or pledged contributions does not match the level of funding needed;

14. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report on financial matters for each session of the Meeting of the Parties, including information on how much Parties and other participating States and organizations have contributed to the budget of the Convention in cash and in kind, and how the contributions were spent;

15. *Agrees* to review the operation of the scheme of financial arrangements at its ninth session;

16. *Mandates* the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties to explore, in the next intersessional period, options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding, and requests them to make the appropriate proposals for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to allocate more resources to support the work under the Convention, noting in this regard the positive evaluation of the Environment subprogramme during the 2013 review of the 2005 reform of the Commission,<sup>9</sup> the Self-evaluation on the activities serviced by UNECE under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers<sup>10</sup> and considering, inter alia, the balance in the use of regular budgetary resources in the different subprogrammes.

<sup>9</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 17 (E/2013/37–E/ECE/1464, annex III, paras. 7–8).*

<sup>10</sup> Available, under “Environment” tab, at [https://unece.org/evaluation-reports#accordion\\_2](https://unece.org/evaluation-reports#accordion_2).

## Annex

## Indicative annual contributions for 2026–2029

Column A:	Column B:	Column C:	Column D:	Column E:	Column F:
<i>Member States (Parties and signatories)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>f</sup></i>
Albania	0.0100	0.0353	750.88	0.0344	732.10
Armenia	0.0070	0.0247	525.61	0.0241	512.47
Austria	0.6260	2.2080	47 004.80	2.1528	45 829.68
Azerbaijan	0.0340	0.1199	2 552.98	0.1169	2 489.15
Belgium	0.7730	2.7265	58 042.67	2.6584	56 591.61
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0140	0.0494	1 051.23	0.0481	1 024.94
Bulgaria	0.0710	0.2504	5 331.22	0.2442	5 197.94
Croatia	0.0880	0.3104	6 607.70	0.3026	6 442.51
Cyprus	0.0350	0.1235	2 628.06	0.1204	2 562.36
Czechia	0.3440	1.2134	25 830.12	1.1830	25 184.36
Denmark	0.5310	1.8729	39 871.49	1.8261	38 874.70
Estonia	0.0450	0.1587	3 378.94	0.1548	3 294.47
European Union <sup>g</sup>	—	—	—	2.5000	53 220.18
Finland	0.3860	1.3615	28 983.79	1.3275	28 259.20
France	3.8580	13.6080	289 687.75	13.2678	282 445.56
Georgia	0.0090	0.0317	675.79	0.0310	658.89
Germany	5.6920	20.0769	427 398.31	19.5750	416 713.35
Greece	0.2800	0.9876	21 024.51	0.9629	20 498.90
Guinea-Bissau	0.0010	0.0035	75.09	0.0034	73.21
Hungary	0.2230	0.7866	16 744.52	0.7669	16 325.91
Iceland	0.0350	0.1235	2 628.06	0.1204	2 562.36
Ireland	0.4720	1.6648	35 441.32	1.6232	34 555.29
Italy	2.8130	9.9220	211 221.27	9.6740	205 940.73
Kazakhstan	0.1310	0.4621	9 836.47	0.4505	9 590.56
Kyrgyzstan	0.0030	0.0106	225.26	0.0103	219.63
Latvia	0.0500	0.1764	3 754.38	0.1720	3 660.52
Liechtenstein	0.0090	0.0317	675.79	0.0310	658.89
Lithuania	0.0810	0.2857	6 082.09	0.2786	5 930.04
Luxembourg	0.0730	0.2575	5 481.39	0.2510	5 344.36
Malta	0.0200	0.0705	1 501.75	0.0688	1 464.21
Monaco	0.0110	0.0388	825.96	0.0378	805.31
Montenegro	0.0040	0.0141	300.35	0.0138	292.84
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.2980	4.5783	97 463.63	4.4639	95 027.04
North Macedonia	0.0080	0.0282	600.70	0.0275	585.68
Norway	0.6530	2.3033	49 032.17	2.2457	47 806.36
Poland	0.8310	2.9311	62 397.75	2.8578	60 837.81
Portugal	0.3280	1.1569	24 628.71	1.1280	24 013.00
Rep. of Moldova	0.0060	0.0212	450.53	0.0206	439.26

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Column A:	Column B:	Column C:	Column D:	Column E:	Column F:
Member States (Parties and signatories)	United Nations scale of assessments (percentage) <sup>b</sup>	Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage) <sup>c</sup>	Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars) <sup>d</sup>	Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage) <sup>e</sup>	Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars) <sup>f</sup>
Romania	0.3580	1.2627	26 881.34	1.2312	26 209.31
Serbia	0.0400	0.1411	3 003.50	0.1376	2 928.41
Slovakia	0.1490	0.5256	11 188.04	0.5124	10 908.34
Slovenia	0.0770	0.2716	5 781.74	0.2648	5 637.20
Spain	1.8950	6.6841	142 290.90	6.5170	138 733.63
Sweden	0.8220	2.8994	61 721.96	2.8269	60 178.91
Switzerland	1.0290	3.6295	77 265.08	3.5388	75 333.46
Tajikistan	0.0030	0.0106	225.26	0.0103	219.63
Turkmenistan	0.0360	0.1270	2 703.15	0.1238	2 635.57
Ukraine	0.0740	0.2610	5 556.48	0.2545	5 417.57
United Kingdom	3.9910	14.0771	299 674.39	13.7252	292 182.53
Uzbekistan	0.0240	0.0847	1 802.10	0.0825	1 757.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.3510</b>	<b>100.0000</b>	<b>2 128 807.00</b>	<b>100.0000</b>	<b>2 128 807.00</b>

<sup>a</sup> A percentage has not been assigned to the European Union, since the European Union is not included in the United Nations scale of assessments and therefore it is not possible to calculate the level of its contribution on the same basis as with the other Parties and signatories (i.e. on the basis of the adapted United Nations scale of assessments). Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision I/13 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.14), the European Union contribution to activities under the work programme not covered by the United Nations regular budget would account for 2.5 per cent of the total needed for core activities (operational costs). This commitment is subject to annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities of the European Union. The actual amounts for the contribution of each Party and signatory between 2026 and 2029 will be calculated in due course, subject to the consideration and approval of the draft decision on the work programme for 2026–2029 (ECE/MP.PP/...). To this end, two multipliers have been used: First multiplier of 3.5272 (without European Union share; 100 per cent divided to sum of column B (28.3510 per cent)); Second multiplier of 3.4390 (with European Union share; (100 per cent–2.5 per cent of European Union share) divided to sum of column B (28.3510 per cent)).

<sup>b</sup> Figures in column B are based on the scale of assessments contained in General Assembly resolution 79/249 on a scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations for the period 2025–2027 (A/RES/79/249), adopted on 24 December 2024.

<sup>c</sup> Figures in column C (without European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: the percentages from the United Nations scale of assessments (data in column B) have been adjusted for the Convention by using the first multiplier of 3.5272 (per Member State), in order to arrive at a total sum of 100 per cent.

<sup>d</sup> Figures in column D (without European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: annual operational costs of the work programme (\$2,128,807) divided on 100 per cent and multiplied on corresponding percentage per Member State in column C.

<sup>e</sup> Figures in column E (with European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: the percentages from the United Nations scale of assessments (data in column B) have been adjusted for the Convention by using the second multiplier of 3.4390 (per Member State), in order to arrive at a total sum of 100 per cent.

<sup>f</sup> Figures in column F (with European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: annual operational costs of the work programme (\$2,128,807) divided on 100 per cent and multiplied on corresponding percentage per Member State in column E.]

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## GERMANY

### DE Comments on WK 12464/2025 INIT: DRAFT POSITION PAPER OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES regarding Agenda items 1, 2, 6, 8(b), 9(b) and 9(c) of the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (MOP8, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-20 November 2025)

1. Regarding **agenda items 2, 6a-d und 8 b** DE agrees on the proposed positions and statements.
2. Regarding **agenda item 9 c** (financial arrangements) DE only agrees to the proposed position and statement with option A (voluntary contributions without mentioning the Annex).

However, as DE recognizes the necessity for EU and its MS in the difficult discussion about the financial arrangements to at least take a little step at MoP 8 towards the Parties arguing for a different option, DE agrees to propose the attached compromise proposal for the draft decision – without imposing any obligations to follow the UN scale.

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
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Original: English

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*The Meeting of the Parties,*

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Having considered the outcomes of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/9), and recalling discussions and decisions at each of the previous sessions of the Meeting of the Parties on financial arrangements under the Convention, for example the United Nations scale of assessment for the considerations of voluntary options about the need to establish adequate financial arrangements based on the goals of stability, predictability and an equitable sharing of the burden,

Recognizing the need to:

(a) Ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement the Convention's work programme for 2026–2029, adopted through decision VIII/5,

(b) Also ensure a scheme of financial contributions that is transparent and accessible to all Parties, signatories and other States and organizations wishing to contribute,

(c) Establish financial arrangements under the Convention based on the principles of an equitable sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management,

Expressing its serious concern that the financial burden has not been evenly distributed during the current intersessional period in terms of amounts and timeliness, with several Parties and signatories not contributing at all, and that the current level of Parties' contributions is also insufficient to cover the activities proposed in the work programme for 2026–2029,

Believing that alternative options to the financial arrangements in place under the Convention should be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at its next session to ensure that the arrangements meet the goals of stability, predictability and an equitable sharing of the burden,

1. **Option A for voluntary contributions:** [Agrees to continue to use the existing interim scheme of contributions as reflected in decision VII/6 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1), based on the following principles:]

**Option Abis for voluntary contributions:** [Agrees to continue to use the existing interim scheme of contributions as reflected in decision VII/6 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) while encouraging Parties to consider contributing as indicated in Annex to this decision, based on the following principles:]

(a) The Parties should collectively strive to ensure that the costs of the activities of the work programme that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget are covered through the financial scheme;

(b) No Party or signatory is expected to contribute less than \$2,000 for the Convention's work programme in its contribution for a given calendar year;

<sup>1</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.14.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.10.

<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.15.

<sup>4</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1.

<sup>5</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1.

<sup>7</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1.

**Commented [G I 31]:** Footnote:

The United Nations scale of assessments is adopted by the General Assembly for a three-year period. It provides the basis for calculating the contributions of States Members of the United Nations to the United Nations regular budget.

(c) Contributions shall be made in cash and shall not be earmarked for a particular activity;

(d) Additional contributions may be made in cash or in kind and may be earmarked for a particular activity;

(e) Contributions in cash shall be made through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Trust Fund for Local Technical Cooperation (Aarhus Convention project);

(f) If allowed by the domestic budgetary procedures of each Party, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by 1 October of the preceding year, or, where this is not an option, it is recommended that contributions be made in the first six months of the calendar year, so as to secure payment of staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the respective programme of work;

(g) To keep administrative costs related to fund management to a minimum, insofar as possible and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, contributions should preferably be paid net, with possible charges at the expense of donors, concentrated as much as possible within the intersessional period, by, for example, making multi-annual or annual contributions continuously (for every calendar year) and by merging contributions for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers into one transfer, if appropriate;

(h) Parties pledge, where possible, prior to the adoption of a work programme by the Meeting of the Parties, their expected annual or multi-annual financial and in-kind contributions. Signatories, other interested States and organizations may also wish to indicate their expected contributions;

2. *Requests* Parties to contribute each year or to make multi-annual contributions towards the costs of activities under the work programme, in accordance with the scheme referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Invites* signatories, other interested States and public entities, as well as the private sector, in accordance with the 2015 Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector,<sup>8</sup> to contribute, in cash or in kind, towards covering the costs of the work programme;

4. *Calls upon* countries with economies in transition to finance, to the extent possible, their own participation in the activities;

5. *Calls upon* international organizations working in countries with economies in transition to support the participation of representatives of those countries and non-governmental organizations in the meetings and other activities;

6. *Encourages* Parties that have historically contributed generously to maintain, or return to, their previous levels of contribution;

7. *Calls upon* all Parties to substantially increase their annual voluntary contribution to cover fully the requirements of the work programme, taking into account the expanded workload and complexity of the tasks regarding compliance matters, including with regard to advisory support and capacity-building under the Compliance Committee for the Parties concerned and the pressing need for safeguarding of environmental defenders leading to a rise in the number of related requests;

8. *Also calls upon* all Parties to increase their additional annual contribution to support the work of the Compliance Committee due to its increased workload;

9. *Requests* all Parties to ensure the equitable distribution of the financial responsibility for implementation of the work programme, and requests the Bureau to liaise with Parties where appropriate concerning the achievement of this goal;

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Global Compact, report, 2015 (revised). Available at [www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3431](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3431). This source will be checked closer to the adoption date.

10. *Requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to allocate in the Convention trust fund, by 1 October of each year, the sum required for the extension of the contracts of extrabudgetary staff of the secretariat for the upcoming year, as a priority, and also costs needed for implementation of activities in the first quarter of the upcoming year;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare annual reports specifically indicating contributions, and reflecting any changes to:

(a) The estimated costs of activities for the next calendar year;

(b) The composition of the Parties, for review by the Working Group of the Parties, in order to strive to ensure that the level of contributions matches the level of funding needed for the implementation of the work programme;

12. *Requests* the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to provide an estimation of the operational costs needed for the effective functioning of the Convention, which should be clearly distinct from the cost of other activities that are subject to availability of resources;

13. *Requests* the Working Group of the Parties to consider, in the light of the above-mentioned annual reports, whether changes would be required in the content or time frame of the work programme in the event that the level of actual and/or pledged contributions does not match the level of funding needed;

14. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report on financial matters for each session of the Meeting of the Parties, including information on how much Parties and other participating States and organizations have contributed to the budget of the Convention in cash and in kind, and how the contributions were spent;

15. *Agrees* to review the operation of the scheme of financial arrangements at its ninth session;

16. *Mandates* the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties to explore, in the next intersessional period, options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding, and requests them to make the appropriate proposals for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to allocate more resources to support the work under the Convention, noting in this regard the positive evaluation of the Environment subprogramme during the 2013 review of the 2005 reform of the Commission,<sup>9</sup> the Self-evaluation on the activities serviced by UNECE under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers<sup>10</sup> and considering, inter alia, the balance in the use of regular budgetary resources in the different subprogrammes.

<sup>9</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 17 (E/2013/37–E/ECE/1464, annex III, paras. 7–8).*

<sup>10</sup> Available, under “Environment” tab, at [https://unece.org/evaluation-reports#accordion\\_2](https://unece.org/evaluation-reports#accordion_2).

## [Annex

## Indicative annual contributions for 2026–2029

<i>Column A:</i>	<i>Column B:</i>	<i>Column C:</i>	<i>Column D:</i>	<i>Column E:</i>	<i>Column F:</i>
<i>Member States (Parties and signatories)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>f</sup></i>
Albania	0.0100	0.0353	750.88	0.0344	732.10
Armenia	0.0070	0.0247	525.61	0.0241	512.47
Austria	0.6260	2.2080	47 004.80	2.1528	45 829.68
Azerbaijan	0.0340	0.1199	2 552.98	0.1169	2 489.15
Belgium	0.7730	2.7265	58 042.67	2.6584	56 591.61
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0140	0.0494	1 051.23	0.0481	1 024.94
Bulgaria	0.0710	0.2504	5 331.22	0.2442	5 197.94
Croatia	0.0880	0.3104	6 607.70	0.3026	6 442.51
Cyprus	0.0350	0.1235	2 628.06	0.1204	2 562.36
Czechia	0.3440	1.2134	25 830.12	1.1830	25 184.36
Denmark	0.5310	1.8729	39 871.49	1.8261	38 874.70
Estonia	0.0450	0.1587	3 378.94	0.1548	3 294.47
European Union <sup>g</sup>	—	—	—	2.5000	53 220.18
Finland	0.3860	1.3615	28 983.79	1.3275	28 259.20
France	3.8580	13.6080	289 687.75	13.2678	282 445.56
Georgia	0.0090	0.0317	675.79	0.0310	658.89
Germany	5.6920	20.0769	427 398.31	19.5750	416 713.35
Greece	0.2800	0.9876	21 024.51	0.9629	20 498.90
Guinea-Bissau	0.0010	0.0035	75.09	0.0034	73.21
Hungary	0.2230	0.7866	16 744.52	0.7669	16 325.91
Iceland	0.0350	0.1235	2 628.06	0.1204	2 562.36
Ireland	0.4720	1.6648	35 441.32	1.6232	34 555.29
Italy	2.8130	9.9220	211 221.27	9.6740	205 940.73
Kazakhstan	0.1310	0.4621	9 836.47	0.4505	9 590.56
Kyrgyzstan	0.0030	0.0106	225.26	0.0103	219.63
Latvia	0.0500	0.1764	3 754.38	0.1720	3 660.52
Liechtenstein	0.0090	0.0317	675.79	0.0310	658.89
Lithuania	0.0810	0.2857	6 082.09	0.2786	5 930.04
Luxembourg	0.0730	0.2575	5 481.39	0.2510	5 344.36
Malta	0.0200	0.0705	1 501.75	0.0688	1 464.21
Monaco	0.0110	0.0388	825.96	0.0378	805.31
Montenegro	0.0040	0.0141	300.35	0.0138	292.84
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.2980	4.5783	97 463.63	4.4639	95 027.04
North Macedonia	0.0080	0.0282	600.70	0.0275	585.68
Norway	0.6530	2.3033	49 032.17	2.2457	47 806.36
Poland	0.8310	2.9311	62 397.75	2.8578	60 837.81
Portugal	0.3280	1.1569	24 628.71	1.1280	24 013.00
Rep. of Moldova	0.0060	0.0212	450.53	0.0206	439.26

<i>Column A:</i>	<i>Column B:</i>	<i>Column C:</i>	<i>Column D:</i>	<i>Column E:</i>	<i>Column F:</i>
<i>Member States (Parties and signatories)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>Adjusted United Nations scale of assessments (percentage)<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>Amount to be contributed core annual for 2026–2029 (US dollars)<sup>f</sup></i>
Romania	0.3580	1.2627	26 881.34	1.2312	26 209.31
Serbia	0.0400	0.1411	3 003.50	0.1376	2 928.41
Slovakia	0.1490	0.5256	11 188.04	0.5124	10 908.34
Slovenia	0.0770	0.2716	5 781.74	0.2648	5 637.20
Spain	1.8950	6.6841	142 290.90	6.5170	138 733.63
Sweden	0.8220	2.8994	61 721.96	2.8269	60 178.91
Switzerland	1.0290	3.6295	77 265.08	3.5388	75 333.46
Tajikistan	0.0030	0.0106	225.26	0.0103	219.63
Turkmenistan	0.0360	0.1270	2 703.15	0.1238	2 635.57
Ukraine	0.0740	0.2610	5 556.48	0.2545	5 417.57
United Kingdom	3.9910	14.0771	299 674.39	13.7252	292 182.53
Uzbekistan	0.0240	0.0847	1 802.10	0.0825	1 757.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.3510</b>	<b>100.0000</b>	<b>2 128 807.00</b>	<b>100.0000</b>	<b>2 128 807.00</b>

<sup>a</sup> A percentage has not been assigned to the European Union, since the European Union is not included in the United Nations scale of assessments and therefore it is not possible to calculate the level of its contribution on the same basis as with the other Parties and signatories (i.e. on the basis of the adapted United Nations scale of assessments). Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision I/13 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.14), the European Union contribution to activities under the work programme not covered by the United Nations regular budget would account for 2.5 per cent of the total needed for core activities (operational costs). This commitment is subject to annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities of the European Union. The actual amounts for the contribution of each Party and signatory between 2026 and 2029 will be calculated in due course, subject to the consideration and approval of the draft decision on the work programme for 2026–2029 (ECE/MP.PP/...). To this end, two multipliers have been used: First multiplier of 3.5272 (without European Union share; 100 per cent divided to sum of column B (28.3510 per cent)); Second multiplier of 3.4390 (with European Union share; (100 per cent–2.5 per cent of European Union share) divided to sum of column B (28.3510 per cent)).

<sup>b</sup> Figures in column B are based on the scale of assessments contained in General Assembly resolution 79/249 on a scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations for the period 2025–2027 (A/RES/79/249), adopted on 24 December 2024.

<sup>c</sup> Figures in column C (without European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: the percentages from the United Nations scale of assessments (data in column B) have been adjusted for the Convention by using the first multiplier of 3.5272 (per Member State), in order to arrive at a total sum of 100 per cent.

<sup>d</sup> Figures in column D (without European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: annual operational costs of the work programme (\$2,128,807) divided on 100 per cent and multiplied on corresponding percentage per Member State in column C.

<sup>e</sup> Figures in column E (with European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: the percentages from the United Nations scale of assessments (data in column B) have been adjusted for the Convention by using the second multiplier of 3.4390 (per Member State), in order to arrive at a total sum of 100 per cent.

<sup>f</sup> Figures in column F (with European Union share of 2.5 per cent) are calculated as follows: annual operational costs of the work programme (\$2,128,807) divided on 100 per cent and multiplied on corresponding percentage per Member State in column E. ]

**ESTONIA**

With respect to Draft decision VIII/6 on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2025/12), Estonia can only support option A.

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PUBLIC

**POLAND**

Following the call for comments from 2nd October (WK 12380/2025 INIT) on Draft decision VIII/6 on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2025/12) please be informed that Poland supports German proposal for a new text.

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PUBLIC

## ROMANIA

Regarding the draft EU+MS position paper in document WK 12464/2025, we have no further comments.

Regarding the proposal from Germany on Draft decision VIII/6 on financial arrangements under the Convention, which was attached to the follow-up note on the WPIEI (UNECE Aarhus) meeting on 1 October 2025, we can support the proposal.

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