

**18th Working Group of the Parties (WGP 18)/ 5th Meeting of the Parties (MoP5) to the  
Aarhus Convention**

**(Maastricht, 29 June/ 30 June to 1 July 2014)**

**Agenda item 3(b)(iv) /6(b): Promoting of the Convention's principles in international  
foras**

**Norway**

Norway thanks the Bureau for preparing the draft decision on promoting of the Convention's principles in international foras. We also thank the Contracting parties and other participants at the 17th Working Group for constructive discussions on this issue.

Regarding paragraph 8, Norway considers supporting the implementation of Article 3 paragraph 7 of the Convention to be important both in order to promote the Convention's principles and to contribute to increased participation and thus also increased environmental democracy internationally.

The paragraph is an invitation, it is not an obligation to support. We would therefore prefer to keep the text within the last brackets. Mindful of Parties budgetary constraints, we would however propose the following changes;

- Insert "*within their capabilities*" after "organizations" in the first line
- Delete the brackets before "continue" and after "Convention"
- Delete "*allocate sufficient funds*" in the last line of the chapeau
- Keep litras (a) to (b) unchanged.
- In litra (c), delete "*the Convention's work programme to*" in the first line, substitute "*its*" with "*the*" in the same line, and add "*of the Convention's work programme*" between "*activities*" in the first line and "*on this topic*" in the second line.

Paragraph 8 with Norway's proposed changes:

*Invites* Parties, Signatories, international and other organizations, **within their capabilities** to ~~continue~~ supporting the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7 of the Convention ~~allocate sufficient funds~~:

- (a) At the national level, to support the participation of the public before, during and in the follow-up to meetings and events of international forums;
- (b) At the international level, to support international forums to promote more effective public participation in their projects, processes and policies;

(c) To ~~the Convention's work programme, to~~ support ~~its~~ the activities of the Convention's work programme on this topic, including the secretariat's expert assistance and capacity-building work, in order that it may respond usefully to the expected ongoing demand;]