**Norwegian position – financial arrangements – MOPP2 Maastricht**

Norway would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the draft decision on financial arrangements under the protocol. We would also take the opportunity to thank the organisers and the hosts of this Meeting, the government of the Netherlands, for providing us with excellent facilities and contribute to an efficient and fruitful meeting.

We would like to repeat the message in the preamble of the draft decision on financial arrangement. We are sorry to see what seems to be a discrepancy between the intentions of the financial arrangement and how the current scheme has functioned in the period 2011-2014.

On the one hand, the Parties have recognized the need to establish a financial arrangement under the Protocol based on the principles of an equitable sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management.

On the other hand, the current system of voluntary contributions has shown to be inadequate in order to fulfill these principles. The contributions have been too small to implement the work program for 2011-2014 and the financial burden has not been evenly distributed, with a significant number of Parties and Signatories not contributing at all.

The Parties to the PRTR Protocol have a collective responsibility to contribute to the effective functioning and follow-up of the Protocol, in order to achieve its goals. Although contributions can be and are made in different ways, stable, predictable and fairly shared financial contributions are a necessary foundation. Therefore, Norway has a strong preference for the establishment of a mandatory scheme of contributions based on the UN scale of assessment.

However, we realize that it is difficult to obtain full agreement on this issue at the moment. Thus we support the latest proposal that was put on the table during the meeting, which mandates the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties to consider options for contributions and to review the operation of the scheme of financial arrangements at its third meeting.

As a final remark, I would like to add that Norway intends to maintain its regular annual contribution, 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 Protocol.