Australia’s intervention on Part II.3 Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics

Australia considers that the instrument should, as a priority, identify and phase out or ban the most harmful and avoidable plastic products. That is, those that contribute the most to plastic pollution and those which are too difficult to recycle. Phasing out such products is a common approach already taken by many countries, as mentioned by Canada.

Australia supports the inclusion of a tiered listing approach and prefers option 1 in 3(a), similar to what has been proposed by the European Union and the United Kingdom and Thailand in their text proposals. We would also like to thank and acknowledge Switzerland’s conference room paper – Australia looks forward to working constructively with members on this.

Listing of problematic and avoidable products should be informed by criteria and underpinned by science. We concur with the calls from the European Union and Canada for well targeted work on problematic and avoidable plastics through intersessional work.

For 3.b) on intentionally added microplastics, Australia prefers Option 1 for further negotiations. We agree with others that intentionally added microplastics could be considered as one problematic plastic for listing in an Annex but are flexible in how to take this forward.