**Contact Group 1 General statement**

Thank you co-Chairs and we wish to congratulate you on your re-appointment and look forward to working with you constructively.

In the interests of time, we will deliver our views on all the Contact Group 1 provisions.

With regards to formal intersessional work ahead of INC-5, for provisions under contact group 1 we believe this could include chemicals of concern, problematic plastic products and product design.

Before outlining areas for technical streamlining, I would like to make the group aware that the UK and Thailand will be uploading a proposal for problematic and avoidable plastic products which we look forward to presenting in greater detail in subgroup 1.2.

We have identified the following areas for technical streamlining:

For Subgroup 1.1 the UK sees significant opportunity to streamline the options on scope.

Turning to obligations under Subgroup 1.2 Provision 2 could be streamlined and in Provisions 1 and 3, options 1 and 2 including any sub options and alt paragraphs could be merged into one with the use of brackets.

Provision 5a, 5b, 6, 8, and 9a have the potential for all options to be merged into one. For provisions under 5c, options 1, 2 and 4 could also be merged.

We also do not see a need for Provision 5d on the design of alternative plastics and plastic products as these can be covered by the other design provisions.

For Provisions under 10a all text under 10.4 and 10.5 can also be merged.

Regarding provisions under Subgroup 1.3, 8, 9a and 12 have the potential for all options to be merged into one and all sub-options under provision 10b could also be merged. Additionally, Provision 7 options 1, 2 and 4 could also be merged.

Provisions on plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture are included in provision 8 and 9b. There are opportunities for streamlining under both of these provisions, and although under discussion in different subgroups, we support considering these articles alongside one another.

Finally, we support the co-chairs in undertaking a much needed technical streamlining across the whole text so we can make substantial progress at INC-4 and go forward into line by line negotiations as soon as possible.

Thank you.