Proposal from the European Union and its Member States on a monitoring provision

1. Reasoning for a separate provision on monitoring, building on the text of Part IV.4a of the revised zero draft

The explicit inclusion of a monitoring provision within the internationally legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is crucial for cultivating a comprehensive global outlook on the extent and trends of environmental plastic pollution, the plastic lifecycle, and to monitor the effects of the instrument over time.

Currently, monitoring and data-gathering obligations are scattered throughout the revised zero draft. Clustering all such requirements under one provision within the instrument will make it more accessible for interpretation and implementation. By designating monitoring as a distinct provision, the treaty will achieve increased readability, ensuring that Parties can easily grasp their obligations in this regard. A well-defined monitoring provision also bolsters transparency, reinforcing the global commitment to address the plastic crisis in a systematic and organized manner.

The obligations regarding monitoring should correspond with what is agreed in other parts of the instruments.

We look forward to further engage with Parties on the basis of this proposal.

2. Identified revised zero draft references to monitoring

The EU+MS support the text under Part IV.4a, paragraph 1 as a basis. However, the text only relates to monitoring of emissions and releases of plastic into the environment. Beyond this, the EU+MS see the need to monitor other elements related to other obligations under Part II in relation to the full life cycle of plastics.

The identified references to monitoring in the revised zero draft are:

- a), b) and c) originate from the original proposal regarding monitoring of emissions and releases of plastics into the environment. These monitoring obligations operationalize Part II.11 on existing plastic pollution, OP1.b.bis that mandates to "collect data and information on existing plastic pollution in accordance with Part IV.4.a on assessment and monitoring.";
- d.i) is based on Part II.1, sub-option 1, paragraph 4
- d.ii) and e.i) are based on Part IV.3 reporting on progress of implementation, option 1, para 3; and Part II.13 on transparency, tracking, monitoring, and labelling, para 2;
- e.ii) is based on Part II.10.b. transboundary movement of [non-hazardous] plastic waste, suboption 1, para 2;
- f.i) is based on Part IV.3 reporting on progress of implementation, option 1, para 3;
- f.ii) is based on Part II.13. Transparency, tracking, monitoring, and labelling, para 3;
- f.iii) complements the provisions under Part II.8 Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle.

These elements have been taken as a basis for the proposal and, if included under this provision, could be removed from the respective sections under the revised zero draft.
3. Text proposal

1) Each Party shall, within their capabilities, individually and/or in collaboration with other Parties or competent organizations, establish monitoring programmes to gather data on plastics across their life cycle, as well as, within their capabilities, a plastic pollution into the environment, including in the marine environment. Such data and its evidence should include numerical information on:

A. Environmental plastic pollution
   a) Establishment of baseline information on types and amounts of plastic and microplastic pollution in the different environmental compartments;
   
   b) Modelling to understand the movement of plastics in air, soil, water, and ecosystems;
   
   c) The quantities and effects of plastic pollution on the environment, including the marine environment;

B. The life cycle of plastics
   d) Plastic production and consumption;
      i) Domestic primary plastic polymer production, expressed in percentage terms in relation to the baseline set out in part I of annex A;
      ii) Quantities and types of chemicals and polymers used in the domestic production and manufacturing of plastics and plastic products;
   
   e) Plastic imports and exports:
      i) Quantities and types of chemicals and polymers used in plastic products imported and exported by the Party;
      ii) Quantities, destination and source countries for plastic waste imports and exports;
   
   f) Waste Generation and waste management infrastructure:
      i) Total annual plastic waste generated by the Party;
      ii) Availability and capacity of recycling facilities within its territory;
      iii) Percentage of plastic waste that is recycled and used as secondary raw material, incinerated, landfilled, or leaked into the environment.

2) The measures taken to implement the provisions of this article shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans] and monitoring information should be reported to the *governing body*, pursuant to [Part IV.3 on reporting on progress].

3) The *governing body* at its first session, shall adopt guidelines to facilitate implementation of the obligations set out in paragraph 1, including best available practices and harmonized monitoring methodologies, including low technology options.]