General textual proposal of the Russian Federation applied throughout the text of the Instrument

Suggestion:

Throughout the draft text of the Instrument to replace such broad terms as “plastics” or “plastics and plastic products” with specific terms “plastic products” or “plastic waste”, depending on the context of the disciplines.

Explanatory note:

- These negotiations have the mandate to end plastic pollution with specific focus on combating the existing plastic waste, including in the marine environment. In addition, paragraphs 3(b) and 3(c) of the UNEA Resolution 5/14 specify that the Instrument should promote sustainable production and consumption through product design and environmentally sound waste management, as well as cooperative measures to reduce plastic pollution. To achieve these goals, the Instrument should apply to the life cycle, which should start from the design of “plastic products”, continue in sustainable consumption of such products, and end by disposal and recycling of “plastic waste”, because during these particular stages:
  - characteristics influencing the recyclability of end-use products are formed, and
  - waste from consumption of plastic products is generated.

- At the same time, the ordinary meaning of the word “plastics” could include both plastic products and primary polymers as feedstock for production of end-use products. The Russian Federation believes that the scope of the instrument should exclude the stages of extraction and processing of primary raw materials as well as the stages related to primary polymer production, since no plastic pollution is generated at these stages. Moreover, when it comes to raw materials, they can be used for production of many other – non-plastic – products, and the present Instrument has a too narrow scope for regulating hydrocarbon feedstock.

- As for the argument that the UNEA Resolution 5/14 includes “plastics” in paragraph 3 (see phrase “full life cycle of plastic”) we have to note that during the UNEA 5.2 the majority of delegations adhered to the position that the future Instrument shall be focused on combating pollution from plastic waste, especially in the marine environment. The resolution’s language was understood accordingly. This means that the word “plastic” in the resolution 5/14 should be interpreted as referring to “plastic products”, whose unhandled waste is the most important reason for global plastic pollution.

- Therefore, throughout the draft text of the Instrument, we should adhere to precise terms “plastic products” and “plastic waste”, which better suite the object and purpose of the future Instrument.