Switzerland Statement on Technical Streamlining of the Revised Draft Text  
Contact Group 1, April 24

Thank you Co-Chair’s,

The revised draft text (RDT) contains all views, including ours. We recognize that the RDT could benefit from getting further focus to facilitate the negotiations in the relevant subgroups. We thus welcome this exercise. We are ready entrust the co-chairs to conduct this service and have it ready for negotiations on the text in the sub-groups for the sub-groups to continue to work on the text. We support to move to the subgroups as soon as possible.

Many INC members have expressed a need for the instrument to address chemicals of concern in plastics as well as problematic and avoidable plastic products. Members have emphasised in different submissions the importance of binding control measures addressing chemicals of concern and problematic and avoidable plastic products as part of a comprehensive approach to ending plastic pollution that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. This part of RDT would benefit from some technical clean up. Switzerland sees possibility to focus the options – without losing any substantial information. We would like to announce that we plan to submit a CRP on an initial list of problematic and avoidable plastic products considered for elimination to inform discussions at INC-4. The proposal aims at providing a basis for in-depth substantial discussions in the sub-group 1.2.

Regarding product design, we see areas of text that benefit from technical streamlining prior to sub-group discussions. For the discussions in the sub-group, we also see elements where convergence could be found. Efforts should be made to anchor an approach in the instrument while the development of the details in form of guidelines could be developed by the future governing body (COP).

Regarding Provision 7 on Extended Producer Responsibility EPR in the RDT we that the provision on EPR can be focused on 2 or even 1 option – without losing any substantial information. If we focus the EPR provision in 1 article, we would have a first paragraph describing the control measure where each Party either shall or is encouraged to establish EPR schemes – these different degrees of commitment could be reflected in square brackets. There is a placeholder for an Annex D where modalities to establish and operate EPR systems based on common principles could be defined. The second paragraph describes the organisation of work by the governing body.

Regarding Provision 8 on Emissions and Releases of Plastic throughout its Life Cycle: there are now 5 different options and many alternative text options for Option 1. This Provision could be focused into 1, or 2 options. Annex E is a placeholder wherein the different emission and release sources of plastics throughout its lifecycle could be defined. This provision is in our view also the logical place, where Provision 9b on fishing gear should be incorporated. Option 2 in Provision 8 has incorporated Provision 9b on fishing gear.

Looking at Provision 9a on Plastic Waste Management, we see a possibility to further focus the text in the Revised Draft. The 4 options could be focused into 1 or 2 options.

Provision 11 on existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment contains one main option with different alternative text options. In this provision we see a lot of potential for shortening the text to have a more workable document. Thank you.