UK Intervention and Text Proposal on 12. Just Transition

- Like the EU, The UK supports a provision on just transition in accordance with “ILO guidelines for a Just Transition”. This should recognise the critical role waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings play, whilst acknowledging that there’s no one-size-fits-all approach, giving states flexibility in achieving a just transition.

- Of the alternative paragraphs for paragraph 1, we support OP1 Alt with some minor amendments. It provides a concise expression of the obligation on parties but we have flexibility and could work from Option 1. We have textual proposals that will reference the ILO guidelines for a Just Transition and ensure a there is ‘special consideration for waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings’. And we have concerns about reference to affected populations.

- Whilst the UK recognises that just transition may be one area that could be supported under a financial mechanism established by the treaty, we align with the EU and US and do not support language in article 12 that makes just transition contingent on finance. Finance obligations are dealt with in Part 3.

- On OP2bis, the UK feels this can be deleted because it is covered within the list in OP1 Alt

- On OP2 ter and quater, the UK could accept these with some minor text modifications.

- On para 3, the UK thinks that this provision duplicates paragraph 1 in so far as it simply imposes an obligation on states in relation to just transition. Of course, we support such an obligation but we prefer to work with paragraph 1 OP1 Alt, including specific mention of waste pickers and other vulnerable groups in there. On para 4 can be streamlined with paragraph 2

Text Proposal for 12. Just Transition

12. Just transition

Option 1

[UK suggest this Option is deleted and we work from OP1Alt as per our intervention. However if we need to work from Option 1, see below UK text edits]

Option 1

1. [Leaving no one behind,] Each Party shall [promote and facilitate] cooperate to promote [as per national circumstances and capabilities and relevant national regulation,] a fair, equitable and inclusive transition for all pathways for affected populations Parties in the context of [towards sustainable development] in the implementation of this instrument, with special consideration to social and economic impacts for other workers in informal and cooperative settings with special consideration for waste pickers and other vulnerable groups in line with the International Labour Organization Just Transition guidelines [according to national social policies and taking into account national circumstances] [in the implementation of this instrument], provided that means of implementation are available for developing countries. Developed country Parties shall provide sufficient finance, technology transfer and capacity building support [with the view to promote and facilitate the just transition of] developing country Parties. This may include, [according to national circumstances]
**OP1 Alt.** In the implementation of this instrument, each Party shall promote a fair, equitable and inclusive transition for all in accordance with the International Labour Organization’s Guidelines for a Just Transition with affected populations, with particular consideration for workers and [persons] [people] in vulnerable situations, with special consideration for waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings, within [its national jurisdiction; This may include:]

a. Designating a national coordinating [body] [mechanism] for engagement [and collaboration] with relevant stakeholders, including public authorities, [trade unions,] [workers association] [waste pickers, and other workers in informal and cooperative settings] non-governmental organizations, [Indigenous Peoples] and [local communities] [and affected populations] [according to national regulations [with the aim of data collection, monitoring, evaluation and national reporting on progress of just transition];

b. Enabling policies [and conditions][that integrate][to ensure and] improve [as appropriate] adequate income, opportunities and livelihoods for [waste pickers and other workers in plastic value chains and] [impacted] [affected workers and] communities, including workforce training, [development and social programmes, enhancement of occupational health and safety measures] [according] [considering] to their needs and priorities;

c. Incentivizing the development of skills and job opportunities across the plastic value chain, including for the development of reuse, repair, waste collection and sorting;

d. Promoting a [clean, healthy and sustainable] [safe working] environment [and a strong social safety net] [for communities and workers] across [the value chain, including [workers] in the waste management sector] [the full lifecycle in respect of the promotion of fundamental human rights];

e. [Improving working conditions [i, occupational safety and health, and social protection] for [waste pickers and] workers] in the waste management sector [], including by providing legal recognition and protection to [waste pickers and other] [workers [and waste pickers]] in informal and cooperative settings and facilitating the formalization [of their associations or cooperatives integrating them into local waste management systems] [of their activities through appropriate socioeconomic integration measures]];

f. [Integrating [waste pickers and other] workers in informal and cooperative settings into [a safe] plastics value chain, [including by requiring plastic product producers, recycling and waste management companies to integrate plastics collected and sorted by them into their operation schemes]]; and

g. [[Requiring] [Encouraging] a portion of the fees collected through EPR schemes to be used to improve infrastructure [and improve the] [I] livelihoods [, a strong social safety net,] and opportunities for, and develop the skills of, workers in the waste sector, including waste [pickers and other][workers] in informal and cooperative settings.]

2. [The measures taken to implement this provision should be considered for inclusion shall be reflected in the national plan [communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans]]].

**OP2 bis** Each Party should support policies to improve income, opportunities, and livelihoods for affected workers and communities in the transition to more circular economies for plastics, considering the needs and priorities of affected workers and communities, with special consideration for waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings.
**OP2 ter** Within its jurisdiction, each Party shall encourage the consideration of socio-economic factors in determining the location, design, and construction of solid waste management facilities that manage plastic waste, with an aim of avoiding disproportionate and adverse impacts on [persons] [people] in vulnerable situations.

**OP2 quater** Each Party shall, in accordance with its domestic procedures, endeavour to provide opportunities for members of the public particularly indigenous peoples, [waste pickers and other] workers in informal and cooperative settings, to provide input on government plastic waste management decisions or measures.

3. Each Party [could][shall] promote and facilitate a fair, equitable and inclusive transitions for all [pathways for affected populations,] [for [Indigenous Peoples] and [local communities],] [waste pickers [and other workers in [plastic] [waste] value chains]] [with special consideration for] women[ and vulnerable groups, including] [impacted communities] [children and youth, in the implementation of this instrument* including by, inter alia, enhancing institutional arrangements, enabling policies and conditions to improve the opportunities, capabilities and livelihoods of affected communities.

4. [The measures taken to implement this provision might be reflected in the national plan]