The UK strongly believes that this treaty presents a crucial opportunity to take meaningful action to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear, one of the most harmful forms of marine plastic pollution.

As we know, the UNEA resolution 5/14 provides a mandate to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.

We believe that provisions across the lifecycle of fishing and aquaculture gear, that complement and support the implementation of internationally agreed rules, standards, and recommended practices and procedures, including those developed by FAO and IMO, are needed to prevent it from becoming plastic pollution.

The UK believes that placement of provisions in article 8, emissions and releases, is the most appropriate placement and we support article 8 OP2 quart, as it presents the most comprehensive option for addressing the full life cycle of fishing and aquaculture gear.

Placement of provisions in article 9, waste management, implies that measures to address plastic pollution from fisheries are limited to downstream measures.

However, recognising the need to make progress on the text, we would like to indicate our desire to work with other states to find a way forwards. We believe that the elements reflected in article 9b could be merged with the provisions under article 8, and with the use of square brackets we could develop a text that could work as a starting point for line-by-line negotiations.

On the matter of placement, we could consider provisional placement in article 8 in order to allow us to streamline the text, but keep the final placement of the provisions under review as the rest of the treaty text develops.