UK Intervention - Part II, 8. Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its lifecycle

The UK believes that a comprehensive article on emissions and releases of plastic throughout the lifecycle will be crucial to ensure the effectiveness of the instrument, even once upstream measures to prevent plastic waste and improve circularity have taken effect.

We thank the co-facilitators for this streamlined text and we are happy that the substance of the revised zero draft has been retained.

Our preference is to work on the basis of option 1. We see that there could be opportunities for further streamlining, as there are many similar elements across options 1, 2 and 3, that could be reflected with the use of brackets in option 1.

We support language in option 1 that will require all parties to take measures to prevent, reduce and eliminate emissions and releases of plastic polymers, plastics including microplastics, and plastic products across the full lifecycle and to all environmental compartments, from the sources listed in an Annex.

On paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a and b, and b bis, ter, and alt, we see that there could be further streamlining but we recognise that a common understanding of the terms emission and release would be beneficial, to avoid duplication of options.

We are flexible on our preferred language, but we believe that these subparagraphs should cover the intentional and unintentional emission and release of polymers and plastics, including microplastics to all environmental compartments, across the whole lifecycle of plastic.

We believe that this paragraph is a suitable placement for provisions to address specific sources of plastic pollution that require a specific approach, in particular, sources that are known to be harmful to the environment and human health.

As a result, we support option 1 paragraph 2, and prefer language that requires parties to take measures across the full supply chain and lifecycle of plastic feedstocks, including plastic pellets, flakes and powders.

We support paragraph 4 and 5, as guidelines will be essential in supporting parties to take measures in line with best available techniques and best environmental practices, but we believe the text that references the capture and removal of plastic pollution in paragraph 4 would be best included in article 11, on existing plastic pollution.

We look forward to discussing paragraphs OP2 ter and quart on plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear in the joint meeting of subgroup 1.2 and 1.3 and we thank the co-chairs and co-facilitators for hearing our calls on the links between articles 9 and 8 on this topic and organising the specific discussion.