The UK would like to congratulate both co-facilitators and thank them for the constructive start to this contact group. We recognise their preparation and thank them for their on-going guidance. We support the co-facilitators’ proposal on grouping of issues as a sensible and streamlined way forward. We believe the options paper forms a good basis for the negotiations in this contact group and that it will support our discussions to inform the preparation of a zero-draft text for the treaty.

**D1. National Action Plans:**

The UK supports an option 29(a), for obligation for parties to develop and implement a National Action Plan that supports the achievement of the objectives of the instrument whilst considering national contexts and capabilities. National Action Plans may be strengthened over time, in successive action plans, that are submitted periodically to the secretariat and should serve as a mechanism to coordinate our national actions and implement internationally legally binding commitments.

We support comments from the EU that, National Action Plans alone will not constitute cohesive global action towards tackling plastic pollution and should form part of the broader structure of internationally legally binding obligations.

The UK supports a common reporting framework, under options 30(a) and 30(b) with a requirement for National Action Plans to be submitted at regular intervals, with a clear reference period, written in relation to a baseline year, and contain documented nationally driven activities, which should include quantifiable information on progress towards achieving the key objectives of the instrument, meeting core obligations and [as Jamaica noted] progress towards globally agreed targets.

The UK also supports the establishing of a technical body that will evaluate NAPs, option 30(c), as part of a broader evaluation in assessing progress towards meeting objectives and targets, as well as the effectiveness of core obligations.

**E2. Exchange of Information:**

The UK supports the promotion of information sharing and knowledge on best practices relevant to the implementation of the instrument’s core obligations. This may include exchange of experience, best practice, research outcomes and learning from business and industry, including by identifying relevant skills, and making best use of existing knowledge and capabilities. This information may be shared directly, through the secretariat or through any future bodies to be established under the treaty.

The UK supports a public registry, to be maintained by the secretariat. The registry should hold parities National Action Plans, and information resulting from any other reporting requirements.
E5. Stakeholder Engagement:

The UK recognises the importance of stakeholder engagement and wishes to promote the active and meaningful participation of stakeholders, not only in reference to the instrument once agreed but at all stages of this negotiating process. It is essential that there is a mechanism for their expertise, knowledge, and experience to be heard; the UK could support all options under 40(b).

E1. Awareness Raising & Education:

The UK would support a coordinated communication and education plan for the instrument, under 34(b)(i), which would harness the knowledge and expertise of stakeholders, to provide information to affected communities. This should include the informal sector, and support consumers with access to information around the impacts of plastic pollution on human health and the environment, and the importance of the waste hierarchy. The UK would also support provisions to provide dedicated training and exchange visits under 34(b)(iv).

E3. Research:

We can support Mexico’s proposal for establishing a scientific committee, noting the associated, relevant bodies that already exist, and the need to avoid duplication.

We also agree with the importance of intersessional work in respect of scientific research that can inform the development of the instrument.

The UK supports the establishing of a technical body with a mandate to conduct research into specific areas, as directed by future the Conferences of the Parties, including those listed under paragraph 38. It may also produce reports that constitute a critical appraisal of the state of science and evidence, and evaluate socioeconomic data, which should include research into the impacts of plastic pollution on human health and the environment.

The technical body should conduct research into potential products that may be avoidable, problematic and most likely to become plastic pollution or leak into the environment. It should conduct further research into potential chemicals and polymers of concern. The technical body would make recommendations, based on its research, to the Conference of the Parties, via the secretariat, for potential listing in the instrument’s annexes.

Contact Group 2 - Financial Assistance

C1. Financial Assistance:

The UK recognises that there are countries that are disproportionately impacted by plastic pollution and that countries most in need will require support to implement their obligations under the instrument. It is vital that the instrument has an efficient and effective mechanism that can mobilise funding to where it is needed most and
that we establish a financial mechanism that is appropriate for the core obligations of the instrument.

The UK support legally binding provisions for the mobilisation of resources and we are ready to consider the full range of potential funding models, in the options paper from paragraphs 24(a) through to 24(d) and would also highlight the role of public-private partnerships could support the instruments objectives.

The mobilisation of financial resources, from all sources and at scale, will be vital for addressing the challenge of ending plastic pollution. A clear overarching objective for the instrument and internationally harmonised design standards will set a clear direction of travel and create the enabling environment to align financial flows from both public & private sources. An ambitious and comprehensive instrument will send a clear signal that the reorientation of financial flows is needed.

Financial institutions will have an important role in financing the systems change required to end plastic pollution and the mobilisation of private finance will be key in ending plastic pollution. The instrument should establish the trajectory, for public and private finance to address plastic pollution, through a framework of core obligations, which will enable the alignment of financial flows to where they are needed most.

Contact Group 2 - Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Technology Transfer on Mutually Agreed Terms

C2. Capacity-Building

The UK supports capacity building that is country driven and agrees with the proposal in 25(a) that programmes should be responsive to the specific priorities and national circumstances of each country.

The UK would support a mechanism that allows for bilateral support, by which one member state supports another with capacity building, in response to the specific requirements and national circumstances of that country.

The UK would also support a mechanism that allows for centrally organized support. In particular, we recognize the importance of building the capacity to conduct hazard and risk assessments of chemicals of concern in developing countries.

The UK strongly supports 25(e), to encourage the involvement of the private sector and civil society organisations in capacity building activities, recognising the wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise that could be usefully mobilised to enhance the capabilities of countries most in need.

C3. Technical Assistance

The UK recognises that technical assistance and support will be required for developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, that may lack the technical capabilities and resources to implement the instrument effectively.
Technical assistance can significantly increase the benefits from the mobilisation of financial resources, especially where effective technical assistance is delivered in partnership with the financial resources being mobilised. We can support all options listed in paragraph 26.

Understanding local conditions, socio-economic context and needs, including through stakeholder mapping and development of roadmaps, can greatly enhance the outcomes of technical assistance and capacity building.

C4. Technology Transfer

The UK recognises that technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, is important to implement the instrument effectively.

We are open to considering all of the options listed in paragraph 28 and have a strong preference for needs assessments as detailed in paragraph 28(d), so that the transfer of technology is responsive to country needs.

The instrument should include a mechanism to encourage private sector partnerships with developing countries, whereby technology and technical expertise from the private sector can be harnessed to provide support quickly and effectively. This could be incorporated into an enabling environment for technology transfer under paragraph 28(c).

Contact Group 2 - Compliance, Assessment and Monitoring, and National Reporting

D3. Compliance

The UK would support establishing a mechanism or subsidiary body, such as a compliance and implementation committee as detailed in paragraph 32(a). The committee’s goal should be to promote compliance in relation to obligations under the Treaty and should be facilitative and non-adversarial in nature as noted in paragraph 32(b). Any compliance mechanism should aim to support parties to return to compliance, rather than punish states for non-compliance as referenced in paragraph 32(e)(2).

D4. Assessment & Monitoring

The UK supports provisions to periodically assess and evaluate both national and collective progress towards achieving the objectives of the instrument, the fulfilment of core obligations and evaluation of the sufficiency of obligations as noted in 33(a)(i) and 33(a)(ii).

However, any such evaluation should allow sufficient time for implementation and progress to be made and should consider other reporting requirements in relation to the instrument.
An effective instrument will require a robust science-policy interface to help us to assess the effectiveness of our interventions. The UK therefore supports the establishment of a technical body, in line with 33(c)(ii) to strengthen the science-policy interface, across the life cycle of plastics and to support the assessment and monitoring of progress towards meeting the instruments objectives.

Any technical body should include scientific and technical experts, as well as social scientists and economists and its membership should have due regard for balanced geographical and gender representation. It should also consider any possible interactions with the Science Policy Panel, once it has been established.

The technical body should work at the prescription of the Conferences of Parties or as prescribed by the instrument – it should not work on its own initiatives.

D2. National Reporting,

The UK supports a legally binding requirement for periodic reporting and supports paragraph 31(a)(i). The UK supports a common reporting framework, under 31(b)(i) that uses common definitions and metrics to allow parties to coordinate and measure actions and assist any technical assessment body established by the instrument to effectively monitor progress and support the identification of capacity needs. The scope of national reporting should include details on the implementation of core obligations, control measures and progress towards meeting any globally agreed targets, using quantifiable information as detailed under 31(c)(i).

The UK also support a review of reports to support the identification of capacity needs and potential constraints as noted at 31(d).

Finally, national reporting requirements should consider sequencing with other relevant reporting processes and technical assessments.