Australian Submission – Primary Plastic Production

Please see below Australia’s proposed text edits, consistent with our interventions made in Contact Group 1, to Part II.1 Primary Plastic Polymers of the Zero-draft text.

Grateful if these proposed edits are reflected in the next iteration of Contact Group 1’s summary draft.

1. Parties shall take the necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the potential for adverse impacts on human health or the environment from the production of primary plastic polymers, including their feedstocks and precursors.

Option 1

2. Each Party shall not allow its level of production and supply of primary plastic polymers to exceed the [sectoral and application-based] reduction target[s] specified in part I of annex A.¹

3. [The measures taken to implement this provision shall have particular regard to primary plastic production and products that are: problematic or avoidable, contribute the most to plastic pollution, or are not conducive to a safe circular economy.]

Rationale for edits

As foreshadowed in Australia’s intervention during Contact Group 1, Australia supports binding measures to restrain primary plastic production to sustainable levels.

We consider Option 1 could be further enhanced through two additions:

1) New text to note the need for this provision to give priority to problematic, avoidable and single-use plastics that are not conducive to a safe circular economy. We consider this is necessary given these products make up the vast majority of plastic pollution.

2) Consideration of how the targets, to be determined under the Annex, can be applied on a sectoral or other basis. This will ensure our interventions are targeted to the sectors where they are needed most and to avoid unintended consequences.

¹ Note: Under this option, part I of annex A would contain a baseline, timeframe(s) and the target referred to in this paragraph. The common reduction target would be defined as, for example, a reduction of production and supply by a given percentage compared to an established baseline year, to be achieved within a defined period. Members may also wish to consider specific provision(s) for the update of annexes as needed.