China’s intervention on Product design, composition and performance (Part II-5)

Thank you, Mr. co-facilitator. China supports eco-design that can help reduce the use of raw materials, improve plastic circularity and minimize waste from source.

The Chinese delegation would point out that the articles to be established should take full consideration of different levels of development of countries. We support countries to take nationally determined measures, to encourage and promote plastic circularity. In this way countries can choose suitable policy tools to promote plastic circularity with full consideration of country context. For example, China has reused 93% of delivery packages by the end of 2020 and avoided using 4.3 billion pieces of single-use plastic woven bags annually through national action plan.

Purposes of plastics and recycled plastics vary greatly in industries. Content of recycled plastics may influence the properties, eg durability, safety, lifespan and the function and performance of products. For different products, whether recycled content can be used and the percentage of the recycled content can be added are different to ensure the quality of the products. Setting minimal percentage of recycled plastics contents should be cautionary and given full assessment.

Having said that, we suggest to add one more option under 5(c), that is, Each Party is encouraged to take nationally determined measures to improve the use of recycled plastic contents for plastics and plastic products. (please insert this to the draft) Thank you.
China’s intervention on Non-plastic substitutes (Part II-6)

Thank you, Mr. co-facilitator. The Chinese delegation supports to encourage the scientific community and industry to develop and promote non-plastic alternatives and relevant information sharing. We generally support the current text.

China, along with INBAR, the international bamboo and rattan organization, has proposed the “bamboo as a substitute for plastic” initiative. The China government has just released a policy on a three-year action plan to promote the use of bamboo as an alternative for plastic. We aim to establish the industrial system by 2025 and promote substitution of plastic by bamboo in 17 products, like bamboo cutleries, bamboo packages and bamboo furniture.

China also wants to highlight the necessity of adequate scientific, environmental and economic assessment on both regulated plastic products and non-plastic alternatives. If the availability, feasibility and impact of alternatives are not fully demonstrated, restrictions may lead to the very opposite of what we want. In this case, we propose the instrument should encourage every member state to promote alternatives in a reasonable and orderly manner based on their national situations and comprehensive assessment. Thank you.