Intervention by the Republic of Costa Rica

PART II:

Provision 5. Product design, composition and performance

a. Product design and performance
b. Reduce, reuse, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products
c. d. Plastics and alternative plastic products

Provision 6. Non-plastic substitutes

Contact Group 1. Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Product design, composition and performance

a. Product design and performance:

It is important to take into account the installed capacities of each country, therefore all measures taken in this regard must contemplate technology transfer, capacity building, as well as access to financing. Considering 75% of the companies in the plastic manufacturing sector in CRI are SMEs, it is important to have substitutes that facilitate the transition and allow the compliance with technical aspects such as storage, safety and useful life of the products. In addition, a key partner to accomplish and accelerate the link during the transition, is the academic and the leading private sector. Having said this, Costa Rica supports Option 2, paragraph 2.
b. Reduce, reuse, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products

This point is fundamental for Costa Rica. However, it is important to point out the need for each member state to ratify the adequate legislation, public policies and economic resources to advance on what are set as the medium and long term objectives, particularly in sustainable production and consumption. In this regard, financial resources from international cooperation are vital, as well as public-private alliances, inclusion of local governments with the entire value chain of all actors involved, for a successful circular economy perspective. In addition, we encourage members states that have already made progress on these items, such as reducing, reusing, repairing, etc., can offer technical assistance, technology transfer and financing to ensure developing countries can achieve the level of ambition in a much shorter time. Hence, the diversity and social, economic and environmental conditions of countries must always be taken into consideration.

d. Plastics and alternative plastic products

Costa Rica prefers option 2, paragraph 2, and considers that regulatory measures and economic instruments would be defined within national plans. In addition, we support the need to include a new paragraph 3, which refers to capacity building and technology transfer, for innovation and alternative products.
6. Non-plastic substitutes

Costa Rica believes it is necessary to define and clarify this term, since it could include bioplastics, based on bio polymers. That said, we support option 1, as long as the above is taken into account.

Option 1 also considers parties will foster innovation and focus on safe, environmentally sound and sustainable non-plastic substitutes, where possible and according to each members states capabilities.