PART II

4. Exemptions available to a Party upon request

Malaysia is of the view that the instrument should include the implication of non-compliance and it should be clearly highlighted under this provision.

5. Product design, composition and performance

a. Product design and performance

As per Malaysia’s previous submission, we are of the view that besides criteria harmonization, it is important to have standards harmonization to provide clear guidelines to the industry and maintain a guaranteed level of quality and safety of plastic products across the globe.

d. Alternative plastics and plastic products

Correction of intervention submitted: On alternative plastics and plastic products, it is important to note that the absence of clear criteria for safe, environmentally-sound and sustainable plastic presents a challenge for nations in their selection processes. We should advocate for an alternative that naturally biodegrades, capable of breaking down in natural environments without the necessity for dedicated composting facilities.

Our proposition aligns with Option 2, as it incentivizes countries to promote development and innovation, emphasizing the importance of ensuring these alternative plastics meet stringent criteria for safety and sustainability. We propose an additional provision, calling for the governing body to adopt a comprehensive set of criteria that encompasses safety, environmental soundness, and sustainability for
these alternative plastics and plastic products.

This stance underscores the necessity for clear guidelines to distinguish truly biodegradable plastics that are able to degrade in natural environment, without relying on specialized composting facilities. Such criteria will aid countries in making informed and environmentally responsible choices.