New Zealand text proposal: Part II.3.a Problematic and avoidable plastic products and intentionally added microplastics – problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products, Option 1 and Option 2

Text proposal #1

Option 2

1. Each Party should must take the necessary measures to regulate and reduce and, as appropriate, not allow the production, sale, distribution, […]

Rationale

New Zealand could support either Option 1 or Option 2. However, due to variance across countries including levels and capabilities of recycling infrastructure and availability of viable and environmentally safe alternatives, we slightly prefer Option 2, which has some flexibility to nationally determine the particular product bans or phase outs, based on globally determined criteria. If Option 2 is broadly preferred, we would propose making it legally binding. This would drive ambitious change at the domestic level, while enabling implementation at the national level.

Text proposal #2

Option 1 and Option 2

[...] This provision does not limit Parties’ abilities to enact bans or adopt more ambitious criteria in addition to the criteria in part I of annex B.

Rationale

New Zealand proposes additional text bother Option 1 and Option 2 to ensure Parties are not prevented from undertaking more ambitious measures to address problematic and avoidable plastic products (e.g. more bans or including further criteria, in addition to the agreed criteria in part I of annex B. We are flexible on the placement of this sentence.