Part II (10) Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products, and in plastic waste

a. Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products

To ensure that trade in listed chemicals, polymers, and products is conducted in a safe and responsible manner, the Philippines generally agrees with the current language proposed under this section.

Seemingly redundant to trade provisions under Part II, Sections 1, 2, 3a, 3b, and 4, the Philippines once again reserves the right for a further review in case global or national targets and timeframes will be proposed in relevant Annexes in the future. This takes into account pertinent provisions under the Basel Convention, which are yet to be ratified by the Philippines, as well as exploring the possibility of having permitting and licensing systems, as well as the concept of ‘essential use’, similar to the Montreal Protocol. Philippine stakeholders request to be made aware and consulted once the chemicals, polymers, and products have already been identified. Support will be needed for Parties on capacity building and mainstreaming into national systems/processes to monitor and enforce.

b. Transboundary movement of plastic waste

The Philippines recognizes that the transboundary movement of plastic waste is an intricate issue with a wide range of environmental, economic, and social implications. Hence, the Philippines supports the current language proposed in this section.

The Philippines has yet to ratify the plastics and plastic waste-related amendments to the Basel Convention. We suggest considering intergovernmental compliance blocks wherein developed countries can support developing countries in building waste management infrastructure in cases of prior informed consent. It is also suggested to consider the Global Framework for Chemicals and Waste (GFC) in the footnotes since it was only recently adopted and may not have been incorporated in the formation of the Draft.

Part II (11) Existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

The Philippines recognizes that there are two drivers of plastic leakage into the environment: 1) waste that remains uncollected, and 2) low residual value of some plastic waste. We, therefore, support the proposed provisions to address existing plastic
pollution, including in the marine environment.

Nonetheless, the Philippines reserves the right to agree based on the scope and safeguards of provisions for “cooperation” and “global sharing of information”. This section should likewise take into account the Parties’ capacities, structures, and means to remove existing plastic pollutants from the environment. The country advocates for avoiding damage to biodiversity that may inadvertently be caused by cleanup activities.

**Part II (12) Just transition**

The Philippines generally agrees with the current language proposed under this section with proposed modifications. Text submission will be made for the **proposed modifications** (see below).

The Philippines fully supports a just transition for the informal, semi-formal, or formal workers along the plastics value chain who may intentionally or unintentionally be ignored, sidelined, or displaced by the passage of the international instrument. With the suggested inclusion of “leaving no one behind”, the list of affected stakeholders should include national governments and policymakers who need to adopt policies, sub-national or local governments in implementing programs, the private sector including MSMEs that might need to restructure operations or shift business lines, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities, and consumers, especially in the developing world.

Just as consumers from developing countries should be protected from unreasonable increases in prices of consumer goods or in the management of post-consumer wastes, just transition should also take into account the need for structural changes for workers and industries to become more sustainable with access to retooling or technology changes. The Philippines may need to craft and implement sound just transition plans and strategies such as value chain analysis studies, development impact assessments, and green standards per subsector, in line with the existing Philippine Green Jobs Act and other relevant policies.

**Proposed modifications:**

**Par 1**

*Leaving no one behind*, each Party shall promote and facilitate a fair, equitable and inclusive transition for affected populations, with special consideration for women and vulnerable groups, including children and youth, in the implementation of this *instrument*, **in line with the ILO Just Transition guidelines**. This may include:
(e) Improving working conditions, occupational safety and health, and social protection for workers in the waste management sector and across the value chain, including by providing legal recognition and protection to workers in informal and cooperative settings and facilitating the formalization of their associations or cooperatives;

(g) Requiring a portion of the fees collected through waste management or EPR schemes to be used to improve infrastructure and improve the livelihoods and opportunities for, and develop the skills of, workers in the waste sector, including waste workers in informal and cooperative settings.

Part II (13) - Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling

The Philippines generally agrees with the current language proposed under this section with proposed safeguards.

Subject to the Philippine government and stakeholders’ concurrence to a future list of concerned chemicals, polymers, or products, the Philippines generally supports this section in consideration of its current similar systems for tracking and with deference to the country’s set of intellectual property and data privacy policies.