Part II 5. Product design, composition, and performance

5a: Korea is flexible on both options 1 and 2 as we believe that enhancing management in production design and composition acts as an essential key for promoting plastic circularity in the midstream and downstream stages. However, we wish to approach cautiously on setting common global standards. Regarding product design, as each country should consider the feasibility in relevant industries and take a sectoral approach. Moreover, we would like to propose that the member countries utilize their national standards and guidelines along with global standards.

5b: Korea supports option 2, where each Party is allowed to adopt timebound targets of their own. As the option 2 indicates the guidance will be “provided” rather than “adopted” by the governing body, we hope this guidance will be provided soon enough to inform Parties’ decision making to take necessary measures. We do hope to see more information of this guidance, in the next version of the draft text. Regarding the list of the effective measures in the footnote, we would like to make sure that each Party is allowed to set its own timebound target for each measure.

5c: Korea is flexible on both options 1 and 2 and it is important to consider the technical aspects to ensure safety and quality of products made with recycled plastics.

5d: Korea supports option 2. We acknowledge the necessities of alternative plastics and plastic products such as bioplastics and biodegradable plastics when used with clear environmental benefits. However, we would like to emphasize that it’s essential to establish their definitions first, and we believe it is important to make sure the development of alternative plastics is both environmentally sound and sustainable. To do so, research and development and policy design efforts are needed.

Part II 6. Non-plastic substitutes
We would like to state that incentives and promotion of non-plastic substitutes should be based on clear scientific evidence with the full life-cycle approach. Moreover, it is essential to agree on the definitions first and work on criteria of the available substitutes.