Contact Group 2, November 14, 15:00-18:00

We’d like to note at the outset that some provisions to be discussed under Contact G2 are tightly related to provisions discussed under other contact groups. Therefore, our possible endorsement of such provisions is subject to the progress on such related issues in other groups.

Now on to the substance.

With regard to finance, we have several points.

First, we are of the opinion that instead of creating new financial institutions the new instrument should focus on using the existing and well-established multilateral organizations, agencies and funds.

Second, we’d like to draw the members’ attention to para 10 of Financing section which obliges parties to decrease financial flows towards projects resulting in emissions from plastics and plastic products across the life cycle. We suspect that this paragraph could be seen as covering, among other things, the rather controversial subject of fossil-fuel subsidies while going far beyond what has been recently been agreed on this subject within other specialized fora such as the UNFCCC, which plays a key role in this area and holds its 28th COP session in Dubai at the end of this month. To the extent that this paragraph does cover fossil-fuel subsidies, we oppose its inclusion in the text in its current form and invite committee members to be mindful of the state of, and not to prejudge, negotiations on this subject in other key fora, foremost the UNFCCC.

Finally, we’d like to draw members’ attention to para. 9 in the same section concerning the establishment of plastic pollution fees, including the global fee. We believe this is a prime example of the one-size-fits-all approach that many countries may find unsuitable to their unique circumstances, for example because it creates a financial and administrative burden for companies and competent
authorities in case such a comparable fee already applies to all wastes, including plastic. So at least for this reason we oppose the inclusion of this paragraph 9 in its current form.

We look forward to a constructive engagement with the committee members on these and other issues and we will submit relevant textual proposals in due time as needed.

Thank you for attention, co-facilitators.