The United Kingdom would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the synthesis report for today’s meeting and congratulate the co-facilitators on their appointment.

It’s particularly nice to be back in Kenya where the resolution was agreed 2 years ago. The “spirit of Nairobi” should help us make further progress in the coming days.

The UK supports the carefully negotiated mandate in resolution 5.14. This should guide discussion of the instrument, its principles and scope.

The resolution sets the scope of the agreement, mandating a comprehensive approach, and the science is clear: we need to address the full life cycle of plastic. We should not need a dedicated provision on scope within the instrument itself. This would make it more difficult to adapt and strengthen the treaty over time.

The Preamble should be a collective call to end plastic pollution. It should set out the context, history, and purpose of the agreement, drawing on equivalent paragraphs in the resolution.

Setting out clear principles in the Preamble should support a common interpretation, but should not give rise to any legal obligations. Fundamentals such as “Precautionary,” “Prevention,” and “Polluter Pays” give essential context, explaining the rationale for specific provisions in the instrument.

Where possible, we support the use of definitions adopted through previous intergovernmental processes. But clearer definitions of ‘Plastic Pollution’ as well as bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics would be helpful. Proposed working definitions are set out at the end of this document.

Hearing the range of views on scope and principles is important for everybody here today. We particularly look forward to working with all to identify important issues not discussed at INC-2 that might be included in a future version of the draft text.

Proposed working definitions

As stated in our intervention, the United Kingdom proposes the following definitions for working definitions to guide the work of the INC:

Bio-based plastics: These are plastics that are made from biomass or biological feedstocks.

Biodegradable plastics: These are plastics that can be broken down by microorganisms into water, biomass, salts, and gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

Compostable plastics: These are a subset of biodegradable plastics that can be broken down by microorganisms into water, biomass, salts, and gases under defined composting conditions.