Submission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Part B

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Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3 (following the lists compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups)

To achieve the aim of concluding its work by the end of 2024, the UK believes the INC must urgently commence intersessional work after INC-3. However, the UK also recognises the additional pressures that such intersessional work places on INC members and its Secretariat, so we propose prioritising the following areas of work:

**Contact Group 1**

*Development of criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including:*

a. *Chemical substances and polymers of concern in plastics,*

b. *Problematic and avoidable plastic products and related applications*

The criteria above could be used to generate potential lists of plastic chemicals and polymers of global concern, as well as problematic and avoidable plastic products that need to be addressed as a priority to achieve the objectives of the instrument. The UK believes this work is best carried out by a small technical working group and should be prioritized between INC-3 and INC-4.

In this regard, the UK and Brazil have set up a country-led Informal Technical Dialogue to collate existing evidence on definitions and criteria to identify chemicals and polymers of global concern as well as potentially problematic plastic products. The outputs will be shared ahead of INC-3 and we hope that member states will find these helpful in informing further discussions at INC-3 and in any future intersessional work.

**Contact Group 2**

*To further consider how a potential financing mechanism could work.*

In Contact Group 2, there was a broad range of views regarding the most appropriate financing mechanism and how such a mechanism should operate. Considering the importance of financing to the successful implementation of the future instrument, further work will be required to determine the most efficient and effective financial mechanism. We suggest that the intersessional work include a series of seminars allowing relevant experts to explain the operation
of, and answer questions about, each of the main financial mechanisms proposed by committee members.

*To identify options to mobilise and align private and innovative finance.*

There was general agreement in Contact Group 2 that private and innovative sources of finance will be important for the success of the instrument. We believe that further work will be needed to discuss the best approaches for mobilising, leveraging and aligning private and innovative sources of finance to support the objectives and implementation of the instrument.

**Additional areas for intersessional work**

While the UK believes the priority areas for intersessional work should be the two areas identified above, the UK also considers the following areas to be important to consider:

a. *Criteria for design e.g. for circularity and reuse*

b. *Sustainable substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products*

c. *Sector-specific measures for fishing and aquaculture gear, covering the full life cycle, including gear design, use, disposal and remediation, taking into account potential synergies with existing MEAs.*

For a) and b) the UK believes the Secretariat could develop papers in the form of INF documents between INC-3 and INC-4 with a view to supporting further discussions at INC-4 and a potential decision on any further intersessional work on these topics that may be required between INC-4 and INC-5.

For c) the UK believes that further discussions among INC members between INC-3 and INC-4 through seminars and Q&A from participants could be one of the modalities that would lend itself better to this discussion.

Finally, the UK believes that INC-3 should stand up an ad-hoc legal group that may want to consider the final provisions between INC-3 and INC-4 to be included in a revised draft of the treaty text at INC-4.