UK Proposal for changes to Article 5d & 6

Part II: Articles 5d & 6

Alternative plastics are still plastics; therefore, when they are mismanaged and escape into the natural environment, they will still cause plastic pollution.

The UK believes that provisions under this section contradict the aims of the rest of the treaty, which focuses on reduction and increasing the circularity of plastics.

The UK therefore suggests merging "paragraph 5 (d)" with "Section 6 - Non-plastic substitutes" with the below text changes, as a starting point to better align with the treaty's ambition, and to avoid regrettable substitutions.

5. **d. Alternative plastics and plastic products**.¹⁻²

**Option 1**

1. Parties shall ensure that alternative plastics and plastic products are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable, taking into account their potential for environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, including food security.³

**Option 2**

1. Parties should encourage the development and use of safe, environmentally sound and sustainable alternative plastics and plastic products, including through regulatory measures and economic instruments.⁴

2. Parties, in implementing the above provision, shall ensure that alternative plastics and plastic products are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable, taking into account their potential for environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, including food security.⁵

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¹ **Note**: The term "plastic alternatives" as used in this proposed text refers to plastics and plastic products with lower greenhouse gas (GHG) life cycle emissions and not hazardous for human, animal or plant life. This could include bioplastics or biodegradable plastics. See Plastic Pollution – The pressing case for natural and environmentally friendly substitutes to plastics, UNCTAD, 2023, accessible at [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42529/UNCTAD.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42529/UNCTAD.pdf). These definitions are without prejudice to how Members may ultimately choose to define these terms in the instrument, as needed.

² **Note**: As plastics and plastic products, under the proposed definition, alternative plastics and plastic products would fall within the scope of other provisions in the instrument applicable to plastics and plastic products respectively.

³ **Note**: Parties may wish to consider the establishment of a process to assess the safety and sustainability of potential plastic alternatives, including potential alternatives to chemicals and polymers addressed in part II.2.

⁴ **Measures taken pursuant to this provision could include**, for example, fees, reduced tariffs, taxes or subsidies, including repurposed subsidies, as appropriate.

⁵ **Note**: Parties may wish to consider the establishment of a process to assess the safety and sustainability of potential plastic alternatives, including potential alternatives to chemicals and polymers addressed in part II.2.
6. **Non-plastic substitutes**

1. Parties shall seek to ensure that non-plastic substitutes, products, technologies and services are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable, taking into account their potential for environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, including food security, across their lifecycle.

2. Each Party shall take measures to foster innovation and incentivize and promote the development and use at scale of safe, environmentally sound, and sustainable non-plastic substitutes, including products, technologies and services, taking into account their potential for environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, across their lifecycle.

3. Parties are encouraged to use regulatory and economic instruments, public procurement and incentives to promote the development and use of safe, environmentally sound and sustainable non-plastic substitutes, products, technologies and services.

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6 *Note:* The term “substitutes” is used here with the meaning given to it in UNCTAD’s Report Plastic Pollution - The pressing case for natural and environmentally friendly substitutes to plastics referred to in UNEP/PP/INC.2/INF/9, accessible at [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42529/UNCTAD.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42529/UNCTAD.pdf).

7 *Note:* Members may wish to consider the establishment of a process for the assessment of the safety and sustainability of potential substitutes to plastics and their suitability as substitutes, considering their potential impacts on human health and the environment, the waste hierarchy, and “reduce, reuse and recycle” approaches.

8 Such instruments could include, for example, fees, reduced tariffs, taxes or subsidies, including repurposed subsidies, as appropriate.