

Plenary - Opening Statement, Agenda Item 4

The UK would like to thank the Chair and the secretariat for their hard work in preparing the potential options for elements paper for consideration by the committee at this session.

We believe the options paper forms a good basis for negotiations at this session to inform the preparation of a zero-draft text for the treaty to be negotiated at the 3rd session of the INC.

We are pleased to see options for a broad objective for the instrument and a range of ambitious potential core obligations, such as those that may address the production and consumption of primary plastic polymers, options that can address problematic and avoidable products, and chemicals and polymers of concern.

There are also a range of other measures that the UK thinks it is important we discuss at this session including measures to facilitate a just transition for the informal waste sector, measures to prevent and reduce the loss of fishing gear containing plastic and the promotion of scientific and technological evidence to support our work.

We welcome the range of options included for supporting countries that may have limited capacity to meet potential obligations under the instrument.

Importantly, the options paper also contains provisions to ensure participation and cooperation with stakeholders, which will be vital in ensuring a transparent and inclusive instrument.

Our hope is that after considering the discussions at this session on the potential options for elements paper, the Chair, with support from the Secretariat, will prepare draft text of the international legally binding instrument for the consideration by the committee at its third session. We believe the Chair should base the draft on the views expressed by parties reflecting areas of convergence and divergence.

Furthermore, we think it is essential that, where critical gaps are identified that require more information, technical experts begin to advise the committee in order to fill these gaps so as to better inform future negotiations.

We think it is important that we begin to develop an intersessional working group of technical experts that can advise future INCs on technical matters as requested.

Due to the ambitious timeline for the committee to conclude its work, a programme of intersessional work should be agreed based on the outcome of the discussions in the contact groups.