

Saudi Arabia Comments in **contact group 1** (Objectives; Control measures and voluntary approaches):

#	Section	Comment
1	Objectives	Accelerate the management and utilization of plastics while protecting human health and the environment and continue contributing to the sustainable development
2	Possible core obligation: phasing out and/or reducing the supply of, demand for and use of primary plastic polymers	<p>Saudi Arabia supports many of the statements made today to ensure member states create nationally determined targets to mitigate plastic waste pollution.</p> <p>We believe Primary plastic polymers have become a cornerstone of modern society, driving innovation in many industries. Phasing out their supply or demand would not only stifle technological advancements but also risk economic growth and stability, as they have proven to be versatile, durable and cost effective. Therefore, focusing on responsible production, consumption, and recycling should be our priority, rather than eliminating a material that has proven indispensable for countless applications.</p>
3	Possible core obligation: banning, phasing out and/or reducing the use of problematic and avoidable plastic products	<p>Banning certain types of plastics can have negative effects on the global recycling industry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce in demand for recycled materials: If banned plastics were previously recycled and used as raw material in new products, the ban would reduce the value of demand for these recycled materials, leading to a drop in the value of recyclable waste and negatively impacting the recycling industry. 2. Loss of recycling capacity: If a significant portion of the recycling industry relies on the recycling of said banned plastics, the ban would lead to loss in recycling capacity, jobs, and large-scale reconstruction of the industry resulting to economic and environmental setback. 3. Increased demand for alternative materials: A ban on certain plastics may result in an increased demand for alternative materials, some of which are not easily recyclable. This could lead to new waste management challenges and potentially hinder recycling efforts.

4	Possible core obligation: banning, phasing out and/or reducing the production, consumption and use of chemicals and polymers of concern	<p>Saudi Arabia believes that we should follow scientific evidence approach for any chemicals or polymers of concern, Several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) address the issue of hazardous chemicals and polymers, such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Basel Convention on the technical guidelines for sound management of plastics waste. These agreements aim to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of these substances by promoting their reduction which has led to positive outcomes in reducing the impacts of chemicals and polymers of concern.</p> <p>Synergies and coordination among MEAs can enhance the effectiveness of measures to reduce the production, consumption, and use of chemicals and polymers of concern.</p>
5	Possible core obligation: reducing microplastics	<p>Microfibers and microplastics are two different types of small particles that can have negative impacts on the environment.</p> <p>Microfibers are tiny strands of synthetic materials, such as polyester or nylon, that are commonly found in clothing, textiles, and household items like carpets and upholstery. When these items are washed or used, microfibers can shed and enter the water system. They are so small that they can pass through wastewater treatment plants and end up in rivers, lakes, and oceans. These microfibers can be ingested by aquatic organisms and potentially work their way up the food chain, causing harm to marine life.</p> <p>On the other hand, microplastics are small plastic particles, typically measuring less than 5 millimeters in size. They can come from a variety of sources, including the breakdown of larger plastic items, microbeads in personal care products, and industrial processes. Microplastics are pervasive in the environment and have been found in oceans, rivers, soil, and even in the air we breathe. They can have harmful effects on marine life and ecosystems when ingested or when they accumulate in the environment.</p>

		Both microfibers and microplastics pose environmental concerns due to their persistence, potential for ingestion by wildlife, and their ability to transport harmful substances. Efforts are being made to mitigate their release into the environment, improve wastewater treatment processes, and develop more sustainable materials and practices to minimize their impact.
6	Possible core obligation: strengthening waste management	<p>Saudi Arabia support the inclusion of point (a)</p> <p>Enhancing waste management capacity and promoting innovation requires access to advanced recycling technologies and the setting of ambitious national targets for managing and reducing plastic waste generation. Recycling technologies improve waste collection rates, recycling efficiency, and reduce environmental pollution. National targets drive innovation, promote a circular economy, and establish a sense of urgency for collective action. Together, these measures contribute to a sustainable future with effective waste management and environmental protection.</p> <p>For Item (B): we do support the inclusion of this point however we think Chemical recycling shall not be Prohibited. Chemical Recycling, is an evolving field, and a complementary technology to mechanical recycling for certain plastic waste types. therefore, we DO NOT prohibiting any recycling options for members.</p> <p>and for point (v) we don't accept inclusion of any obligation on produces as this is a party driven process and it should be detriment on the National detriment Plans by each party.</p> <p>We do also support to merge point (C&D) to rely on the Basel Convention with few comments on (d): Establishing best available technologies for recycling is essential, but linking them directly to the Paris Agreement or principles of sustainable banking and investment might create confusion. Instead, it is crucial to set clear, specific criteria for sustainable waste management technologies.</p> <p>on point (V) Requirement for polymer producers: While requiring polymer producers to invest in recycling facilities is a commendable idea, it would be more effective to encourage a broader range of stakeholders to contribute to the development of recycling infrastructure</p>
7	Possible core obligation: fostering	Thank you, Madam Co-Facilitator,

	design for circularity	<p>Saudi Arabia emphasizes the importance of productive and efficient designs that enable the circularity of plastic waste. We support option 15c, which calls for establishing national requirements for design criteria. However, we seek further clarification on the proposed global harmonized system and methodologies as it may not effectively accommodate the diverse needs and contexts of individual countries, potentially leading to subpar waste management outcomes and unintended consequences. A global harmonized system will not adequately address the diverse needs and contexts of different countries, and implementing tailored national design strategies for circularity will ensure more effective and sustainable outcomes in managing plastic waste.</p> <p>While we, Saudi Arabia, recognize the benefits of promoting the circularity of plastic waste, we believe that it is crucial for each member state to establish their own reasonable targets, while considering their unique circumstances and capacities.</p>
8	Possible core obligation: encouraging reduce, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging	<p>Thank you, Madam co-facilitator, for giving us the floor.</p> <p>After further deliberation, Saudi Arabia supports the merging of obligations 6 and 7 – but I would like to note of the following elements for your consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saudi Arabia supports the need for design criteria to enable circularity under national circumstances, which includes efforts to investigate means to reuse and repair plastic products and prioritizes for the reduction of environmental harms, including the marine life. - More specifically, option 16.b.1, Saudi Arabia requests further clarification on the governing body that will develop and adopt the guidelines, as efforts to produce a legally binding instrument is compromised by all member states, and the vagueness of the “governing body” hinder individual sovereignty. - With regards to option 16.b. little roman 2, Saudi Arabia would like to note that plastic products continue to provide durable, cost-effective, and efficient options to global delivery services compared to other alternatives, including but not limited to large scale shipments and movement of goods and food. Saudi reiterates its commitment to exploring sustainable means to reuse plastic products. - Saudi Arabia promotes the reuse of used plastics by mum, but Saudi Arabia does cares of improving the practices of the informal sector and this delegation does not support linking it to the production sector

		<p>Regarding option 16.b.4, harmonized product design standards, certifications and requirements, including for certain plastic products and packaging should be nationally determined</p> <p>- With relation to option 16.b.5, Saudi Arabia does not support a standardized utilization of tariffs or tax incentive, EPR schemes as each member state must assess its own capacity and circumstance through individual plans.</p>
9	Possible core obligation: eliminating the release and emission of plastics to water, soil and air	<p>Thank you, Madam Co-facilitator, for giving us the floor. Plastic pollution drives mainly from mismanagement of plastic products when its turn to waste. This can achieve by Reduction of plastic leakage through waste minimization. Waste minimization measures based on national circumstances should reduce the leakage of plastics from the waste phase. In addition, special care should be taken to reduce the release of plastics to the environment from the unintended loss of plastic products, such as fishing gear, plastic pellets and artificial turf. Most of these losses occur in the use phase of products, the loss of pellets may also occur in the production, transport, and storage phases. The leakage of plastics from the production, transport and use phase can be addressed through various regulatory measures based on national circumstances.</p>
10	Possible core obligation: facilitating a just transition, including an inclusive transition of the informal waste sector	<p>Informal Sectors: The informal sector, including individuals and small enterprises, is involved in the collection of plastic wastes. Collection of recyclables takes place from all possible places where access is possible. Informal sector plays an important rule in many countries. Saudi Arabia does not support establishing any requirements to use fees specifically from EPR schemes to fund an upgrade of infrastructure and technical and management skills for informal waste pickers to function as waste collection and sorting companies as depends on national circumstances and national strategy. More details is needed in option 20 (e) on just transition program.</p>
11	Possible core obligation: protecting human health	<p>Plastic plays a significant role in safeguarding human health, and the entire world has seen a clear example during the COVID-19 pandemic. Plastics also play a major role in medical equipment, food safety, protective gear, temporary and permanent housing, and even in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through insulation.</p>

	from the adverse effects of plastic pollution	<p>on option (a, both 1 and 2) Evaluation and research on risks must take into account the positive impact of plastics, and through a scientific approach, which also compares it to proposed alternatives.</p> <p>On point (b) covering options for cooperation, we support option (b1) to promote cooperation, collaboration, and exchange of information with the World health organization, International Labour Organization and other intergovernmental organizations.</p>
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