UK intervention under agenda item 4

1. We support the interventions made by a large number delegations regarding the need for a brief and clear objective that outlines the aim to end plastic pollution, protect the environment from plastic pollution and avoid risks to human health from the production, consumption, disposal of plastic as well as from plastic pollution.

2. Important that the scope is broad and should include the whole lifecycle of plastics, from the production and design of plastics to their consumption and disposal. It should address the environmental and health impacts of microplastics, including tyre wear, and the misinformation surrounding biodegradable and oxo-degradable plastics.

3. The UK recognises the importance of the treaty being flexible to allow each country to adopt measures best suited to their circumstances and so national action plans will be an important element of the treaty.

4. However, the evidence suggests that international-level measures will be needed to comprehensively address the transboundary issue of plastic pollution, to reach the system-change scenario we want to see.

5. A harmonised regulatory framework, will provide clarity and consistency on the direction of travel, enabling stakeholders across the plastic lifecycle to make their contribution to tackling this issue.

6. On format, the UK agrees that it is important that the format should be tailored to the one that is going to be the most effective at delivering the provisions of the treaty. We do support the option of using a specific convention format where the technical detail and control measures are contained in the annexes. This is to ensure the treaty can be updated easily in line with emerging evidence.

7. In order to make further progress on these issues at this meeting we agree with the proposals made by a number of delegations including the GRULAC members, that we should begin discussion in two contact groups at the earliest opportunity, including one on the core obligations and control measures, as well as one on the intersessional work that could consider the modalities of multistakeholder engagement.