

AGENDA ITEM 4(D) UK

The UK would like to reflect on the scale of the challenge that I hope we will hear about in a presentation later today. The flow of plastic pollution into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040 if we continue in a business as usual. If we successfully implement all our current commitments, we will only achieve a 7% reduction compared to business as usual – this is still an increase. Therefore, the effectiveness of the response options is critical to achieve the step change we need to meet the scale of this challenge.

The UK believes there are fundamentally only two options that have the potential to achieve this step change. As a global community, we either make a concerted effort to seek ambitious changes to existing agreements and not only strengthen them substantially but, crucially, in a coordinated fashion, or we negotiate a new global agreement.

The response options analysed are not mutually exclusive. It is likely that a number of them will need to be carried out concurrently. We have all committed to the SDGs, and effectiveness should ultimately be judged against those commitments.

Therefore, the analysis of effectiveness should clearly identify if a response option is likely to fall short of the significant reduction in marine litter we have committed to under SDG14.1

We propose that this is made clear in the chair summary and reflected in the meeting report.