

## **Submission on Article 7-1.c on the issue of Aquaculture and Abandoned Lost of Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear**

Firstly, on the matter of aquaculture, Indonesia highly appreciates the valuable contributions of all Parties to these deliberations, including the proposals from the United Kingdom and Panama regarding Article 7, paragraph 1(c). However, we respectfully express our reservations about including the term "aquaculture" in this context.

***“plastic pollution from fishing ~~and aquaculture~~ activities ~~which may include including, but not limited to~~ abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear, in the marine environment, taking into account ~~the livelihoods of fishers and fish workers in small scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture~~; other relevant multilateral agreements on this subject as well as the needs of artisanal and small-scale fishers.”***

While we acknowledge the global concern over plastic pollution, including microplastics from aquaculture, we call upon caution against prematurely incorporating a voluntary and evolving framework, such as the FAO’s 2024 Provisional Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture, into a legally binding international treaty. This document, still under consultation, serves as a useful reference, but should not set a precedent for the INC’s work.

Indonesia’s position is shaped by our nation’s deep reliance on aquaculture, which supports the livelihoods of millions and ensures food security. We highlight two key concerns:

- 1. Economic and Social Significance:** Aquaculture is a vital industry in Indonesia, particularly for small-scale producers. A broad, one-size-fits-all regulatory approach risks imposing disproportionate burdens on these communities, who face particular challenges in mitigating plastic contamination, such as in fishmeal supply chains due to the absence of substitute material for the product. Any measures must avoid undermining this critical sector.

2. **Need for Regional Consensus:** The issue of microplastics in coastal aquaculture systems remains under active scientific and regional discussion, notably among APEC economies. Without a clear regional consensus or established guidelines, adopting a global mandate at this stage would be premature.

In this vein, Indonesia emphasizes the importance of Article 10 on Just Transition. Any measures addressing aquaculture must be accompanied by robust financial and technical support to ensure vulnerable communities can adopt sustainable practices without deteriorating their livelihoods.

Secondly, with regard to the abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), Indonesia acknowledges that ALDFG constitutes a significant component of marine debris, with severe environmental consequences for marine ecosystems. However, the inclusion of stringent obligations to eliminate ALDFG within an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) presents considerable challenges for developing nations like Indonesia. Local Indonesian fishing communities have demonstrated sustainable practices by actively reusing and repairing damaged fishing gear, thereby mitigating the accumulation of ALDFG. Nevertheless, as a developing economy with an extensive coastline, the management of ALDFG demand substantial resources, including financial, logistical, and technological capacities.

Consequently, while Indonesia supports the inclusion of ALDFG within the ILBI framework, we emphasize that effective implementation of measures to address ALDFG will necessitate robust technical and technological assistance from countries with advanced capacities. Such support is critical to ensuring equitable and feasible compliance with any obligations, enabling developing nations to contribute meaningfully to global efforts in combating marine debris.

Indonesia remains strong in its commitment to combatting plastic pollution, including through our national action plans tailored to our unique context. We urge all delegates to work collaboratively toward a balanced, fair, and inclusive solution that respects national circumstances and supports developing nations in achieving a sustainable transition. Thank you.