

Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5)

GROUP OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (GRULAC)

SUBMISSION ON FISHING GEAR

November 2024 – Busan, Republic of Korea

Considerations for addressing the lifecycle of plastic fishing and aquaculture gear should be incorporated into the Chair's Third non-paper text, as abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is one of the most harmful forms of marine plastic pollution. It causes significant environmental and socio-economic damage, disproportionately affecting Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Including considerations that address the lifecycle of plastic fishing and aquaculture gear will support the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, while also acknowledging the severe impact of plastic pollution on coastal communities.

Text Proposal:

Placement under Article 7. Emissions and Releases (Chair's Non-Paper 3, after paragraph 2)

1. Each Party shall take measures to manage, reduce, and, where possible, eliminate emissions and releases to the atmosphere, soil, water and the marine environment from the production, storage, transportation, use and end of life management of:
 - a) Chemicals of concern as used in plastic products listed in Annex [A], and plastic products listed in Annex [B];
 - b) Plastic pellets, flakes and powder from the supply chain;
 - c) Microplastics during production of plastics
 - d) Microplastics and nano-plastics during use of products.*(Chair's Non-Paper 3)*
2. In implementing its obligation pursuant to paragraph 1, each Party shall take into account, as appropriate, relevant international rules, standards, and guidelines.
(Chair's Non-Paper 3)
3. **Parties shall cooperate and, take effective measures to prevent, reduce, and remediate pollution arising from plastic fishing and aquaculture gear throughout its lifecycle, as well as other sea-based sources of plastic pollution, in accordance with guidelines that may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to this Convention. In developing such**

guidelines, the Conference of the Parties shall take into account arrangements in relevant international agreements and ensure that these measures support artisanal, small-scale, indigenous, and traditional fishers, as well as the communities that rely on fishing and aquaculture, particularly in less developed countries and small island developing states.

- 4. Parties are encouraged to work with relevant regional and international organizations to promote training, capacity-building, and awareness-raising on best practices for the environmentally sound design, collection, and recycling of plastic fishing and aquaculture gear, taking into account knowledge and practices from artisanal and small-scale fishers.**
5. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, adopt guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices on preventing emissions and releases into the environment, as well as guidance, including, where relevant, on a sectoral basis, to facilitate implementation of the obligations set out in paragraphs 1 and 3 of this article. (*Chair's Non-Paper 3*)

Work in the interim period between the DipCON and COP1 (for adoption by the COP at its first meeting) could include:

- *Guidance, including, where relevant, on a sectoral basis, to facilitate implementation of the obligations set out in this article,*
- *Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices on preventing emissions and releases into the environment.*