9.b Fishing Gear

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair, for the dedication and hard work in streamlining this important provision into a manageable draft.

Indonesia, as the largest archipelagic country, has always prioritized a balanced utilization of the ocean to improve its economy for its people as well as preserve the environment for the future.

In implementing this balanced approach we already implemented the Blue Economy through 5 priority programs which include handling management of marine debris as a commitment to restore the balance of marine habitats and accelerating the marine economy.

In this context, to keep the balanced approach, Indonesia believes that Managing abandoned, lost, and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is a critical challenge that should be addressed by mutual interest, cooperation, capacity building, and
transfer of technology to have effective provisions on the marking of gear, since alternative preventative measures like gear tracking or reducing fishing effort can be too costly for commercial fishers to willingly participate.

In this regard, Indonesia is of the view that option 1 point 2 should be a good starting point for us to further discuss this important provision, for us, as an archipelagic state.

However, in point 2.c., we believe that to enhance the recyclability and recycling rates of end-of-life and recovered fishing gear, we should also promote better management and distribution of funds.

We would also like to raise the important element to be added in the provision, regarding cooperation with a recognized international body or organization to support developing countries in establishing their own sustainable fisheries practices and programs to mitigate the impact of ghost gear.

Indonesia can go along with Option 1-point 3 in encouraging and promoting initiatives and collaboration with parties in their respective actions toward the safe disposal of fishing gear. Nonetheless, it needs to be underlined that it should be based on its national circumstances and capabilities in managing the issue of fishing gear, including in developing national monitoring system and report.

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.