**Intervention by Norway 9b Fishing gear (Friday April 26 2024)**

Norway thinks that provision 8 is the best placement of this issue but will remain flexible. This topic is also relevant to provision 11. Existing plastic pollution.

One of the reasons Norway has proposed a dedicated programme of work on fisheries and aquaculture is that equipment/gear is used directly in freshwater or marine environment. There is a high litter risk, often low collectability and reuse/recycling. We see the dire consequences lost gear pose as plastic pollution but also as a threat to biodiversity and animal health. We are a small country but a large fishing nation and when we conduct beach clean-ups fragments from fishing gear is the largest source of litter. We conduct annual retrieval surveys to retrieve gear based on reporting on loss from fishermen.

I would like to echo the USA and others that other provisions of the treaty apply to all plastics including equipment and gear made partly or fully of plastics. We can find a solution where we can agree on overall text in the treaty and further detailed discussions to a dedicated programme of work for fisheries and aquaculture.