Text Proposal on Fishing Gear within the framework of the INC

Contact Group 1. Join SG1.2 + SG1.3 on Fishing Gear

Join proposal by: Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago

Rationale

Text proposal based upon Option 1 of provision 9b of Waste Management on the streamline document with additional text suggestions taking into consideration:

- Resolution 5/14 emphasizes the phrase “including in the marine environment,” underscoring the contribution of direct sources of pollution like fishing and aquaculture gear to marine plastic pollution;
- To prevent, reduce and eliminate abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear the treaty must require measures that address the full lifecycle of the fishing gear;
- Adequate Means of implementation are essential in the execution of these provisions, considering specific needs of Developing countries and the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States;
- Promote and facilitate a just transition for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers.

Text Proposal

Option 1

1. Each Party, based upon national circumstances and capabilities, shall cooperate, and take effective measures across the full lifecycle of plastic gears used for fishing activities, to prevent, reduce, and eliminate, abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing (ALDFG) and aquaculture gear, considering internationally agreed rules, standards, and recommended practices and procedures. Each Party shall take actions to:

   a. Encourage the development and the enhancement of new design and technologies for fishing and aquaculture gears, in line with performance criteria set out in [part I of annex C], where practicable and feasible, to minimize releases and emissions, including microplastics, to the environment;

   b. Promote education, training, capacity-building, and awareness-raising, in cooperation with existing international, regional, and sub-regional initiatives, on best practices and methods to reduce the environmental risk associated with losing fishing gear and other plastics during fishing operations, with special consideration for artisanal and small-scale fishers, fishing communities.

   c. Where practicable and feasible, implement effective marking of gears and require a database for the monitoring, reporting and traceability of lost gears, by [Part IV 3. Reporting on progress] and other relevant regional and international agreements;

   d. Facilitate the environmentally sound management of end-of-life plastics fishing gear in collaboration between Parties, relevant industry sectors, port reception
facilities, fisheries to include artisanal and small-scale fishers and other relevant stakeholders.

e. Promote and facilitate a just transition for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers.

2. Each Party shall incentivize the ecologically sensitive retrieval of reported lost gear, prioritizing methods that minimize further harm to marine ecosystems while integrating traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems into decision-making and fostering cooperation through knowledge sharing among members.

3. There shall be an assessment of the need as well as mobilization of financial resources and technology transfer for countries to meet the commitments under this provision, considering the specific needs of Developing countries and the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States.

4. The measures taken to implement the provisions of this article could be reflected in the national plan communicated under [Part IV.1 on national plans].