Thanks dear co-facilitator,

First of all, we thank the co-facilitators for the further streamlining text to advance and facilitate this space to work in this specific and very important topic.

Panama, as a coastal and Developing Country, acknowledges the urgent need to address and mitigate plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment.

On this regards, we submitted a proposal on behalf of Panama and Antigua and Barbuda with support and positive feedback of other colleagues within our regions, and we had being engaging from members of other regions as well.

To address this issue comprehensively, while considering the specific national circumstances and capabilities of each country, the treaty must include measures that cover the entire lifecycle of the gear. Promote the development of practicable and feasible new designs and technologies that minimize environmental impacts. Moreover, adequate means of implementation are vital for the effective execution of these provisions, particularly considering the specific needs of Developing Countries and the Special Circumstances of Small Island Developing States.

Furthermore, it is necessary to considers tools, best practices and methods to reduce the environmental risk associated with losing fishing gear. Throughout all these efforts, we must consider a just transition for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers, ensuring their livelihoods are safeguarded amidst any changes.
We enquire the co-facilitators to take this proposal into consideration and include it in the further streamlining text, where we see opportunities to convergence with option 1, as follow:

**Option 1**

[Overarching obligation]

1. Each Party [, subject to its national plan and based upon national circumstances and capabilities,[[shall] [should] [cooperate][is encouraged to] [, including through the cooperation mechanism referred to in [Part III, article number yet to be defined].] [and] take [any][effective] [measures][actions][to tackle fishing gear.] / [across the whole lifecycle [of plastic gears used for] of fishing and aquaculture gear][to prevent [reduce, and eliminate] fishing gear composed of plastic from becoming abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded in the marine environment, taking into account, as appropriate, internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures.]

[Particular measures]

[…., including [as appropriate]][on][In particular, Parties shall take measures to]:

a. [Encourage the development and][[to enhance the] [the enhancement of new][design] [and technologies for] of fishing and aquaculture gear[s], [in line with performance criteria set out in [Part I of Annex C], where practicable and feasible.], with a view to increasing durability, reusability, repairability and refurbishability and their capacity to be repurposed, recycled and disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner at end-of-life, and [to minimize] minimizing releases and emissions of or from fishing and aquaculture gears, including microplastics, to the environment;

b. [to implement effective] marking [of gears][, [tracing][tracking] [retrieval] [and][,] [and require] [database for the monitoring] reporting [and traceability][of lost gears,] [by part IV. 3 Reporting on Progress][in accordance with][taking into account] other relevant regional and international regulations [agreement], including MARPOL Annex V][and recovery] requirements,[ to ]prevent, reduce and eliminate, abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded][tackle] fishing gear [containing plastic], taking into account internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures.]

c. [[promote][facilitate] the collection and environmentally sound [disposal or recycling of end-of-life][waste management of][end of life plastic] [fishing and aquaculture] gear, [including any recovered gear.][Improve the management of gear at the end of its usable life][including the reuse, repair and recycling of gear.[.]]]:[and][in collaboration between parties, relevant industry sectors, and relevant stakeholders, including fisheries, artisanal and small-scale fishers;

[Other actions]

2. [ Each Party][Parties] should take actions to:

a. promote [and facilitate training.] [education, [capacity-building] and awareness raising] [in cooperation with existing international, regional and sub-regional initiatives][with fishing industries and practitioners on best practices and methods to reduce the [environmental] risk of losing fishing gear and other plastics during fishing operations, [with special considerations for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers] and for the environmentally sound disposal of end-of-life gear; and]

b. promote collaboration between Parties and relevant industry sectors and stakeholders, including fisheries, port reception facilities, waste management, and recycling.

c. promote investment, mobilize resources and facilitate knowledge exchange to enhance the recyclability and recycling rates of end-of-life and recovered fishing gear.

d. [Promote and facilitate a Just transition for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers].

[Relevant initiatives and organizations]
3. Parties [shall][are encouraged to] promote [synergy and complementarity with relevant initiatives and organizations, and regional and international authorities] in their respective actions towards [safe disposal of][the prevention of plastic pollution from] [fishing gear][cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information, including the sharing of best practices, as appropriate, on enhancing the environmentally sound collection, [safe] disposal, and recycling of fishing [and aquaculture] gear, including with relevant initiatives and organizations].

[Means and measures of implementation]

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

5. There shall be an assessment of the need as well as mobilization of financial resources and technology transfer for each country [countries] in order to meet the commitments under this provision[, considering the specific needs of developing countries and the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States].

[Additional elements in other provision]

[Furthermore remediation of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear is important to protect the marine environment, the provision [in Part II.11] on existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, should provide the obligation on parties to take measures to remediate Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear, in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with scientific and evidence-based social, economic and environmental impact assessments, using the best available techniques and environmental practices to avoid exacerbating environmental harm.]

Finally, we welcome the proposals from the European Union on behalf of European Union and its Member States and Samoa on behalf of the 39 Small Island Developing States, we see the opportunity of convergence and invite countries to work together to strengthen the text on this provision.

Thank you...