CONTACT GROUP 1

PSIDS STATEMENT ON TOPICS IN SUB-GROUP 1.2.

Thank you, Co-Chair.

The Cook Islands is pleased to join the discussions this afternoon for Contact Group 1 on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS). Pacific SIDS supports the organisational work plan as proposed by the co-chairs and join other delegations in urging the swift transition into subgroups for substantive discussions.

Nevertheless, Pacific SIDS wish to shed light on critical elements encompassed within Sub-Group 1.2. While we have identified preferred options from the Revised Zero Draft, we will focus on articulating the key concerns and aspirations of the Pacific SIDS.

Firstly, regarding Item 1, we underscore the imperative of addressing plastic pollution comprehensively across its entire lifecycle. The Pacific SIDS reaffirm our commitment to tackling the issue of Primary Plastic Polymers and stress the necessity of integrating sustainable production practices into our efforts. We echo the sentiments expressed in UNEA Resolution 5/14, advocating for a holistic approach to combating plastic pollution.

We believe accompanying this provision with transparency and reporting requirements within Part IV (3) on Reporting Progress and Part II.(13) on Transparency, Tracking, Monitoring, and Labelling, is essential.

Moving on to Items 2 and 3, Pacific SIDS support the need for clear definitions of harms to avoid, like hazardous, problematic and avoidable and clear default levels of regulations for each harm.

Regarding item 9b, we believe that there is value in addressing the full life cycle of fishing gear beyond waste management as expressed by many delegations before us.

The Pacific SIDS reiterates its commitment to collaborate constructively in the development of this crucial instrument.

Thank you Co-Chairs.