Submission by Samoa, on behalf of the small island developing states at the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Part II

9b. Waste Management – Fishing Gear

1. Explanatory Text

The SIDS support the proposal from Panama made earlier today. We would suggest that the most appropriate placement for the text on fishing gear is in Part II, Section 8 (Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle), as this provision should cover a broader swath of the lifecycle of fishing gear than just waste management.

2. Proposed Text

*Under option 2, points 3 to 6*

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 and aquaculture gear, considering internationally agreed rules, standards, and recommended practices and procedures, which should include:

   a. Encouraging 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. Promoting 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, implementing 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. Facilitating 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. Promoting and facilitating efforts for fishers and fishing communities, including artisanal and small-scale fishers to comply with the obligations of this instrument.

2. Considering national circumstances and capabilities, each Party shall incentivize the ecologically sensitive retrieval of reported lost gear, prioritizing methods that minimize further harm to marine
ecosystems while integrating local and indigenous knowledge into decision-making and fostering cooperation through knowledge sharing among Parties.

3. Developing country Parties shall be provided necessary technical and financial assistance based upon an assessment of the technical and financial resources required for complying with obligations given in this section in respect of each country. (taken from II.13 - OP3bis3)

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