Cook Islands Government

**Subject:** INC 3 National Intervention, Nairobi
**Date of delivery:** 16/11/2023
**Contact Group 1:** Part II, Item 9 (b)

Thank you Co-facilitator.

The Cook Islands aligns with the statement by AOSIS and PSIDS. We would like to make this intervention specifically on the fishing gear provision.

We see that current location of fishing gear in the waste management provision textually minimizes the severity of the problem of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear and does not provide adequate scope for a comprehensive approach to the management of fishing gear across its lifecycle.

We believe that fishing gear should be in a specific standalone article as a problematic source of marine plastic pollution requiring a bespoke approach. We are flexible to whether this could be incorporated as part of an Article covering a sectoral approach following the proposal made by Norway yesterday, so welcome further discussion on this.

The critical element is the inclusion of language to ensure measures across the full lifecycle.

This provision should have subparagraphs covering responsible design, cooperation with existing instruments, and guidance of end life management, education and awareness raising and the engagement of stakeholders in the fisheries supply chain.

Thank you Co-facilitator