THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE (INC3) TO DEVELOP A LEGAL BINDING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

General Remarks to address Fishing Gear in the international legally binding instrument based in the ZERO Draft text

Join Statement by Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Paraguay, Guatemala, Uruguay and Jamaica

Contact Group 1

We welcome the explicit provision to prevent, reduce and eliminate abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear in the zero draft. On this regard, we would like to present the following remarks:

1. We wish to raise that provisions on fishing gear are not best placed under provision 9b of waste management, as this placement suggests that only downstream measures on the waste management of fishing gear are required and it minimizes the extent of the problem.

2. To prevent, reduce and eliminate abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear the treaty must require parties to take measures that address the full lifecycle of the fishing gear including remediation of existing pollution.

3. Furthermore, we would like to raise that aquaculture is a growing industry globally, and also contributes to the global burden of plastic pollution in the marine environment.

4. It is important to include the just transition approach, to promote and facilitate a just and inclusive transition for fishing communities and artisanal fishers; since they will be vulnerable groups with the proposed measures.

5. We must ensure coherence among existing MEAs, in views to create synergies and avoid duplication of work.

6. Adequate Means of implementation are essential to support developing countries in the execution of these provisions.

7. Finally, we would welcome fishing gear to be incorporated in the formal intersessional work to discuss technical aspects related to fishing gear.