Proposal for a draft Mandate and Terms of Reference for intersessional work to inform the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the prevention of plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear throughout its lifecycle.

Possible Decision text

The Chair will convene a working group of interested member states, observer organisations, and other relevant sub-regional, regional and international organisations, to provide information to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee relevant to the prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear throughout its lifecycle.

The working group will produce papers on which members state and observers may make submissions. The working group, taking those submissions into account, will produce its first paper to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and its second paper to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. The work of the group will not prejudge the obligations or structure of the legally binding instrument.
Terms of reference for the open-ended working group on fishing and aquaculture gear:

1. **Mandate**
The working group on fishing and aquaculture gear is established by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution to prepare and present information to the INC relevant to the prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear throughout its lifecycle. The work of the group will not prejudge the obligations or structure of the legally binding instrument.

2. **Considerations to guide work**
The working group shall, as a first step:
   1. Review existing international and regional regulatory measures relevant to the prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear, and identify gaps in the regulatory regime.
   2. Produce a paper (Paper 1) capturing the outcomes of the work and provide opportunity for member states and observer organisations to discuss and comment.
   3. The working group, taking comments into account, shall produce its first report to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

The working group shall, as a second step:
   1. Collate available information on fishing and aquaculture gear in all UN regions, related to:
      a. the lifecycle of gear, including design, production, use, reuse and waste management,
      b. best practices and measures to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear, throughout its lifecycle, taking into account Indigenous and local knowledge,
      c. assessment of the costs and benefits of these best practices and measures, including socioeconomic assessments.
   2. Produce a paper (Paper 2) capturing the outcomes of this work and provide opportunity for member states and observer organisations to discuss and comment.
   3. The working group, taking comments into account, shall produce its second report to INC-5.

3. **Participation**
The working group should be open to representatives from Member States and observer organisations. The group should be open to relevant sub-regional, regional and international bodies, such as the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Regional Seas Conventions.

4. **Meetings**
The meetings should be virtual, and take into account time zones and facilitate the inclusion of all member states, as far as is reasonably practicable. This may mean that there are two meetings at different times.

5. **Officers**
The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall identify two co-Chairs of the working group.

6. **Secretariat**
[The secretariat of the INC on Plastic Pollution] will provide the secretariat for the Working Group.

7. **Administrative and procedural matters**
The working group shall apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee except as otherwise provided in these terms of reference.
8. **Agenda**

The Chairs, in consultation with the officers of the working group, shall prepare a provisional agenda for each meeting of the Group. The provisional agenda shall be communicated to all participants of the open-ended working group and all interested parties at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, except for the first meeting.

9. **Languages**

English shall be the working language of the working group. All documents adopted by the working group are classified as Information Documents for consideration at INC-4 and INC-5 and are provided in English only.

10. **Outputs**

The working group shall deliver two papers, the first to INC-4 and the second to INC-5.

The final papers shall be shared with the Secretariat six weeks prior to the INC sessions for posting online.