PART II

9. Waste management

Monaco Views

a. Waste
As plastic waste generation is on track to triple by 2060, the final disposal of plastic waste is an area for coordinated global action. Currently, mismanaged waste is by far the largest source of plastic release, with detrimental effects for human health and the environment.

Monaco supports provisions in option 1 to ensure the management of plastic waste in a safe and environmentally sound manner at different stages, with obligation to meet minimum requirements on collection, recycling and disposal rates outlined in an Annex, and with guidelines to be adopted by the governing body.

b. Fishing gears

General remarks

Monaco welcome the explicit provision to prevent, reduce and eliminate abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear in the zero draft. Monaco supports a provision requiring parties to take measures that address the full lifecycle of the fishing gear through a circular economy approach. Furthermore, Monaco raises that aquaculture is a growing industry globally, and also contributes to Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear. The provisions in the treaty must apply to fishing and aquaculture gear.

Monaco is at the moment not sure that the 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.

Monaco would engage in consultation with other delegations interested. An alternative and improved location for the fishing gear provision could be under paragraph 8, emissions and releases of plastic throughout the lifecycle.

Monaco would support intersessional work on fishing and aquaculture gears related to design, reuse, recyclability and disposal.

Drafting suggestions

Monaco supports an overarching obligation for Parties to cooperate and take effective measures across the whole lifecycle of fishing and aquaculture gear to prevent, reduce and eliminate, abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing and aquaculture gear, taking into account circular economy principles and internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures.

This obligation should have sub-paragraphs/provisions that require parties to take measures to:

1) enhance the design of fishing and aquaculture gears, with a view to increasing durability, reusability, repairability and refurbishability and their capacity to be repurposed, recycled and disposed of in a safe
and environmentally sound manner at end-of-life, and minimising releases and emissions of or from fishing and aquaculture gears, including microplastics, to the environment.

2) Implement effective marking of gears and require reporting of lost gears, in accordance with other relevant regional and international regulations, including MARPOL Annex V.

4) Improve the management of gear at the end of its usable life, including the reuse, repair and recycling of gear, and

5) Promote and facilitate training, education and awareness raising.

The measures taken to implement this provision shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [part IV.1 on national plans].

Monaco supports inclusion of an obligation for parties to promote synergy and complementarity with relevant initiatives, organizations, and regional and international authorities in their respective actions towards the prevention of plastic pollution from fisheries safe disposal of fishing and aquaculture gear.

Furthermore remediation of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear is important to protect the marine environment, but that Provision 11 on existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment should provide the obligation on parties to take measures to remediate Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear, in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with scientific and evidence-based social, economic and environmental impact assessments, using the best available techniques and environmental practices to avoid exacerbating environmental harm.