Statement by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) at INC-3

Part II. Item 9b Fishing Gear
Nairobi, Kenya – 15 November 2023

Final

Delivered by: Republic of Marshall Islands on behalf of the Pacific Small Island States

Co-facilitator,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), we align ourselves with the statement made by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

PSIDS supports the provisions under this item. PSIDS supports a dedicated provision for fishing gear and agrees that fishing gear is an issue that needs to be addressed in this instrument and supports the option for Parties to take effective measures to prevent, reduce, and eliminate, abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear containing plastic considering internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures. PSIDS supports the promotion of synergies and complementarity with relevant initiatives and organizations in their respective actions toward the safe disposal of fishing gear and the inclusion of the whole life cycle impacts of fishing gear containing plastics. Doing so will assist the Pacific region in addressing the rising issue of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear that has impacted the marine environment. We propose to put in place a governing body provision in this option that will provide support for Parties to address this issue through the Means of implementation taking into consideration the special circumstances of SIDS.

Thank you.