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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

**Thirty-fourth Session**

**Rome, 1-5 February 2021**

**GLOLITTER PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME**

## GLOLITTER PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME

1. The overarching goal of the GloLitter Partnerships (GLP) programme is to assist developing countries to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors and identify opportunities for the reduction of plastic uses in both fisheries and maritime transport sectors. The programme will develop mechanisms for sustainability, and enhance regional cooperation to support transition of maritime transport and fisheries sectors towards a low marine plastic litter future. The GLP will achieve its objectives by focusing on a number of areas identified in the recently adopted IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, and in complementary actions as identified by FAO, including supporting the provisions of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG).

2. The first phase of this programme is a three and half year project funded by the Government of Norway. IMO is the lead implementing agency and FAO is the implementing partner dealing with the fisheries sector. The FAO component of this project will address concerns about Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), which is a significant component of marine litter, and has serious impacts on habitats, fish stocks and other marine species. The project is in accordance with FAO's mandate to achieve food security globally, including through inter alia the responsible development of fisheries in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Sustainable Development Goals target 14.1 to achieve significant reduction of marine pollution of all kinds by 2025.

3. The main outcomes of GLP programme phase I include:

- i. the development of knowledge products and capacity building tools in support of wider capacity building on the subject, and their dissemination to expand global awareness and stakeholders' support in dealing with Sea-based Marine Plastic litter (SBMPL)<sup>1</sup>;
- ii. the preparation of countries' national status, policies and action plans in dealing with SBMPL as a basis for undertaking Legal, Policy and Institutional Reforms (LPIR) at national levels;
- iii. The delivery of capacity building activities to enhance the enforcement of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V, LC/LP<sup>2</sup> and relevant FAO instruments as well as port waste management inclusive of port reception facilities;
- iv. the development of regulatory and best practice guidelines and tools to prevent and reduce ghost fishing via reduction of fishing gears' plastic litter;
- v. establishment of public-private partnerships in order to spur the development of cost-effective marine plastic litter management solutions, promotion of women empowerment in dealing with SBMPL and definition of a follow-up Phase II scaling-up and demonstration project.

4. FAO is responsible for the achievement of outcome iv and also support the achievement of overall programme outcomes i and v. This FAO component will address concerns about ALDFG. This project will be a component of a multi-year, multi-donor GLP programme. The GLP design foresees collaboration with other international, regional and national partners, which is expected to lead to additional (in-kind) co-financing from these partners as well as beneficiary countries.

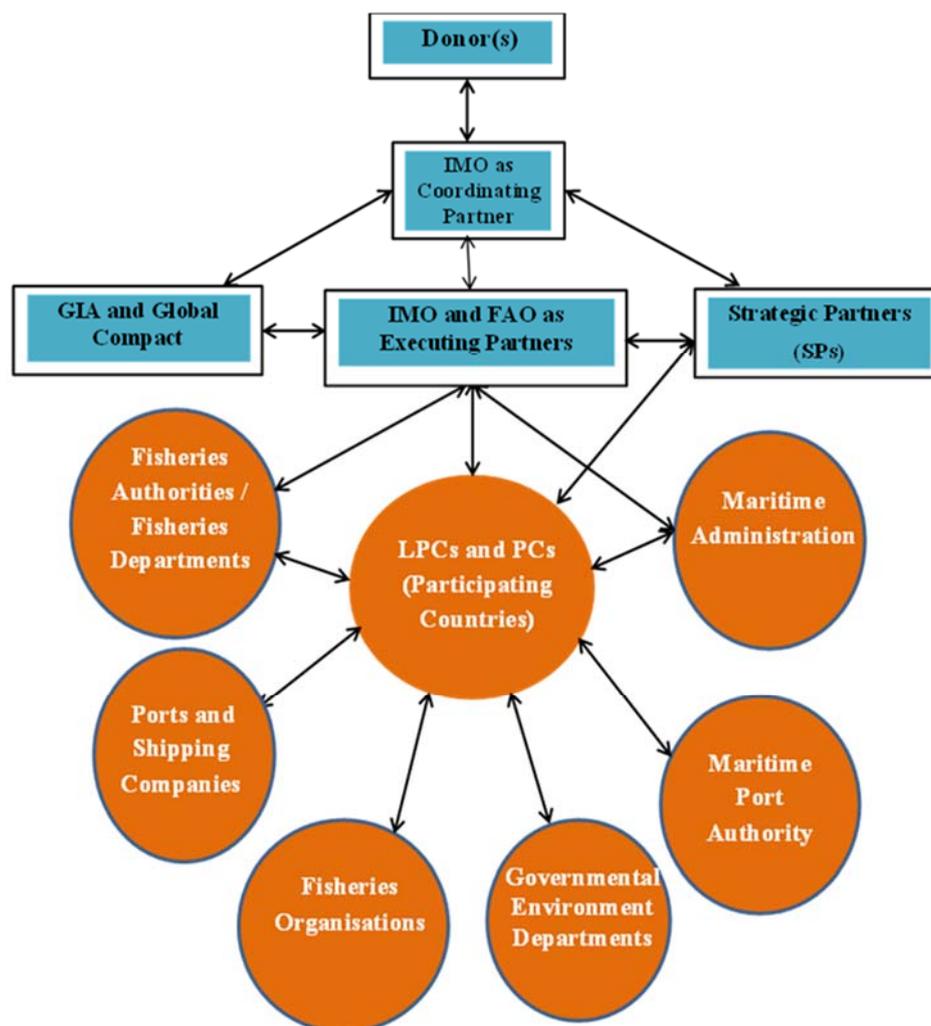
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<sup>1</sup> 'sea-based marine litter' is any form of man-made, synthetic (non-natural) debris deposited directly into seawater from a vessel, facility or activity that is situated in or on, or is taking place entirely on or within, the ocean, from the intertidal to pelagic zones, and encompassing open ocean-adjacent seawater bodies including harbors, bays, estuaries and lagoons.

<sup>2</sup> For more details see

<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/Garbage/Pages/Default.aspx>

The following figure represents an overview of the GLP partners including major national stakeholders.



5. There are three modalities to participate in this Programme:
  - i. **Participating countries.** These are developing countries in five global regions (Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific) that are interested in contributing to the objectives of the GLP. Selection of Lead Partnering Countries (LPC) and Partnering Countries (PC) in the five regions has been carried out during July- September 2020.
  - ii. **Strategic partners.** These include a variety of developed countries, global or regional institutions, alliances, regional fishery bodies, government agencies, etc. that have the capacity to support the execution of the project and are willing to use own resources (in-kind or in-cash) to support the GLP mission and aims. In each region, one of such institutions will be selected as Implementing Regional Partner (IRP) that would support IMO and FAO on day to day activities in the respective region. COFI members and observers interested to support the FAO component of this project as a Strategic Partner of the current phase or subsequent phases are invited to contact the Responsible Fishing Team on [Responsible-Fishing@fao.org](mailto:Responsible-Fishing@fao.org).
  - iii. **Industry partners.** These include all private and non-private sector corporations who are willing to bring their resources and expertise and help with the reduction or sustainable collection, recycling or disposal of ship-based and wider marine litter. Examples of such

organizations could include fishery companies, shipping companies, ports, waste management organizations, international financial institutions (IFIs) including regional development banks, expert NGOs, gear manufacturers, etc. The project will aim to organize this group of partners under the project Global Industry Alliance (GIA) in collaboration with UN Global Compact initiative and secure their funding and expertise to carry out related activities. The main purpose of the GIA will be the creation of private sector grouping with cash contribution that can play a leadership role in supporting the reduction or elimination SBMPL through technical means and are willing to promote North-South related technical cooperation activities.