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PLASTICS GOVERNANCE  
ENGAGEMENT

**POSITIONS OF  
ASIA-PACIFIC  
COUNTRIES  
ON THE GLOBAL  
PLASTICS TREATY**

## **Acknowledgements**

Positions of Asia-Pacific Countries on the Global Plastics Treaty, was prepared on behalf of the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) by Per-Olof Busch, under the supervision of Ms Cosima Stahr, Key Expert, SCP Policy Options and SDG12 Progress, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component and Dr Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component.



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# Background and methodology

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Plastic pollution is a global challenge with adverse effects on the environment and human health. In late 2022, negotiations on a global treaty began aiming at addressing this challenge. The start of negotiations followed Resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>1</sup> which mandated member states to negotiate an international legally binding instrument to combat plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

To this end, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was set up. It has been convened three times so far (as of April 2024). After two rounds of negotiations, the chair developed a draft text for the treaty. Besides many other elements, this draft proposed different options for the objectives of the treaty, its core obligations and financing.<sup>2</sup> These proposals were subject to negotiations at INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya, which took place in early November 2023. During these negotiations many states expressed their agreement or disagreement with the different options for the objectives, the core obligations, and financing of the treaty.

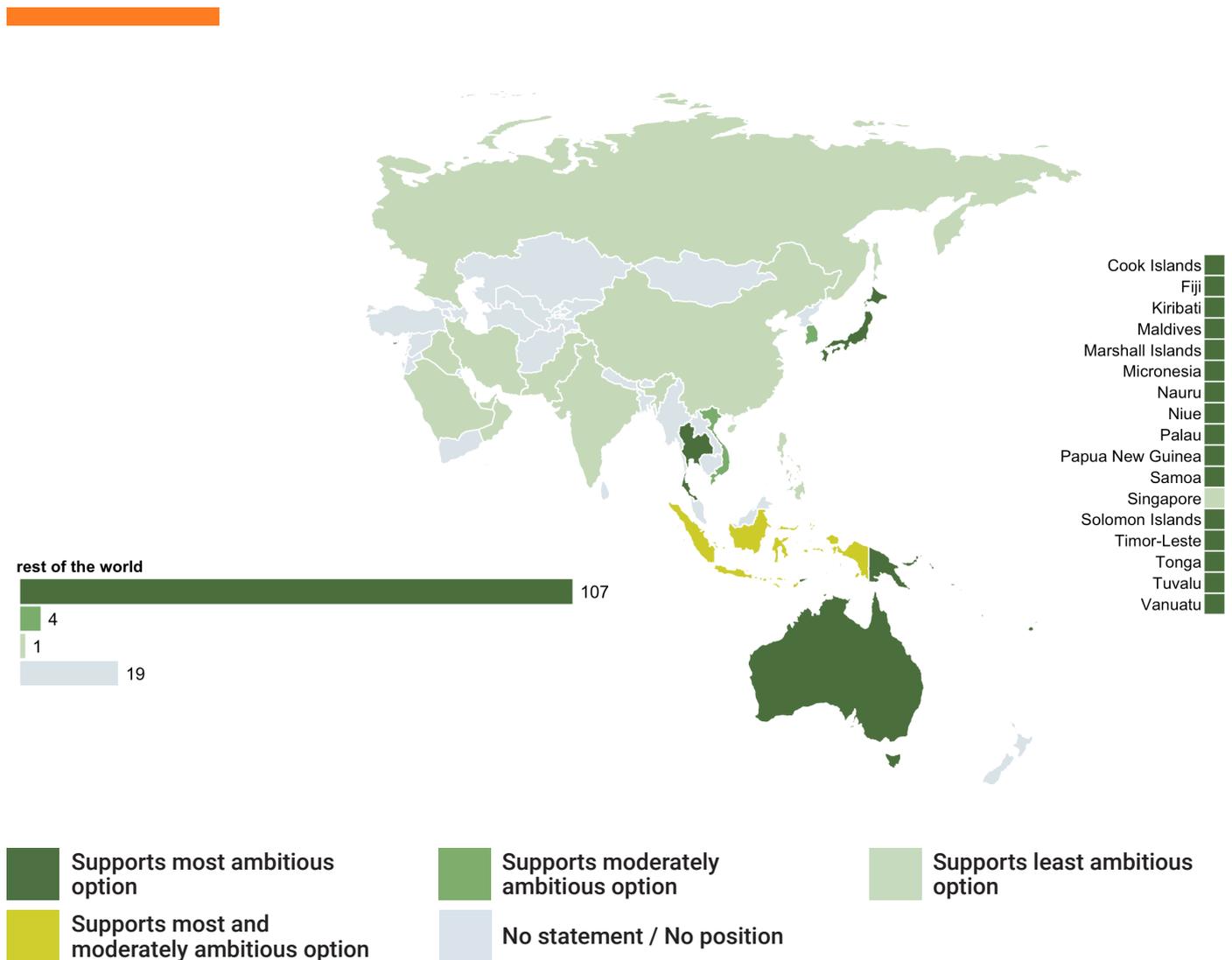
In this report, the positions of all 64 Asian and Pacific are analysed. Data for the analysis were collected on site during INC-3. The expert took into account the positions from live statements of delegations during negotiation sessions as well as official submissions from states on the different parts of the treaty draft text. The positions were noted and entered into a database and coded along different categories, including the ambition level of the options. The analysis covers only those core obligations in the treaty draft text for which different options with clearly distinct levels of ambition could be identified.

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<sup>1</sup> [UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/1: End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [UNEP/PP/INC.3/4: Zero draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.](#)

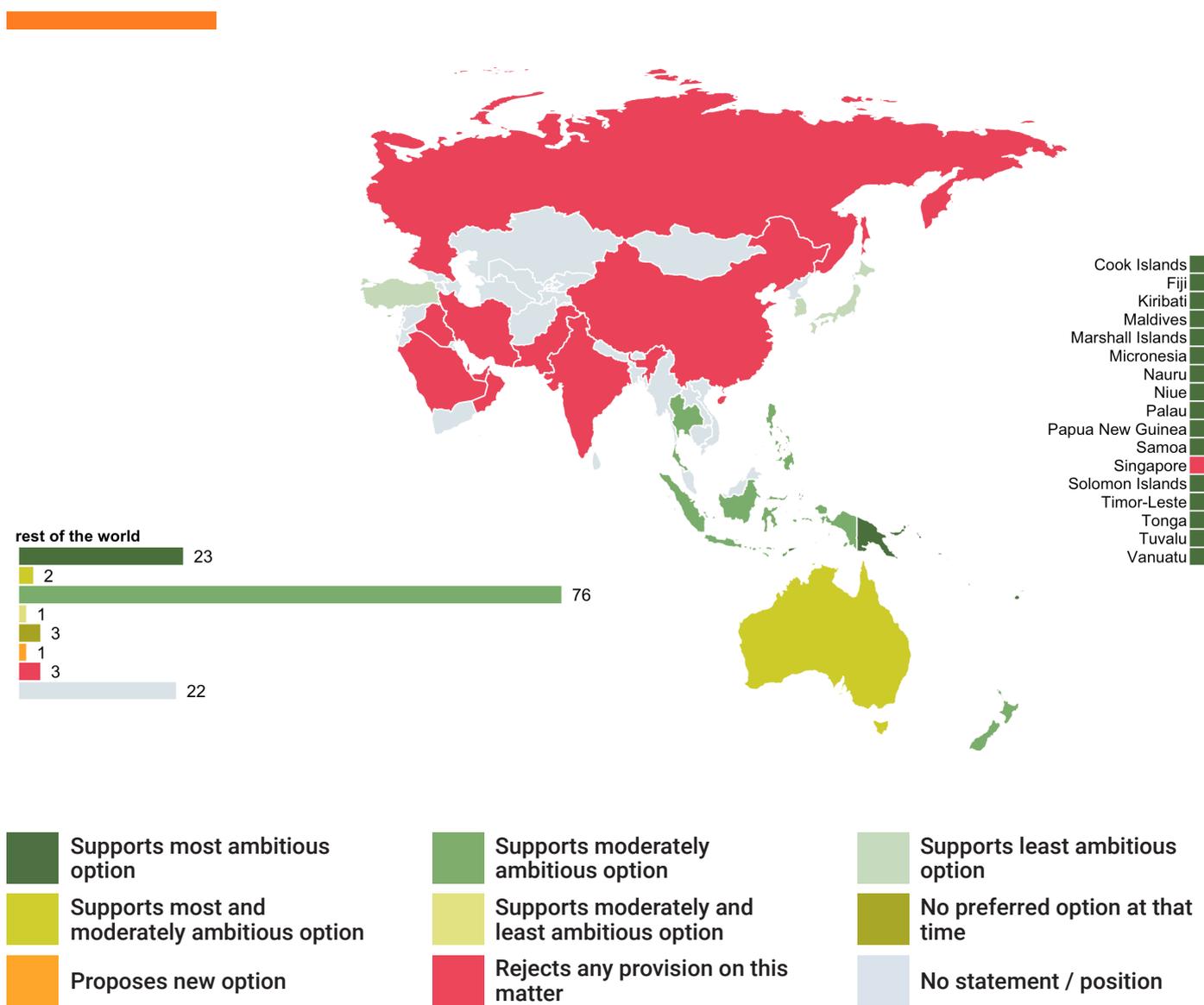
# Figure 1: Positions on Plastic Treaty objectives<sup>3</sup>



Most ambitious	Moderately ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End plastic pollution</li> <li>• Protect human health and environment</li> <li>• Adopt comprehensive full life-cycle approach</li> <li>• Prevent, progressively reduce, and eliminate plastic pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect human health and environment</li> <li>• Adopt comprehensive full life-cycle approach</li> <li>• Manage utilisation of plastics and plastic waste</li> <li>• Contribute to sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect human health and environment</li> <li>• Manage utilisation of plastics and plastic waste</li> <li>• Contribute to sustainable development</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> All figures were generated using R and the packages *ggplot2*, *ggmap*, *cowplot* and *grid*.

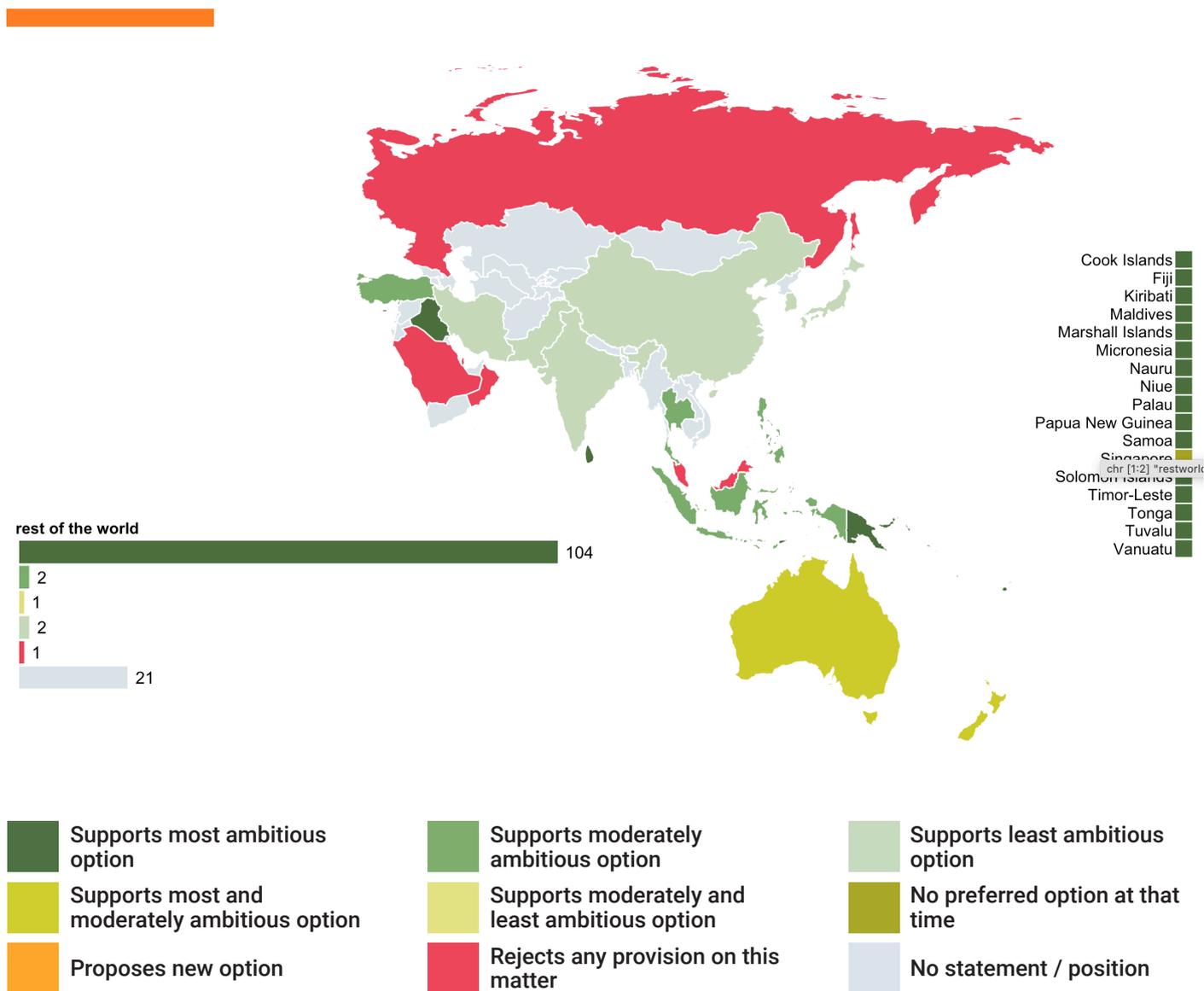
# Figure 2: Positions on the limitation and reduction of the production and supply of primary plastic polymers



## Options

Most ambitious	Moderately ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to limit its production and supply of primary plastic polymers</li> <li>Individual legally binding targets for each country</li> <li>Global target must not be exceeded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective legal obligation of countries to manage and reduce global production and supply of primary plastic polymers</li> <li>Nationally determined targets that contribute to global target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective legal obligation of countries to take necessary measures to manage and reduce global production and supply of primary plastic polymers</li> </ul>

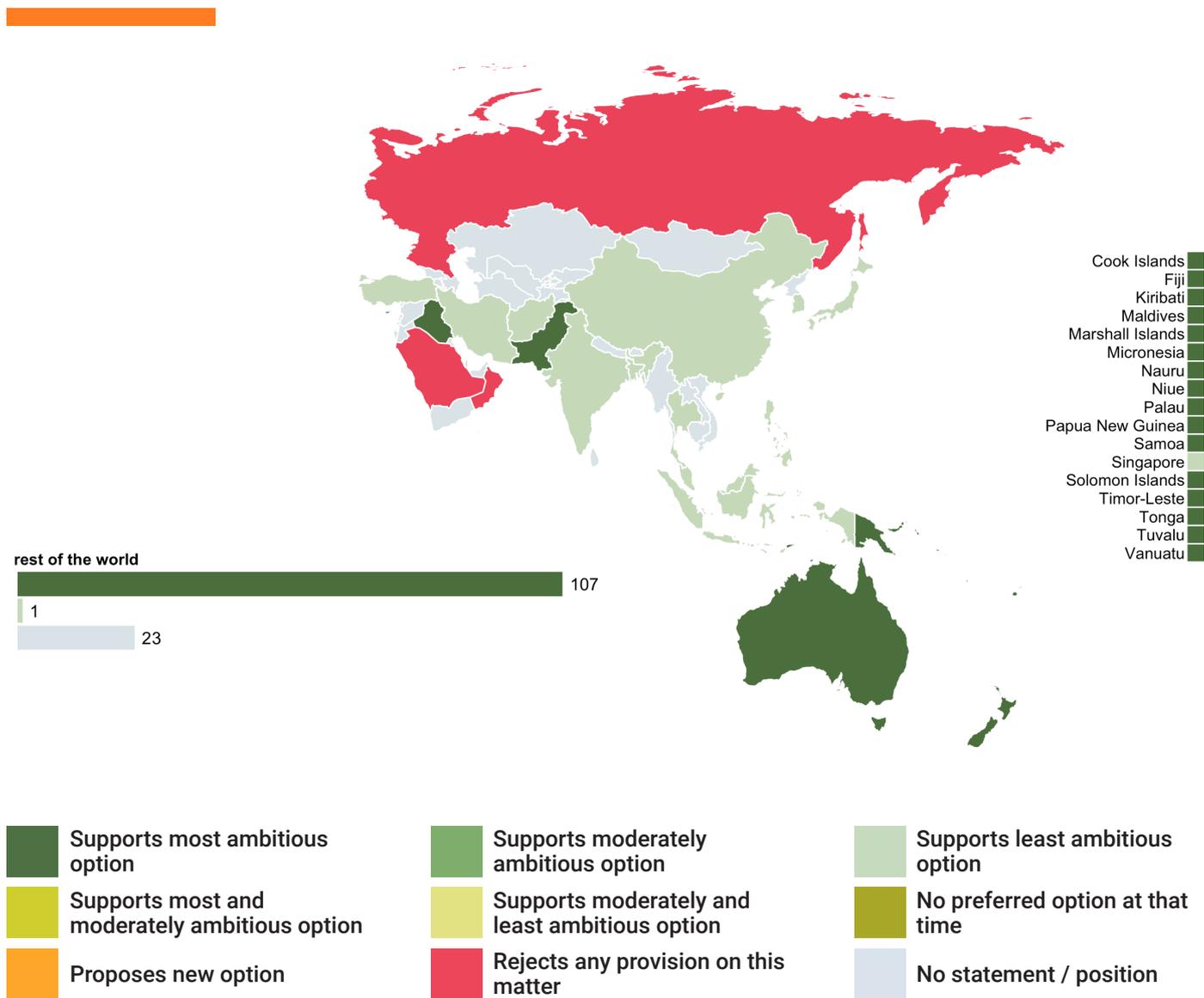
# Figure 3: Positions on phase-out, elimination and bans of chemicals and polymers of concern



## Options

Most ambitious	Moderately ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to not allow and to eliminate the use, production, sale, distribution, import or export certain chemicals and polymers that are defined in an annex</li> <li>Global deadline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective legal obligation of countries to minimise, to regulate and, as appropriate, to eliminate the use of certain chemicals and polymers with potential adverse effects on human health and environment in polymers, plastics and plastic products</li> <li>Definition of affected chemicals and polymers in annex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation to not allow or to regulate the use of certain chemicals and polymers with potential adverse effects on human health and environment in polymers, plastics and plastic products</li> <li>Definition of criteria to identify chemicals and polymers in annex</li> </ul>

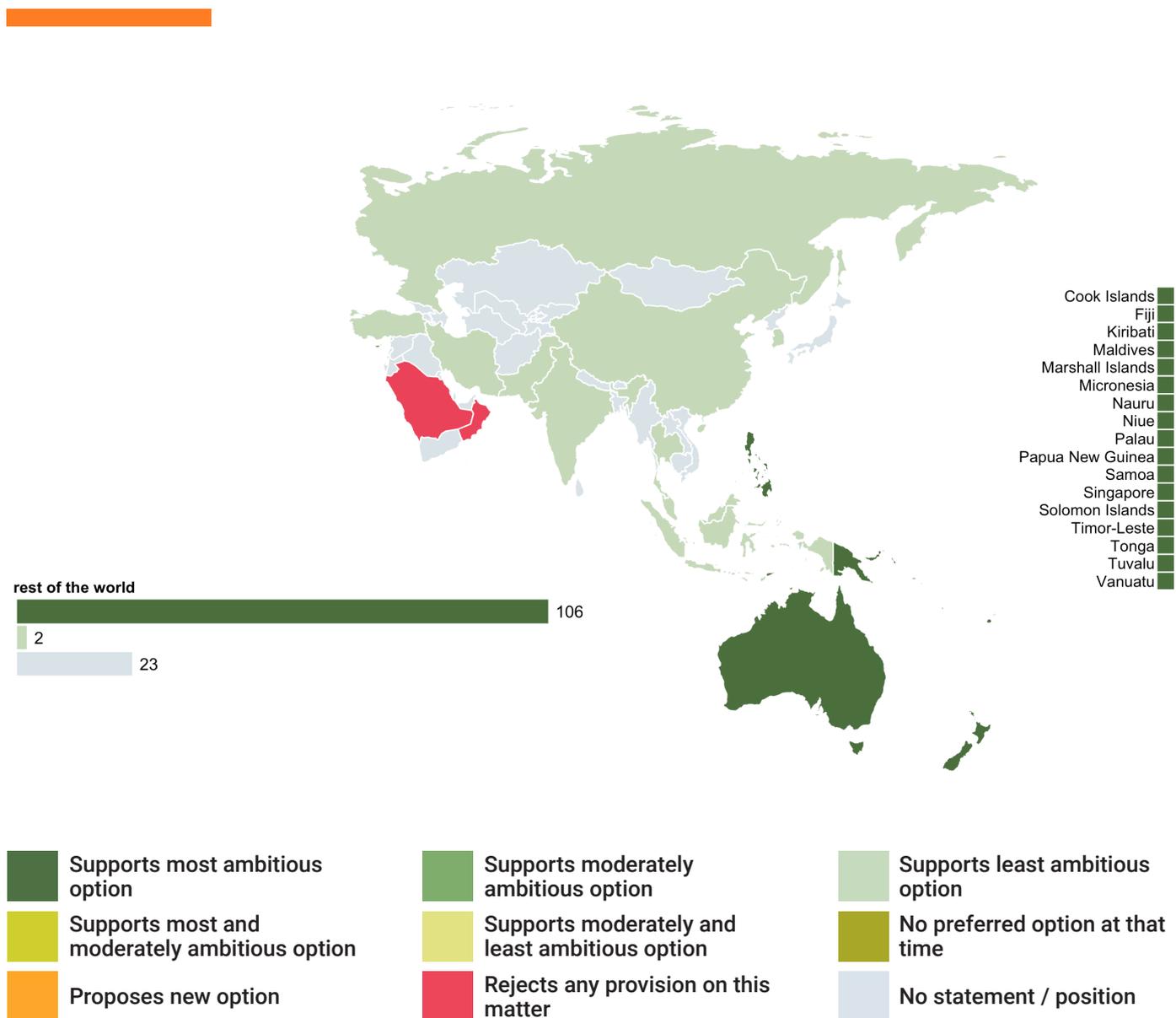
# Figure 4: Positions on phase-out, elimination and bans of problematic and avoidable plastic products



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to not allow the production, sale, distribution, import or export of certain plastic products</li> <li>Global deadline</li> <li>Definition of affected plastic products in annex based on agreed criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation for each country to regulate and reduce the production, sale, distribution, import or export of certain plastic products</li> <li>Recommendation for each country to adopt nationally determined targets</li> <li>Definition of criteria to identify affected plastic products in annex</li> </ul>

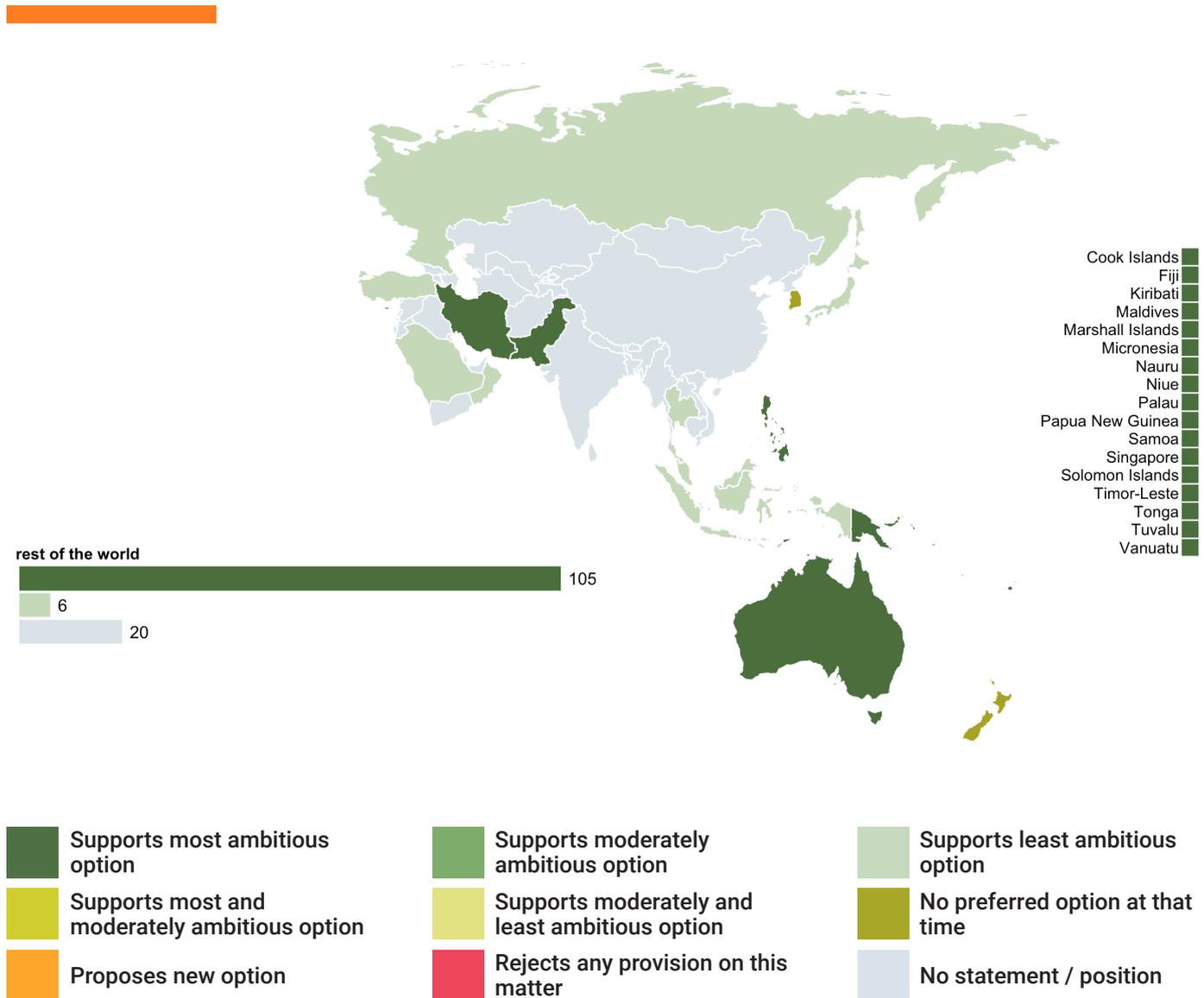
# Figure 5: Positions on ban on intentionally added microplastics



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to not allow the production, use in manufacturing, sale, distribution, import or export of plastics and products with intentionally added microplastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to identify, manage, restrict and, where appropriate, not allow, their production, use in manufacturing, sale, distribution, import or export</li> </ul>

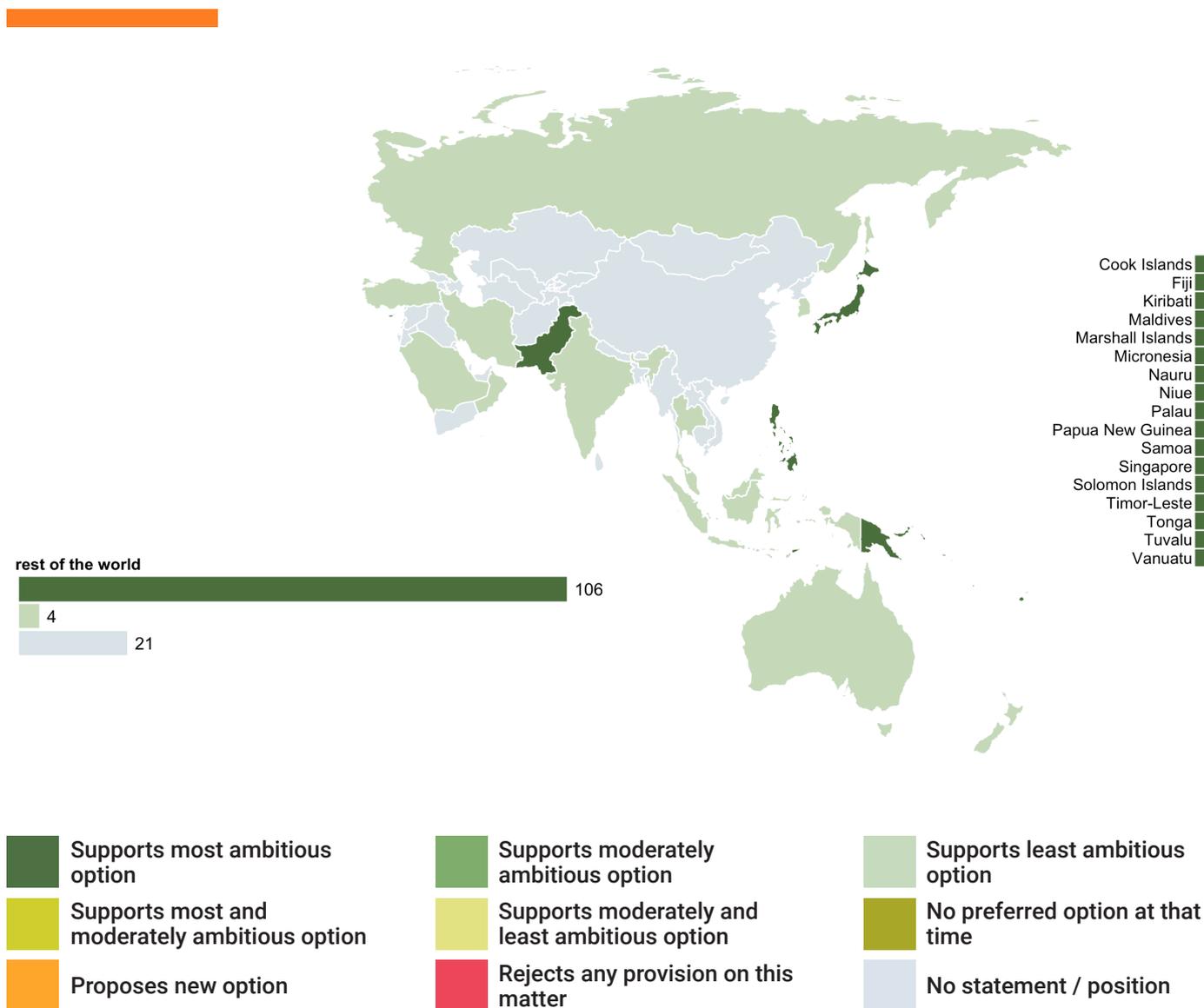
# Figure 6: Positions on minimum standards for design and performance of plastic products, including certification and labelling



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt minimum design and performance criteria for plastic and plastic products produced and available within its territory</li> <li>Definition of minimum criteria in annex</li> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to certify and label plastic and plastic products accordingly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation for each country to adopt design and performance criteria that reduce the use of plastics and increase safety, durability, reusability, refillability, reparability and refurbishability</li> </ul>

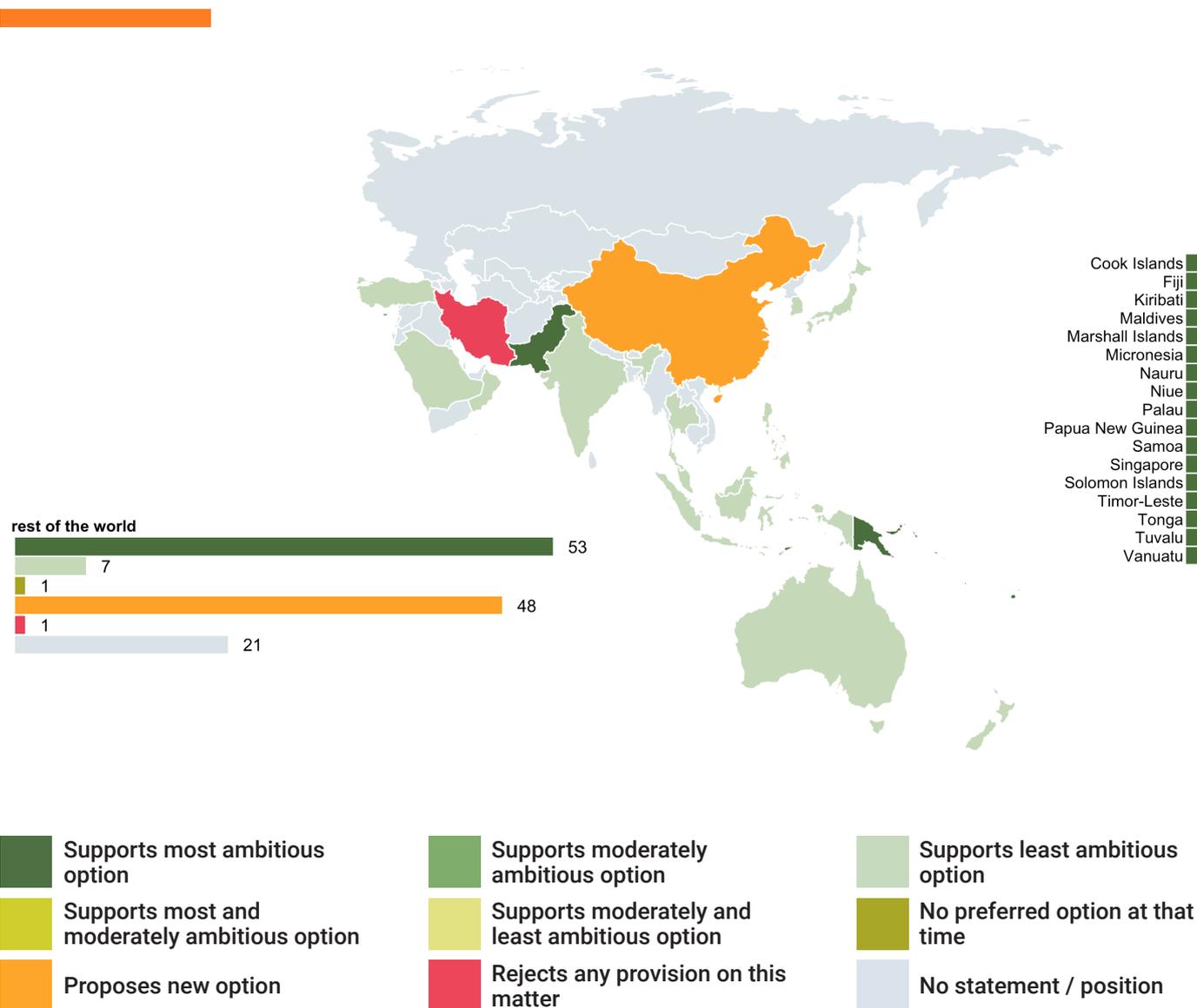
# Figure 7: Positions on the promotion of reduce, reuse, refill and repair of plastic products



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to promote the reduction, reuse, refill, repair, repurposing and refurbishment, as relevant, of plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory</li> <li>Definition of minimum reduction, reuse, refill and repair targets and related timeframe in annex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to promote the reduction, reuse, refill, repair, repurposing and refurbishment, as relevant, of plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory</li> <li>Recommendation for each country to adopt nationally determined targets</li> </ul>

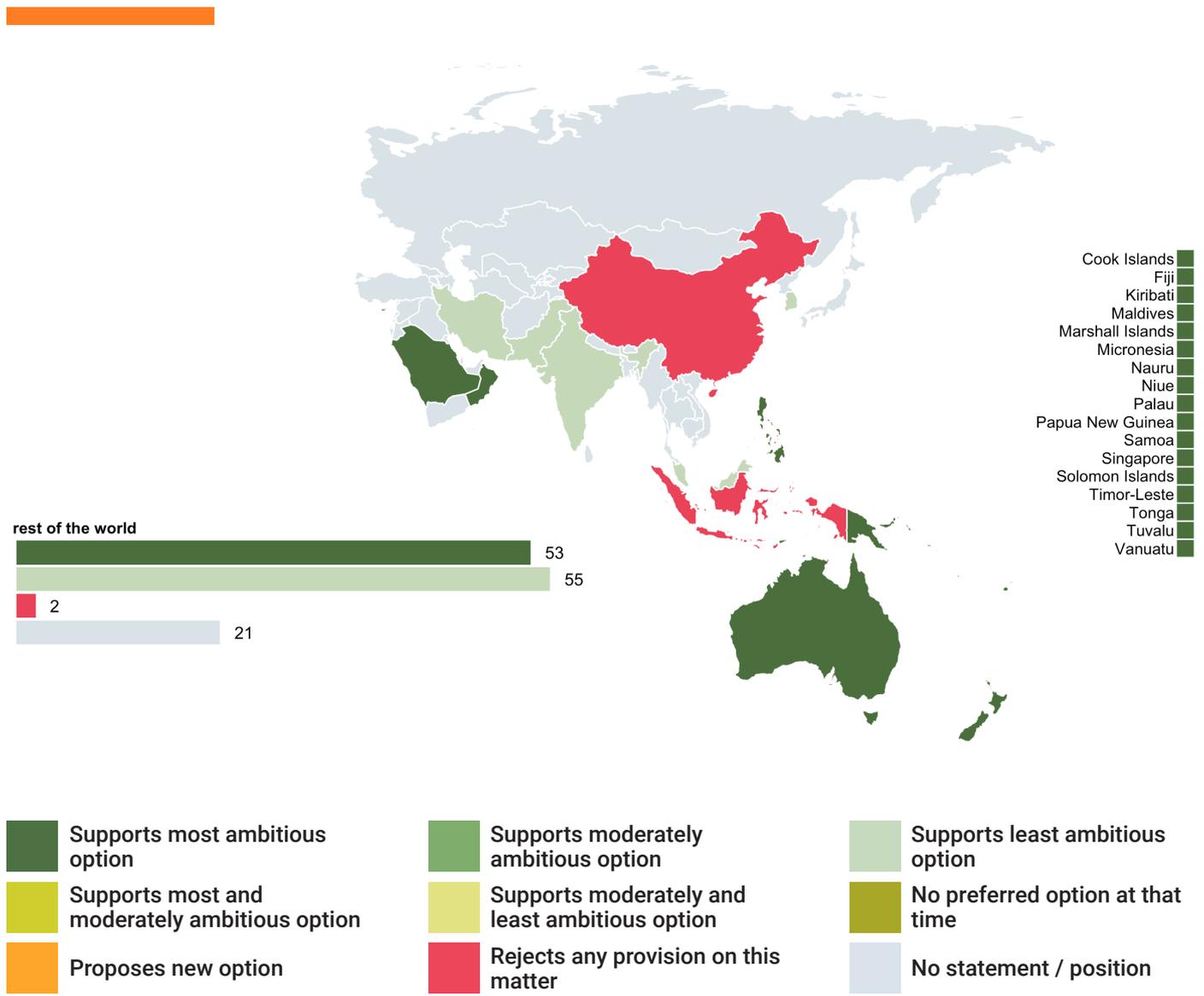
# Figure 8: Positions on increasing safe and environmentally sound recycled contents in plastics and plastic products



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt minimum share of safe and environmentally sound recycled content in plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory</li> <li>Definition of minimum share and timeframe in annex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation for each country to adopt minimum share of recycled content in plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory</li> </ul>

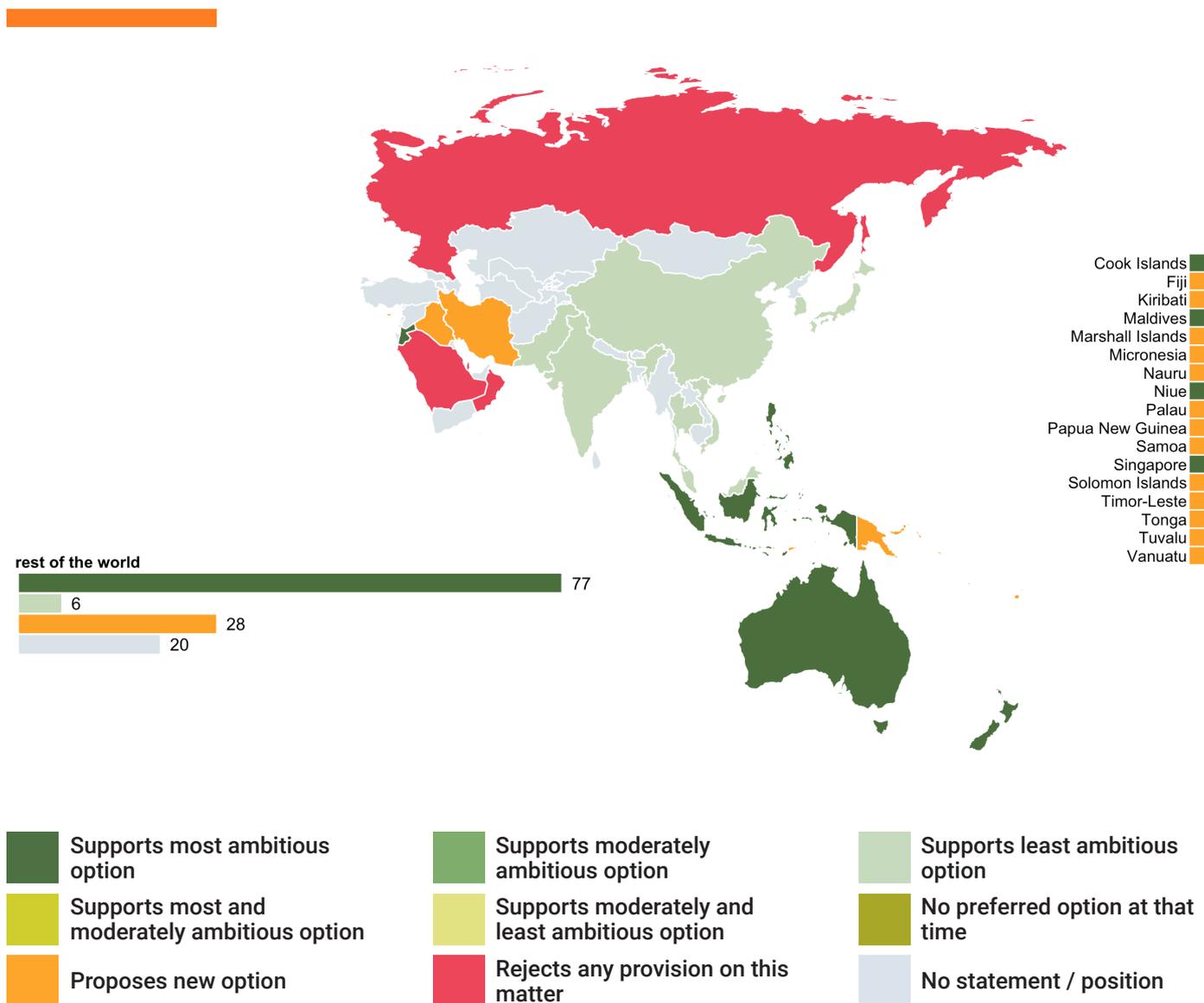
# Figure 9: Positions on safe, environmentally sound and sustainable alternative plastics and plastic products



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective legal obligation to ensure that alternative plastics and plastic products are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation to encourage the development and use of alternative plastics and plastic products that are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable</li> </ul>

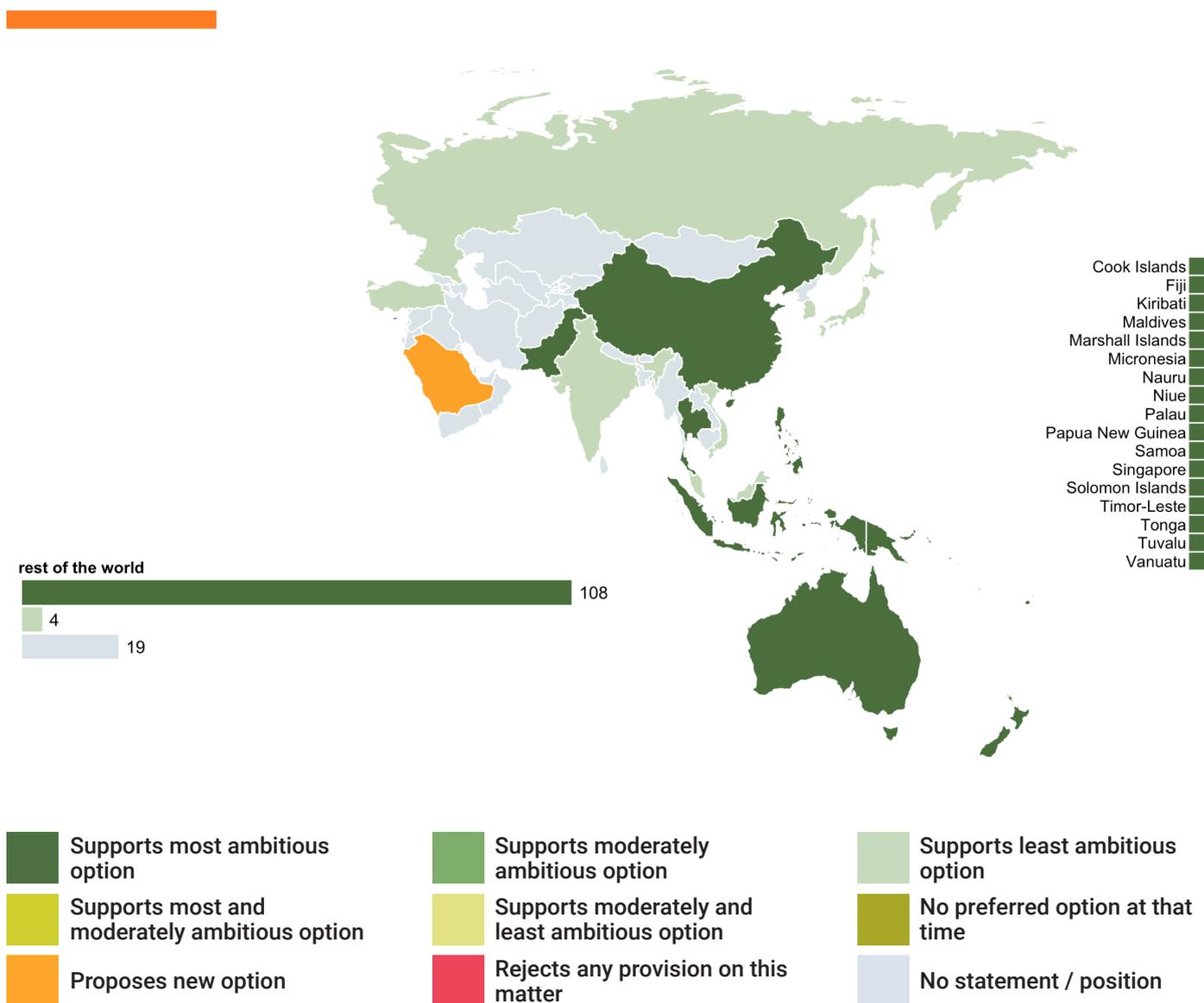
# Figure 10: Positions on the introduction and design of extended producer responsibility schemes



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt an extended producer responsibility scheme</li> <li>Definition of modalities of extended producer responsibility schemes in annex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouragement of each country to adopt an extended producer responsibility scheme</li> </ul>

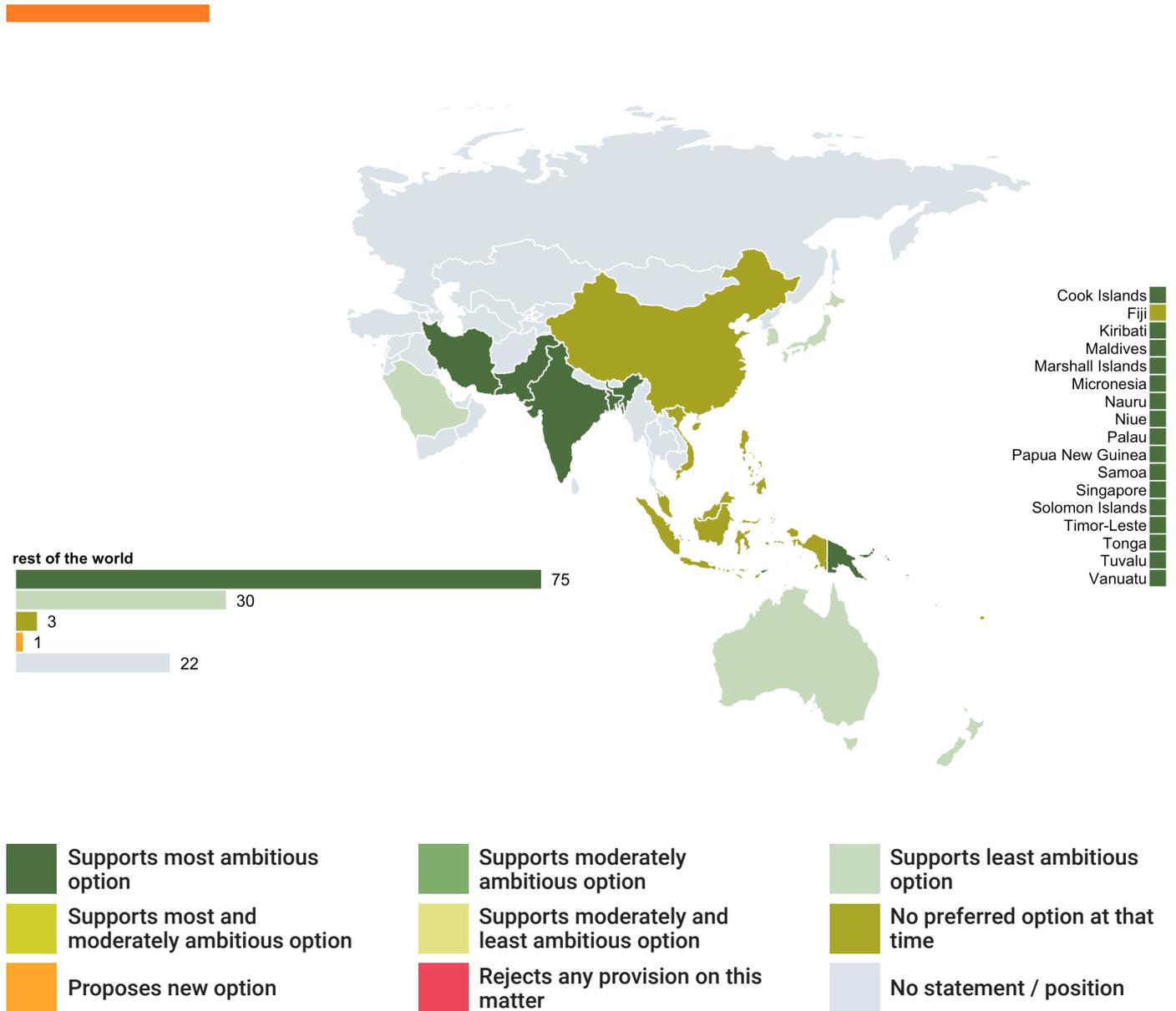
# Figure 11: Positions on safe and environmentally sound waste management



## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to ensure safe and environmentally sound handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and final disposal of plastic waste</li> <li>Consideration of waste hierarchy</li> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to meet minimum collection, recycling and disposal rates</li> <li>Definition of minimum rates in annex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual legal obligation for each country to ensure safe and environmentally sound handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and final disposal of plastic waste</li> <li>Nationally determined minimum requirements and targets</li> </ul>

# Figure 12: Positions on financing

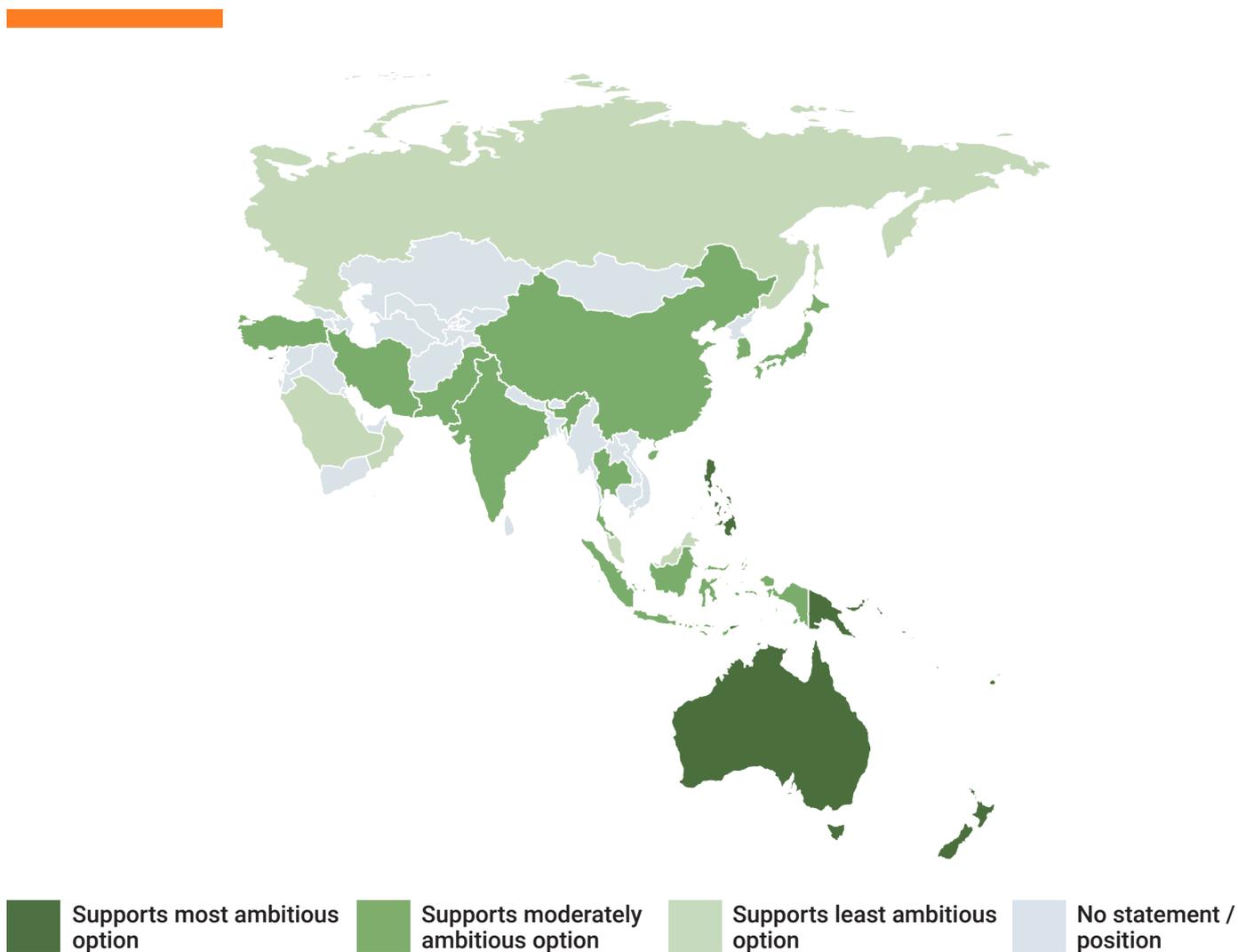


## Options

Most ambitious	Least ambitious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly established dedicated fund(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated fund within an existing financial arrangement</li> </ul>

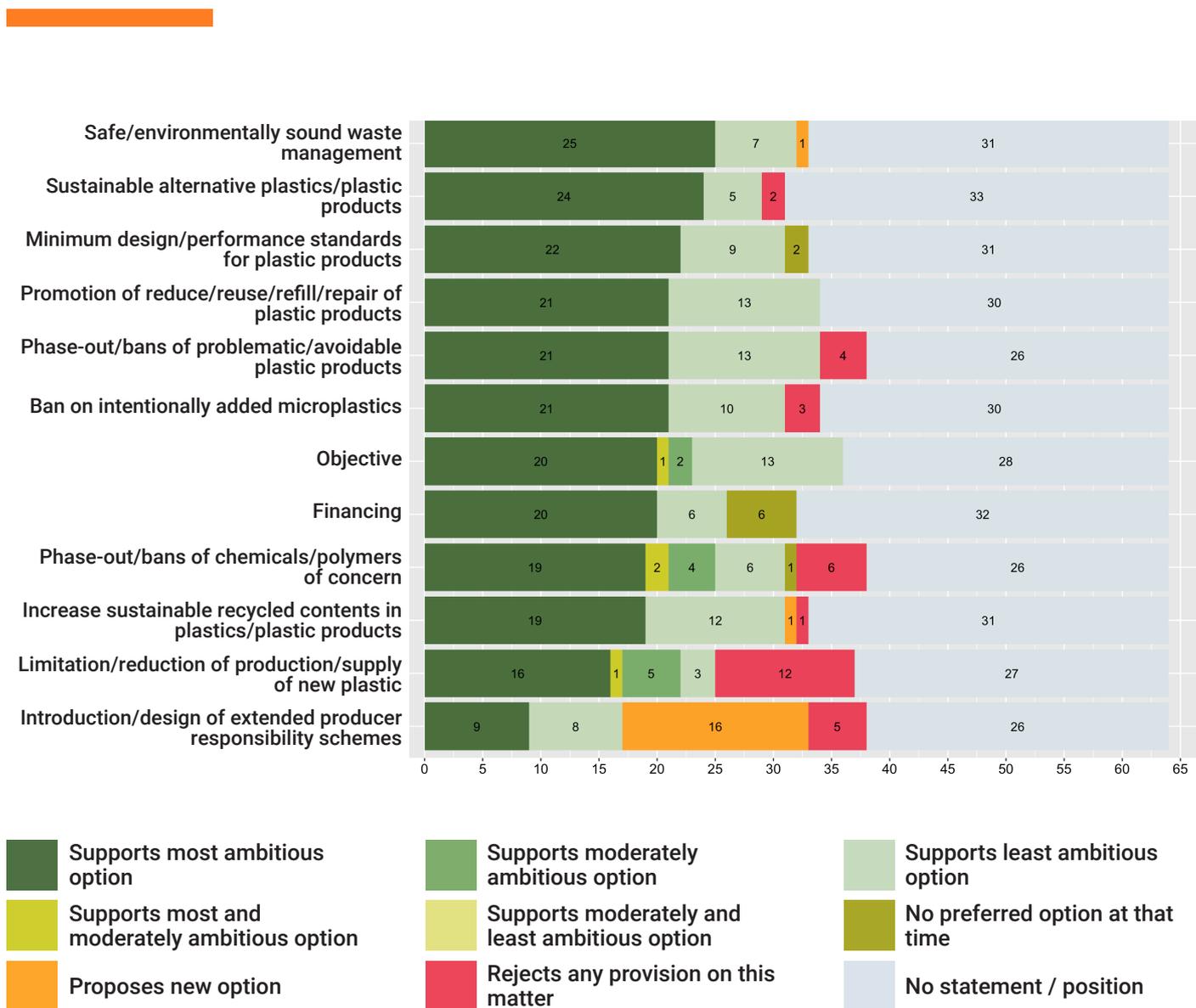


# Figure 14: Tendency of countries to support most, moderately or least ambitious options\*



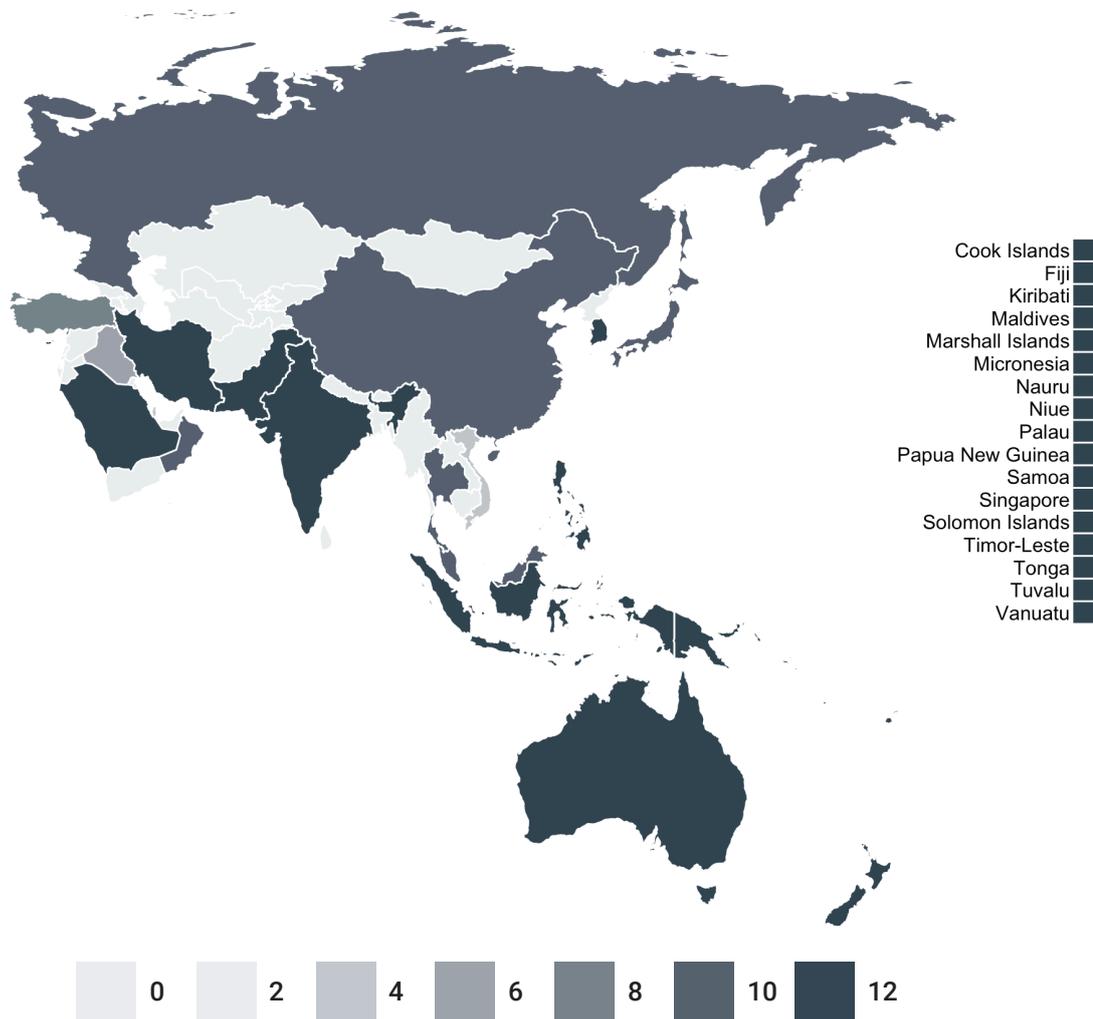
\* Only countries that stated their positions on more than half of the selected 12 obligations. Distinction of tendency to support the most, moderately and the least ambitious options is based on a score ranging from 0 to 1 where values smaller than 0.34 indicate a tendency to support the least ambitious options, values between 0.34 and 0.67 indicate a tendency to support moderately ambitious options, and values larger than 0.67 and smaller than or equal to 1 indicate a tendency to support the most ambitious options. Country scores were calculated as the actual sum of single values for individual positions divided by the possible maximum sum. For the support of each most ambitious option a value of 3 was assigned, for the support of each moderately ambitious option a value of 2 was assigned, for the support of each least ambitious option a value of 1 was assigned, and for the demand to delete a provision a value of 0 was assigned.

# Figure 15: Overview on all positions by core obligation\*



\* Sorted by number of countries that support most ambitious position (descending order)

# Figure 16: Overview on number of positions\*



\* Only on the 12 issues considered in this report

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