Friends of the Earth International statement to INC4

Thank you Chair, Excellencies, delegates, esteemed colleagues. My name is Abdul Ghofar from The Indonesian Forum for Environment (WALHI)/Friends of the Earth Indonesia, a non-government organisation based in Indonesia. We are a member of Friends of the Earth International and Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

Plastic pollution is one of the three planetary crises. The entire plastic life cycle from the production to disposal is one of the causes of biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. About 8 billion tons of plastic has been produced globally since the 1950s, but only 10% has actually been recycled, the remaining plastic waste is burned and spilled into the environment. All forms of plastic waste mismanagement harm the environment, health and human rights.

Friends of the Earth International is active in the process of developing an ambitious new global Plastics Treaty that seeks to end plastic pollution by dramatically reducing plastic production, consumption and trade, and scaling up system change solutions. In order to be effective a future treaty should consider the following elements:

- **Scope** – Ensuring the Treaty covers the entire life cycle of plastics from extraction and production to consumption, disposal and waste.
- **Binding rules** – Legally binding measures and global targets, going beyond voluntary approaches to global governance that have historically failed.
- **Corporate polluter accountability** – Recognising the central role of transnational corporations (largely from the plastics, fossil fuel, consumer goods and petrochemical industries) in causing the plastic pollution crisis and considering direct obligations and targets to regulate their impact.
- **An end to waste colonialism** – Banning all plastic waste exports from the Global North to the Global South.
- **Exclude greenwashing and false solutions** from the plastic treaty, like plastic credits, plastic offsets, incineration, chemical recycling, waste-to-energy, co-firing, co-processing and/or plastic-to-fuel processes, which cause more harm
- **A human-rights-based approach** – Ensuring a just transition is included in the treaty text with reference to the right to a safe, clean and healthy environment, access to information, participation in decision-making, and other fundamental rights. The process must centre and meaningfully engage with waste pickers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities impacted by the whole plastics life cycle.

- **Finance for the Global South** – Establishing a dedicated global implementation fund with contributions from Global North countries to support Global South countries and economies in transition to comply with Treaty obligations.

- **System change solutions** – Supporting solutions that aim to reduce, reuse and redesign plastic products while scaling up other reusable alternatives through setting binding global design standards, targets for reuse and international collaboration

- **Zero-Waste Hierarchy** – The prospective instrument should enshrine the zero waste hierarchy as a core principle; refuse, reduce, repair, reuse and redesign materials, making recycling a last resort.

We wish all states robust and productive negotiations on treaty obligations that streamlines the current revised draft text. At this stage in the Plastic Treaty negotiation a mandate to approve intersessional work will be key to the successful establishment of a future treaty.

Thank you.