GAIA Intervention at INC4  
26 April 2024

My name is Rafael Eudes. On behalf of Aliança Resíduo Zero Brasil and GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives), I thank all the distinguished delegates for this opportunity.

Plastic IS pollution! We are here with the ultimate and ambitious goal to End Plastic Pollution and we can only achieve this through a legally binding Global Target on Plastic Production Reduction. The science is clear. A new study from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, reveals that deep primary production cuts are urgently needed for our planet to avoid breaching the 1.5 degree limit set by the Paris Agreement, at least 11.8% to 17.3% per year, starting in 2024. We also have the numbers, 144 countries in their submissions across all INCs thus far have ambitiously put plastic production reduction on the table.

We call on every Member State in this room to deliver on their commitment to producing an ambitious, effective, just, and legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution. We recommend the following priority elements:

1. **Reduce Primary Polymers Production**
   - Substantially reduce global plastic production to protect human and environmental health, uphold human rights for now and the future, and respect planetary boundaries.
   - Opt for a binding production phasedown to sustainable levels, with global target levels and phasedown schedules;

2. **Develop an effective financial mechanism:**
   - A financial mechanism that includes a dedicated fund and ensures the provision of adequate, accessible, new, stable, predictable and timely financial assistance on a grant basis for both enabling activities and for agreed incremental costs of compliance.

3. **Ensure Just Transition**
   - Apply a just transition lens across the full lifecycle of plastics. Recognize the important role of waste pickers and workers in cooperative settings who divert more than 60% of waste from landfills.

Lastly, we must focus our short time on the substance of the negotiations and ensure the Rules of Procedure contemplate voting as an enabler for consensus in decision-making.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to End Plastic Pollution once and for all. Our hopes lay with you.

We thank you, Mr Chair