GAIA Opening Intervention at INC4  
23 April 2024

A very good morning distinguished stakeholders. 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 in the room for this opportunity.

Your Excellency and esteemed colleagues, 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 Production Reduction. We have the science, the global popular support, and now we need the political will to advance the Global Plastics Treaty. A major 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. It is time for us to start listening to the science and recognising that plastic pollution knows no borders, and it affects and contaminates us all regardless of age, creed or gender.

This year marks the final sprint to finalize a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, through a comprehensive approach across the full life cycle of plastics, as set out by UNEA Resolution 5/14, in 2022. At this INC we call on every Member State in this room to deliver on their commitment to produce an ambitious, effective, just and legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution. To achieve this goal, we recommend these priority elements:

1. **Elements for an effective Objective and Scope:**
   - Ensure the Objective and Scope aligns with and respects the treaty negotiations as mandated in UNEA Resolution 5/14 to “end plastic pollution” “based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic”

2. **Elements for effective measures on Primary polymers:**
   - Substantially reduce aggregate global plastic production to protect human and environmental health, uphold human rights for current and future generations, and respect planetary boundaries.
   - Opt for a binding production phasedown to sustainable levels (Option 1.1), with global target levels and phasedown schedules detailed in Annex A, open to strengthening as new data on environmental and health impacts emerge;

3. **Elements for effective measures on waste management**
   - Prohibit plastic burning and other waste management operations that emit hazardous substances, including plastic-to-fuel operations and “chemical recycling”
4. **Elements for effective treaty financing:**
   - A financial mechanism that includes a dedicated fund should provide the principal international vehicle for supporting finance, technology transfer and development, capacity building, and technical assistance to countries that need such support to effectively implement the new instrument. This mechanism should promote and facilitate 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.

All measures taken to regulate the full life cycle of plastics must be seen through a just transition lens for all workers and communities affected by the planned transformative changes in the global plastics economy. And Recognition & Priority must be given to the important role of waste pickers and waste workers in cooperative settings who divert more than 60% of waste from landfills.

We would like to acknowledge that our time until the adoption of the treaty is highly limited and a concerted effort must be made to maximise our time and focus on the substance of the negotiations, but also ensure the Rules of Procedure contemplate voting as an enabler for consensus in decision-making.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! On that note, I once again thank the Distinguished Delegates in the room for this opportunity. Our hopes lay on you.

____________________THANK YOU____________________