

Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

Thank you for the floor Chair. I am Fiona Brown, a 14 year old from Canada, speaking on behalf of the **Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution**.

We highlight the following key messages from over 60 children and youth on the ground and the thousands of youth who have contributed their voices to our work on the instrument since UNEA-5.2:

- First, we advocate for the **continued openness of regional meetings to observers** and emphasize the importance of **timely communication of all intersessional meetings**. We appreciate the establishment of two intersessional expert groups **and seek your support** for extending the invitation to qualified experts **from observer groups and organizations**, so that they can **also** contribute to these working groups, ensuring that we draw upon the wealth of knowledge and expertise from diverse stakeholders, **including youth experts**.
- Second, we would like to see explicit references to **vulnerable and rights-holding groups**, including the **specific vulnerabilities of children and youth, women, indigenous people and informal waste workers** to adverse impacts from plastic pollution throughout the instrument. While disagreement may continue on policy to end plastic pollution, protection of the health and quality of life of children and youth is non-negotiable. All countries should agree that allowing the next generations to grow up in a safe, healthy environment, reaching their full potential free from pollution's harms, is a priority they can unify around. **Will this be the instrument that puts children, youth and intergenerational equity at its center?**
- Third, references to the **protection of human health in the text are limited and weak**. We request a reference be made to World Health Assembly Resolution 76.17 in the preamble, and acknowledge plastic pollution health risks throughout the existing articles. We strongly feel that any blanket exclusion of sectors, like healthcare, will impair the effectiveness of the instrument and limit those sectors from further innovation. The instrument must recognize the **interconnectedness between ecosystem and public health**, and prioritize measures that safeguard biodiversity and human well-being.
- Lastly, this treaty cannot focus on visible plastic waste alone. It must **comprehensively tackle plastic pollution in all its forms** - microplastics, nanoplastics, hazardous additives, and greenhouse gas emissions - given pollution's occurrence across the entire lifecycle from polymer production through disposal.

We remind everyone that the instrument is not merely an agreement between member states but an **intergenerational pact** between current decision-makers, youth, and future generations. Let us forge a path forward that serves humanity, acknowledging our shared responsibilities to protect the planet and ensure a flourishing legacy for generations to come.