Esteemed Members of the United Nations INC-4 Committee,

On behalf of the youth of the Planeteer Alliance, we submit this formal communication to convey the urgent concerns and priorities of the global youth demographic regarding the ongoing deliberations on the establishment of a legally binding treaty to address plastic pollution. As fervent advocates for environmental stewardship and sustainability, it is our unwavering commitment to transform our impatience for change into tangible actions that safeguard the health and vitality of our planet.

In light of the pivotal role that the forthcoming treaty holds in shaping the future trajectory of environmental governance, we implore all delegates of this assembly to lend due consideration to the following priorities, which reflect the collective aspirations and exigencies of the Children & Youth constituency worldwide:

1. Youth-Centric Approach: We emphasize the imperative of prioritizing the active participation and inclusion of youth voices in all facets of decision-making processes pertaining to environmental governance. Despite comprising a significant majority of the global population, youth representation within INC meetings remains disproportionately scant, as evidenced by the meager presence of only four individuals under the age of 18 throughout the entirety of INC-4. This glaring disparity underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to rectify the systemic marginalization of youth stakeholders, particularly those hailing from the Global South.

2. Urgency of Action: Plastic pollution poses an existential threat to ecosystems and communities worldwide, necessitating immediate and resolute action on the part of the international community. We urge the committee to adopt a proactive stance towards addressing this pressing issue, recognizing that the window of opportunity for meaningful intervention is rapidly diminishing.

3. Equity and Justice: Central to our advocacy is the principle of equity, which demands that the burden of environmental stewardship be equitably distributed across nations and demographic groups. It is imperative that the provisions of the treaty reflect a commitment to fostering just and inclusive solutions that prioritize the needs and interests of marginalized communities, including youth from the Global South who are disproportionately impacted by the ravages of plastic pollution.

4. Circular Economy Paradigm: Embracing the principles of a circular economy represents a paradigm shift towards sustainable consumption and production practices. We urge the committee to integrate provisions within the treaty framework that incentivize the adoption of circular economy models, thereby mitigating the proliferation of plastic waste and fostering a culture of resource conservation and reuse.

In light of the foregoing priorities, we respectfully submit the following recommendations for consideration in the finalization of the treaty text:

1. Engagement of Children & Youth: Incorporate provisions within Part 4, Section 8 of the treaty to facilitate active and meaningful engagement of Children & Youth as
stakeholders and partners in the development and implementation of the instrument. This entails fostering inclusive dialogue and collaboration with youth representatives, thereby amplifying their voices within the decision-making process.

2. Capacity Building for Youth: Prioritize youth empowerment and capacity building initiatives within Part 3, Section 2 of the treaty, with a view towards enhancing their knowledge and skills in environmental conservation and sustainable development. By investing in the education and training of youth, we can cultivate a new generation of environmental leaders equipped to confront the challenges of plastic pollution with innovation and resilience.

3. Funding Mechanisms for Youth: Ensure equitable access to financial resources for youth, particularly those from the Global South, through the establishment of dedicated financing mechanisms within Part 3, Section 1 of the treaty. By earmarking funding allocations for youth-led initiatives and grassroots organizations, we can catalyze transformative action at the local and regional levels, thereby augmenting the efficacy and impact of collective efforts to combat plastic pollution.

In conclusion, we reiterate our unwavering commitment to collaborating with the esteemed members of the United Nations INC-4 Committee in advancing our shared goal of environmental sustainability and stewardship. As we collectively embark on the path towards realizing a future free from the scourge of plastic pollution, let us remain steadfast in our resolve to uphold the principles of equity, justice, and intergenerational solidarity.

Sincerely,
The Planeteer Alliance