



Thank you, Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I speak on behalf of **Plastic Free**, an organization that mobilizes hundreds of thousands of volunteers in over 40 countries. Every day, we remove tons of plastic waste from beaches, rivers, cities, and mountains.

But let's be clear: **we cannot keep cleaning up what is endlessly being produced.**

This treaty must not merely **manage** pollution — it must **stop it at its source.**

For this reason, we call for:

- A **legally binding global cap** on the production of virgin plastic. Without it, we are treating the symptoms while ignoring the disease.
- A **real, non-optional ban** on the most harmful plastic products, such as single-use plastics.
- A **just transition** that not only avoids worsening existing social inequalities, but actively works to reduce them, by supporting the most vulnerable communities.

And yes, **polluters must pay.** This planet belongs to all of us — not just to those who profit from it. Because this is not just about the environment. **It's about our health.**

Plastic is in our lungs, our brains, our organs — even in unborn children. Every day, we breathe it, eat it, absorb it.

Do we really want a world where living means getting sick?

From the deepest point of the ocean to the top of Everest, from space debris to our bloodstream — we have managed to pollute everywhere.

Maybe we will never fully clean up the world — but we can certainly **stop making it worse.**

Change starts with those who have the courage to act. So let's act.

Let us write a treaty for which future generations will thank us — **not one they will have to rewrite.** We are the last generation still able to clean up — **let's not be the first to give up.**