



# جمعية إنسان للبيئة والتنمية Human Environmental Association for Development

Human Environmental Association for Development  
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**Thank you, Chair.**

I take the floor on behalf of the **West Asia Group Network on Plastics**, including the voices of **women, children, and youth** across our region.

West Asia faces unique environmental challenges. Although we **acknowledge regional differences and local realities**, some problems require a **global solution**. Therefore, we are calling for a bold, ambitious, and effective global plastics treaty rooted in science, equity, and justice. This is the level of cooperation that our planet, and especially our **oceans**, urgently need.

For our region, **key priorities are clear**:

- The treaty must be **legally binding**, not voluntary.
- It must cover the **entire lifecycle of plastics**, from extraction and production, to use and final disposal.
- It must impose **clear limits on plastic production**, not just focus on waste management.
- It must explicitly acknowledge the **disproportionate impacts on women, children, and marginalized communities**, who often face the worst consequences of pollution.
- It must ensure **transparency and traceability of toxic chemicals and additives**, many of which threaten reproductive health and early childhood development.
- It must address the growing crisis of **plastic pollution in oceans**, especially from abandoned fishing and aquaculture gear, which is damaging marine biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.
- And it must provide **adequate financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building** to support developing countries, ensuring implementation is just and inclusive.

We are not just speaking of waste, we are speaking of **human health, human rights, ocean protection, and the survival of ecosystems that sustain all life**.

The youth of our region demand more than empty promises, they demand a **cleaner, safer, and just future**. A treaty that delivers only partial solutions is no longer acceptable.

West Asia is ready to collaborate with all regions , but only on the basis of **fair, science-based, and globally responsible action to end plastic pollution**, protect our **oceans**, and uphold the rights and dignity of all people, especially **women, children, and youth**.

**Thank you.**

**Eng. Marie Therese Merhej Seif**

**Chairman & Executive director of HEAD**