My name is Xuan Quach and I speak on behalf of Pacific Environment and the Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance.

You know that Plastic pollution is a global crisis, harming our health, our fisheries, our oceans, and our climate.

What will solve the problem?

We must first and foremost reduce plastic production. Pacific Environment’s modeling shows we need to reduce plastic production by at least 75% in order to stay within the 1.5-degree temperature change scenario. More and more research shows we need to drastically reduce plastic production for health and the climate.

Second, we urge parties to come with an ambitious binding target on reuse and to commit financial resources to achieve this target. This can ensure a just transition through job creation in new reuse systems.

Recycling can only be a part of the plastic pollution solution in limited local applications, meaning no waste trade, no toxics, and no chemical recycling. We can no longer afford to believe industry claims that recycling is the answer.

Lastly, we request parties not to support any financial mechanisms that promote false solutions like incineration, waste-to-fuel technologies, or plastic credits and offset schemes.

I represent a group of organizations, citizens, and educators in Vietnam that are working hard to create a zero waste, circular economy future in our towns and schools. We are doing our part. We ask you as world leaders to do yours - follow through on the promise of UNEA 5.14 and draft a strong treaty that actually ends plastic pollution. National approaches alone won’t work. We need strong, united efforts at the global level.

Thank you.