

## **A Treaty Worth Having: No Compromise on Our Future**

Youth Statement on the Non-Paper containing the draft text of the Chair of the Committee  
(Version: 29 November 2024)

**The Chair's new non-paper represents a turning point on the path to a global plastics treaty but falls short in garnering ambitions needed to comprehensively address the plastic pollution crisis and ensuring a toxic-free future for current and future generations.** Significant gaps must be addressed to deliver meaningful, equitable outcomes. Chief among these concerns is the marginalization of youth and children, whose roles and vulnerabilities are insufficiently recognized through the low ambition of Articles 3, 6, and 11. This treaty is critical for safeguarding the well-being of youth and advancing intergenerational equity—a principle that must be clearly reflected in its provisions. An ambitious treaty is essential for our future, and we urge member states to stand by their progressive stances and adopt a treaty that is bold, effective, and future-oriented.

**Article 3** (Plastic Products [and Chemicals of Concern as Used in Plastic Products]) must establish non-negotiable, mandatory targets, free from national interests. A comprehensive list of chemicals of concern should be developed at the first Conference of Parties (COP) and periodically updated as scientific knowledge advances. The article must also enforce strict measures to limit plastic production to only those products deemed necessary and unavoidable.

**Article 6** (Supply [Sustainable Production]) must not include a “no text” option—it is imperative to establish a global goal to reduce the production of primary plastic polymers. Clear, enforceable global targets are essential for holding countries accountable for production, consumption, and waste management. The article must also provide detailed guidance on defining sustainable production and strategies to reduce plastic supply effectively.

**Article 11** (Financial [Resources and Mechanism]) must broaden its contributors to include every party and source of funding, ensuring comprehensive support. The polluter-pays principle (PPP) is essential to the treaty's success. Without robust financial mechanisms and international cooperation, the treaty risks becoming an empty promise. Developed countries must demonstrate leadership by financing the transition to sustainable solutions. An hybrid approach—establishing a new standalone multilateral fund alongside a trust fund hosted under an existing mechanism will accelerate the financial system's effectiveness. Articles 3, 6, and 11 must drive aggressive action, creating a strong foundation to combat the plastic pollution crisis.

**A successful treaty demands global ambition backed by strong national implementation.** Global targets must be paired with robust national frameworks to ensure enforceable actions and tangible local results. Without clear mechanisms, the treaty risks becoming aspirational rather than impactful. Article 14 should mandate National Action Plans (NAPs) for all Parties, with regular reviews by a dedicated subsidiary body of experts to address gaps and ensure alignment with global standards. Stakeholder involvement in NAP development and implementation must be explicitly defined, ensuring meaningful engagement of rights holders, including youth, women, indigenous, local authority and informal workers groups throughout planning, execution, and monitoring.

**Intergenerational, intersectional, and multilateral stakeholder engagement must be prioritized to ensure equity and legitimacy.**

The exclusion of marginalized voices, particularly youth and children, perpetuates systemic inequities and weakens the treaty's effectiveness. Under Article 20, active and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local authorities, informal workers and other vulnerable groups, in the development and implementation of the instrument should be encouraged. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, shall adopt a multi-stakeholder action agenda. The secretariat could be tasked to draft a document in consultation with relevant groups of stakeholders for further consideration of the COP. Without a robust mechanism, exclusion of rights holders and merit holders will continue, undermining the treaty's foundation and its ability to address the needs of all affected populations. The exclusion of children and other minor groups from the INC process is particularly alarming and must be rectified.

**A hollow treaty will have far-reaching consequences, disproportionately burdening today's youth and future generations with the environmental, health, and economic fallout of inaction.**

The repetitive cycles of debate witnessed in INC-2, INC-3, and INC-4, with little progress toward transformative solutions, risk eroding the treaty's credibility and the urgency of confronting the plastic crisis. The treaty must rise above symbolic mentions and address the substantive issues affecting youth and future generations head-on. Our future is not up for compromise—it cannot be as toxic as the plastics choking our planet. The world is watching, and we call on your courage and decisive leadership to deliver a bold, ambitious treaty that truly ends plastic pollution.