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1. Bahu Trust
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5. Islamic Relief Worldwide - Shahin Ashraf (Head of Advocacy)
6. Strength in Diversity Development Centre - Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu (Founder/Co-Executive Director)
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12. The United Church of Canada
13. Blessed Tomorrow by ecoAmerica
14. Catholic Concern for Animals

“The Earth, our home, is beginning to look like an immense pile of filth”- Pope Francis

Preamble
As faith-based organizations, we accept our sacred responsibility to serve as stewards of our blue planet. We recognise that we have failed in our calling to be earthkeepers and that single use plastic is damaging the health of the oceans, the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Background
As “we are not limitless masters of our planet and its resources”, the Multifaith Action Group on Pollution continues to mobilise action to Stop plastic pollution and restore our world with the support of sixty-nine representatives of faith-based organisations, faith leaders, and people of faith.

We commend the Member States for taking the first step in adopting a resolution to “end plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) and for successfully convening the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Pursuant to Article 6, we further encourage the need to ensure the widest and most effective participation possible in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group and of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, particularly including the voices and input of stakeholders (faith-based organisations)
Recommendations

Identifying the objective

High ambition: We continue to urge member states to negotiate for an ambitious agreement that includes measurable national and regional targets that addresses the full life cycle of plastics.

We support a top-down treaty, in alignment with the High Ambition Coalition, an end to single-use plastics, and for producers and retailers to be liable for the cost of environmental or health-related damages.

An instrument driven by values: We urge Member States to ensure that the instrument embodies the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and values for healthy and prosperous ecosystems.

Human-rights based approach: We advocate for the rights of informal waste pickers to safe working conditions and a sustainable living income as well as national circumstances and capabilities;

Multistakeholder engagement: We advocate for national and international cooperative measures, and the inclusion of all stakeholders, including the private sector and in particular informal waste pickers.

Transboundary approach: As faith communities we recognise that we share a common home. We are called to consider the needs of our neighbours, therefore it is important that we consider the impact of plastic pollution beyond our national borders.

Eradicating poverty

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

The precautionary approach

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Right to participation, information and justice

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and
encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

**Substantive provisions including core obligations**

Circular economy approaches: We support the principle of the circular economy that substantially reduces the use and production of *virgin plastic* by eliminating unnecessary single-plastic use and moving towards refillable and reusable delivery systems. Ends the open burning and dumping of plastic pollution through scaling up solid waste management and implementing extended producer responsibility schemes. Measures related to sustainable consumption and production.

Decent working conditions across the sector: creates decent work through incentivising safe systems for recycling plastic waste and integrating the informal waste sector fairly into waste management and collection services recognising and protecting their human rights and the principle of a living wage.

Development of national action plans: implement national action plans, fostering international action and initiatives under national regulatory frameworks for sound waste management. Hold businesses/industry accountable - extended producer responsibility.

**Implementation measures**

Financial and technical assistance to least developed countries, capacity building, technical, and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as civil society. As a group of primarily end users of plastic and other single-use products, To increase knowledge through awareness-raising, education and the exchange of information.

**Means of implementation**

We advocate for financing research and development in sustainable alternatives to plastic. To encourage action by all stakeholders, including the private sector, and to promote cooperation at the local, national, regional and global levels. Multi Stakeholder engagement. Support a transboundary approach. The best available science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems; (e) Lessons learned and best practices, including those from informal and cooperative settings;

**Our commitment**
As faith communities we recognise that we have contributed to the problem in our use of single use plastic at our festivals, funerals and other events. Furthermore the traditions around holidays have led to many customs encouraging consumption, waste and single use plastic. We are committed to working with our communities to model different ways of serving food, and to model ways of reducing our use of single use plastic and inspire every household to adopt the same sustainable practices as community members.

As faith based organizations and leaders we commit to:

- Hold governments accountable for the unequal effects that plastic has on marginalised and vulnerable societies through inadequate legislations,
- Advocate for policies towards plastic reduction/single-use plastic banning and circular economy development
- Be advocates for the marginalised and vulnerable members in our communities,
- Use our platforms to raise awareness and encourage environmental action within our communities and in collaboration with faith and non faith communities at all levels,
- Reduce/ban the use of single-use plastics and urge to commit on sorting waste within our home and faith communities.
- Reinvigorate our teachings of scriptures on the care of creation, in our teachings, talks and sermons and actualise these teachings by promoting Earth stewardship and sustainable living to our congregations and communities
- Raise awareness about plastic consumption impacts on earth and lead to a behavioral change to make sustainable choice in the daily life.
- Legal framework to ask multinational companies to commit special funds to supporting local NGOs working on plastic littering in their host country/countries.