Thank you Mr Co-Chair, I am Merrisa Naidoo GAIA, which is a global network of 1000 organizations in 92 countries.

GAIA believes that minimizing plastic production to essential, non-problematic uses only is the most important control measure (measures 10.a.i, 10.b.i). The current exponential growth of plastic production overshadows the benefits of downstream action on legacy plastic waste and pollution.

The lion’s share of plastic pollution, harm to human health and human rights comes during the production phase and even further upstream, harming fenceline and Indigenous communities.

Furthermore, there is unfortunately no law of physics guaranteeing that recycling automatically displaces primary production - in fact, as of 2020, only 11% of all plastics ever produced since 1950 had been recycled, while primary production has continued its exponential increase.

This global plastic production minimization target must be implemented through national implementation plans tailored to countries’ production levels. The global target must not be undermined by nationally-determined contributions with no guarantee to meet the global target. For this reason, option 10 (a)(ii) should be dropped.

Supporting measures must include transparency on the production of plastics and their constituents and feedstocks for effective monitoring of phasedown progress and removing subsidies for primary plastics and their constituents, including polymers, precursors (for example additives and monomers) and feedstocks (both fuel and bio-based) (measure 10c). A moratorium on new plastic production capacity would be a welcomed measure to show good faith while paving the way for phasedown.

For all control measures mentioned, non-party trade measures are needed for a level playing field.

For implementation, these control measures must be supported by grants to developing countries to cover incremental costs.

Finally, GAIA respectfully submits that time allocation for this contact group follows the waste hierarchy, with the priority given to upstream measures, rather than recycling and other downstream waste-management measures.

Thank you for your attention.