

Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

Honourable Chair,

I am Dr Poorvaprabha Patil speaking on behalf of the **Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution**.

Dear Member States,

We applaud your efforts thus far but feel the need to express our concerns over the glorification of the utility of plastic, not taking into account the health and environmental costs of plastic pollution, the overemphasis on reactive and voluntary measures, and the inadequacy of considerations of **human and environmental justice** in these discussions.

As the future custodians of this planet, and the ones who inherit your successes or failures in dealing with this health and environmental emergency, we are deeply concerned by the prolonged delay and confusion in reaching a substantive discussion. We have spent many resources to be here - time out of our schools, universities, and workplaces; money and effort to secure visas and travel. We implore you to prioritize urgency and commit to expediting the negotiation process.

We quote what UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen stated at the beginning of INC-2: “We cannot recycle our way out of this mess”. We urge you to shift the focus from reactive measures to prevention strategies. This should include an immediate elimination of hazardous, unnecessary, and single-use plastics, coupled with a safe, **just transition to an indigenous knowledge and science-based circular economy** that prioritizes reduction and reuse and establishes clear definitions, standards, and labeling.

We encourage LDCs to direct more efforts towards **building a stronger, collective position** in policy negotiations, and ensuring that the priorities and voices of people from LDCs are heard louder.

We welcome the support from member states for the inclusion of stakeholder submissions in the upcoming intersessional work. We also strongly suggest that the Secretariat organizes consultations with constituent groups and observers.

Finally, we urge all delegates to rise above the delays, the confusion, and the narrow focus on recycling and voluntary measures. We need an ambitious treaty with **legally binding global goals to end plastic pollution by 2035**, one that takes into account the entire life-cycle of plastic and leaves no room for ambiguity and violations.

Businesses are for people; people are not for businesses.

Let's **extend producer and importer responsibilities** and hold them accountable for the damage they continue to make. Let's remember that **health - both of our planet and our people - is non-negotiable.**

Thank you!



Children & Youth
Constituency for
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