GREEN AFRICA YOUTH ORGANIZATION (GAYO) STATEMENT AT THE OPENING PLENARY OF INC 3.

Thank you chair for this opportunity. The Green Africa Youth Organization is a youth-led organization spearheading the implementation of sustainable community and zero waste projects across sub-saharan Africa. We are also one of the over 1000 members of the GAIA network.

Green Africa Youth Organization welcomes the zero draft as a basis of negotiation of the treaty however we would like to remind member states of 3 things

1. Member states must give special consideration of the full life cycle approach from resource extraction through to waste management and ensure that the treaty is backed by science with reference to the precautionary principle.

2. Member states must prioritize global plastic production cuts with the complete elimination of toxic chemicals and polymers of concern. Member states must also consider the scale up of reuse and refill systems and shun false solutions like incineration, waste to energy plants among others.

3. The principles of the Rio declaration must be upheld without compromise. There must be more emphasis on human rights, indigenous rights and environmental justice with mechanisms for a just transition for youth, women, children and waste pickers..

Permit me chair to again remind the committee that the YOUTH OF AFRICA ARE WATCHING AND THEY CANNOT AND MUST NOT FAIL US.

I thank you.