

Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

I am Bawa Arab from Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the **Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution**, representing the voices of young people worldwide.

As we stand on the precipice of an internationally legally binding instrument to combat plastic pollution, we affirm the indispensable need for a foundation rooted in robust legal principles. Embracing the Polluters Pay Principle, Preventive Principle, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, Extended responsibilities of producers and importers, Principle of good neighborliness and international cooperation, Meaningful Engagement of Youth and Key Civil Society Constituent Groups along with the explicit inclusion of the Human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, is paramount.

We call upon member states to actively seek collaboration and partnerships with pertinent stakeholders, including academia, youth, individual scientists, indigenous people, industry, and intergovernmental and government bodies, with the aim of enhancing knowledge sharing, fostering innovation, and strengthening collective action. While also explicitly taking recognition and acknowledging the intersectionalities amongst stakeholders and all those invested in combating plastic pollution.

In the spirit of fostering international cooperation and acknowledging the shared responsibility inherent in addressing the global plastic pollution crisis, we insist that the future treaty must extend unwavering support towards downstream countries contending with the disproportionate burden of managing plastic waste while recognizing the pivotal role these nations play in safeguarding the marine environment, we strongly advocate for targeted programs and collaborative initiatives aimed at fortifying their capacity to effectively address plastic pollution.

Crucially, the treaty should delineate the roles of the Governing body and subsidiary bodies, ensuring accountability of member states and private entities. Simultaneously, subsidiary bodies can focus on innovation, introduction of eco-friendly alternatives, environmental damage, and means to combat legacy plastic. As a concrete step toward inclusivity, we propose the establishment of a Youth Expert Working Group, a pivotal force for the treaty's implementation. Together, let us forge a global alliance that transcends borders, acknowledges responsibilities, and paves the way for a sustainable future free from the scourge of plastic pollution.

Thank you!

