

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

## Session 1: Objective(s) | *Delivered by: Karuna Rana - Mauritius*

The adverse effects of plastic on both human health and the environment happens throughout the life cycle of plastic. End plastic pollution; protect human health and the environment for current and future generations, including the marine environment, from its adverse effects throughout the life cycle of plastic, including through a just transition towards a safe, circular economy by 2035.

To effectively combat plastic pollution from single-use plastic it is crucial to establish clear, measurable objectives that can be verified with numerical data. It is important to acknowledge and consider the diverse national and local circumstances and capabilities for implementation across the entire plastic value chain. The objectives should be aligned with sustainable development, sustainable finance, climate change mitigation efforts and the protection of biological diversity and nature conservation, they should be also in accordance with principles of international law, such as the precautionary approach, the polluter pays principle, the recognition of national capabilities and circumstances, non-regression, progressive realization or progression and the circular economy. The Treaty should encompass the interconnections between plastic pollution, land and soil degradation and water resources. By recognizing these linkages and incorporating them into the objectives and of the treaty, it will facilitate a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing the plastic pollution crisis.

Just transition, can serve as a valuable objective to underline socio-economic barriers associated with transitioning away from single-use plastic products. Through incorporating just transition principles into the core measures of the plastic treaty we can foster synergies with other treaty systems. It is important to extend the scope of the treaty to encompass areas beyond national jurisdiction, to tackle plastic pollution in all relevant areas. Also to ensure effectiveness and inclusivity of the international agreement, it is crucial to include all stakeholders acknowledging their rights and roles in the process. Inclusive decision making processes recognizing and respecting diverse rights, transparency, environmental rule of law should be integral objectives of the treaty. By incorporating these elements, the plastic treaty can strive for a comprehensive and collaborative approach, promoting the active involvement of stakeholders including major groups, and ensuring that the transition away from single use plastic is not only environmentally sound but also socially equitable and economically just.

## Session 2: Possible Core Obligation 1 - 4 | *Delivered by: Franka Maria - Germany*

First, we support legally binding global targets to end plastic pollution as that would ensure that each party is obligated to take specific actions, leaving no room for ambiguity nor violations.

Second, we want to emphasize that upstream measures are key to ending plastic pollution, and are thus concerned that the necessity of bans and phase-outs, especially for hazardous,

unnecessary and single-use plastics, is a subject of contention in this room. Especially given their severe health and environmental impacts.

We support an immediate elimination and ban on hazardous and unnecessary plastics and products containing intentionally added microplastics. Furthermore we demand ambitious, progressive, and mandatory targets to cap or dramatically reduce virgin, single-use fossil-fuel plastic production and unintentionally released microplastic.

Third, transparency and intensified research and development is key to assess the true health risks of plastics as well as enable innovation on sustainable alternatives and nature based solutions to establish circularity.

### **Session 3: Possible Core Obligation 5 - 8 | *Delivered by: Marysol Naveda - Cuba***

In core obligations 5, we believe that To address plastic pollution and achieve sustainable development, a strong focus on waste management is crucial. Emphasizing the reuse and proper disposal of plastic waste, the deployment of collection technologies, and the assessment of hazardous materials are essential. Transparent data on waste generation rates and environmental impact is needed. Prohibiting harmful practices, reviewing regulations, and developing legislation are necessary steps. Supporting recycling markets, infrastructure, and waste-to-energy technologies can enhance waste recovery.

In core obligation 6, The primary focus should be on identifying barriers that hinder the advancement of circularity, and also how the treaty can serve as catalysts for change. We need a concise and precise definition of circularity.

In core obligation 7, Possible core obligation: encouraging reduce, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging. We need an ambitious, legally binding and global target to reduce, reuse and repair plastic products - not voluntary and national. Therefore we strongly support 16 a (iv) to have globally harmonized product design standards, certifications and requirements.

Further, we also support 16 a (v) in its aim to harness the economic mechanisms to create a cleaner future without plastic pollution. We need to make ending the pollution economically possible for all of us. For that we need fees, tariffs and tax incentives.

### **Session 4: Possible Core Obligation 9 - 12 | *Delivered by: Ashton Hawkins - UK***

Thank you for giving us the floor. I, as a 12-year old, representing the world's 3.2 billion children and youth, want to remind you that approximately 3 sea creatures die every second from plastic pollution. Just imagine what effect this could have on the world, specifically on us

children, youth and the future generations. Also, micro and nanoplastics contain many chemicals that have been proven hazardous to human health, and there are many more chemicals with unknown health risks. Intensified research is thus needed to assess the true health risks of plastics and enable a transition to safe, circular, nature-based solutions.

On the impact of plastics on our waters, obligations 9 and 10, phytoplankton make 50% of Earth's oxygen and absorb 30% of CO<sub>2</sub>, and yet we don't know the impact that micro and nano plastics have on phytoplanktons. This means that we could be losing one of the easiest ways to capture carbon, which also gives us most of the air we breath.

Plastic pollution also impacts our freshwater systems, including drinking water reservoirs and clogged drains that contribute to flash flooding. As such, we support 18 (a) and (b) with global targets.

On just transition, we support option 20 (b)'s "just transition programme", especially for the Global South. This should be done by holding polluting and plastic producing actors accountable for the profound damage caused by their excessive production of plastic.

