

Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

Session 1 | *Delivered by: Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik - Bangladesh*

On National Action Plans

We strongly believe future treaty must build on a set of global goals and therefore, NAPs should ensure complementarity with global goals and include binding national targets and implementation measures. NAPs should be revised frequently to incorporate new knowledge and adapt to policy successes or failures.

We strongly support that there should be a set of common elements and minimum content of NAPs, to be specified in an annex to the instrument and NAPs should be assessed by an establish subsidiary body of implementation of the future instrument

On Exchange of Information

Future treaty must have a provision on exchange of information with other conventions and programmes, including BRS conventions, UNEP regional seas programme, regional MEAs, and others.

On Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is crucial for the success and effectiveness of the future agreement. To make such engagement possible, the first step would be to recognize and acknowledge the intersectionalities amongst the stakeholder groups. Stakeholder groups representing children and youth, women, waste pickers and informal workers, Indigenous Peoples and others, should be recognised as distinct voices bringing different experiences and perspectives, in line with the Principles 10 and 21 of Rio declaration.

To utilize the benefit of the current global demographic dividend, the treaty must establish a Youth Expert Working Group to make sure that young people - whose lives depend on the success of this agreement - play a greater role in the implementation of the future treaty.

On Research

On research, the need for collaborative efforts, and a global research body for the generation of evidence, especially on human health are welcome, however, not without funding commitments to support the objectives of such a body. Moreover, such efforts remain futile if evidence generated is not open-access; and we call on member states to ensure that research efforts are truly accessible, intersectoral and collaborative with knowledge-sharing and support offered to states and stakeholders that need it.

On Awareness Raising and Education

In many countries, especially in the global south, children and youth develop environmental literacy and green skills from informal networks and peer-to-peer learning. Efforts must be made to support these initiatives, but stronger efforts are required in formalizing environmental literacy through national curriculums.

We also want to remind that awareness and education are not an effort that only youth and children benefit from, it is also the need of the hour for adults, especially those in intersectoral decision-making spaces, to make informed decisions that are based on scientific evidence.

Session 2 | Delivered by: Vikrant Srivastava - India

On Cooperation and Coordination

The future plastic treaty should ensure complementarity with other global and regional MEAs, the Future Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, and other entities. It is crucial to foster partnerships with non-state actors, including CSOs, industry associations, consumer groups, and especially youth groups. Cooperation and coordination with these actors can drive innovation, build public support, and ensure accountability in implementing the plastic treaty.

On Financial Assistance

Facilitating finance for the plastics treaty requires a coordinated effort among governments, businesses, financial institutions, and CSOs. We advocate for the implementation of Extended Producers and Importers Responsibility and Polluters Pay Principles, including fees, taxes, and levies on single-use plastic producers and large corporations responsible for plastic pollution. This approach will mobilize finances and incentivize businesses to invest in eco-friendly alternatives. We propose establishing a dedicated multilateral fund and expanding existing funds to support plastics treaty interventions. Additionally, member states can utilize innovative financing models such as green bonds, social impact bonds, and plastic waste bonds to attract environmental and socially conscious investors.

On Capacity Building

The future plastic treaty must prioritize effective capacity development measures with a focus on youth to harness their energy, creativity, and passion, along with other stakeholders, to address plastic pollution challenges. This includes offering incubation programs, grants, and mentorship opportunities to young entrepreneurs and innovators working on sustainable solutions, alternative materials, and recycling technologies.

Session 3 | Delivered by: Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik - Bangladesh

On Nationally Reporting

To hold parties accountable, a system of periodical reporting must be established under the agreement. We believe the governing body of future treaty should develop clear and standardized reporting guidelines that outline the required information, format, and frequency of reporting. These guidelines should align with the provisions of the plastics treaty and provide a structured framework for parties to follow. The report should capture both qualitative and quantitative aspects of plastic pollution, especially waste management. Parties should provide comprehensive information on policy measures, initiatives, challenges, and successes, along with relevant statistical data.

We support providing capacity building support to parties to enhance their reporting capabilities. This can include training programs, workshops, and technical assistance on data collection methodologies, reporting frameworks, and best practices in reporting for the plastics treaty.

On Periodic Assessment and Monitoring of Progress

We advocate to engage relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, industry associations, and proposed youth expert groups, in the assessment and evaluation processes. Inputs, feedback, and perspectives should be sought from them on the progress and effectiveness of the plastics treaty implementation.

The Future Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution should be involved to review progress, evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken, and provide recommendations for improvement.

On Compliance

Future instruments must develop a Compliance and Peer Review Mechanisms, including a mechanism where member states can review each other's progress, share best practices, and provide constructive feedback. Peer reviews can enhance transparency, encourage cooperation, and facilitate knowledge exchange among member states. Member states must agree on punitive measures for non compliance of core obligations.

