

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution

## Interventions Delivered during Contact Groups discussions at INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya

### On Stakeholder Engagement, Implementation and Compliance, and Reporting on Progress

Honorable Co-facilitators,

I am Rabeb Aloui from Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution.

Ensuring the success and efficacy of the future instrument hinges on meaningful stakeholder engagement. To achieve this, it's paramount to acknowledge the distinct voices from children and youth, women, waste pickers, informal workers, Indigenous Peoples, and others, aligning with Principles 10 and 21 of the Rio Declaration. Similar to the UNFCCC, admission and participation of observer NGOs to the future instrument must be organized in stakeholder constituencies.

To harness the global demographic dividend effectively, the instrument should establish a Youth Expert Working Group, modeled after the best practice observed in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This ensures that young people, whose lives are intricately tied to the success of this instrument, actively contribute to its implementation.

Ensuring the future instrument's effectiveness demands a robust Compliance and Peer Review Mechanism, fostering mutual assessment, best practice sharing, and constructive feedback among parties. Peer reviews enhance transparency, encourage cooperation, and facilitate knowledge exchange.

Acknowledging widespread support for non-punitive compliance mechanisms, we advocate for alternative approaches, such as incentive-based methods, capacity building, and technical assistance, fostering commitment and collective action.

In championing a compliance committee, we stress the imperative of gender and generational balance. Seats must be reserved for non-party groups, including representatives from youth, women, and scientific communities, ensuring diverse perspectives and robust accountability.

A systematic and periodic reporting system is vital for accountability. The governing body should draft clear, standardized reporting guidelines, aligning with the instrument's provisions. These should offer a structured framework capturing qualitative and quantitative facets of plastic pollution. To bolster reporting capabilities, we urge for providing capacity building support to developing country parties.

Thanks for the floor

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution

## On Financing

Honorable Co-facilitators,

I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution.

We strongly believe that an independent, accessible and transparent financing mechanism is imperative for the effectiveness of the future instrument. This financing strategy must tap into both public and private sources at national and global levels, embracing fines, penalties, sponsorships, and donations, adhering to the Polluter Pays Principle.

In the pursuit of sustainable financing, collaboration with the private sector through CSR initiatives becomes a compelling avenue. Holding corporations, businesses and producers accountable for their role in plastic pollution not only secures funding but also enhances overall effectiveness. We strongly advocate for the utilization of private funds, notably through the Global Plastic Pollution Fund (GPPF), accompanied by a plastic pollution tax on major polluters. This financial injection can bolster capacity building, foster innovation, and provide essential aid to developing countries grappling with plastic pollution challenges, ensuring that those responsible bear the financial responsibility for their actions.

We underscore the pivotal role of developed country parties' financial commitments in the battle against plastic pollution. Leveraging these funds can drive targeted initiatives, formulate effective strategies, and implement tangible actions. Furthermore, exploring alternative financing avenues through established mechanisms like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) holds the potential to amplify resources in combating plastic pollution. This collaborative and robust approach must ensure efficient resource allocation for SIDs and downstream developing countries for amalgamating actions to protect the marine environment from the devastating impacts of plastic pollution. By uniting our efforts and aligning with the Polluter Pays Principle, we maximize the potential for successful outcomes in the urgent global fight against plastic pollution.

Finally, should the establishment of any expert or working group on the means of implementation or financing be deemed necessary, we emphatically urge the participation of experts from civil society, encompassing representatives from youth, women, indigenous people, industries, and scientific communities. This measure is imperative to ensure a comprehensive and diverse range of perspectives, enhancing the expertise and inclusivity of the expert groups.

Thanks for the floor.

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution

## On Institutional Arrangements

Honorable Co-facilitators,

I am Farzana Faruk Jhumu from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution.

We support the establishment of a Conference of the Parties ("COP") as the principal governing body of the instrument, comprising representatives from all Parties to the instrument. Moreover, we advocate for the inclusivity of accredited civil society observers in its meetings. To optimize participation, we propose that the governing body instructs the secretariat to convene NGOs under key stakeholder groups, mainly focusing on youth and children, women, waste pickers and informal workers, scientists, and indigenous people. This approach will empower observers to self-organize into constituencies, thereby amplifying their collective voice in negotiations for the effective implementation of the instrument.

It is imperative for the instrument to clearly delineate and distinguish the roles and functions of the Governing Body and subsidiary bodies. Subsidiary bodies should be established to oversee the progress of member states and other private entities covered by this instrument, ensuring their accountability. A dedicated subsidiary body can be formed to address issues such as technological innovation, the introduction of plastic alternatives, environmental damage, and strategies to combat legacy plastic waste.

Recognizing the current global demographic dividend, the treaty should establish a Youth Expert Working Group to ensure the substantial involvement of young people. This involvement should encompass a diverse range of expertise, including entrepreneurship, scientific inquiry, research, legal expertise, financial acumen, and other areas, contributing significantly to the success of this agreement in its implementation.

We support the instrument following the Nairobi spirit and let Nairobi hold the secretariat for the future instrument.

Thank you.

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution

## On Intersessional Work

We would like to draw attention to the crucial aspects of intersessional works. Firstly, we advocate for the continuous openness of Written Submissions to observers.

Secondly, we propose that if Regional Meetings are organized, they should be open to observers. Recognizing the significance of regional perspectives and the value of inclusivity, contributing region-specific insights and solutions. Furthermore, if any expert group is established, we stress the imperative of ensuring gender and generational balance.

Additionally, it is imperative to emphasize the significance of consultations with the existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Drawing from their experience and expertise on financial mechanisms and scientific aspects, including provisions of subsidiary bodies, will enable us to glean insights from established frameworks and cultivate synergies that amplify the efficacy of the means of implementation of the future instrument.

To enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of the future instrument, we propose hosting a dedicated online consultation or webinar on stakeholder engagement with youth and other civil society groups during the intersessional period. This will provide a crucial opportunity to gather insights, foster collaboration, and ensure that the perspectives of these key stakeholders are integrated into the stakeholder engagement mechanisms of the future instrument.

In conclusion, these proposals aim to reinforce the collaborative and inclusive nature of our intersessional work, ensuring that we draw upon a wealth of knowledge and expertise from diverse stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.