



Written submission of the **Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP** on
the potential options for elements towards an international legally
binding instrument on Plastic

Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	Children and Youth Major Group (the mandated youth constituency to United Nations Environment Programme)
Contact persons and contact information for the submission	Submitted on behalf of the constituency by Gyubin Hwang & Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik Global Coordinators gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org , zakowshik@gmail.com
Date	13 January 2023

*The list of contributors is enclosed with this document as an annexure

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

- **Protection of Nature and its inhabitants**

We recognize the need to reiterate the call of the children and youth to UNEP made at UNEA 5.2 to member states that this treaty must build on the background to protect the current and future generations from any harm that may be caused by the overuse of plastics.

The treaty's primary objective should be to protect people and the planet from the harmful manufacturing of plastics. This is in line with the UNGA resolution (A/76/L.75), which recognizes the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right. Additionally, this should be considered a right of nature, which includes animals and plants being affected by the chemical and additives used in the life cycle of plastics.

We call on member states to recognize the current damage and negative impacts of plastics on all environments, especially marine ecosystems. This is evident from numerous reports on the relevance of microplastics found in marine life, in the food that we eat, and macroplastic entangling marine organisms

- **Timeline**

We proposed for member states and stakeholders to see the benefit of a timeline that should be agreed upon based on consensus, which should indicate the phasing out of plastics or minimizing the use of plastics by 80% by 2040. This should be supported by medium-term and long-term action plans by taking into account the capacity and economic vulnerability of developing states, as addressed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

We propose that this timeline be set to also introduce a United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Plastic Pollution building on the actions introduced since 2017 on the elimination of the major sources of litter.

- **Targets and Indicators**

We propose that member states recognize different international instruments, such as the Kunming Montreal global biodiversity framework with already existing targets (30x30) and the Paris Agreement, which requires actions by 2030. We propose that the objectives focused on targets and indicators be aligned with the recognized nexus between climate change, biodiversity loss, and plastic pollution.

We propose that the objectives be focused on indicators to identify the need to reduce or minimize the use of all plastics and any such substance such as single-use plastics, microplastics, and hazardous chemicals and additives in the full life cycle of plastics, leaving no room for countries and other stakeholders to find loopholes to continue with mass production.

- **Rules of procedures**

The decision-making process today, including the determination of resolutions and their content, often adopts a preference for economic aspects over scientific rationale and geographical characteristics. This problem has the potential to blind us to the true nature of environmental issues, and the setting of rules needs to incorporate best practices and universalization of past efforts. In addition, it is necessary not only to promote the exchange of opinions with businesses in order to examine economic rationality in setting rules but also

to set up a system that is open to workers, citizen groups, and youth and that can propose provisions that are in line with actual pollution problems.

- **Financing**

We advocate for an objective within this treaty that would focus on restructuring several existing funding mechanisms or instruments to address issues related to the proper management, oversight, and implementation of the global treaty by a designated body. Member states may also address new and innovative ways to derive at establishment of a funding mechanism to support this cause.

- **Stakeholders**

We strongly believe that the instrument should aim to strengthen multi-stakeholders in the proposed treaty oversight and implementation at the national, regional, and international levels.

We advocate for governments to recognize that stakeholders must play an important role in ensuring that processes are transparent, inclusive, and open. This is to limit the influence and intervention of plastic manufacturers on public enforcement and implementation mechanisms.

- **Capacity Building**

The treaty should recognize the need to provide developing countries with adequate resources to enhance their human resource capacity, which would help to implement the treaty at all levels. In adherence to children and youth, countries should prioritize behavioral changes and capacity-building initiatives that will address the issues not by reducing the catastrophic impacts but also by building more awareness of net zero plastic waste.

2. Core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches

- The treaty must take a transformative approach that facilitates measures to reduce the production of virgin plastic materials and includes equitable steps toward a safe and circular economy for plastics. An international standard for monitoring production should be introduced to ensure that plastics are chemically safe, genuinely recyclable, and durable enough to be reusable.

- The treaty must not rely on voluntary and country-driven actions, rather, it must establish the global rules, regulations, and support mechanisms needed to end plastic pollution and its harmful effects on the environment, animals, human health, and vulnerable communities.

- The treaty must support need-based analysis to understand progress in reducing plastic pollution. A Global Stocktake must quantify plastic pollution's stock, properties, and condition.

- The basic list of chemicals that must be banned comprises asbestos, formaldehyde, hazardous/toxic air pollutants, lead, mercury, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), pesticide chemicals, Glyphosate, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).

II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

- The treaty must find its final destination through its effective implementation through assistance, monitoring, compliance, and advocacy. All member states and stakeholders must work jointly to achieve the set goals. It must identify the most appropriate assistance mechanisms to encourage the broader implementation of each category of instruments.
- Adopt “common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” and “polluters pay” principles into the treaty
- Support the invention of new and innovative technology for waste removal from the ocean while promoting the existing solutions
- Mandate countries to gather and use disaggregated data on the impact of plastics on biodiversity and ecosystems on land and water, as well as on people, mainly children, youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities.
- Promote the introduction and diffusion of recycled products based on the market theory, including tax incentives for new products through recycling.
- Support the mass production of eco-friendly plastic alternatives through tax redemption, imposing an additional duty on single-use plastics and unnecessary plastics products.

2. Means of Implementation

- Establish a mechanism to ensure that countries with the most resources, advanced technology and infrastructure support less developed and developing states to implement the treaty properly.
- Facilitate the transfer of technology for sound management to the states most in need of sound management of plastic waste.
- Encourage every party to convene a parliamentary standing committee on plastics pollution for regular monitoring of the implementation of the treaty and condition of plastic pollution within the national boundary.
- Promote actions for the empowerment (training, development of education curricula, etc.) of civil society people (especially children and youth, waste pickers, and informal plastic industry workers) to raise awareness of the harmful effects of plastics and enable them to take appropriate actions.

- Promote research and innovation in the reuse, recycling, and reduction of all forms of plastics and introduce a global standard of labeling plastics.
- Provide training on plastic recycling through advanced technology must be given in order to create more awareness as well as more green job opportunities as encouraged by the International Labour Organisation.

III. Additional input

- Being a UNEP-administered entity, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution must admit the role of UNEP's Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) and nine (9) major groups in its process. Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP should be recognized as the custodian of facilitating youth engagement in the process.

Annexure

List of Contributors from Children and Youth Major Group

1. Yoko Lu, Canada, Individual
2. Elegbede, Isa Olalekan, Nigeria, Lagos state university, Nigeria & CCESP, IUCN, Switzerland
3. Anohar John, India
4. Kartik Verma, India, Individual
5. Ulises Bobadilla y Jimenez, Mexico, Individual (CYMG)
6. Sheku Bangura. Sierra Leone. World Against Single Use Plastics (WASUP)
7. Clarence Gio Almoite, Philippines, Individual
8. Rukaiya Muhammad Nigeria, African climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)
9. Saher Rashid Baig (CYMG)
10. Natalie Gwatirisa, Zimbabwe (AFCA)
11. Mario Galbert, Jamaica, Individual
12. Antara Jha, India, Individual
13. Alejandro Luque, Ecuador
13. Vayanga Donzo, Republic of Guinea, individual
14. CHENAKER Hichem, Algeria, CEDAR For Environmental protection and SDGs Organisation
15. Devanshu Jha, India, Individual
16. MOUNYELLE NKAKE Manfred, Cameroon, ASHIA International
17. Jawad Hasin, Bangladesh, Field Researcher, DataSense - Infolady Social Services Limited
18. Shantanu Mandal, Youth Rep, BKWSU (Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University)
19. Daniela Avila, Honduras, Individual
20. Bangaly BANGOURA, Guinea, SWISS UMEF University, Réseau des Jeunes Entrepreneurs de Guinée REJEG
21. John Leo Algo, Philippines (Living Laudato Si' Philippines)
22. Obiora Victor Amadi, Nigeria, American Football For African Mission (AFFAM)
23. Sonali Zol, Software Engineer, India, Individual
24. Maryam Egan, Pakistan (UNEP-MGCY)
25. Houdanon Roël Dire, Benin, Land and Health Association (LHA)
26. Chen-Chen Cornelius, Uganda, GIZ-PREEEP
27. Tambe Honourine Enow, Cameroon, Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)
28. Neville Agesa Mise, Kenya, Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)
29. Sharrif Njamu, Kenya, Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)
30. Jin Tanaka, Japan, UNISC International
31. Edmond Bangalie Margai
32. Xiomara Acevedo, Colombia, Fundación Barranquilla+20
33. Nurul Hasnat Ove, Bangladesh, Leadership Development Association International
34. Abdulbaki Ahmad, Nigeria, African Youth for Sustainability and Action on Climate Change (AYSACC)
35. Rashid Mwinyi, CYCN Tanzania
36. Rahma Kiriwe, Tanzania (CYCN)
37. Ayadi Mishra, India (Earth Advocacy Youth)
38. Jackline Mwita, Tanzania (CYCN)
39. Arun Kanti Howlader (Climate Hero Initiative)
40. Khadija Salum, Tanzania, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN)
41. Saustine Lusanzu, Tanzania, Refugees for future Tanzania (RFF Tanzania)

42. Thomas Nestory Nsanzugwanko, Tanzania (CYCN)
43. Vikrant Srivastava, India, US, CEO, Nisarg Foundation Inc
44. Oumnia Anfer, Morocco, Individual
45. Warefta E Murshed, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, Gross International Nature
46. Oluwaseyi Moejoh, Nigeria, U-recycle Initiative Africa
47. Sandra Ruhizi, Tanzania, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN), Kijana factory.
48. Karim Kindole, Tanzania, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network
49. Ailars David, Tanzania, SOA TANZANIA
50. Oluwatosin Ogunsola, Nigeria, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, Sustainable Green Environment Initiative
51. Nivedita Kurade, India, UN1FY, MGCY, Friends for future.
52. EVRAD KOFFI, Cote d'Ivoire, JVE Cote d'Ivoire
