Hello,

On observer no.14 in the table, the statement from Lim, Hooi Sean from the International Forestry Student’s Association on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group.

I am Abi speaking on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group.

We are born in a world with a new ecosystem; Plastisphere. It is everywhere. Floats in our water to our blood, where will this stop?

Over the last week, several of us have participated here in-person and more online. The discussions here directly impact the future of billions of young people across the world. We are bringing you the #Power in Youth.

We recognize interventions from member states who advocated for children and youth participation. We urge them to maintain their position and call upon all member states to advocate for intergenerational equity.

First, we need to let scientific evidence guide the process of alternatives to plastics and not be influenced by commercial interests.

Second, we need to respect child rights and stop their exploitation as waste pickers.

Third, we need mandatory education and capacity building programs as part of ongoing UN efforts on environmental education.

Fourth, we want to recall the rights-based participation of major groups and stakeholders relevant to themes of INC. We insist for upcoming INCs to build upon the UNEA and ECOSOC stakeholder engagement models. No model is successful without youth. Engage young people in decision making and implementation. Let’s be clear - you are not handing them a privilege, but conceding to their right.
Fifth, children and youth in any decision making process are vulnerable and most underrepresented. We ask for dedicated funding support from member states directly toward the Children and Youth Major Group for youth participation at the future INCs. Support the #PowerInYouth

Sixth, The Emissions Gap Report launched this year is clear. Only an urgent system-wide transformation can deliver the emission cuts needed by 2030. We call upon Member States to establish a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to immediately stop all further expansion of fossil fuel and plastics production.

Seventh, In the context of the INC, we call upon the UN system to divest immediately from taking funding and partnerships with fossil fuel and polluting industries responsible for planetary destruction. Stand with the #PowerinYouth.

Plastic pollution is grounded in waste colonialism. But with intergenerationally transmitted knowledge, there is hope for a decolonized future. Put People and Planet before Profits.

We cannot meet every 6 months to discuss what we refuse to change.
As Children and Youth, we stand prepared to engage with all member states and the secretariat on the road to INC-2.

People Power. Power in Youth.

Thank you Chair.