Greetings distinguished member states, colleagues and INC secretariat. My name is Santhiya from India speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group.

First, On structure: Due to the urgent need to remedy these issues, we would like to see this formulated into a **specific instrument** where all of the agreed upon control measures are included. While the Framework model remains an option, frankly we do not have the time for additional negotiations, thus we believe a specific instrument model would be a better fit.

Two, On the scope: Without controlling the **production of virgin plastic polymers**, we are not Ending Plastic Pollution. We urge that the agreement contains a mechanism for controlling or restricting polymers through adjustments, meaning decisions without the need for additional amendment or ratification, similar to the approach taken in the Montreal Protocol and Stockholm Convention.

Thirdly, We call for a one-UN approach in the development of the treaty. Relevant UN bodies, conventions and secretariats should be invited and involved in the discussion, as siloed approaches will not help us achieve the transformation we are aiming for. The UN system has **stood by** while extractive industries and consumerism have become the yardstick for development. **But who will pay for the harm to human health and rights? The polluter or the most vulnerable? How will you incentivize funders to invest now or risk the future?** In the context of INC, we call upon UNEP to divest immediately from taking funding or close partnerships with polluting industries responsible for planetary destruction.

Fourth, Regarding the matter of stakeholder engagement, we would like to call for a model which has a transparent, democratic and rights-based manner of engaging stakeholders in the instrument. The 9 major groups and stakeholders model should be used as a baseline for any engagement and further expanded to be fit for purpose for the treaty.
In the same context, Mr. Chair and dear member states, we want to highlight a very important and pressing issue that emerged in this INC. We are concerned that the major groups signs including the sign of the Children and Youth could be removed from the INC. There is nothing within the Rules of Procedures of UNEA or the provisional rules of procedures of INC that prevents the signs of the major groups to be displayed alongside the signs of observers for all the stakeholders.

It will be a regression if the sign and voices of Children and Youth are being taken away at the INC-1. We would like to call upon the secretariat to maintain no regression for the representation of stakeholders and to give the children and youth constituency the visibility and space it deserves. We also remain available for a dialogue with the Executive Secretary on this matter. We further request that this issue be taken up in the contact group or discussions on stakeholder engagement before any constituency signs are removed from the INC.

We are calling upon member states and regional groups for support on this.

Thank you Chair for the floor.

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