

# Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution (GYCPP)

Honourable Chair,

I am Aseel Abo-Taleb from Yemen, speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution, representing the voices of young people worldwide. We are happy to make our first intervention to share the collective view of the global youth coalition. As we all begin our work at INC-2, we would like to express our gratitude to member states and INC Secretariat for supporting the establishment of 'Youth and Children' flag in the plenary and we find this stance crucial in recognizing the rights of Youth and Children to formally engage in INC process with a mandate to support negotiations with their ideas and concepts.. Let us remind you that young people, especially children and those living in the Global South, are the most vulnerable to the health and environmental impacts of plastic pollution.

We reiterate our role as constructive and active partners and solutionists, and as such, we would like to highlight that addressing the root cause of plastic pollution requires systemic change and reduced consumption, breaking our dependence on plastics and extending the responsibilities of producers and importers. It is imperative that the zero draft of the treaty include ambitious control measures on the reduction of plastics production, elimination of hazardous plastics, promoting the use of safe, sustainable alternatives and substitutes, encouraging reduction, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging, and a just transition.

We urge member states to actively engage youth during this week's proceedings and beyond, keeping in mind stakeholder participation mechanisms and to recall Principle 10 and Principle 21 of the Rio Declaration. We will continue to be the voice of reason and urgency in tackling plastic pollution. It is our imperative duty to turn off the plastic pollution tap, stop the toxic exposure of plastics, and ensure the right of current and future generations to live in a safe, clean and healthy environment. Thank You!

