Dear Executive Director Andersen and Secretary Mathur-Filipp,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing today with a set of suggestions and concerns for your consideration related to the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on plastic pollution. We thank you both for your work toward ending the plastics crisis and for directing much-needed UNEP capacities to support the development of the legally binding instrument called for in Resolution 5/14.

Encouragingly, many UN Member States are demonstrating ambition in their submissions to the process, acknowledging the health, climate, biodiversity, and human rights harms that come from the full lifecycle of plastics - not just pollution at the end of life. Several Member States are supporting the discussion of controls on production volumes and the hazardous chemicals used to produce plastics, clearly indicating that the future treaty cannot merely be about the "circularity" of plastics, which is a questionable concept in itself, given that even plastic recycling is not truly circular.

These "upstream" approaches, inclusive of the full lifecycle of plastics all the way up to production and the sourcing of production feedstocks, in particular fossil fuel-based, have further been supported by the UN Secretary-General, the chair of the INC, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Development Programme, the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, and other prominent figures in the global governance and human rights spaces. Yet the global policy community has not yet seen equally ambitious leadership from either of your offices.
This is creating a noticeable and inappropriate absence of ambition from the two most prominent policy leaders in the global plastics governance space. We hope your offices will resolve this noticeable tension ahead of INC-2 by leveraging your positions of leadership to, at a minimum, support the level of ambition demonstrated by Member States and other prominent global environmental policy officials.

We are further concerned by the process of intersessional work to inform the framing and development of the ongoing negotiations. We would like to note the relative lack of transparency regarding who is advising the work of the UNEP Executive Director and the INC Secretariat, what their interests are, and under what terms of reference they are conducting this advisory work. Different entities, such as the UNEP Economic Division or the public-private-partnership called the Life Cycle Initiative, have had obvious (but not explicitly disclosed) influence over meeting agendas and work products of the Secretariat in ways that are not visible or accountable to Member States, stakeholders and rights holders participating in the negotiation process. Our colleagues in the Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty have already raised the issue of private entities with potentially questionable affiliations and influences being contracted to do the work of the Secretariat, and we reiterate those concerns.

We are also extremely concerned about the lack of a substantial meeting report produced after INC-1. This is a stark departure from common and agreed-upon practices in other international processes. It further hinders accountability and constructive and effective participation in the negotiation process. We ask the Secretariat to be particularly mindful of possible conflicts of interest; and to ensure the process for (and terms of engagement of) all advice provided to the Secretariat must first and foremost be made transparent and widely visible.

On another facet of full transparency, we also request that your offices make the following adjustments to the INC process:

- We deem it essential that meeting reports from the INCs and preparatory meetings be substantive, rather than merely procedural, in order to accurately reflect the substantive discussions that took place and that inform future negotiations.
- The list of stakeholder participants in all INCs and intersessional meetings should be made publicly available on the INC website.
- The process by which the Secretariat publicizes third-party events and webinars should be made transparent and allow fair access to all stakeholders and rights holders. Similarly, the rules governing the Secretariat's use of the official INC email list must be made transparent and guarantee fair and equal access to all members of the list to issue similar distributions and announcements.

Lastly and critically, we remain concerned about access to the INC-2 negotiations in Paris and our ability to participate meaningfully and equitably. We have heard repeatedly about access to the building being restricted and the need for floating badges. Yet there is no clear or transparent process for how such badges will be allocated, who will oversee this process in the Secretariat, and how civil society is expected to manage the sharing of such badges. Given the ever-growing interest in the process and the clear need for greater inclusion of under-represented constituencies from environmental justice organizations, Indigenous peoples, and waste pickers, we anticipate far greater numbers of observer participants will be attending. Therefore, INC-1 participation is not an accurate barometer for estimated numbers moving forward. Finally, given that contact or working group meetings are not currently planned to be streamed live into overflow rooms or online, we are concerned that many stakeholders and rights holders will travel to Paris at great cost and will be effectively denied participation.

In summary, we ask UNEP and the INC Secretariat for (1) greater ambition and leadership from your offices on the solutions to the plastics crisis; (2) greater transparency and commitment to avoiding conflicts of interest throughout the INC process, in relation to the activities undertaken by the Secretariat, to the full and substantive reporting on the INC meetings, to the access provided to the Secretariat and its resources; and (3) fair access to the negotiations in Paris, and future meetings, for all stakeholders and rights holders, including workers in informal and cooperative settings, and rightful holders of traditional, Indigenous knowledge, and local knowledge in line with the INC mandate.

We appreciate your prompt attention to these requests and your continued dedicated leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics, U.S. Alianza Basura Cero Chile, Chile Alliance for Zero Waste Indonesia (AZWI), Indonesia
Asociación Ecológica Santo Tomás, México
Association For Promotion Sustainable
Development from India, India
BAN Toxics, Phillippines
Break Free From Plastic, international
Bring Back Green Foundation, India Carrizo Comecrudo Tribal Nation of Texas, U.S.

Center for Biological Diversity, U.S.
Center for International Environmental Law, international
Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD), Cameroon
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment \& Management (CECIC), Uganda
Centre for Environment Justice and
Development
Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka
Centre for Financial Accountability, India
Colectivo Malditos Plásticos, México
Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)
Congo Basin Youth for Climate, Congo
Consumers' Association of Penang, Malaysia
Development Indian Ocean Network,
Mauritius
Don't Waste Durham, U.S.
Eco-Accord, Russia
Eco-justice Ethiopia, Ethiopia
Ecoton Foundation, Indonesia
Ecowaste Coalition, Philippines
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, Bangladesh
Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable
Development, Serbia
Environmental Defence Canada, Canada
Environmental Investigation Agency, U.K.
Fenceline Watch, U.S.

Friends of the Earth Canada, Canada
Friends of the Earth Malaysia, Malaysia
Fronteras Comunes, México
Fundación Aguaclara, Venezuela
Fundación MINGAS POR EL MAR, Ecuador
Gallifrey Foundation, Switzerland
Génération Maastricht - Federation of Young
European Policymakers (GM-FYEP), France
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
(GAIA), international
Green Heritage Fund, Suriname
Health and Environment Justice Support
(HEJSupport), international
Greenpeace International, international
IPEN, international
Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC), India
La Fondation Tara Océan, France
Malaysian Nature Society, Selangor Branch -
Green Living Special Interest Group,
Malaysia
Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia
Nipe Fagio, Tanzania
No Plastic In My Sea, France
Objectif Zéro Plastique, France
Ocean Care, Switzerland
Ocean Eye, Switzerland
Ocean. Now!, Germany
Pacific Environment, U.S., Vietnam, China
ParyavaranMitra, India
Plastic Change, Denmark
Plastic Free Future, U.S.
Plastic Pollution Coalition U.S.
Plastic Soup Foundation, Netherlands
Poovulagin Nanbargal, India
Port Arthur Community Action Network, U.S.

Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis (Healthy Hospitals Project), Brazil
Race for Water Foundation, Switzerland
Recycling Netwerk Benelux, Netherlands

Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales, Chile
Red de Desarrollo Sostenible Colnodo
Red Mexicana de Acción Ecológica, México
Sierra Leone School Green Club, Sierra Leone Society of Native Nations, U.S.
Solid Waste Management Roundtable (SWMRT), India
Stichting Mission Lanka, Netherlands
Surfrider Foundation Europe, European Union
Surfrider Foundation, U.S.
Sustainable Research and Action for
Environmental Development, Nigeria
Taller Ecologista, Argentina
TEAL Climate, Canada/International
Tearfund, international
Thant Myanmar, Myanmar
The Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance, New Zealand
The Caribbean Poison Information Network, Jamaica

The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE), U.S. The Indonesia Plastic Bag Diet Movement, Indonesia
The Last Beach Cleanup, U.S.
The Last Plastic Straw, U.S.
The World is Home, Belgium
Toxisphera Environmental Health
Association, Brazil
Trash Hero World, Indonesia
Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance, Vietnam
WALHI/Friends of The Earth (FoE) Indonesia,
Indonesia
Whale and Dolphin Conservation, United
Kingdom
Women Engage for a Common Future -
WECF International, international
Youth Advocacy and Development Network, Uganda
Zero Waste Alliance Ukraine, Ukraine
Zero Waste Europe, European Union
Zero Waste Himalaya, India

