

## Submission from the Major Group for Children and Youth to UNEP toward

# *4th Meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics*

### - Intervention for Agenda Item 5 -

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Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

We would like to thank the Secretariat for this opportunity to participate in the AHEG and we welcome the work of the expert group. As part of the MGCY delegation, we bring together young people from different regions, ethnicity, and background, and inspire them to take local and global action towards environmental conservation and governance.

As such and firstly, on the educational and informational responses, MGCY wants to underscore that education and access to reliable information can effectively accelerate the shift from a throwaway culture to a system's perspective that accounts for plastic pollution at all stages of the plastic's value chain. Education and training programs can enhance innovation to find viable alternatives to plastic and adopt measures to prevent waste and plastic pollution. Education goes hand-in-hand with access to reliable information and in that purpose, monitoring and reporting are key processes since we cannot combat what we don't know.

We very much welcome the efforts on the monitoring activities through the Digital Multi Stakeholder platform and the provision of complementary data: these elements very cope with the principle "manage by measure it" which we support.

Secondly, on the potential response options at the international level, MGCY reiterates its support to a new global agreement to address plastic pollution. The Convention on Plastic Pollution represents a major step to push for and achieve a plastic-free and non-toxic environment. This plastic pollution crisis is transboundary in nature and thus requires a concerted and coordinated global response. The MGCY believes that the proposed solution of an internationally-binding text is a feasible, impactful and effective solution, containing explicit and concrete measures that enable a move towards circularity and a reduction of plastic waste.

With more people engaged in the circular economy, we can turn the tide on plastic to operate within the planetary boundaries! Focusing only on waste management isn't enough to turn the tide on plastic. We request member states to consider a global holistic approach of the pollution crisis, focusing on both production and consumption. Children and youth are committed to beating marine litter and microplastics, but reiterate that this has to start from production and must also take place at the international level.

*- submitted on behalf of the constituency by -*

the Marine litter and Microplastics Working Group

supported by Teresa Oberhauser & Yugratna Srivastava

Global Focal Points - Major Group for Children and Youth to the UN Environment

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