



# Africa Youth Statement on WTE in the Global Plastics Treaty



INC-5.2 #CourageNotCompromise #PlasticsTreaty

## **93 Organisations and 147 Individuals from 51 Countries Unite to Demand a Global Plastics Treaty that Firmly Rejects Waste-to-Energy!**

*(as at 08 July 2025)*

We, the youth of Africa—the largest, most vibrant, and most impacted generation—stand united with the undersigned 93 organisations and 147 change-makers based in 51 countries across Africa and around the world. Together, we call on our leaders, ministries, and national focal points to firmly reject and exclude references to Waste-to-Energy and energy recovery in the Global Plastics Treaty text at INC-5.2.

### **Waste-to-Energy is a Dangerous Distraction that Undermines Real Solutions to End Plastic Pollution**

Plastic pollution is more than just an environmental crisis, it is a profound socio-economic, human health, and human rights infringement, particularly acute in African countries. It compounds long-standing injustices rooted in colonialism, slavery, racism, and extractive capitalism, all while pushing our planet beyond its boundaries.

Far from solving the problem, Waste-to-Energy incineration enables continued plastic production, releases toxic emissions, and undermines systemic solutions that are fundamental for a zero waste future such as reduction of waste generation, source segregation, recycling, composting, and reuse programs. Approaches that not only offer greater environmental and economic benefits but also create over 200 times more jobs than landfills and incinerators and deliver in net-negative greenhouse gas emissions.

Promoted as a quick fix, Waste-to-Energy incineration is an expensive, highly inefficient, polluting technology that sacrifices the health and dignity of low-income communities. The declining waste incineration industry in the Global North underscores the impracticality of this false solution. Despite this, with Western European markets reaching saturation without waste-to-energy ever



delivering the promised solution, the European waste-to-energy industry is now openly targeting Africa as a new growth market for incineration facilities. Cities such as **Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, Lagos, Abu Khreita (2 plants), Nairobi, Algiers, Kampala, Greater Accra, and Harare** are witnessing the increasing emergence of Waste-to-Energy incineration proposals.

Africa deserves real solutions that address the root causes of plastic pollution, not false promises that fuel further harm. **Therefore, Waste-to-Energy incineration and all forms of plastic burning must be explicitly excluded as waste management options in the future global instrument to end plastic pollution.**

### **Waste-To-Energy is a Threat To Sustainable Development**

The cost of Waste-to-Energy generation is nearly four times higher than solar power and onshore wind energy, twice as much as natural gas, and 25 per cent more expensive than coal-fired power plants, thereby increasing our fossil fuel dependency.

No matter how strong the environmental regulations and enforcement are, an incinerator will always produce dangerous pollution and release it to the environment such as lead, mercury, dioxins, and furans.

**Failing to stop Waste-to-Energy is choosing to fail our climate goals** - emitting up to 1.43 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of plastic burned.

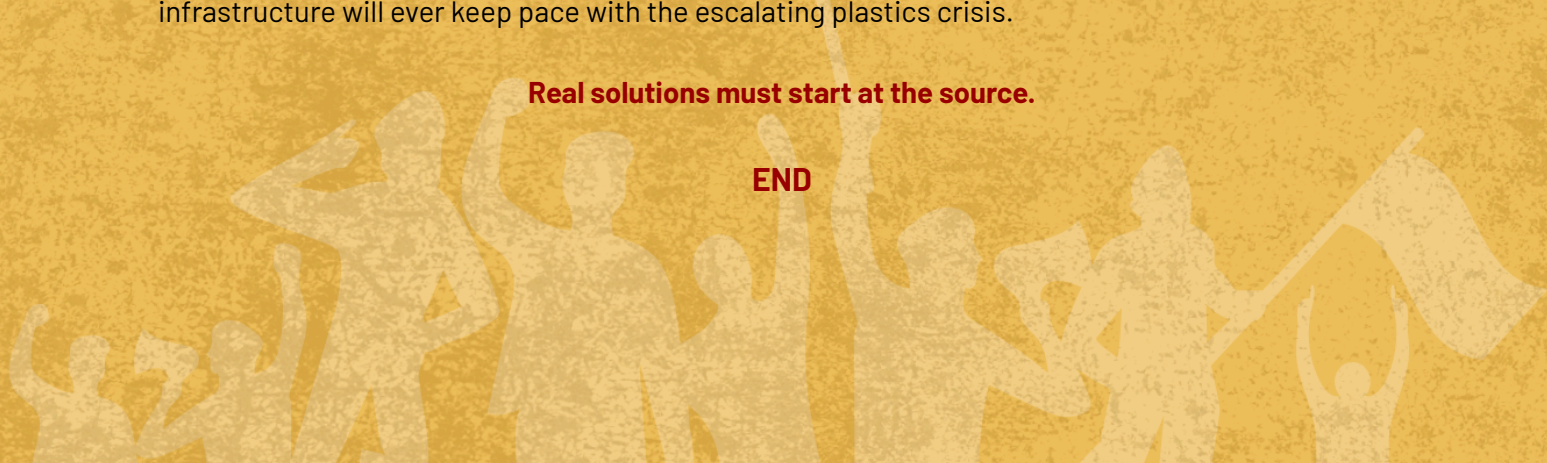
**Choosing waste-to-energy threatens the livelihoods of waste pickers and harms the recycling sector**—which creates up to 50 times more jobs than incineration and landfilling. In South Africa alone, over 90,000 waste pickers form the backbone of the waste collection and sorting system, a vital role echoed across the continent and around the world.

### **We cannot burn our way out of the plastic crisis, we cannot recycle our way out, nor engineer our way out - We need to reduce production!**

We appeal to our leaders to **choose to centre environmental justice** in the Global Plastics Treaty by strongly opposing harmful & obsolete practices such as Waste-to-Energy and energy recovery and remind our African Ministers of their key commitment outlined in **AMCEN Decision 19/2** that calls for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, in line with the waste hierarchy, by prioritizing prevention and reuse. Unless we confront and curb the unchecked growth of plastic production, which no country in this room is responsible for, no amount of waste management infrastructure will ever keep pace with the escalating plastics crisis.

**Real solutions must start at the source.**

**END**





## Endorsed By:

### Organisations

1. Centre for earthworks
2. groundWork
3. Botshabelo unemployed movement
4. Eco-justice Ethiopia
5. Green Knowledge Foundation
6. Afrique Eco 2100 / AJTN
7. Upcycle It Ghana
8. Sustainable Environment Development Initiative
9. Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)
10. The New Environmental Justice
11. Fair Resource Foundation
12. EBM
13. Zero Waste Association of South Africa
14. Gallifrey Foundation
15. River Cleanup Cameroon
16. Grassroots for Climate Action
17. Nature Talk Africa
18. Brother Nathan Foundation (Pty) Ltd
19. Faith and Hope Association
20. Plastic Free Future
21. CJYA
22. Just Transition Alliance
23. Living Soils / Insect'Ivoire
24. Plastic Pollution Coalition
25. Mother Earth Foundation
26. SRADeV Nigeria
27. Cecic
28. End Plastic Pollution Uganda
29. Zero Waste Tunisia
30. Consumers' Association of Penang
31. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth)
32. South African Waste Pickers Association/International Alliance of Waste Pickers
33. Zero Waste Senegal Association
34. Ecoton
35. Ocean. Now!
36. Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport)
37. Korea Zero Waste Movement Network
38. Nipe Fagio
39. Kawanda Youth Environmental Group
40. Grambangla Unnayan Committee
41. ASD-Bangladesh (Association for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh)
42. Women & Child Development Organization (APARAJITA)
43. GAYO
44. deCOALonize
45. Founder
46. University of Environment And Sustainable Development
47. Sigil Best Enterprise
48. Basel Action Network
49. Ecosoum
50. AbibiNsroma Foundation
51. Eco champion Uganda
52. Black Women for Wellness
53. Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) Uganda
54. Articulating Science, Stellenbosch University
55. Bio Vision Africa (BiVA)
56. Women Action Towards Economic Development
57. GAYO Eco-Club
58. Vukani Environmental Movement
59. The Descendants Project
60. Solidarité pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant



61. Environmental Investigation Agency
62. Acción Ecológica
63. CONCERN FOR ACTION IN OUR COMMUNITY GHANA (CONFAC-GH)
64. SK AGRIBUSINESS FIRM
65. Port Arthur Community Action Network(PACAN)
66. SAF-Teso
67. The Surfrider Foundation
68. Thandizam Trading Enterprise
69. Toxics Free Australia
70. Greenpeace Africa
71. Prattasha Samazik Unnayan Sangstha (PSUS)
72. SAWPA
73. GAYO ECO CLUB
74. Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania
75. Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)
76. Citizen consumer and civic Action Group
77. Centre for Environment Justice and Development
78. adansonia.green
79. Trash Hero World
80. Zero Waste Durban
81. Green Empowered Alliance
82. Green Eco-Warriors
83. AUSMAP
84. ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System
85. Healthy Environment and Lifestyles Initiative.
86. Women Engage for a Common Future, WECF
87. Azul
88. Biba Transformations LBG
89. Center for Adaptive Capacity Building Research
90. FEDEV
91. AICED
92. AKO Foundation
93. ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards





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93. Maxine Govender
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136. Marco Dotto Lutema  
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139. Kamese TBR esther  
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## Countries

1. Angola,
2. Argentina
3. Australia,
4. Bangladesh,
5. Belgium,
6. Benin,
7. Botswana,
8. Brazil,
9. Cameroon,
10. Canada,
11. Democratic Republic of Congo,
12. Ecuador
13. Ethiopia,
14. France,
15. Germany,
16. Ghana,
17. Greece,
18. India,
19. Indonesia,
20. Ireland,
21. Ivory Coast,
22. Kenya,
23. Laos
24. Malawi,
25. Malaysia,
26. Mexico,
27. Mongolia,
28. Morocco,
29. Mozambique,
30. Namibia,
31. Nepal,
32. Netherlands,
33. Nigeria,
34. Philippines,
35. Portugal
36. Republic of Korea,
37. Rwanda,
38. Senegal,
39. Slovenia,
40. South Africa,
41. Switzerland,
42. Tanzania,
43. Togo,
44. Tunisia,
45. Uganda,
46. Ukraine,
47. United Kingdom,
48. United States of America,
49. Vietnam
50. Zambia,
51. Zimbabwe,

