Dear Distinguished President, Secretary General and all Delegates,

I’m Madhvi Chittoor, 12 year-old Climate Activist, UN Child Advisor from Colorado, USA. I’ve been a Climate Warrior since 5 years old. I fight for every living being’s fundamental right to clean water, clean soil, clean air, clean food, great health of my generation and future generations. A few of my water policy successes are - 1) with Madam VP Harris on Global Plastic Policy, 2) with EPA Water Head Ms. Radhika Fox to reduce PFAS guidance limits in Drinking water, 3) declare March as PFAS Awareness Month 4) ban plastic bags and styrofoam containers 5) ban PFAS in consumer products and 6) change oil-and-gas permit process for conserving surface, storm and ground water.

Water is life. On behalf of all living beings and life-elements - I stand before you all and plead, to act expeditiously at all levels, to protect our waters from unseen, I repeat unseen, pollutants particularly PFAS – a group of human-made non-biodegradable forever chemicals, that bioaccumulate, and are used to make products heat-resistant, water-resistant and grease-resistant. They pose great risk to our health by making our food and water non-consumable. What is not known to many is that PFAS are used even in solar panels and wind turbines. Also, water contamination implies soil contamination. What water will we drink and irrigate our crops with, if our aquifers and waterways are contaminated? What soil will we use to grow our food, if our soils are contaminated? What grains, vegetables, dairy, meat will we eat, if they are contaminated with PFAS? Think of the food crisis. Think also of all the flora and fauna. We can’t eat money. Its high time we work together to Ban PFAS use from all products. Repeat after me – BanPFAS ToxicsFree GreenChemistry.