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Subject: Internship Completion Certificate

This is to certify that Zara Ansari successfully completed her internship at Averda Environmental Services from December 16, 2024, to January 5, 2025. During her internship, Zara worked on a project titled “**Empowering Informal Waste Pickers as Feedstock Partners**,” focusing on leveraging South Africa’s informal waste picker networks to establish a reliable and sustainable supply of plastic feedstock for Averda’s first plastics recycling plant in Rosslyn, South Africa.

Zara’s project highlighted the critical role informal waste pickers play in South Africa’s recycling ecosystem while addressing their lack of integration into formalized waste management systems. Her work aimed to create a framework that not only secured high-quality plastics for our recycling plant but also supported the economic empowerment of these informal workers who typically work below the minimum wage line.

Her key responsibilities and contributions included:

- 1. Understanding Informal Waste Ecosystems**
Zara conducted a comprehensive study of the informal waste picker networks in South Africa, identifying their collection routes, working conditions, and the types of plastics predominantly gathered. This research shed light on the valuable contributions of informal pickers to the recycling economy and the challenges they face, such as inconsistent incomes and lack of access to formal markets.
- 2. Developing a Feedstock Supply Framework**
Zara designed a structured model to integrate informal waste pickers into Averda’s recycling operations. Her framework included centralized collection hubs where pickers could deliver clean, sorted plastics and receive immediate financial compensation, ensuring both efficiency and equity in the supply chain.
- 3. Field Work in the UAE**
Zara supplemented her research by visiting Averda’s waste collection and sorting facilities in the UAE, observing the operational workflows and interactions between