



GENEVA URBAN DEBATE

HYBRID EVENT*

**The Plastics wrap-trap:
what about cities in inter-
states negotiations?**

**24 January 2022
15:00 - 16:45 CET**

Villa Rigot,
Av. de la Paix 9
1202 Geneva

** COVID pass required to attend in person*

Description

At the end of 1970s, when Christo, a famous artist, tried to wrap the Pont-Neuf in Paris in polyamide, the then Mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac first rejected the project. Mainly because he thought Parisians would not appreciate the artwork. Not because he thought the use of so much plastic would elicit environmental concerns.

Decades later, the use and misuse of plastic have become a significant burden for authorities. As such, plastic pollution is being debated at all levels by States, regional and local authorities, businesses, closely followed by a large group of civil society organizations. This topic has also been on the radar of several international organizations, such as the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Trade Organization (WTO) or the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with a system-wide coordination mechanism being put in place by the United Nations.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, which enjoys universal membership by all UN member States, is taking the lead in establishing the mandate on a global plastics agreement at its next session in Spring 2022.

But what is the status of local and regional governments (LRGs) within UNEA? Could it be enhanced? If so, how? And for what purpose? Do municipalities share knowledge and experience about the prevention and reduction of plastic pollution?

The Geneva Cities Hub, with UN-Habitat, Norway, the Geneva Environment Network and partners, welcomes all stakeholders to an informal event to discuss concrete ways and means to better include LRGs in plastic pollution-related negotiations.

To provide food for thought, LRGs are kindly invited to fill in a short survey **by 20 January 2022**.

The event will be followed by a light cocktail

Speakers

Welcoming remarks, **Amb. Mørch Smith**, PR of Norway to the United Nations Office at Geneva

- **Ms. Diana Rizzolio**, Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network, UNEP
- **Ms. Nao Takeuchi**, Waste Management Expert, UN-Habitat
- **Ms. Melisa Wilkinson**, New Technologies Operative Manager, Buenos Aires
- **Dr. Godffrey Nato**, Minister of Environment of Mombasa County, Kenya
- **Mr. Tatsuya Abe**, Odawara City
- **Mr. Jean-Baptiste Buffet**, Senior Advocacy Officer, UCLG
- **Ms. Yumi Nishikawa**, Plastic Smart Cities Lead, Asia, WWF

Moderation: **Ms. Kamelia Kemileva**, Co-director, Geneva Cities Hub & **Mr. Graham Alabaster**, Chief, UN-Habitat

Registration on the GCH website.