



Excellencies, dear friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we gather to address the findings of the **Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 report**. According to it, Municipal solid waste generation is projected to escalate by 2050 given the urbanization of our planet, leaving approximately 2.7 billion people without access to solid waste collection.

This and other findings of the report raise brings us to a critical question. How many persons will depend on the local and regional governments proper management to access to solid waste collection?

The answer is: a VERY significant number!

Pollution has emerged as one of the most urgent environmental concerns, hence the resolution of the UN GA proclaiming in 2022 an international ZERO WASTE DAY. This resolution also prudently addresses the role of LRGs.

We all know that LRGs stand at the forefront of combating air, plastic and other forms of pollution and its detrimental effects on the environment and public health. While Member States play a primary role in shaping rules, norms and their implementation, it is imperative to recognize that they cannot implement them on their own. The substantial contribution of LRGs to address this global challenge is absolutely crucial!

Various ongoing multilateral processes acknowledge the impact of pollution. Notably, there are negotiations on a new plastic pollution treaty, alongside intergovernmental debates related to Conventions in different Conference of the Parties (COPs) on

biodiversity, waste and climate change. Softer instruments, such as resolutions, also complement this work at the international level.

These multilateral processes serve to either raise awareness or provide frameworks to negotiate new treaties, protocols, or agreements under the main convention. However, these forums involve central governments ONLY and often fail to adequately acknowledge the role of LRGs. Even more flexible instruments born in diplomatic processes such as the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)'s resolutions—potentially evolving into conventions with time—on air pollution and other forms of pollution often fail to adequately acknowledge the role of LRGs.

Despite recognizing the critical need for cooperation with LRGs, States often hesitate to include references to them in legal documents. Yet, it is obvious that States will have to heavily rely on LRGs in order to effectively implement the internationally negotiated rules. So why the obstruction?

Is it due to a traditional preference for multilateralism among member States, or is local and regional governance deemed too sensitive?

I will let you decide.

The GCH has been created to support LRGs raising their voices within these multilateral processes. And LRGs and their networks are actively mobilizing, engaging in major groups to amplify action and collaborating within coalitions, such as the newly formed :

Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to end Plastic Pollution

which will be launched on 22nd of April in Ottawa, in the margin of the negotiation of the plastic pollution treaty ([INC-4](#)).

LRGs must contribute significantly to shaping future instruments on pollution by participating in multilateral processes and sharing local best practices which aim to promote a just transition and

circular economy initiatives, to raise awareness and instigate behavioral changes among their population.

Finally, some States recognize the imperative of including all levels of government. Türkiye, for instance, stands out as one of the few central governments making explicit references to LRGs in its [national submission](#) to the plastic pollution treaty.

Ambassador, first lady, we commend this effort and hope that others will follow suit.

Thank you.