

# LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION



## Local and Subnational Governments Coalition position towards INC-5.2

*as of 16 June 2025*

The Local and Subnational governments (LSNG)<sup>1</sup> Coalition to end Plastic Pollution (hereafter referred to as “Coalition”) is deeply concerned about environmental, and health challenges that result from unsustainable production, consumption, and life-cycle management of plastics pollution. The Coalition is optimistic that an agreement regarding an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (hereafter referred to as “convention”) can be reached at INC-5.2, enter quickly into force, having a tremendous positive impact on plastic pollution. Addressing plastic pollution is a complex issue, involving multiple sources, actors and stakeholders; this requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to deliver effective solutions.

LSNGs are on the front line of the plastic pollution crisis and are experiencing its effects, including increased flood risks, airborne toxicants, marine litter and risks to wildlife. LSNGs have to implement quick and efficient measures for their residents who turn toward them for immediate action and help. LSNGs share the perspective of an ambitious convention underlining the importance of reducing plastic production and consumption, supporting circular economy, and ensuring the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, while ensuring a just transition.

LSNGs need to be considered as key partners for shaping the convention, as they will play a critical role implementing it.

1. **Closest government to the people:** LSNG have in-depth knowledge on local issues, which is where implementation will take place. They are bearing both the brunt and responsibility for the increasing amount of problematic plastics showing up in their waste streams and urban environments;
2. **Regulatory powers:** LSNGs often have locality-specific regulatory powers and the ability to enhance implementation and enforce actions;
3. **Replicating and scaling:** LSNGs can effectively contribute to ongoing and new initiatives, replicate and relatively quickly scale sustainable best practices, successful case studies, and support capacity building of local stakeholders;
4. **Knowledge creation:** LSNGs can effectively promote locally sourced relevant scientific research, while facilitating engagement with key stakeholders to implement the convention, and enable the exchange of information and technological innovation;
5. **Consumption in urban areas and impacts:** Most consumption resulting in plastics pollution occurs in urban-centres; then having a negative impact on the quality of urban environments, increasing cleaning costs, reducing the efficiency of infrastructure and negatively impacting the health of the residents and the natural environment;
6. **Operational implications:** Any agreement that national governments enter into on waste, will ultimately have an impact on LSNGs as they largely own and manage the infrastructure needed for waste collection and management;
7. **Just transition and inclusivity:** LSNGs can foster social dialogue with key stakeholders, including formal and informal workers, to enact regulations that promote a whole of society approach.

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<sup>1</sup> “Local Governments” include all levels of government below the subnational, national or federal level which includes prefectures, districts, counties, municipalities, cities, towns, communes, etc. “Subnational Governments” include states, provinces, domains, territories, regional governments, and applies only to the first immediate level of government below the National Government.

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The Coalition calls upon Member States to:

1. Include the key role of LSNGs in the convention; and explicitly place that recognition throughout the text and obligations of the convention;
2. Ensure that the convention addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, places accountability and appropriate measures upstream, and reduces the risk that LSNGs responsible for waste management face by the uncontrolled accelerating growth in plastic waste generation;
3. Ensure that the established Major Groups and other Stakeholders mechanism within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is included in the convention, and enabled for any mechanism that follows the ratification of the instrument; and
4. Deliver an ambitious convention to put an end to plastic pollution that can be successfully implemented, including measures to:
  - Minimise, and where appropriate ban, the production and use of plastics that are problematic, avoidable and the most harmful to human health, and the environment, especially single use plastic products.
  - Ensure the adoption, implementation and utilisation of systems that promote circularity and the circular economy in a way that protects the environment and human health.
  - Include requirements regarding the design and content of products to ensure that all products could be properly segregated, collected, reused, refilled, repaired, and recycled by LSNGs without impacting human health and the environment.; and
  - Include LSNGs in National Plans, capacity building activities on national and international level and secure viable access to all-levels of governments to the financial mechanism or arrangement under the convention in order to concretely support a just transition, social protection, and technical support for LSNGs.

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