

## **INTERVENTION FOR INC5.2 OPENING PLENARY**

**August 5, 2025**

### **Local & Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution statement**

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Thank you Chair,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, coordinated by ICLEI, the governments of Quebec and Catalonia, UCLG, the Global Cities Hub and more than 100 signatories.

The role and objectives of the Coalition are clear since the very beginning of the INC process: we express a strong commitment towards the adoption of an ambitious international instrument on plastic pollution, that must include the essential role of local and subnational governments as key actors. The instrument needs a whole of government and whole of society approach.

We are at the forefront of combating plastic pollution. We have in-depth knowledge of local issues, often have specific regulatory powers and the ability to enhance implementation and enforce actions.

Also, we bring practical expertise, policy innovation, and proximity to citizens. We are already advancing circular economy models, driving behavioral change, and piloting scalable solutions.

Therefore, the future instrument needs to have a clear recognition of local and subnational governments.

This is why we welcome the inclusion of local and subnational governments in Articles 8 and 12 of the Chair's text:

- The “Waste management” **Article 8.2** highlights the role of the subnational level in addressing plastic pollution.
- The “Capacity building and multilevel cooperation” **Article 12.2** explicitly mentions local and subnational governments as partners of national governments.

We have proposed additional language which is available on the platform in annex of this statement.

It is also critical that the **future Secretariat of the instrument** is mandated and resourced to work *directly* with local and subnational governments — not only through national channels. This will be vital for building capacity, coordinating action, and ensuring consistent implementation.

Here's our closing message:

- We urge negotiators to maintain and **strengthen** the role of local and subnational governments in the final text.
- We call for the **future Secretariat** to be enabled to work directly with them — not just as implementers, but as **partners** in co-creating solutions.
- And we, the Coalition, are ready to continue this work — not only after the treaty is signed, but now, during the design of its architecture.

We are ready to engage with negotiators in that regard throughout this week. We wish you everyone a successful session.

Thank you

Suggested language on the Chair's Text (1 December 2024)

*Please see the suggested language **in bold**.*

## *PREAMBLE*

*Noting with concern* that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health **problem at a local, subnational, regional and global scale**, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

## *ARTICLE 1bis: PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES*

### Option 1

- i) In the implementation of the commitments in this Convention, the Parties shall give full consideration of necessary actions under the Instrument, including actions related to funding, insurance and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of plastic pollution and the impact of the implementation of response measures, **taking ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approaches.**

### Option 2

- g) take a whole of government, and whole of society approach.**

## *ARTICLE 8: WASTE MANAGEMENT*

2. (a) Establish appropriate systems and disaster-resilient infrastructure at the national and **subnational levels** for the safe handling, sorting, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and disposal, including with energy recovery, of plastic waste (*already included in the current text*)

2.(g). Promote behavioural changes to prevent and minimize plastic waste, including by raising public awareness, **in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and local and subnational governments;**

## *ARTICLE 9: EXISTING PLASTIC POLLUTION*

2.(c) promote the engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, **local and subnational governments**, civil society, scientists, and the private sector, as appropriate and foster the exchange of relevant technologies, experiences and lessons learned.

## *ARTICLE 11: FINANCIAL [RESOURCES AND] MECHANISM*

- 1. Each [developed country] Party [shall] [undertakes to] [shall contribute funds and resources for the dedicated financial mechanism] provide, [within its

capabilities,] resources [to developing country Parties] for activities intended to achieve the objectives of this [Convention] [instrument], taking into account national policies, **local and subnational circumstances and capabilities**, priorities, plans, and programmes. [Such resources may include domestic funding through relevant policies and fiscal measures [[such as primary plastic polymer fees, extended producer responsibility schemes, development strategies, and national budgets,] as well as bilateral and multilateral funding and private sector investment and voluntary contributions.]] **[and taking into account the local and subnational needs and measures of implementation.**

*ARTICLE 12: CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION*

2. Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer pursuant to paragraph 1 may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, including existing regional and subregional and national centres, through other multilateral and bilateral means, and through partnerships, including north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation and those involving the private sector or other stakeholders, as well as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and through **collaboration with local and subnational governments**, as appropriate. *(already included in the current text)*

*ARTICLE 14: NATIONAL PLANS*

1. Each Party [shall] [may] develop, taking into account respective national circumstances,<sup>7</sup> a national plan **based upon its national needs, circumstances and capabilities, and in consultation with local and subnational governments that contains actions** and measures the Party intends to take to implement this Convention. Each Party [shall] [may] develop, taking into account respective national circumstances, a national plan that contains actions and measures the Party intends to take to implement this Convention. The plan shall be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat within [X] years after the entry into force of the Convention for that Party

*ARTICLE 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE*

1. All Parties are encouraged to facilitate the exchange of information in support of the objective of the Convention, **in a whole of government and whole of society approach, such as:**

*ARTICLE 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH*

1. Parties shall promote and facilitate access to information, public awareness, education, and research related to plastic pollution and its effects relevant to the

implementation of this Convention and shall promote, as appropriate, such efforts at the national, regional and international levels and cooperate, as appropriate, with **local and subnational governments and** relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

2. Each Party shall promote and facilitate measures to raise awareness, improve understanding, and share information on the effects of plastic pollution such as by promoting public participation and public access to information; and providing training at the local, **subnational**, national, regional and international levels.