



LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

PART 1: MAIN INTERVENTION (5 minutes)

(Framing, core messages, call to action)

INTERVENTION FOR PANEL SESSION 3

MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM – August 4th, 2025

Local & Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

Thank you, Chair,

I speak today on behalf of the *Coalition of Local and Subnational Governments to End Plastic Pollution*, coordinated by ICLEI, the Government of Catalonia, UCLG, the Government of Quebec, the Global Cities Hub, and supported by over 100 local and regional governments around the world, with some Mayors namely from USA and other countries here in the room as well as regional governments such as representatives of Flanders as part of the national delegations. We work closely with all the delegations negotiating the Plastic pollution treaty and the secretariat, urging everyone to recognize the critical “all levels of government” approach needed for this negotiation.

Plastic pollution is a global crisis — but its effects and solutions are felt and enacted locally. This is why our Coalition has supported, from the beginning of the INC process, the adoption of an **ambitious international legally binding instrument** that addresses the full life cycle of plastics and clearly **recognizes the essential role of local and subnational governments**.

And why is this essential?

Because when this instrument is adopted, the responsibility for implementation will not rest solely with national governments. **Cities and subnational governments are where policies become reality.**

Today, most of the world’s population lives in urban areas. That’s where the majority of plastic consumption and waste generation occur — and where the greatest opportunities for change lie. Local and subnational governments are already:

- Managing waste systems and implementing separation at source solutions,
- Regulating local markets,
- Implementing measures to prevent plastic pollution,
- Educating the public,
- Supporting vulnerable communities,
- And experimenting with circular solutions.

They have legal mandates, they have practical tools — and most importantly, they have proximity to the people and businesses .

But for that to work, the relationship must be **mutual**.

Local governments can't be expected to deliver on global goals without **clear recognition, direct support, and resourced partnerships**. That's why we welcome their inclusion in Articles 8 and 12 of the Chair's draft (1 December 2024), and why we've submitted proposed amendments to strengthen this further. We also hope to include reference to work with local and subnational governments in the part arranging the newly financial mechanisms in order to secure that local and subnational government can have adequate funding. The wording is available on the website of my organization, the Global cities hub, the website of the coalition, and some printed copies – here with me.

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.

We're ready to engage with negotiators throughout this week to ensure this instrument becomes **actionable, inclusive, just and effective**.

■ PART 2: CONCRETE EXAMPLES & FINAL CALL (3 minutes)

(Practical cases, reinforcing value of partnership)

Let me now share a few concrete examples of how local and subnational governments are already leading the way:

- **In Quebec**, extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws are being implemented through close cooperation between provincial authorities and municipalities — proving that subnational frameworks can push industry accountability.
- **In Catalonia**, a ban on single-use plastics in public events Catalan administration facilities has been rolled out alongside with the promotion of the Circular Fashion Agreement to reduce textile waste or funding for circular economy startups — demonstrating how regulatory action and innovation can go hand-in-hand.
- Finally, There are instruments like **ICLEI's Circular Development Policy Toolkit** that come in. They provide concrete, field-tested policy tools that local governments can immediately apply — from public procurement standards to urban waste strategies. These toolkits are crucial for aligning global ambitions with local realities.

These examples are not isolated — they are part of a growing global trend of local leadership.

So, 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 after the treaty is signed, but now, during the design of its architecture.
- Lastly, but not least, we thank the Government of Switzerland and the secretariat for hosting this very valuable forum. We would also like to wish the secretariat and all delegations success for the 2 weeks ahead of us. Thank you.