GENEVA URBAN DEBATE

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

COVID passes required to attend in person

HYBRID EVENT

24 January 2022
15:00 – 16:45 CET

Villa Rigot,
Av. de la Paix 9
1202 Geneva
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.

Today, the use or rather misuse of plastic represents a significant burden for national, local and regional authorities globally. Plastic pollution is debated at the international level by States lobbied by a large group of civil society organizations and is also on the radar of several international organizations, such as the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Trade Organization or the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP has a certain natural leadership on the issue, through the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA). UNEA is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment which enjoys universal membership of all UN member States.

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 exchange experience about the prevention and reduction of plastic pollution?

The Geneva Cities Hub, with UN-Habitat and partners, welcomes all relevant 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 18 January 2022.

The event will be followed by a light cocktail

Speakers

- UNEP/Geneva Environment Network
- Local/Regional Governments' representatives
- City networks
- State representatives

Moderation: Geneva Cities Hub & UN-Habitat

Registration on the GCH website.