



## **Suggested Language for Cities in “Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument” (UNEP/PP/INC-2/4) on plastic pollution**

Based on States submissions regarding Local and Regional Governments’ participation in the negotiations at INC-2 (Paris, 29 May-2 June 2023)

Remark: This document follows the UNEP/PP/INC-2/4 as basis of the INC-2 forthcoming negotiations and includes where appropriate quotations from States and GCH submissions. In black: text of the UNEP document and in blue: text quoted from the submissions. The quotations could also be placed elsewhere, should the structure of the future Zero draft of the “plastic pollution treaty” be different from the current UNEP document. All submissions quoted below could be consulted [here](#).

### **I. In the part addressing the possible core obligations**

#### **p.7. §5 (point 14 (c.) i. Possible core obligation: strengthening waste management**

(c) Options related to illegal dumping and disposal of plastic waste: (i) Implement measures to ensure the collection, sorting, management, and disposal of plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

*It is essential that the separate collection at source, sorting and recycling, which are the basic principles in the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, is carried out by local governments. (Türkiye’s submission to INC-2).*

*It would be relevant for the instrument to already acknowledge the specific responsibilities of various levels of governments (competencies, capacities and resources) in addressing plastic pollution. This would foster more effective implementation. (GCH’s submission to INC-2).*

*There is a need to strengthen capacity for sustainable waste management, including waste management and landfill operations and management planning. It is important that local authorities and communities are involved in the planning process (Armenia’s submission to INC-2).*

### **II. In the part addressing the means of implementation**

#### **p.15. §2 Capacity Building:**

Capacity-building can help to ensure that all parties have the information and expertise they need to effectively implement the provisions of the instrument.

Capacity-building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership by Parties, including at the national, subnational, and local levels (*USA's submission to INC-2*).

Capacity-building provisions can promote cooperation, technology transfer and education and training, and, along with other provisions, establish networks for knowledge and know-how exchange to assist in the implementation of obligations under the instrument. It could also help ensure that all countries, especially developing countries and small island developing States, have access to adequate, timely capacity-building support.

*Consider...Establishing the pollution control fund at local government level and contributing on that fund based on the quantity of plastic wastes not returned (Nepal's submission to INC-2).*

Environmental awareness and proper training through government programs, local bodies and the public are of utmost importance for further development. In order to create appropriate opportunities for waste management by local government bodies, they need to be supported with financial instruments (subsidies, loans, tax privileges, national and international funds) (*Armenia's submission to INC-2*).

**p.18. §2 “National reporting”, point 31 (c.), i. b:**

Provide **detailed quantifiable information** on the progress in the implementation of the **NAPs**, including in cooperation with regional and local governments. (*based on Philippines and Indonesia's submissions to INC-2*).

National Action Plan on Plastic Management should consider for the formation of central level task force (including the stakeholders) for the effective plastic management and policy guidance. Technical cooperation and coordination is required for the take back the plastic wastes released in the environment and reusing or recycling or safe disposal or safe destruction of plastic wastes especially in local government (*Nepal's submission to INC-2*).

**p.20. point 4 (c.) ii. Periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument and effectiveness evaluation**

(ii) The instrument should establish an intergovernmental scientific body that will track progress on targets and leakage of plastics and microplastic into the environment.

The new instrument would encourage the Contracting Parties to put in place effective implementation compliance promotion and enforcement mechanisms to ensure the implantation of the vision set to the national action plans. In order to execute the process of implementation appropriately in the national and local level, sound enforcement mechanisms should be an essential part of the implementation measures (*Türkiye's submission to INC-2*).

If a monitoring mechanism is foreseen by the treaty, representatives of local governments could be invited to become members, so as to share experiences together with States. Such

an inclusive body could be an innovative way to ensure effective implementation of the instrument (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).

Specific reporting under the new instrument could add burden to the existing reporting obligations of States. In order to prevent this problem, the Geneva Cities Hub suggests to make use of other existing international mechanisms which already include reporting by States and local governments. Such mechanisms include the SDGs reporting process, the Paris agreements and other environment/climate-related instrument or even the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).

#### **p.21 §E. Additional matters**

The treaty should call upon States to follow a “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach in addressing the full life cycle of plastics, in order to include all relevant stakeholders and ensure an effective response to plastic pollution. The role of local governments should be spelt out, such as:

- Implementors, entitled to capacity building and resources, as appropriate, in each State;
- Decision-makers, according to a division of labour decided upon by each State;
- Entities encouraged to commit to the instrument at local level, through formal public commitment (*GCH submission to INC-2*).

**p.21 1. Awareness-raising and education and exchange of information** Comment: Awareness-raising and education can be fundamental to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in a sustainable manner. Education and awareness-raising actions can provide affected communities, workers, producers and consumers with information on the impact of plastics pollution on human health and the environment and on the role of recycling, reduced plastic use, waste management and alternatives. Education and awareness can play a key role in enabling a transition to sustainable consumption and production and supporting and empowering affected communities and groups, including the informal sector.

The instrument should require Parties, within their capabilities at the local, national, regional and/or international level, to cooperate, encourage and/or facilitate awareness raising, education and the exchange of information in support of the instrument objective and provisions. (*Canada's submission to INC-2*).

The new treaty could promote regular exchanges of experiences among States and local governments on specific issues related to plastic pollution, so as to disseminate good practices, foster partnership and apply local solutions to other contexts (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).

The instrument to form a basis for joint work of countries by bringing together not only national and global but also regional actors. Additionally, a functioning and effective mechanism to involve meaningfully categories of stakeholders in the definition of strategies and programs and in the review of progress is crucial. It would involve, among others, designers, plastic industry, trade (e.g. supermarkets), entrepreneurs, local authorities, consumer associations, etc. (*Türkiye's submission to INC-2*).

p. 24. **§5 Stakeholder engagement:** Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 refers to the development of a provision to initiate a multi-stakeholder action agenda.<sup>37</sup> A multi-stakeholder action agenda could provide a space to harness the collective actions of all stakeholders at a global level, driving progress towards solutions and amplifying existing momentum and scale. A multi-stakeholder action agenda could also provide a modality under which initiatives, actions and solutions can be organized and guided to converge and have a measurable collective impact on plastic pollution. [The Multistakeholder Action Agenda](#) could also provide a platform for business, industry, cities, and local government as well as other stakeholders to commit to taking actions and support the implementation of the Treaty (*Norway's submission to INC-2*).