

ARTICLE 18
PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
On behalf of Arab Group of 22 members and Like-Minded Countries

1. Parties ~~are encouraged to 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 are encouraged to~~ promote, ~~as appropriate,~~ such efforts at the national, ~~regional and international~~ levels and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Each Party ~~shall is encouraged to~~ 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 ~~and;~~ national ~~levels, regional and international levels.~~
3. Parties are encouraged, based on their national circumstances and capabilities, to advance scientific and technological research, development, innovation and cooperation, to address plastic pollution including by:
 - (a) Promoting and improving methods ~~to address for the monitoring of~~ plastic pollution, ~~including its distribution and abundance in the environment, including in the marine environment, and impacts on human health;~~
 - (b) ~~Promoting the collaborative development and use of standardized methods and approaches for environmental data collection and analyses, to improve its reliability and comparability; and~~
 - (c) Incorporating traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local community knowledge and other cultural and socio-economic factors, as appropriate.