

Official Statement by Hamraah Foundation on the second part of the Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2)
INC-5.2 – Geneva, Switzerland, 06 August 2025

Hamraah Foundation strongly supports the development of a legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution. As an Indian civil society organization working at the grassroots to advance environmental health, social justice, and community resilience, we witness daily the disproportionate impact of plastic pollution on the most vulnerable—particularly low-income, informal waste workers, women, and marginalized communities.

Plastic pollution is not only an environmental issue—it is a socio-economic and public health crisis. It contaminates our air, water, and food systems; worsens climate change through fossil-fuel-based production; and deepens existing inequalities. The current linear plastics economy—based on extractive production, overconsumption, and insufficient waste infrastructure—is unsustainable and unjust.

Hamraah Foundation welcomes the Treaty's commitment to a **full lifecycle approach** that includes upstream measures such as reduction, redesign, and regulation of plastic production; midstream interventions like reuse and refill systems; and downstream strategies for environmentally sound waste management and remediation. This systems-level transformation must be rooted in the principles of **equity, circularity, precaution, and intergenerational responsibility**.

We urge Parties to prioritize the following elements in the final treaty text:

1. **Legally Binding Obligations:** Voluntary measures alone have failed. The Treaty must include clear, enforceable targets and timelines for reducing plastic production and phasing out problematic and avoidable plastics.
2. **Just Transition and Inclusion of the Informal Sector:** Millions of waste workers play a crucial role in plastic recovery, yet remain excluded from decision-making and protections. A just transition must guarantee social safeguards, formal recognition, and decent livelihoods for these frontline workers.
3. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Corporate Accountability:** Producers must internalize the environmental costs of their products through mandatory, transparent EPR schemes, not externalize them onto communities or ecosystems.
4. **Financing and Technology Transfer:** Developing countries require predictable, adequate, and accessible finance to implement treaty obligations. The financial mechanism should support infrastructure, innovation, capacity building, and equitable access to alternatives.
5. **Data, Transparency, and Monitoring:** Global and national baselines, harmonized standards, and independent monitoring are essential to ensure transparency and effectiveness. Communities must have access to information and the ability to hold polluters accountable.

As negotiations advance, we stress that ambition must be matched with action. Vague language, weak targets, or loopholes will undermine the potential of this Treaty. Plastic pollution is borderless and escalating—only through international solidarity, bold commitments, and inclusive implementation can we protect planetary and human health.

Hamraah Foundation reaffirms its commitment to support this process by amplifying community voices, promoting sustainable alternatives, and holding stakeholders accountable. We stand with the global movement calling for a Treaty that is not only historic in scope but transformative in impact.

Let this Treaty be remembered not as a missed opportunity, but as the turning point toward a plastic-free, just, and sustainable future.