Thank you chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to end plastic pollution. The Coalition was convened under the leadership of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the government of Catalonia, Government of Québec and UCLG, with the support of many partners including Global Cities Hub, Regions4, C40 and WWF, and in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UNEP. The Coalition was officially launched yesterday during Partnership Day and already has the support of many cities, local and subnational governments.

The objectives of the Coalition are to ensure that local and subnational governments are recognized as key stakeholders during the negotiations process, and included in the text of the future international instrument, to ensure effective implementation. These objectives may appear simple, but yet, they are not reflected in the current revised zero draft.

Plastic pollution is a complex issue, involving multiples stakeholders. As such, it requires a “whole of government’ and “whole of society approach”, which need to be better reflected in the future instrument, especially in its preamble, principles and Implementation sections. We wish to appreciate the important reference to ensuring adequate technical and financial
resources for subnational governments in relation to "waste management". However, this reference does not go far enough to encompass inclusion in decision making, nor the role of subnational governments across the plastic supply chain.

We’re ready to help. Our aim is to contribute to this global threat and to provide our perspective, experiences and good practices to deliver an effective, ambitious and robust treaty.

You can find our position statement and suggested inputs on the Coalition webpage. The statement will be open to signatories and supporting partners. While we aim to elevate the voice of local and subnational governments, we also wish to engage directly with the Members, so we invite you to connect with us over the course of the week, and we look forward to supporting your efforts.

Thank you.