

LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

*Answers to the guiding questions as starting point in Cluster discussions
for the Second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation
to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution*

27 – 30 September 2026, Bangkok

Local and subnational governments (LSNGs) are essential to translating the future treaty into effective action on the ground. They are often responsible for waste management, local regulation, infrastructure, public services and enforcement, and are therefore among the key actors able to turn global commitments into practical implementation. **Ensuring that their roles, capacities and perspectives are appropriately reflected in the future instrument is crucial for its effectiveness and long-term impact.**

The Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (LSNG Coalition) brings together local and subnational governments and their networks, alongside partner organizations, with the aim of ensuring that these levels of government are recognized as key partners in addressing plastic pollution across its full life cycle. The LSNG Coalition works to provide a coordinated voice for local and subnational governments in the INC process and to strengthen cooperation between national, regional and local levels.

As proposed by H. E. Amb. Julio Cordano, **please find below the LSNG Coalition answers to the guiding questions for the informal in-person meeting in Bangkok and its suggested language.** The LSNG Coalition would be very pleased to engage with all interested Member States and to exchange views on how the role of local and subnational governments can best be reflected in the future treaty. We remain fully available for further information, discussion or exchange at your convenience. Please contact us as at circular.development@iclei.org.

Cluster A:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • National plans | • Information exchange |
| • Reporting | • Effectiveness evaluation |
| • Implementation and compliance | |

Suggested language by the LSNG Coalition on the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026):

ARTICLE 13: NATIONAL PLANS

3. In implementing paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, Parties shall consult relevant national stakeholders, **such as local and subnational governments**, to facilitate the development, implementation, review and updating of their national plans.

ARTICLE 16: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

1. All Parties are encouraged to facilitate the exchange of information, **in collaboration with local and subnational governments as appropriate**, in support of the objective of this Convention.

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1. What purposes are National Plans expected to serve as a contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the instrument?

National Plans should serve as the primary implementation vehicles for achieving the objectives of the instrument. They should be developed through an inclusive, transparent and participatory process, involving meaningful participation, impact and implementation assessments. **Parties should be required to involve local and subnational governments,** and other relevant stakeholders, in the design, implementation and review of National Plans. **Such participation can facilitate the effective design, implementation, review and updating of National Plans, while enhancing ownership, accountability and policy coherence across governance levels.**

Particularly regarding LSNGs, National Plans should:

- Translate the instrument's commitments into concrete, time-bound and measurable actions, **clearly identifying the competent national, subnational and local authorities (co-) responsible for their implementation,** as well as expected outcomes and verifiable indicators for monitoring progress. The instrument should formally recognize local and subnational governments as essential partners in preventing and reducing plastic pollution.
- **Ensure multilevel policy coherence** by integrating measures to prevent and end plastic pollution into relevant sectoral policies, development plans, programmes and strategies at national, subnational and local levels.

National Plans and related regulatory, policy and planning instruments at national, subnational and local levels can only be effective if they are supported by adequate implementation, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, as well as sufficient financial resources, technical assistance and capacity-building.

2. How could provisions on reporting, implementation and compliance, information exchange, and effectiveness evaluation support the overall implementation of the instrument, and what is the relationship between these articles?

These provisions are essential to ensuring the effective and practical implementation of the instrument. For this reason, **the relevant articles should explicitly recognize and engage all levels of government, including local and subnational governments,** and other relevant stakeholders.

Effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation of progress require transparency, accountability, comparability and harmonization. Common approaches would facilitate compliance assessment, improve accountability and enable the measurement of collective progress towards the objectives of the instrument.

Local and subnational governments possess extensive practical experience in designing and implementing effective, feasible and context-specific measures to address plastic pollution. Their expertise is particularly valuable in areas such as waste prevention, collection systems, reuse schemes, circular economy initiatives, public procurement, awareness-raising, enforcement and stakeholder engagement. **Mechanisms should therefore be established to facilitate the exchange, replication and scaling-up of successful approaches across jurisdictions facing similar challenges.**

3. What will be the role of information exchange in the overall implementation of the instrument and how can it contribute to its effectiveness?

Parties should be encouraged to facilitate and strengthen information exchange at international, national, subnational and local levels. In doing so, they should collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including local and subnational governments, recognizing their practical experience and expertise in implementing measures to prevent and reduce plastic pollution. Such multilevel

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cooperation can enhance the dissemination of effective solutions, support capacity-building efforts and accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the instrument.

Cluster B:

- Releases and leakages
- Existing and legacy plastic pollution
- Plastic waste management
- Plastic products design
- Plastic products

Suggested language by the LSNG Coalition on the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026):

ARTICLE 7: PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

2. (a) Establish systems and disaster-resilient infrastructure at the national **and subnational** levels for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste [consistent with waste hierarchy]; *(already included in the current document)*

ARTICLE 8: EXISTING AND LEGACY PLASTIC POLLUTION

1. (a) Take measures to identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones most significantly affected by existing and legacy plastic pollution within its national jurisdiction, including in the marine environment, **in collaboration with local and subnational governments;**

1. What considerations should guide decisions on determining which plastic products will require possible global measures, actions or cooperation?

Decisions on identifying plastic products that require global measures, actions or international cooperation should be guided by science-based criteria and consider their impacts throughout the full life cycle of plastics, as well as their contribution to plastic pollution and associated risks to human health and the environment.

Key considerations should include:

- Human health and environmental impacts, including the presence of hazardous chemicals and substances of concern.
- Occurrence, persistence and accumulation in the environment.
- The potential to generate microplastics, including both primary and secondary microplastics.
- The feasibility of prevention and reduction measures, considering whether a product should necessarily be made from plastic.
- The availability of safe, sustainable, reusable and affordable alternatives.
- **Economic and social implications, including impacts on national, subnational and local waste management systems, resource efficiency, employment, public expenditure and the capacity of communities and authorities to implement alternative solutions.**

2. What type of enabling factors should be considered to address existing and legacy plastic pollution, including the process to identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones and subsequent remediation efforts?

Addressing existing and legacy plastic pollution requires an enabling framework that supports the identification, assessment, remediation and prevention of plastic accumulation zones, in collaboration with local and subnational governments. Local and subnational governments are often on the front line of managing plastic pollution and its impacts. They have the expertise, knowledge and experience needed for their involvement and collaboration in identifying historical accumulation sites,

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assessing environmental, socioeconomic and public health impacts, and designing effective remediation strategies.

3. How can Parties cooperate in the implementation of effective waste management policies, taking into account the different national circumstances and needs?

Recognizing that plastic pollution originates from multiple sources, has multiples impacts, transcends national boundaries and is driven by diverse socioeconomic circumstances, Parties should strengthen cooperation to support the development and implementation of effective, equitable and environmentally sound waste management systems, **in collaboration with local and subnational governments, as already included in the current Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026).**

Recognizing the critical role of local and subnational governments in waste collection, management and the prevention of plastic leakage into the environment and facilitating the exchange of practical experience, operational knowledge and good practices will strengthen the cooperation and the effective implementation of the instrument.

Cluster C:

- Capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer, including international cooperation
- Financial resources and mechanism

Suggested language by the LSNG Coalition on the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026):

ARTICLE 10: FINANCIAL [RESOURCES AND] MECHANISM

1. Each Party [shall][should][undertakes to] [is encouraged to] [provide][mobilize], within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention, [taking into account][in accordance with] national policies, **local and subnational circumstances and capabilities**, priorities, plans, and programmes. [Such resources may include domestic funding through relevant policies, development strategies and national budgets, and bilateral and multilateral funding, as well as private sector investment and contributions, as appropriate, **taking into account the local and subnational needs and measures of implementation.**]

ARTICLE 11: CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2. Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer [on voluntary and mutually agreed terms][on concessional and preferential terms] under this Article may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, as well as through multilateral, bilateral and partnership approaches, **and through collaboration with local and subnational governments, as appropriate.**

1. What elements must be considered to ensure that all available financial sources, including public finance, are effectively mobilized for the implementation of the instrument?

The effective mobilization of financial resources should recognize the critical role of local and subnational governments and other relevant stakeholders in implementing measures under the instrument. Financing frameworks should therefore ensure that resources can reach the most appropriate level of implementation, considering local and subnational circumstances, capacities and priorities, and supporting equitable access to means of implementation across all levels of governance.

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2. What role should the private sector have in facilitating the mobilization of financial resources, capacity building and technical assistance, and what elements could be considered under the financial mechanism to promote such a role?

To maximize effectiveness, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer should be delivered through multilateral, bilateral and partnership approaches, **including collaboration with local and subnational governments**, as appropriate, **recognizing their critical role in implementing waste management, circular economy, monitoring and awareness-raising measures and enabling the scaling-up of practical solutions, infrastructure, technology deployment, training and technical support.**

3. What provisions related to technology transfer could foster international cooperation, considering the capacity differences between countries?

International cooperation should strengthen national, subnational and local capacities to prevent and reduce plastic pollution across the full life cycle of plastics.

To accommodate differing levels of capacity, technology transfer should be complemented by capacity-building, technical assistance, institutional strengthening and knowledge-sharing. Support should be tailored to national priorities and circumstances and delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, as well as through multilateral, bilateral and partnership approaches. In this regard, **collaboration with local and subnational governments can help ensure that technologies and technical expertise reach the levels of governance where implementation actions are undertaken and where capacity gaps are often most pronounced.**

Cluster D:

- Preamble
- Objective
- Principles and approaches
- Definitions
- Just transition
- Public information, awareness, education and research
- Secretariat
- Final provisions

Suggested language by the LSNG Coalition on the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026):

PREAMBLE

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health problem **at a local, subnational, regional and global scale**, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

OR

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health problem **with impacts at the local, subnational, regional and global levels**, negatively **affecting** the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

Underlining the role of local and subnational governments in the development and the implementation of effective measures addressing the full life cycle of plastics,

Recognizing that effective implementation of this Convention requires cooperation among national and subnational governments, in accordance with Parties' constitutional arrangements;

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ARTICLE 2: PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

h) The whole of government, and whole of society approach.

ARTICLE 17: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

1. Parties shall promote [and facilitate access to information,] public awareness, education and research related to [the potential adverse effects of] plastic pollution, [including risks to human health] [and its effects] relevant to the implementation of this Convention and shall promote, as appropriate, such efforts at the national, regional and international levels and cooperate, as appropriate, **with relevant local and subnational governments**, as well as intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations [, recognizing the importance of international collaboration and cooperation in enhancing the understanding of, and access to, the relevant information and data]. *(already included in the current document)*

1. Which principles and approaches could be useful in guiding the effective implementation of the instrument, and how could these be best reflected in the instrument?

Principles and approaches should include the ones mentioned in UNEA Resolution 5/14. Specifically for the involvement, recognition and effective implementation of the instrument, **the whole of government, and the whole of society approach** should be part of the provision on that matter.

2. How can actions related to public information, awareness, education, and research support implementation?

As already included in the current Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026), Parties need to promote and facilitate access to information, public awareness, education and research related to plastic pollution and cooperation with relevant local and subnational governments as they have regulatory powers, can implement innovative solution, understand local realities, and can more closely engage with stakeholders connecting science, policy and communities.

3. Considering the progress achieved so far in the discussions related to issues such as the Secretariat and definitions, does the current formulation in the Aid to Negotiations reflect the level of detail required?

N/A