Statement by the Asociación Amigos de las Naciones Unidas/ United Nations Association of Spain, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2012, jointly with the Government of Catalonia

Regarding Local and Regional Governments’ participation in the negotiations at INC-2 (Paris, 29 May – 2 June 2023)

Your Excellency Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair of the INC, delegates, observers, ladies, and gentlemen,

An international legally binding instrument to regulate the full cycle of plastics can effectively address global plastic pollution. Sub-state governments can contribute to its success by sharing local insights, implementing strict regulations, promoting recycling and circular economy initiatives, and raising awareness among local communities. Their involvement ensures a more comprehensive and effective global approach to tackling plastic pollution.

While recognizing the responsibility for implementing such an instrument may largely fall upon national governments, the involvement of sub-state governments can play a crucial role in contributing to its effectiveness. Furthermore, sub-state governments often have regulatory powers and the ability to enforce policies at a more localized level. They can develop and enforce stringent regulations regarding plastic production, use, and disposal within their jurisdictions.

The Suggested Language for Local and Regional Governments for elements towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/PP/INC-2/4) provides a shared framework that might be helpful to implement an effective global response to plastic pollution.

We look forward to continuing working at INC3.

Thank you.

Mrs. Eulàlia Pascual
President