



### Geneva Cities Hub's written submission prior to INC-3 (part b)

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#### Introduction

Cities are particularly affected by plastic pollution and face significant challenges in dealing with plastic waste. They are on the frontline of waste management, often without the necessary resources.

The Geneva Cities Hub (GCH) strongly urges States to consult their local and regional governments to ensure that the negotiations include their perspectives, and that the new treaty may be implemented in a most effective manner to curb plastic pollution.

More particularly, we suggest that:

- Local governments are able to demonstrate their political commitment towards the new treaty, including its core obligations. This will ensure effective implementation of the treaty at the local level.
- During the negotiations, in the next INCs, local governments should be able to put forward proposals, to take the floor to present them directly, and to comment on others' proposals.
- In the treaty, reference should be made to local governments as implementing actors but also as decision-making entities when it comes to weighing on the full lifecycle of plastic.

Below, the GCH wishes to echo key submissions previously presented by States and GCH to INC-2. They include important potential elements of the treaty, which contribute to an inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder outcome.

The GCH will provide more language proposals on the zero draft when it is available.

## **Inputs for *Contact group 1*:**

### **I. Options related to illegal dumping and disposal of plastic waste: (i) Implement measures to ensure the collection, sorting, management, and disposal of plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner.**

- It is essential that the separate collection at source, sorting and recycling, which are the basic principles in the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, is carried out by local governments. (*Türkiye's submission to INC-2*).
- It would be relevant for the instrument to already acknowledge the specific responsibilities of various levels of governments (competencies, capacities and resources) in addressing plastic pollution. This would foster more effective implementation. (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).
- Consider...establishing the pollution control fund at local government level and contributing on that fund based on the quantity of plastic wastes not returned (*Nepal's submission to INC-2*).

## **Inputs for Contact Group 2:**

### **I. Capacity Building:**

Capacity-building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership by Parties, including at the national, subnational, and local levels (*USA's submission to INC-2*).

There is a need to strengthen capacity for sustainable waste management, including waste management and landfill operations and management planning. It is important that local authorities and communities are involved in the planning process (*Armenia's submission to INC-2*).

Environmental awareness and proper training through government programs, local bodies and the public are of utmost importance for further development. In order to create appropriate opportunities for waste management by local government bodies, they need to be supported with financial instruments (subsidies, loans, tax privileges, national and international funds) (*Armenia's submission to INC-2*).

### **II. National reporting**

Provide detailed quantifiable information on the progress in the implementation of the National Action Plans, including in cooperation with regional and local governments. (*based on Philippines and Indonesia's submissions to INC-2*).

National Action Plan on Plastic Management should consider for the formation of central level task force (including the stakeholders) for the effective plastic management and policy guidance. Technical cooperation and coordination is required for the take back of plastic wastes released in the environment and reusing or recycling or safe disposal or safe destruction of plastic wastes especially in local government (*Nepal's submission to INC-2*).

### **III. Periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument and effectiveness evaluation**

The new instrument would encourage the Contracting Parties to put in place effective implementation compliance promotion and enforcement mechanisms to ensure the implantation of the vision set to the national action plans. In order to execute the process of implementation appropriately in the national and local level, sound enforcement mechanisms should be an essential part of the implementation measures (*Türkiye's submission to INC-2*).

Establishing the Monitoring mechanism in all levels of government (*Nepal's submission to INC-2*).

If a monitoring mechanism is foreseen by the treaty, representatives of local governments could be invited to become members, so as to share experiences together with States. Such an inclusive body could be an innovative way to ensure effective implementation of the instrument (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).

Specific reporting under the new instrument could add burden to the existing reporting obligations of States. In order to prevent this problem, the Geneva Cities Hub suggests making use of other existing international mechanisms which already include reporting by States and local governments. Such mechanisms include the SDGs reporting process, the Paris agreements and other environment/climate-related instrument or even the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council (*GCH's submission to INC-2*).

### **IV. Additional matters**

The treaty should call upon States to follow a “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach in addressing the full life cycle of plastics, in order to include all relevant stakeholders and ensure effective prevention and response to plastic pollution. The role of local governments should be spelt out, such as:

- Implementors, entitled to capacity building and resources, as appropriate, in each State;
- Decision-makers, according to a division of labour decided upon by each State;
- Entities encouraged to commit to the instrument at local level, through formal public commitment (*GCH submission to INC-2*).

## **V. Awareness-raising and education and exchange of information**

The instrument should require Parties, within their capabilities at the local, national, regional and/or international level, to cooperate, encourage and/or facilitate awareness raising, education and the exchange of information in support of the instrument objective and provisions. *(Canada's submission to INC-2).*

The new treaty could promote regular exchanges of experiences among States and local governments on specific issues related to plastic pollution, so as to disseminate good practices, foster partnership and apply local solutions to other contexts *(GCH's submission to INC-2).*

The instrument to form a basis for joint work of countries by bringing together not only national and global but also regional actors. Additionally, a functioning and effective mechanism to involve meaningfully categories of stakeholders in the definition of strategies and programs and in the review of progress is crucial. It would involve, among others, designers, plastic industry, trade (e.g., supermarkets), entrepreneurs, local authorities, consumer associations, etc. *(Türkiye's submission to INC-2).*

## **VI. Stakeholder engagement:**

The Multistakeholder Action Agenda could also provide a platform for business, industry, cities, and local government as well as other stakeholders to commit to taking actions and support the implementation of the Treaty *(Norway's submission to INC-2).*