Proposed response template on written submissions prior to INC-3 (part a)

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<tr>
<th>Name of organization (for observers to the committee)</th>
<th>ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>15 August 2023</td>
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Elements not discussed at INC-2

1. Scope

What is the proposed scope for the future instrument?

Which types of substances, materials, products and behaviors should be covered by the future instrument?

Proposed scope:

- Reduction and elimination of harmful substances/chemicals, such as Bisphenol A and Phthalates.
- Immediate banning of single use plastics.
- Whole of society approach, taking into account resources and further enabling aspects that can be contributed by cities and sub-national governments, and the power of consumer demand. This includes a ‘just transition’ approach.

Explanatory Text:

- In addition to plastics contaminating our natural environments, there is a direct negative impact on human health. Chemicals that disrupt hormones and cause cancer need to be carefully managed.
- There needs to be urgent momentum built for reducing and eliminating harmful plastics. This can be achieved by banning ‘easy to eliminate plastics’ such as shopping bags, straws, packaging material.
- National governments have a plethora of mandates, priorities and limited resources. Many stakeholders, such as cities and sub-national governments have a vested interest in eliminating plastics. It is important to find a balance to harness the resources and insight available in cities while protecting from undue negative lobbying from stakeholders with vested interests to maintain the status-quo.
2. Principles

What principles could be set out in the future instrument to guide its implementation?

Proposed principles:

Cities, towns and regions will be at the forefront of implementing the future international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, even given the numerous possible variations of means of implementation. We propose that local governments are given due consideration in its development and mentioned in the text.

Explanatory Text:

Local governments are responsible for managing solid waste and addressing plastic waste leakage into the environment in their jurisdictional boundaries. They can take legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the use of certain products and materials locally, and can harness their procurement power to prioritize plastics alternatives or secondary materials, which can have an impact on shaping the wider marketplace. Cities, towns and regions can also deploy waste reduction and awareness raising campaigns to influence public behavior. Local governments will be obliged to implement the measures mandated by the instrument, therefore their involvement in its development can ensure that it is actionable and addresses local needs, while raising the ambition.

3. Additional considerations

Provide any other relevant inputs, proposals or priorities here that have not been discussed at INC-2 (e.g. preamble; institutional arrangements, including governing body, subsidiary bodies, scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, and secretariat; final provisions including dispute settlements; and if appropriate annexes).

Proposed inputs:

- There should be a clear mandate and responsibilities delineated to address plastic pollution beyond jurisdictional boundaries.
- A Circular Economy approach needs to be incorporated as a key consideration of the treaty.
- A mechanism to involve cities, towns and regions in the development, and implementation, of the international legally binding instrument should be foreseen to ensure it is responsive to, and actionable across, different local contexts.

Explanatory Text:

Plastic leakage into the environment that is beyond jurisdictional boundaries, i.e. in natural areas and rivers between cities and towns, as well as plastic pollution that is beyond national maritime boundaries, is not adequately managed. To ensure that this is addressed, the international legally
binding agreement should ensure that there are clear mandates that delineate responsibilities for addressing plastic waste beyond current jurisdictional boundaries.

The Circular Economy offers an integrated approach to addressing and minimizing the adverse health and environmental consequences of plastics across the whole lifecycle. Adopting this approach will ensure that plastics can be carefully managed by all stakeholders. Further, the development of an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution should be linked to the 10YFP for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

Building on the practice of Rio Conventions since early 1990s, as well as in other fora such as UN Environment Assembly, UN Habitat Assembly, High level Political Forum, subnational governments, including local and regional governments of towns, cities, regions, states should be recognized as a Constituency to the Global Plastics Treaty through their national and global networks, in coordination with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. This Constituency should be engaged in the consultations of the Treaty, and its implementation at all levels.