Your Excellencies, our constituency of local and regional governments represented by ICLEI, UCLG and several mayors, governors and their representatives congratulate our hosts, France, UNEP, UNESCO, Mr. Chair and the Executive Secretary for making this INC-2 process and our engagement here possible.

Many aspects of global agreements are ultimately implemented locally, in and around the cities and regions where most of humanity already live.

It is also here where most of the production and consumption of plastics happens.

A threat, yes. But also, a significant opportunity! Cities and regions should be enabled to take up a significant role in addressing the Treaty, not only once it is agreed to in 2024, but already now in formulating it.

We thank Mayor Hidalgo of Paris who hosted a special mayoral session on Friday where alignment with the High Ambition Coalition was expressed, followed by an open discussion with the ES where our cities and subnational constituency statement was shared and will be formally submitted to the INC 2 Secretariat.

We thank those Parties bringing all levels of government into this important process and for your commitment to develop an ambitious, measurable and time-bound Treaty. We call for cities and other subnational governments, their communities, and indeed, for all the major groups to be part of this important process, which MUST result in a cleaner, safer and healthier future for people and planet alike. Finally, in promotion of an inclusive governmental
system, we recognise the latest G7 communique, that brings to the fore circular development and the critical importance of local governments in delivering on it.

Thank you.
Delivered by Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI on behalf of the Local Authorities Major Group