The International Alliance of Waste Pickers is very encouraged to see Just Transition and waste pickers included in the submissions of so many countries, regional groups, civil society organizations and business groups. There is incredible momentum around this, as people recognize that environmental rights, human rights, and labor rights go hand in hand. **For that to be possible, Just Transition must be a core obligation in the plastics treaty.**

In order for a just transition to be truly just, it must address the needs of the most vulnerable workers first and foremost, especially those in informal and cooperative settings. This means waste pickers must be prioritized. Since the origins of waste, there have been waste pickers. The treaty should establish a mechanism to ensure a fair, equitable and inclusive transition for waste pickers. This would include integrating us into all systems to collect, sort, transport and add value to recyclables; and working with us as partners in the design, implementation and revision of these programs. It includes establishing fair prices and environmental service fees, which our organizations are already pioneering in a number of countries. It means improved working conditions, access to materials and infrastructure, healthcare and social security; as well as legal recognition both in the treaty and at our national levels. We must be able to continue our current work in collection, but also advance in value chains and decision making processes. As the ILO declares, in the transition to a greener economy, there must be distributive justice. To end plastic pollution, we must place justice at the heart of this treaty. Because a plastics treaty without waste pickers is garbage.