JOINT INTERVENTION FOR THE INC3 CLOSING PLENARY
November 19 2023
Local & Subnational Government Working Group, delivered by Magash Naidoo
(2 minutes – 301 words)

Your Excellencies,
I am speaking on behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of over 2500 subnational governments around the world, and sitting here at INC3 in partnership with the Government of Quebec, and other partners in the Local and Subnational Working Group.

We want to thank and congratulate the chair, secretariat, co-facilitators, members and observers for the work accomplished this week, in the Nairobi spirit. We particularly appreciate the inclusive and participatory process.

Sometimes in these processes, we forget the realities and the stakes that we are all fighting for. We have all seen images of nature entangled in plastics. We have also benefited from the brilliant innovations supported by plastics, but now we have to address the negative unintended consequences of our actions.

As we have done at the preparatory meeting and in contact groups, we reiterate the essential role of local and subnational governments in the effective realization of this future instrument.

These ideas have been supported by a number of members, as well as in the written submissions and summary reports.

We feel this is promising, as with our experience in other MEA processes, such as the UNFCCC and CBD, in which we have seen that effective implementation was first supported through direct and indirect empowerment of subnational governments.

More than ever we have to work together with a whole of society and a whole of government approach. We are here to support the members in the achievement of this instrument; we offer our services to members and the Secretariat to support with definitions and wording.

We look forward to engaging with members and observers ahead of INC4, and we invite you to engage directly with members of the Local and Subnational Government constituency at our planned meeting in Ottawa in the days preceding INC4.