



**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,**

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

The Geneva Cities Hub strongly urges national governments to consult their local and regional governments in order to ensure that this negotiation and the consecutive new treaty reflects their concern and that it can be implemented in a realistic manner.

**WE SUGGEST THAT:**

- Local governments should be able to demonstrate their political commitment towards **the treaty, including the core obligations contained in it**. This will ensure continuity of the treaty's implementation.
- During the negotiations, local governments **should be able to put forward proposals**, to take the floor to present them directly, to comment on others' proposals, and so on, as of next INC-3 already;
- In the *treaty* itself, reference should be made to local governments as **implementing actors but also as decision-making entities when it comes to deciding upon the full lifecycle of plastic**.

The Geneva Cities Hub has put forward suggested **language on including LRGs** on its website, under "news", and has submitted it to the Secretariat. The language is based on States submissions to INC-2. We therefore strongly encourage States to use their own language to include local and regional

governments in the negotiations and the text of the treaty. We will continue to provide suggested language ahead of the next round of negotiations.

I thank you.

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Local governments are instrumental in any plastic pollution discussion, in particular with regard to the implementation of measures to address the blight. Plastics are everywhere and local governments are in most cases responsible for many of the collection points, for waste management and, more and more, they are on the frontlines of urban health, which is affected by the release of microplastics in the environment. Local governments are in contact with businesses dealing with plastic production/use and have a better grasp of the concrete reality. They are “the eyes, the ears and the hands” on the ground.

States will improve their capacity to the objectives of the instrument if they embrace local governments as partners from the very beginning of the process and provide them with a specific status to participate in the negotiations and implementation of the plastic pollution instrument.

Negotiating together and implementing together is the only path to success!