

Your Excellencies, I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Local Authorities Major Group, in partnership with ICLEI and various other local and subnational stakeholders.

We thank and congratulate the chair, the executive secretary, the secretariat and the members for ensuring that progress was made during INC-2.

The integrated nature of this plastics pollution challenge calls for integrated solutions. We have heard many opinions, many of which will ultimately result in implementation at a local and sub-national level. We thus call for effective multi-level governance considerations.

Cities and subnational authorities are the closest levels of government to our society, and a primary agent of change. We have first hand expertise on the plastics lifecycle, and request that this insight be incorporated.

Furthermore, our Major Groups are organized, diplomatic, and stand ready to assist. We need to ensure that the perspective of those most impacted AND those having implementation power AND those that could be left behind AND those that could contribute to local economic development are directly taken into account.

Coming to the end of INC-2, we request your consideration for the following points:

One, Cities and subnational governments, through the Local Authorities Major Group should be able to provide knowledge, best practices and our expertise to enhance your positions. We thank you in advance for

supporting and enabling an inclusive process for the upcoming committee and intersessional meetings.

And finally, point two. The zero draft must incorporate cities and sub-national governments and take a holistic view to governance. We request that the whole of government approach be added as a guiding principle for the elements of the treaty.

We stand ready to support the INC process going forward and call on the members to be ambitious, brave and resolute in drafting an ambitious Zero Draft that can lead to an urgent, legally binding, inclusive and ultimately implementable Treaty by the end of 2024.

We thank you.

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