H.E. Amb. Julio Cordano
Chairperson
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC)

16 September 2026

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (Coalition), we would like to recognize the significant intersessional work you have consistently coordinated since your election in February 2026.

Addressing plastic pollution is a complex issue, involving multiple sources, actors and stakeholders; this requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to deliver effective solutions. Local and Subnational Governments (LSNGs) bring unique expertise, practical experience, and regulatory capacities that can enhance the effectiveness of implementation and enforcement efforts of the instrument. As many of the instrument's obligations will ultimately require action at the local and subnational level, recognizing their contribution within the text will strengthen the instrument's overall effectiveness and facilitate its implementation.

That is why one of the main goals of the Coalition is to engage with Member States, the INC Secretariat and the INC Bureau with a unified voice towards the inclusion of LSNG in the final text of the instrument.

We gladly welcome the inclusion of two references to LSNGs in the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026) in article 7 and in article 17. This reflects growing recognition of their contribution to addressing plastic pollution. We strongly encourage you to give due consideration to the Coalition's suggested language, enclosed to this letter. We believe additional opportunities exist to further recognize and acknowledge the role of LSNGs in supporting the effective implementation of the instrument. We stand firmly committed to cooperate with you and your team and to that end, we respectfully submit the following suggested language.

For further information please contact Dr Magash Naidoo, Head: Circular Development, World Secretariat, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the Coalition's Focal Point (Magashen.Naidoo@iclei.org).

We remain confident that an ambitious outcome regarding the instrument can be reached and reaffirm our readiness to support your efforts in any way that may contribute to a successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

Gino Van Begin
Secretary General
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Emilia Saiz Carrancedo
Secretary General
United Cities and Local Governments

Jean Lemire
Envoy for Climate change, Northern and Arctic Affairs
Government of Québec

Gabriel Boichat
Head of the Delegation to Switzerland
Government of Catalonia

Original signed

Kamelia Kemileva
Co-directrice
Global Cities Hub

Encl.: Coalition's Suggested language on the Aid to Negotiations (8 August 2026)

CC: INC Secretariat, INC focal points