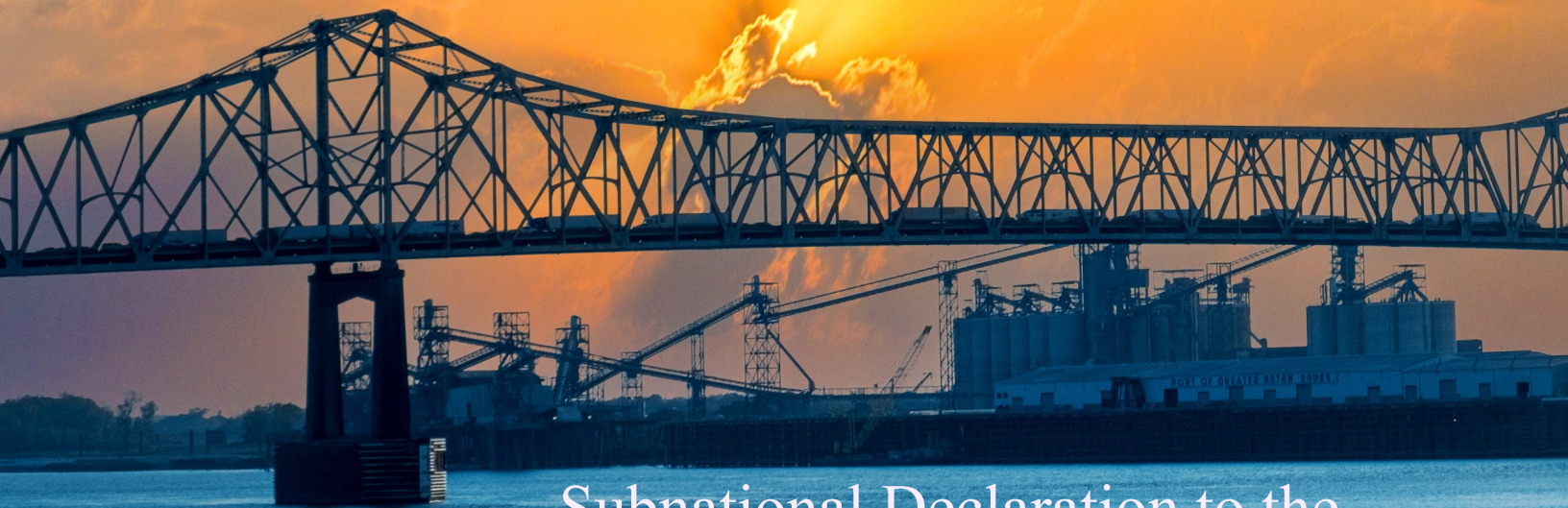


MRCTI



Subnational Declaration to the  
Intergovernmental Negotiating  
Committee (INC) on  
**Plastic Pollution 4**, Ottawa, Canada

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April 2024

# Cities' Urgent Declaration to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution 4, *Ottawa, Canada, April 2024*

We, as cities across the world, do hereby confirm the powerful and united position to reduce dependence on plastic and commit to working through a multi-lateral treaty and across our several continents to capture and dramatically lower plastic waste being released into our environment.

## **The Plastic Pollution Crisis and Subnational Governments**

Cities stand on the frontline of plastic pollution impacts and are best positioned to design and implement solutions supported by a global treaty on plastic pollution.

The current level of plastic waste in our cities is a merging of overconsumption, mismanaged production, and a complete overwhelming of city infrastructure to assimilate incredible waste streams from every facet of the economy.

The planet is producing more than 400 million tons of plastic waste annually, and over 70 percent (70%) of that volume is from municipal solid waste sources. Five billion people globally lack access to solid waste disposal facilities and solid waste collection infrastructure.

Plastic waste is just as ubiquitous in our environment as it is throughout the world's many economies. Cities are uniquely dependent on riverine environmental services to support up to eight local economies including manufacturing and agriculture. Over 5.8 million tons of plastic waste annually pollutes rivers globally (OECD Global Plastics Outlook Database).

## **Cities Will Lead in Implementing a Global Plastic Pollution Treaty**

Because the epicenter of the plastic pollution crisis is cities, we are tasked with addressing the consequences of plastic pollution and implementing many of the charges and policy established by nations through a global plastic pollution treaty. It is critical that cities are brought into and made part of the treaty negotiation agenda much like they have recently been brought into the UNFCCC process.

Importantly, many of the solutions and approaches under consideration through the INC process are already being implemented in cities across the world at varying scales. Cities are determined to continue this work with or without a global treaty and can thus bring the most value and practical experience to inform INC negotiations.

Regional collaboration, source reduction of single-use plastics, prevention of plastic litter, expanded circularity prioritizing for local benefit, spurring of post-consumer waste materials trade, and implementing of consistent reporting and tracking are just some of the transformative actions being taken by cities.

### **Cities' Priority List for a Global Plastic Pollution Treaty**

The subnational governments signed onto this declaration do hereby call for the following provisions to be included in the Global Plastic Pollution Treaty:

- Identification of chemicals and polymers of concern as well as problematic and avoidable plastic products;
- Policy for scalable Reduce, reuse, refill and repair/Circularity approaches for plastic products;
- Implementation of consistent regulatory measures that will improve the economics and quality of mechanical recycling of plastics;
- National Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy that includes reduction, reuse, and recycling;
- Solid Waste management system improvements inclusive of existing local small business providers for local economic benefit, and that include required consistent tracking and reporting of collected recoverable materials to their final destination;
- Local economic transition resources to replace legacy petro-based manufacturing with clean alternatives;
- The establishment of incentives to expand a post-consumer waste materials economy.

### **Decisive Action**

Subnational governments can not and will not abdicate this incredible challenge of our time to nation-states alone – the responsibility of cities to be part of the solution is beyond reproach. Therefore, we call upon the INC to receive this declaration as official input into the treaty negotiation agenda and make subnational governments part of the process by which a global plastic pollution treaty will be assembled and finalized.

*Agreed to and submitted by the following subnational governments and organization:*

Originally drafted and shared by the cities along the Mississippi River,  
North American Continent