Statement by the International Solid Waste Association

Delivered by ISWAs President Carlos Silva Filho
Paris, France

I am honoured to be able to contribute to this INC process on behalf of ISWA, the International Solid Waste Association.

(1) Considering the several types of plastics on the market that do not have potential for recovery, the instrument should:
(a) Restrain plastic production and consumption to sustainable levels,
(b) Incentivize businesses that promote a circular plastic production model.
(c) Establish conditions for well-functioning markets for recycled plastics.

(2) Considering sustainability, circularity and eco design must be part of the production phase, the instrument should:
(a) enable a circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health,
(b) Keep plastic items in the loop as long as possible at their highest value.
(c) Restrict the use of chemicals that hinder circularity or pose health risks or risks to the environment.

(3) Considering sound waste management is an integrated system and a basic human right, the instrument should:
(a) Regard plastic waste management as part of a holistic waste management system and not as an isolated item from other waste streams.
(b) Improve availability and reliability of waste and resource management data.
(c) Most importantly, ban all open dumping and open burning of wastes, including plastic waste, establishing pathways to ensure sound infrastructure for an adequate waste management system in all communities.

(4) Considering governance and financing systems are key for a successful implementation, the instrument should:
(a) include robust governance systems and global funding mechanisms.

(5) Considering that the working system must be sustainable, and all decisions and measures will induce social adaptations the instrument should:
(a) Establish a pathway to ensure a fair and just transition for the affected formal and informal workers, with special attention to those in small-scale services.

(b) Ensure a gender-sensitive approach as an integrated part of national legislation and policies.

To facilitate its implementation, the Treaty should introduce Global education campaigns with cross-generational engagement and set a collaborative and participatory body to enhance the exchange of experiences and mobilization towards its effective implementation.

Finally, all the suggestions above should consider the importance of supporting and enhancing the capacities of subnational entities such as municipalities to deliver the goals of the treaty.