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POSITION PAPER

Recommendations for Finance Mechanisms for Waste Pickers within the Global Plastics Treaty

In this document, we outline key demands, considerations, and recommendations for waste pickers with regard to the financing of the Global Plastics Treaty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Just transition (JT) funding track**
A **JT funding track** must be established within the main fund, focusing on **waste picker capacity building, technology transfer and support for organizing and formalization** for waste pickers; and **building state capacity** with a **focus to implement national action plans**.
- 2 Nothing for us without us**
All finance initiatives should work with waste pickers through **accredited** and **recognised waste picker representative structures** wherever present.
- 3 Direct access**
Waste pickers, NGOs, and municipalities must be **able to access funds directly**, to avoid administrative skimming and delays.
- 4 Do-no-harm**
Funding **must safeguard waste picker livelihoods** and not be channeled to projects/investments that dispossess and displace waste pickers and other workers in the plastic value chain. Financing must also **not generate debt** for countries or people.
- 5 Gender equity**
Any financial mechanism must **account for the gendered experience** of waste pickers and the **crucial role** and **intersectional vulnerability** of female waste pickers.
- 6 Transparency**
Oversight, transparency, independent audits, reporting requirements, , and clear indicators and standards for **sound financial practices** must be incorporated into the mechanism.
- 7 Representation**
Waste picker representatives must be officially **involved in decision making bodies** under the treaty.

FUND, SOURCES, AND RECIPIENTS

- We support the establishment of a **dedicated** and **multilateral fund**, which can be aligned with the objectives of the instrument and can accommodate new challenges.
- We support a **mixed finance approach**:
 - A higher proportion of contributions must come from **developed member states** and **oil and petrochemical producing countries**, in line with the **common but differentiated responsibilities** and **polluter pays principles**
 - Private entities must also address plastic pollution **throughout its life-cycle**. We support a per unit/tonne **polymer production fee** on producers to support the mechanism/multilateral fund.
 - **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, if included, must be designed and implemented with **equity** and **inclusion** in mind.
 - **Outcome-based financing**, like **social impact bonds** can be considered.
 - We prefer to **avoid market-based mechanisms** to deal with plastic pollution, such as plastic credits. But, if used, they must **ensure transparency, clear criteria** in the **selection of participants**, and **meaningful benefit** to waste pickers.
- **Recipients** of the fund
 - Waste pickers around the world, **whether organized or not**, must benefit from this financial mechanism. Waste pickers are at the **greatest risk** of displacement, including those from **LDCs, PSIDS, Indigenous Peoples**, and other **historically marginalized** and **vulnerable groups**.
 - **Community organizations, municipal governments, civil society organizations** and **NGOs** that work with waste pickers must also be able to access funds.

This position paper is jointly presented by the **International Alliance of Waste Pickers** and **Hasiru Dala**, and co-authored by **Patrick O'Hare**.

The International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) is a union of 50 waste picker organizations representing more than 460,000 workers across 34 countries.

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Hasiru Dala is a social impact organization dedicated to securing justice for waste pickers. Established in Bengaluru (Bangalore), India, Hasiru Dala focuses on the socio-economic inclusion and empowerment of waste pickers through initiatives and stakeholder engagement to promote identity rights, education, healthcare, housing, pensions, skill development, employment, and entrepreneurship in sustainable waste management and green business.

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