

The International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) welcomes the structure of the Chair's Non-Paper as the basis of discussions at INC-5, but emphasizes the need for stronger, legally-binding obligations to direct clear and enforceable nationally required actions. Above all, IAWP supports adopting a mandatory, justice-centered approach focusing on the rights of impacted workers and communities, with reference to the ILO's Guidelines for a Just Transition; as well as caps on plastics production, and bans on targeted products and chemicals of concern.

### Key Recommendations:

In order of importance, IAWP recommends the following:

- Retain Article 10 on Just Transition, with our suggestions for strengthening the text below.
- Retain the mention of 'waste pickers' in the text - because, in our experience, measures to reduce plastic pollution will overlook waste pickers unless they are explicitly mentioned in policy.
- Include definitions for waste pickers and just transition in the text. See below.
- Include mention of just transition in the preamble. See suggested text below.

### IAWP recommends the following definitions:

**Waste pickers:** workers in informal, semi-formal, or cooperative settings involved in the collection, sorting, transporting, and commercialization of discarded materials for recycling or reuse.

**Just transition:** Ending plastic pollution in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, by ensuring effective social dialogue among all groups impacted by the plastics crisis and creating decent work opportunities while leaving no one behind, in accordance with human rights standards and the ILO guidelines for a just transition.

## Specific textual recommendations:

(Suggested additions are underlined)

### ARTICLE 10 JUST TRANSITION

#### Paragraph 1:

- Overall comment: Positive that there is a reference to waste pickers and Indigenous Peoples, this should be retained.
- Specific text recommendation: 1. In the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall ~~cooperate to~~ promote and facilitate a just transition ~~towards sustainable consumption of plastic~~ for workers in the informal sector; including waste pickers, Indigenous Peoples, and populations affected by the adverse effects ~~on human health and the environment of~~ plastic pollution and the implementation of measures set out in this Convention.
- Additional text recommendation: While IAWP supports the inclusion of the a-g provisions of the just transition article within the compilation text, an alternative concise version to be inserted into the article, could read: “This shall include: social dialogue and enabling policies, regulations, and conditions that ensure adequate income, opportunities and livelihoods, as well as adequate working conditions, occupational health and safety, and social protection for all workers in the plastics value chain with special consideration for waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings.”

#### Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4:

- Specific text recommendation: Reporting, stakeholder engagement and guidance adoption should be mandatory, and so “may” (paragraph 3 and 4) and “encouraged to” (paragraph 2) should be replaced by “shall”. Retain reference to the International Labor Organization.

### PREAMBLE:

Recognizing the significant contribution made by workers in informal and cooperative settings to the collection, sorting and recycling of plastics in many countries, and their right to a just transition.