



A union of waste picker organisations
representing more than 460,000 workers
across 34 countries

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19th February 2025

The Bureau of the INC,
UNEP Headquarters,
Nairobi, Kenya

Subject: Request for Meaningful Participation of Waste Pickers and Other Stakeholders and Hosting INC-5.2 in Accessible Locations

Dear Esteemed Bureau Members,

We, the International Alliance of Waste Pickers representing 40 million waste pickers, write to express our grave concern over the barriers that have obstructed marginalised communities like ours from fully and equitably participating in the INC process. Drawing from the experiences reported by Indigenous Peoples, we note that similar challenges have impacted grassroots organisations and communities like ours, which possess essential knowledge, skills and innovative practices for mitigating plastic pollution.

During INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea, restrictive practices during plenary sessions, contact groups, and closed informal meetings regrettably hindered waste pickers' meaningful engagement. Such practices undermine member states' commitment, as found in UNEA 5/14 resolution (e), to learn from lessons and best practices in informal and cooperative contexts—implicitly referencing waste pickers.

In light of this, we respectfully urge the Bureau to take the following actions:

1. Ensure Meaningful Participation:

Guarantee that waste pickers and other grassroots organisations have full and respectful access to all stages of the INC 5.2. This includes providing opportunities for waste pickers and other stakeholders to speak and represent themselves in plenaries, contact groups, and informal.

2. Host INC-5.2 in Accessible Locations:

Consider hosting the upcoming INC-5.2 in countries that facilitate participation. We urge the Bureau to select venues that allow for easy visa processing, affordable accommodations, and necessary support so that waste pickers and all other stakeholders can participate without facing undue logistical or financial challenges.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue. We look forward to your response and to your renewed dedication to inclusive plastics treaty negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Severino Lima Junior'.

Severino Lima Junior

President, International Alliance of Waste Pickers