



Event Summary

Mayors gather in Paris for the first ever International Forum to End Plastic Pollution in Cities



Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, meeting shortly before the End Plastic Pollution Forum in Paris.

Paris, 26 May 2023 - As worldwide plastic pollution continues to rise, mayors from every continent, scientists, NGOs, Intergovernmental Organisations and philanthropies gathered in Paris to exchange solutions to reduce the impact of plastics on the planet.

The **International Forum to End Plastic Pollution in Cities** organized by the City of Paris and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), ahead of the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2), shed light on local solutions to beat the plastic crises and the crucial role of cities in ending plastic pollution.

Municipal solid waste streams generate 75% of the total plastic waste production, much of which ends up in landfills, waterways, and the ocean, thus significantly contributing to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Due to high population density and concentrated economic activity, cities are also widely responsible for urban plastic pollution.



Yet, the latest [UNEP report](#) confirms there is the potential to slash plastic pollution by 80 per cent by 2040. This ambitious target relies on major policy changes and the deployment of existing technologies used to produce, use, and dispose of plastics, including at the city level.



Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, officially opening the End Plastic Pollution Forum by reiterating Paris' commitment to becoming a green city.

In her opening remarks, **Anne Hidalgo**, Mayor of Paris highlighted the city's commitment to reducing plastic pollution by 2030. "Eight years ago in Paris, the international community took responsibility for its wrongdoings against climate and adopted **the ground-breaking below 2°C Paris Agreement**. We must do the same now and **adopt an ambitious legally binding document to put an end to plastics pollution**. In the same way as for our battle against climate change, cities worldwide will be at the forefront of this challenge," she said.

[The World Economic Forum, WWF, Upstream, and Ellen Macarthur Foundation](#) called for an ambitious transformation of consumption systems that enable reuse of plastics at scale. This ambition was reemphasized by global mayors and experts who reported that prevention and reuse at the urban scale have often been overlooked when it comes to resolving the plastics crisis.



Panel discussion on local innovations to beat the global plastic crisis, with Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI, Joy Belmonte, Mayor of Quezon City, Philippines, and Pratistha Mamgain, Commissioner of Ambikapur, India.

Several mayors, including Joy Belmonte, Mayor of Quezon City, Philippines highlighted examples of reuse activities. In Quezon City, plastics bottles are downcycled – i.e., recycled into products with lesser value, such as clothes hangers and other household materials.

“In Ambikapur, a city in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, we have an initiative through which a café’ delivers nutritious meals in exchange for 1kg of plastics. We also have a women-led decentralized approach towards waste-management that creates jobs and improves livelihoods at the local level. I truly call on all my fellow city representatives to think about social benefits when dealing with plastic pollution,” added Pratistha Mamgain, Commissioner of Ambikapur, India.

Cities can take strong and effective action, such as improving waste management and recycling programmes, incentivizing circular design and businesses, enabling circular entrepreneurship, banning single-use plastics, conducting education and awareness campaigns, and ensuring that the transition to a circular economy is fair to the informal sector and leaves no one behind. However, **cities cannot address this challenge alone**: we need a full lifecycle approach, and the involvement and support of all public and private stakeholders.



Roundtable discussion bringing together mayors and the INC Secretariat to discuss possibilities for local and regional governments to join the negotiation process around plastic pollution.

In the afternoon, mayors, city officials, technical partners, and scientists gathered for a **closed-door roundtable on plastic pollution**, to discuss issues cities are facing, solutions and best practices to overcome these, and **expectations for the future the international legally binding document on plastic pollution**.

Mayors, representatives of local and regional governments, their associations and networks, put forward [a series of points](#) they deem crucial for the future plastics treaty, including the importance of increasing the economic viability of reuse systems, of the extended producer responsibility principle and the set-up of financing mechanisms.

Finally, they emphasised the **importance of including local and regional governments in global negotiations**. Local and regional governments are already putting forward ambitious initiatives with positive impacts on tackling the plastics crisis, but cities won't be able to scale-up their efforts without the strong commitments of national governments in the final agreement.

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