

---

**MIC 18****PSI opening statement at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental  
Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution INC-2**

(31 May 2023, Paris, France)

2 minutes

Thank you Mr Chair,  
Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, UNEP Secretariat,

Public Services International (PSI) is the Global Union Federation representing over 30 million public service workers in 154 countries. Our members work in all public services, including national and local utilities in waste collection, management and disposal; water and sanitation; health and care; public emergency services and firefighters; as well as regulatory inspectors and scientists in public environmental and health agencies. We are members of the Trade Union and Workers UN Major Group.

We wish to bring to the attention of the negotiators that a just transition must include ALL workers in the plastic life cycle, regardless of their employment status. That includes workers in public services, who are key actors in the global fight against plastic waste pollution and use, on the frontline of its adverse consequences, and the custodians of public health and the environment, also through public regulation.

They often work with inadequate staffing levels, in poor, precarious, dangerous and unhealthy conditions, lacking basic human and labour rights, including the right to a safe and healthy working environment and to join a union. Their conditions in some countries are very comparable to those of informal workers.

PSI therefore urges INC-2 to include the following 4 objectives and means of implementation in the options and future zero draft; and cover and address them in the contact and working groups and intersessional work:

1. FULLY INCLUDE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS AND THEIR UNIONS AT ALL STAGES AND LEVELS OF THE DISCUSSION
2. CAPITALISE ON THEIR FRONTLINE SERVICE EXPERTISE TO DESIGN AND DELIVER SUSTAINABLE, SAFE, JUST AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS
3. ENSURE ADEQUATE LEVELS OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT ARE CHANNELLED TO FUND WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - NOT ONLY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - BUT ALSO IN PROFESSIONAL, TRAINED STAFF IN APPROPRIATE NUMBERS AND IN DECENT EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS
4. PROMOTE ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES AND GENERATE DECENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC SERVICES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO EFFECTIVELY TACKLE GLOBAL PLASTIC POLLUTION CRISIS.

We thank you for your attention and remain available to provide further input all along the INC process.