



📍 **Geneva, Switzerland | Date: 05 - 14 August 2025**

INC-5.2 – Multistakeholders Meeting

WFAC joins global advocates at the multistakeholders meeting along the margins of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC5.2)

- ◆ **Strong opening from the Women's Working Group on Ending Plastic Pollution**
- ◆ **Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongulo-Wondieh delivers a bold intervention during plenary**
- ◆ **Key engagement with UNEP leadership and multistakeholder forums**
- ◆ **Youth voices mobilize around #WeAreWater campaign**

Centering Gender in the Plastics Treaty



During plenary, Dr. Zoneziwoh M-W delivered an intervention on behalf of the Women's Working Group on Ending Plastic Pollution.

She welcomed the mention of women in the Just Transition section of the Chair's draft but emphasized the followings: ↓



- ◆ **One mention is not enough** – gender must be mainstreamed across the entire treaty
- ◆ **A robust gender-transformative and human rights-based approach** is non-negotiable
- ◆ Parties must adopt clear treaty measures to:
 - Limit plastic production
 - Ban chemicals and polymers of concern
 - Restrict intentionally added microbeads
 - Establish global traceability systems
 - Prioritize reuse, reduce, refill models
 - Guarantee meaningful participation of women & girls, especially from the Global South



Dialogue with UNEP & INC Leadership



Dr. Zoneziwoh M-W engaged in a high-level exchange with:

- ◆ **Ms. Inger Andersen**, UNEP Executive Director
- ◆ **Mr. Luis Vayas**, INC Chair
- ◆ **Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp**, Executive Sec. of INC on Plastic Pollution

She emphasized the need for:

- ◆ **A gender-transformative treaty**
- ◆ **Clear indicators, adequate financing, and measurable actions**
- ◆ **Full alignment with human rights principles**



Multistakeholder Forum Reflections



The team actively participated in thematic sessions, including:

- ◆ **The role of science and research in treaty development**
- ◆ **Perspectives from informal workers, Indigenous peoples & world of work**
- ◆ **Civil society and public-private partnerships on plastic governance**



Key takeaways:

- Plastic pollution is a **public health and economic issue**
- **Science must center Indigenous & frontline knowledge**
- Plastics impact **reproductive health** in both women and men
 - Treaty must consider **labour market impacts & livelihoods**
 - Recycling alone is insufficient in contexts with weak infrastructure



Reproductive & Public Health Urgency

Discussions revealed serious health consequences of plastic waste:

- ◆ Exposure linked to **reproductive harm** – from low sperm count in men to fetal development challenges in women
- ◆ Emphasis on data-informed decisions, grounded in decades of research
- ◆ Urgent call to recognize plastic waste as a **toxic and reproductive health hazard**



Youth-Led Mobilization: #WeAreWater



WFAC stood in solidarity with **1 Million Youth Actions Challenge** and other young activists at the UN building in Geneva.

The **#WeAreWater** campaign called out big polluters and demanded:

- ◆ Reduction in plastic use and production
- ◆ Accountability for corporations
- ◆ A strong treaty rooted in **human rights** and the **polluter-pays** principle



Looking Ahead

The WFAC team, represented by **Dr. Zoneziwoh M-W** and **Mr. Emmanuel Ndabombi**, remains deeply engaged at INC5.2.

Tomorrow's focus:

- Health and human rights language in the treaty
- Ensuring continued feminist, youth, and Global South presence in negotiations

Stay with us for Day 2 reflections and on-the-ground updates.

See You on #Day1