

**Opening Remarks by the INC Chair
Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso**

**Resumed Fifth Session of the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
(INC-5.2) on Plastic Pollution**

**Tuesday, 5 August 2025, 10h00 am, Palais
des Nations**

(1500 words / 10 minutes)

**Excelencias, distinguidos delegados,
observadores, colegas, queridos amigos:**

Quiero empezar mi intervención hablando en español, mi lengua materna, a fin de darles una afectuosa bienvenida al Palacio de las Naciones para la reanudación del quinto período de sesiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación.

Este lugar histórico se construyó para ofrecer un hogar a los ideales de paz, amistad y

cooperación entre las naciones, y ha sido escenario de momentos clave de la diplomacia multilateral. Estamos, por tanto, en un ambiente propicio para que nuestra voluntad de trabajo produzca resultados positivos.

Permítanme comenzar agradeciendo de corazón a quienes, con su compromiso y dedicación, nos han traído a este momento crítico.

A Inger Andersen, Directora Ejecutiva del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, por su constante orientación y su inquebrantable defensa del multilateralismo ambiental.

A Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Secretaria Ejecutiva del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación, y a su excepcional equipo; gracias por apoyar este proceso con profesionalismo, transparencia y dedicación incansable.

A Katrin Schneeberger, Directora de la Oficina Federal para el Medio Ambiente de Suiza, gracias por su cálida bienvenida a Ginebra, baluarte del multilateralismo y la cooperación entre los pueblos, y por el apoyo de su país durante todo este proceso.

También quiero reconocer el continuo apoyo del personal del PNUMA, de la Secretaría del INC, y de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra. Su asistencia logística y técnica es una plataforma indispensable para que prospere nuestro trabajo. Se lo agradecemos sinceramente.

Doy la bienvenida a los observadores que participan en esta reunión. Les agradezco sus invaluable perspectivas, habilidades técnicas e ideas innovadoras. Ustedes representan a la sociedad civil, la industria, la ciencia y las comunidades de todo el mundo, incluidos los pueblos indígenas; y, sus voces impulsan la credibilidad y la inclusión de este proceso. Los animo a seguir desempeñando su papel vital, no solo como observadores,

sino como contribuyentes activos, ayudando con sus aportes a las delegaciones a tender puentes y salvar las diferencias.

Y, por último, pero sin por ello desconocer su primordial relevancia en este esfuerzo colectivo, quiero agradecer a los Estados Miembros representados mediante sus delegaciones aquí presentes. Esta es una negociación entre Estados. Ustedes son el centro de este proceso.

Ustedes toman las decisiones, no lo olvidemos. Y eso implica, como dice el pensador latino, “un gran derecho y a la vez una gran responsabilidad”. Reconozco su determinación original, pues todos ustedes adoptaron el mandato inicial, a través de la resolución 5/14 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, que dio origen a este proceso.

Sabemos que aún tenemos trabajo por delante, no quiero menospreciar su complejidad. Se ha logrado encontrar ya

importantes puntos de convergencia en temas difíciles, pero algunas discrepancias aún están pendientes. Sin embargo, confiamos en que habrá voluntad política para superarlas, la misma voluntad que nos ha llevado a avanzar en nuestro trabajo y a estar al borde de un momento histórico.

Permítanme continuar ahora mi intervención en inglés.

Dear Colleagues,

We have come to Geneva with a shared mission—to finish the work we started together, and to fulfill the mandate given to us under UNEA resolution 5/14. For the first time in history, the world is within reach of a legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution.

This is a challenging task, but a deeply necessary one.

We are facing a global crisis—plastic pollution is damaging ecosystems, polluting our oceans and rivers, threatening biodiversity, harming human health, and unfairly impacting the most vulnerable. The urgency is real. The evidence is clear. And the responsibility is on us.

We understand how we arrived at this point. A natural disaster didn't cause this crisis; it is mainly an unintended result, since we are pretty sure nobody wants plastic pollution. Still, we have not been able to find a systematic and effective way to stop it.

Pollution results from our decisions, habits, and systems that have persisted because we have been unable to find ways to control it. Since it is a human-made crisis, it can and must be tackled through human effort and global cooperation.

We are supported by the best available science, which clearly shows: an effective international framework for cooperation and

accountability—one that adopts a comprehensive approach throughout the life cycle of plastics—can significantly reduce plastic pollution and provide great benefits for both the environment and public health.

You—Member States—have the mandate, information, and authority to act. You understand your national priorities, red lines, and constraints.

This moment demands concrete and meaningful progress. Not maximalist positions but joint solutions. Not finger-pointing but pragmatic engagement. This moment calls for a recognition that the common good does not conflict with national interests but instead arises from a careful and courageous balance between them.

Since the first part of this session ended, I have worked closely with the Bureau and the Secretariat to develop a clear, organized, and tailored work plan that meets our needs at this stage. This plan aims to help you make

rapid progress and complete the negotiation process by August 14, leading to an effective agreement.

I thank you for your support of the Chair's Scenario Note, published on July 11. It outlines a practical approach—designed to enable steadfast advance, encourage collective ownership, and lead to concrete outcomes.

Success will not rely only on plans. It will depend on how we leverage those plans to work together efficiently, starting today.

The early days of this resumed session are crucial. They should be marked by engagement, urgency, and a shared understanding that every hour matters. These days will set the rhythm, tone, and foundation for the final push toward achieving a successful conclusion.

I urge all delegations once again to approach this meeting with a spirit of collaborative

engagement and increased ownership of the text.

Remember, we are not just reviewing a document — we are setting the foundation for a global tool that could change the future of environmental history.

And I must say, I am confident in your constructive and intelligent contribution, since you understand our critical assignment. You are professional negotiators, experienced diplomats, and representatives of countries committed to a better future.

I have full confidence in your ability to rise to this challenge. I believe in your capacity to achieve meaningful results this week and beyond, to refine the text and to find workable solutions to the most difficult remaining issues.

I also want to thank and recognize our Bureau members and Co-Chairs of the Contact

Groups. They have taken on a demanding responsibility, and I trust their ability to lead productive, solution-focused discussions.

I encourage delegations to support our co-Chair's efforts and empower them to help us find common ground, reach agreements, and move the process forward in good faith.

Colleagues,

Allow me to recall a fact that I believe is clear to all of us: time is of the essence.

The world awaits substantial news from Geneva. People across continents are watching us with hope. They rely on this process to deliver not just promises but real results.

Let's see August 14 not as a deadline but as a day of achievement. We need to complete a historic task by August 14 with an agreement that is effective, inclusive, implementable, and capable of evolving.

It will not be easy. But history is not built on comfort. It is built on courage, teamwork, and compromises.

Together, we can make this meeting truly significant.

Thank you very much.