

INC-5.2 Opening Plenary, 5 August 2025

**Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC
and Head of the Secretariat**

Opening remarks

Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdevieso, Chair of the INC,
Ms. Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme and
Under-Secretary-General of the UN
Excellency, Katrin Schneeberger, Director of Switzerland's Federal Office for
the Environment.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is an honour to welcome you to the resumed fifth session of the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.

I begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to Switzerland for hosting us for
INC-5.2. I would also like to express my appreciation to our colleagues here
at the UN Office of Geneva for their incredible support and tireless efforts
in facilitating the arrangements that have made this session possible.

And my deepest gratitude to the Chair of the INC for his leadership
throughout his mandate, since taking over this difficult mantle at INC-3 in
Nairobi in 2023. And, to his incredible team too. Thank you. I would also
like to thank Ambassador Gustavo Meza Cuadra for his leadership till INC3.
And of course, my deepest thank you to Ms. Andersen for her guiding hand
keeping us steady through all the turbulent and calm waters over the last
three years.

From UNEA-5.2, where this historic process began, to INC-5.2, we see not
only symmetry in the numbers, but also in our strengthened resolve: what
was set in motion in Nairobi has weathered complexities, moments of
challenge, and hard-won progress—and it is precisely this shared
endurance that strengthens our resolve and brings us, determined and

forward-looking, to this historic hall today and the birthplace of modern multilateralism.

I am deeply grateful to the Members of the Committee for your steadfast commitment over the past three years.

My gratitude also extends to the Observer organizations, whose ongoing engagement, deep expertise, and valuable insights reinforce the essential importance of inclusive and collaborative environmental multilateralism.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with great appreciation, the donors whose generous voluntary contributions have been indispensable to the work of the INC and its sessions and including the intersessional work and the heads of delegation meetings. Our thanks go to the governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and to the European Commission.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

We have arrived here in Geneva with over 3700 participants from 184 Members of the Committee and 619 Observer organizations registered to attend INC-5.2.

Once again, I am proud to say that we have brought together an experienced team from many different UNEP divisions, multilateral environment agreements and of course the conference services and UN security teams to support this session alongside the extremely dedicated colleagues of the INC Secretariat.

On this note, may I also remind you that the UN code of conduct applies to all UN meetings, and you will find the code available on the INC website.

As always, you have my full support and that of the team over these ten days to ensure that your negotiations are focused, productive and inclusive.

Being hosted at the Palais des Nations situates INC-5.2 within a long tradition of crucial multilateral negotiations, diplomatic breakthroughs, and international legal frameworks. It is my hope that this session will now also be part of that legacy.

And as I know you are impatient to start work, I will conclude by inviting you to envision 15 August: a day when the world awakens, unified, with an international instrument to end plastic pollution, crafted through our collective determination, dialogue, and shared commitment over these past three years.

Let that vision inspire and guide our work in the days ahead.

Thank you.