INC-4 closing remarks by Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, INC Executive Secretary

Ambassador Luis Vayas,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Government of Canada for hosting the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the marine environment. And also, to the Elders that blessed our meeting when we started – we thank you.

This session has been a success because of your dedication and commitment. This has been our largest and most inclusive gathering to date. Over 2500 delegates joined us here in Ottawa, representing 170 Members of the Committee and over 540 different organizations – UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and media.

I am grateful to all the Members, the Co-Chairs and Sub-group co-facilitators for your hard work, which has brought us closer to completing our negotiations. And to our Observers, whose voices are integral part of this process.

My deep gratitude also extends to the Chair, Ambassador Vayas, for his leadership throughout the session, and to the Bureau for their valuable guidance and advice from the regions. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the many essential support teams locally and from across the UN, our editors, our interpreters, our conference service staff, and all the team that support the Secretariat, the list goes one. And last but not least, I thank my Secretariat team for its unwavering work and commitment.

Distinguished Delegates,

It has been an ambitious timeline of just 18 months and four sessions to get us to this point, and we are now firmly on the road to Busan. I have heard your concerns and share your sense of urgency.

I started this week by encouraging you to show flexibility and tackle the hard issues, and you have done that. It has not been easy, and this only highlights the significance of what we are striving to accomplish here.

Allow me to conclude by saying that in the end this is not just about the text, it’s not just about the process, it is quite simply about providing a better future for the next generations, and our loved ones.

This is multilateralism at its best, and we can and will succeed.

Thank you.