



# Opening Remarks by Katrin Schneeberger, FOEN Director, at the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2)

5 August 2025, 10:00-10:20, Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations, Geneva

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*Seules les paroles prononcées font foi*

Mister Chair,

Madam Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Madame Executive Secretary of the INC on Plastic Pollution

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for Switzerland to host these pivotal negotiations with the objective of finalising a treaty text to put an end to plastic pollution.

I am delighted to welcome you to Geneva, a city that embodies dialogue, cooperation and a commitment to multilateralism.

Geneva is a global hub for environmental governance, particularly in the field of chemicals and waste.

The reason that brings us together is clear. We want to end plastic pollution. We want to protect human health and our environment. And we want to do that NOW.

However, we must also acknowledge that multilateralism is facing challenges. Geopolitical tensions and financial crises can sometimes hinder our ability to act collectively. Let's demonstrate to the world that multilateralism is effective.

Let's demonstrate to the world that countries are willing to find sustainable solutions.

Let's write history again in the Palais des Nations.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Writing history means engaging constructively, taking collective action and delivering concrete results.

In the coming days, we have the opportunity to do just that – by negotiating core elements of an effective Plastics Treaty, and by finding comprehensive solutions and measures across the full life cycle of plastics to address plastic pollution effectively.

But in doing so, we must bear one fundamental fact in mind:

Plastic pollution knows no borders.

It is what we call transboundary pollution — it moves with rivers, oceans, wind, and trade. What is produced and discarded in one country can have devastating consequences thousands of kilometers away, harming ecosystems and communities that played no part in its creation.

Because of its transboundary nature, plastic pollution cannot be addressed by any one country alone.

Even the most ambitious national policies will fall short unless they form part of a coherent and coordinated global effort.

This is why we need a legally binding international treaty — a treaty that is inclusive, science-based, and robust. A treaty that unites all countries around shared objectives and responsibilities. And a treaty that supports implementation on the ground.

Plastic pollution is a global problem that demands a global solution.

All eyes are on Geneva as we work to deliver a historic outcome. A successful INC-5.2 will not only be essential to mitigate the environmental, social and economic threats posed by plastic pollution, but it will also send a strong signal for multilateralism. In this context, Geneva's existing expertise and structure are significant.

I wish us productive negotiations, a spirit of openness, and a session that rises to meet the urgency of the challenges before us — and the hopes — that bring us together.

Thank you.