

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of the second session of the INC, I would first like to thank the French Government for their hospitality in hosting us this week.

Throughout our session, the collaborative spirit that prevailed in the adoption of Resolution 5/14 in Nairobi has guided our deliberations, allowing us to make significant progress while confirming our determination to end plastic pollution.

In that sense, I would like to thank all of you for the efforts you have made to find areas of convergence, beyond our differences.

This week, I am delighted that we have been able to appoint the members of the bureau. This group of eleven will become key players in our process and will be of great support in contributing to guide the development of our instrument.

On the substantive matters, the discussions in the Contact Groups have recalled us that there is much more that unites us than separates us.

Moving forward, I would like to thank you for your trust for the development of the zero draft, with the support of the Secretariat. I will do the utmost to ensure that this document reflects faithfully our discussions, as well as the contributions and views of Member States. I take this crucial step to meet our tight deadline with great responsibility.

The rest of our intersessional work will be essential to complement these measures, as well as our knowledge to develop a better and more efficient instrument to end plastic pollution.

Before I finish, I would like to express my gratitude to all delegations, especially those that have supported us in facilitating the discussions around very complex issues. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their invaluable support, thank again our hosts and UNESCO for their welcoming, as well as the interpretation services without whom this meeting would have not been possible.

In this marvellous city of Paris, I can only but give you my last words in French, and what better way to do it than quoting the great French author Victor Hugo:

Pause

“C’est une triste chose de songer que la nature parle et que le genre humain ne l’écoute pas »

Écoutons la et agissons !

Merci