

**INC-3 Closing remarks – Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp,
Executive Secretary, INC-Plastics Secretariat (5 min)**

Ambassador Meza-Cuadra,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the INC Secretariat, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the marine environment.

1,945 delegates participated in this session, representing 161 Members including the European Union, and over 390 organizations – UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and media.

I am immensely grateful to you, our delegates, for your hard work and dedication to keeping us on the path to achieve our ambition of completing negotiations on an international legally binding instrument by the end of 2024.

The progress made this week has been substantial:

We started with the Chair's zero draft, went through a compilation of text to include all the views of Members, prepared a validated co-facilitators' merged text, found a way forward on issues we haven't discussed as yet, and we have now agreed on our starting point for negotiations at our fourth session.

We have also [agreed on the intersessional work that will support our work in Ottawa,] finalized the dates of both the fourth and fifth sessions, elected two Vice-Chairs to the Bureau, and a new Chair of the Committee. This is incredible progress.

I also thank the observers who have participated in our sessions in ever growing numbers. Your valuable inputs at this third session and your commitment to this process are valued immensely.

I am pleased to see that the Nairobi spirit of collaboration, compromise and commitment has been in full force in the city that birthed the INC process.

We saw this during our Preparatory Meeting on 11 November, which set the stage for the positive momentum we achieved at this session, and in the constructive and cooperative manner in which you all engaged throughout this week.

I was pleased to see how quickly we moved into the substance of our work in the contact groups.

Our compound welcomed you and our resident Sykes monkeys graced us with their playful presence throughout the week. Yesterday they came into our contact group to also have their voices heard, even though they were not registered!

If you allow me, let me also express my deep gratitude and appreciation to our outstanding INC Secretariat team, and the teams that supported us throughout this week for their commitment and tireless work. I would like to make a special mention of our national United Nations Volunteer **Loise Kuria**.

Colleagues, your work behind the scenes and on the podium has been instrumental in ensuring the successful operation of our session. You have worked long hours into the evenings, finding solutions to technical issues we faced, managing everything from logistics, travel, DSA, registration, documentation, plenary and contact group support, communications and the website and so many other aspects of our work, including of course the substantive work. I remain in awe at the commitment, professionalism and stamina you have displayed at our session.

I also thank the registration team, our local staff, the meeting room attendants, the audio visual and technical teams, including the UN WebTV, security, conference services, the editorial and translation team,

our colleagues from other parts of UNEP and the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats who have supported us these last seven days. They represent the best of the United Nations.

Last but certainly not least, I am deeply grateful to the interpreters, who have been instrumental in ensuring that we can understand each other at this session.

On behalf of the INC Secretariat, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Meza-Cuadra, our dedicated Chair, for leading us through these crucial deliberations with unwavering commitment.

Ambassador, I would like to sincerely thank you and your team for the wonderful 11 months we spent together. We owe you a debt of gratitude for your tireless efforts in steering our course.

I further wish to congratulate Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso on his election as our next INC Chair. The entire INC Secretariat and I look forward to supporting you on this journey, as we prepare for our fourth and fifth sessions.

I am further grateful to our Bureau for providing their valuable guidance and advice from the regions during this session. Let me also express my gratitude to our Rapporteur, Ms. Asha Challenger, for her support throughout this session.

I cannot thank our Co-facilitators enough for your hard work at this session. The trust you built in the rooms is what has brought us to this stage, where we now have a good starting point for our discussions at the fourth session. I am deeply grateful for this.

Distinguished delegates,

Let us carry the Nairobi spirit of collaboration, compromise and commitment forward into our next sessions, as we continue on our journey towards a strong, ambitious and inclusive instrument to combat plastic pollution.

Thank you.