

## **Closing remarks, INC 1 Closing Plenary**

Friday, 02 December, 15:00 - 18:00 (GMT-3)

Distinguished delegates,

My deep thanks to Minister Peña and to the Government of Uruguay for hosting this first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the marine environment.

My deep appreciation to *you*, the delegates, for your presence, your hard work, your commitment towards the mandate and your incredible collaborative spirit, warmth and positivity.

And finally, my sincere gratitude to the Chair, Ambassador Meza-Cuadra for his able and committed leadership in bringing the INC together.

This week was marked by a powerful display of engagement to the process with unprecedented interventions during this week from all delegates here.

During this week we have put in motion our next collaborative steps. The outcome of this meeting will give us a mandate that is deeply crucial as we move towards developing a draft text for the instrument within two years.

I would like to thank the members of the INC for entrusting upon the Secretariat this responsibility. I would like to reassure the members of the INC that we as the Secretariat are delighted to take on this work with gratitude and determination.

We are trying to achieve through this multilateral process to keep plastics in our sight, in the economy but out of the environment. Members of this process have set themselves a remarkable deadline. Ambitious yes, doable – absolutely.

This is an opportunity to demonstrate that multilateralism grounded on strong science can deliver.

An opportunity to embrace innovation.

An opportunity to spur long-term solutions.

Punta del Este is our first stride on this journey, and we will meet again in a few short months in France to continue our work.

I am confident that we will rise to the challenge with the urgency that the plastic crisis demands. And I am confident that we can work together to find common ground for people and the planet.

Before I end and if you would allow me, I would like to thank the interpreters who have been very flexible with us, report writers, technicians, Interactio team and everyone working on conference services in this center to make sure that we can meet here.

I would also like to thank the UNEP team that have supported us here and last but not least our INC Secretariat team, they are exceptional, simply exceptional.

Please join us in applauding ourselves for all the work we have accomplished this week.

Thank you so much.