

Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
Opening Plenary, 25 November 2025

Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the INC on Plastic Pollution

Opening remarks

- Ambassador Luis Vayas, Chair of the INC,
- Ms. Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,
- Your Excellency Ambassador for Climate and Environment, Mr. Cho Hong Sik
- Your Excellency, Minister of Environment, Mr. Wansup Kim

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you at this fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.

Allow me to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Republic of Korea for hosting us for INC-5. I would also like to express my appreciation to the City of Busan and its people for welcoming us so warmly.

We have come a long way since the adoption of UNEA Resolution 5/14 in 2022. It is through courage and determination—and the strong community we have built—that we have reached this pivotal moment in just two ambitious years. Together, these same qualities will carry us across the finish line here in Busan.

I am deeply grateful to the Members of the Committee for your steadfast commitment to meeting the ambitious timeline.

My thanks also go to the Observer organizations, whose continued engagement, knowledge, and expertise further underscore the vital role of inclusive environmental multilateralism.

I further extend my deep gratitude to the Chair of the INC for his leadership throughout his mandate, since taking over the mantle at INC-3 in Nairobi last year. And of course, to his team too.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with great appreciation, the donors whose generous voluntary contributions have been indispensable to the work of the INC and its sessions and also including the intersessional work and the heads of delegation meetings. Our thanks go to the governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and to the European Commission.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The momentum and dedication has been remarkable. We have arrived here in Busan with over 3,800 registered participants for this session. The world is placing their trust in all of us to deliver.

Once again, I am proud to say that the INC Secretariat has brought together an experienced team from many different UNEP divisions, multilateral environment agreements and of course the conference services and UN security teams to support this session alongside my wonderful colleagues of the INC Secretariat.

On this note, may I also remind you that the UN code of conduct applies to all UN meetings, and you will find the code available on the INC website.

The success of these negotiations will directly shape the world we live in – now and in the future -, because once the ink is dry, words must be followed by action, and we should all have our eyes on this instrument's implementation.

As always, you have my full support and that of my team over these seven days to ensure that your negotiations are focused, productive and inclusive. The world is watching, and as we all know, the expectations for this session are great. I echo the words of the Executive Director and the Chair, "let's get it done".

Thank you.