

INC-5 closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, INC Chair

Dear colleagues,

I want to begin by citing a quote from the great Spanish poet Antonio Machado, which offers a practical vision of life and a call to human action: “Walker, there is no path, the path is made by walking.”

In Busan, we have made progress by making and walking paths. Although our achievements so far are important, they remain insufficient.

While our work has focused on finding points of contact—“landing zones”— we have succeeded in many areas; however, three or four critical matters still need agreement.

I call on all delegations to continue making paths, building bridges, and engaging in dialogue.

Let us always remember that our purpose is noble and urgent: to reverse and remedy the severe effects of plastic pollution on ecosystems and human health.

Let us not lose sight of this goal as we continue walking this path together. Yet, having in mind the magnitude of our planet’s pollution crisis, I take the liberty to slightly modify Machado's words: “Walker, there is no path; the path is made by walking,”

May I add my own words to this by saying that NOW is the time for all to WALK FIRMLY and SPEEDILY.

Our goal demands it.

Together, we shall sustain our momentum and move closer to fulfilling our mandate.