

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 collaborative spirit.

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. We had over 1400 participants, that participated in-person and online. They represented 146 States and the European Union. And we had over 400 observer organizations registered to participate. We heard from Member States and a wide set of observers representing non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and UN bodies, on a number of agenda items.

We built on the progress made at the open-ended working group in setting out the structures and frameworks of the process.

We heard a rich discussion take place at the multi-stakeholder forum, earlier in the week, which saw over 900 participants both in-person and online. The Stakeholder Dialogue brought with it a shared space between Member States and Stakeholders to understand what the concerns are, the aspirations, the wish-list, and what they must absolutely see in the instrument.

During this week, we spent long days deliberating over key agenda items that have put in motion our next collective 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.

Before the Chair gavels the end of this meeting, I want to take this opportunity to remind ourselves why we are here.

What we are trying to achieve through this multilateral process is to keep plastics in our sight, in the economy and 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.

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

Thank you so much.