

Sri Lanka comments for Article 7: Releases and leakages

We call for strong and mandatory global measures to eliminate plastic leakages into the environment, particularly into marine and freshwater ecosystems. These measures should address all sources, including stormwater, wastewater, agricultural runoff, and accidental releases such as maritime incidents. Packaging should be designed and regulated to prevent leakage into water bodies, with mandatory requirements for leak-proof, safe, and environmentally sound packaging including transboundary movement.

Sri Lanka emphasizes following 2 incidents the need for strict global regulations informed by real-world incidents,

MV X-Press Pearl disaster. On May 20, 2021, the container ship carrying 1,480 containers—holding approximately 12,085 metric tones (MT) of plastics and polymers, 8,252 MT of chemicals, and 3,081 MT of metals—caught fire and sank after 12 days of burning. The incident caused the release of significant amounts of hazardous substances, including plastic pellets, which swamped Sri Lanka's coastline and rich fishing grounds, resulting in one of the most devastating marine environmental crises in recent decades

The MLC ELSA 2 and MV Wan Hai 503 incidents in mid 2025 off Kerala are the most recent marine disasters comparable to the X-Press Perl , both involving hazardous cargo environmental risks and complex rescue and pollution response operations. Sri Lanka coast may yet face more fallout, particularly from floating debris or nurdle pollution drifting across the Sri Lanka coastal belt.

Once released, plastic pollution is often impossible to recover fully and causes irreversible harm, ecological ,social and economic. Therefore, prevention must be prioritized. And global regulations are requires

We urge the Conference of the Parties to adopt enforceable provisions and guidance to prevent such disasters in the future and to ensure strong accountability, cost recovery, and damage compensation mechanisms.

