11. Existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

This intervention pertains to Article 11, focusing on the necessity of clean-ups for addressing losses and spills of pellets, including in scenarios resembling the X-Press Pearl ship accident disaster in Sri Lankan waters.

Our first proposed modification is to replace the term "litter" in paragraph 11.1.a.ii with "plastic pollution." This adjustment is crucial as pellets represent a primary source of marine plastic pollution, distinct from mere litter.

Furthermore, we highlight the importance of conducting all clean-up activities in a safe and environmentally sound manner. To achieve this, it is essential to incorporate robust restoration and conservation science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems. Such an inclusive approach ensures that remediation efforts avoid risks to local communities, biodiversity, natural resources, human and organismal health, tourism, and navigation, as well as maritime safety.

Finally, there must be a reference to financing remediation in this section. To ensure the adequate funding of clean ups, or remediation after disasters, we suggest a Plastic Pollution Trust Fund operating under the authority of the Parties to be established to provide additional financial assistance for victims of these disasters as well as with special assistance to developing countries, economies in transition and Small Island Developing States to support remediation of existing plastic pollution as well as other costs.

The Plastic Pollution Trust Fund should be funded from fees, levies and voluntary contributions from producers by ensuring companies producing plastics are financially supporting the cost of remediating the impacts from their operations.