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I am Philip Ehrhorn, co-founder and CTO of The Great Bubble Barrier, a social enterprise that stops plastic pollution in rivers using air bubbles.

Today, I am representing Maelstrom and Innoplastics, two projects co-funded by the European Union that work on effectively removing marine plastic pollution and to recycle it.

We strongly support the global discussions on stopping plastic pollution and welcome the UN Global Plastic Pollution Agreement. Yet, tons of plastic are flowing down to the ocean as we speak.

Action is needed and effective commitments should be made today, at this Conference, to remediate the harm plastic pollution is doing.

Our on-the-ground experience shows that ready-to-use technologies are available, but existing regulatory framework needs adjustments to facilitate and scale up the deployment. We propose 6 actions which we can implement today to help turn the tide on our plastic pollution crisis:

- Establish a limit to the number of plastic items, including microplastics, in the assessment of water quality and monitor plastic pollution in rivers and estuaries;
- Financially support cities in removing plastic pollution from their waterways and support sustainable recycling thereof;
- Foster the adoption of autonomous plastic removal technologies in rivers and coastal areas, including harbours and beaches;
- Create differentiated recycling schemes according to the plastic types and support chemical recycling of marine litter;
- Adopt innovative renewable energy solutions for plastic pollution removal technologies in off-grid locations;
- Engage citizens in clean-ups by financially supporting NGOs that do it with due respect for the environment.

These are not radical ideas, but they are effective. We are looking for commitments from your governments to start tackling the plastic pollution crisis. We can start today!

Thank you.