

Japan Statement, 25 November 2024

under agenda item 4

The Fifth session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Mr. Chair,

Japan expresses its sincere gratitude to the government of the Republic of Korea for kindly hosting the Fifth session of INC here in Busan.

We support the statements made by Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and Republic of Fiji on behalf of HAC.

Japan appreciates continuous leadership and hard work by the Chair, including through holding intensive informal Heads of Delegations meetings in a transparent and inclusive manner. We also thank the Secretariat for their diligent preparation for the sessions and meetings so far.

Japan also thanks the Chair for providing his Non-Paper 3, which was drafted based on the compilation text and the discussions at the informal Heads of Delegations meetings. We strongly support starting our negotiations based on this Chair's non-paper, so that we can conclude our work during INC5.

We would like to underscore the following key points regarding the international legally binding instrument.

Firstly, we emphasize the importance of addressing the full life cycle of plastics in the instrument so as to advance the circularity of plastics and preventing its leakage into the environment.

Second, the instrument should have a clear time-bound collective target so that all countries are encouraged to implement coordinated actions to attain the shared target and further scale up their efforts to end plastic pollution. For this reason, we reiterate that a clear milestone to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040 should be referred to, along with reference that further efforts thereafter are also required.

Third, regarding core obligations, effective control measures are needed to further prevent plastic pollution. These should include making ambitious efforts for reducing single-use plastics, promoting environmentally-friendly product design to generate changes in demand and people's behaviour, enhancing reuse, recycling and sound waste management, taking into account necessary sectoral approach to ensure practical and effective implementation. We believe that requirements for such various efforts, provided under the instrument, will significantly contribute to the reduction in volume of plastics use and promote a sustainable production and consumption of plastics.

Fourth, the instrument needs to have a built-in-system for a “plan do check action” cycle for National Action Plans, Reporting and Monitoring and Effectiveness Evaluation. These cycles will enable promoting actions throughout the value chain covering the full life cycle of plastics, in line with the scientific and technological development, and ensure progressive nature of the instrument.

On means of implementation, we strongly believe that resources should be mobilized from all sources and financial support should be provided to countries most in need. It is essential to recognize that a financial mechanism should encompass a broad landscape of existing financial and technical assistance.

Spirit of international cooperation is indispensable.

Lastly, we aim for an effective and progressive instrument with the participation of as many countries as possible, including large consumers and emitters of plastics.

As we work towards completing our work by the end of 2024, we have spent countless hours together. Our primary goal is to end plastic pollution, and Japan stands ready to take a leading role in addressing this critical issue. For the sake of a better future for all, we are determined to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.