

INC-5.2 Proposal of Japan on ARTICLE 18 **PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

1. Parties shall promote and facilitate access to information, public awareness, education, and research related to plastic pollution and its effects relevant to the implementation of this Convention and shall promote, as appropriate, such efforts at the national, regional and international levels and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Each Party shall promote and facilitate measures to raise awareness, improve understanding, and share information on the effects of plastic pollution such as by promoting public participation and public access to information; and providing training at the local, national, regional and international levels.
3. Parties ~~are encouraged~~ [shall promote and facilitate], based on their national circumstances and capabilities, to advance scientific and technological research, development, innovation and cooperation, to address plastic pollution including by:
 - (a) Promoting and improving methods for the monitoring of plastic pollution, including its distribution and abundance in the environment, including in the marine environment, and impacts on human health;
 - (b) Promoting the collaborative development and use of standardized methods and approaches for environmental data collection and analyses, to improve its reliability and comparability; and
 - (c) Incorporating traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local community knowledge and other cultural and socio-economic factors, as appropriate.