

Japan Statement 13 November 2023

under agenda item 4

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

Chair,

Japan expresses its sincere gratitude to the government of Kenya for kindly hosting the third session of INC here in Nairobi.

We support the statements made by Philippines on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and Solomon Islands on behalf of HAC.

Japan appreciates the strenuous effort made by Chair and the Secretariat for the preparation of the Zero Draft text. The text is a good basis for discussion and Japan will provide input for its further development here and during INC3.

We here will focus on the following 5 points.

Firstly, regarding the objective of the instrument, we need a time-bound target so that countries can scale-up their efforts to address plastic pollution. For this reason, we would like to have in the text the ambition to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040.

Second, we need overarching obligations on the following points prior to individual control measures.

- Each country must establish an effective mechanism in society to promote plastic circularity and prevent the leakage into the environment by adopting integrated and holistic national policies.
- Promoting efforts throughout the life cycle should be clearly stated.
- Effective measures taken at upstream, midstream and downstream both mandatory and voluntary, should be listed in an annex. By doing so, coordinated measures across the full life cycle of plastics can be visualized and can be reflected accordingly in the national action plan.

Third, regarding individual obligations, production restriction clause calling for a uniform reduction comes first in the draft text. However, this would not be an appropriate order. Such obligation could be considered, according to national circumstances, only if other efforts such as reuse and recycling cannot function sufficiently. It should not be introduced uniformly at an international level.

Rather, more ambition is needed for enhancing reuse, recycling and sound waste management that contribute significantly to solutions. In addition, strengthening efforts at the midstream level, such as distribution, sale, and consumption, are indispensable to generate changes in demand and people's behaviour.

Fourth, with regard to chemicals and polymers of concern, and problematic and avoidable products, science-based discussions are needed among experts. We need to avoid overlapping with existing frameworks. Careful coordination with national assessment systems should be considered.

Fifth, for means of implementation, support should be provided to the countries most in need, and be targeted to most effective and cost-efficient efforts. In particular, establishing a basic waste management system at the local level is essential, which could also work for other types of wastes. By targeting the support, we could mobilise financial support from various sources with a robust Stakeholders' involvement.

Japan would like to further contribute to the discussion during the INC3.