

Remarks by Japan
Committee of Permanent Representatives Sub-committee meeting
20th January, 2022

On the outset of the paragraph-by-paragraph consultation on Japan's draft resolution on marine plastic pollution, I would like to take this opportunity to present our intention. Whether or not we can agree on establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) on marine plastic pollution at UNEA 5.2 would be crucial in determining whether UNEA 5.2 was a success. Resolutions on marine litter including plastics have been adopted at every UNEA so far, and we should be building on these discussions. The time is ripe to consider an international legally binding instrument under the INC.

Japan firmly believes in building a globally effective international instrument by enabling the participation of major plastic consuming and emitting countries. Based on this thinking, our draft resolution proposes a mechanism where each country would develop and report national action plans that takes into account the respective national circumstances, and these plans will feed into a review of the global progress on reducing marine plastic pollution. The premises of this idea is that each country has its own effective way to tackle marine plastic pollution looking at the whole lifecycle of plastics, from upstream to downstream.

We also believe that the discussions of the INC should be open, and the resolution to be adopted at UNEA 5.2 should not limit the scope of the INC or overly prejudice its outcomes. Based on this thinking, our draft resolution envisages the INC to take up various elements for consideration as appropriately.

I am pleased to share with you that our draft resolution is now co-sponsored by Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Palau. We welcome other countries to support our intentions and join us by co-sponsoring this draft resolution.

In order to make the international instrument more effective, the active participation from the widest possible number of countries, including large consuming and emitting countries of plastics, should be ensured. Therefore, your comments and questions to our resolution are more than welcome.