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**United Nations
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United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme

Fifth session

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**Draft resolution on an international legally binding instrument
on marine plastic pollution (version of 6 December 2021)****

Submission by Japan

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of marine plastic pollution, which is of a transboundary nature, represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

Stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels, improve understanding of the global impact of marine plastic pollution on the environment, and promote effective and progressive actions at the local, regional and global levels to prevent, reduce and eventually eliminate the discharge of plastic litter and microplastics from both land-based and sea-based sources into the marine environment while recognizing the important role of plastics for society,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/6, 2/11, 3/7, 4/6, and reaffirming the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation and governance to take immediate actions towards the long-term elimination of marine plastic pollution through a life-cycle approach,

Welcoming efforts made by governments and international organizations to minimize the negative impact of plastic waste on the marine environment and to reduce marine plastic pollution, in particular through national and regional action plans and other initiatives, such as G7 and G20 initiatives including the action plans of 2015 and 2017 addressing marine litter, Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, G20 Implementation Framework, Ocean Plastics Charter, the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris, APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris and to reduce plastic and micro plastic pollution, Basel Convention on the Control of

* In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its meeting held on 8 October 2020 and by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Environment Assembly was adjourned on 23 February 2021 and is expected to resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in 2021, recognizing that they are complementary to a coherent and coordinated global response,

Noting with appreciation the leading work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and actions to tackle marine plastic pollution supported and implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, and taking into account the chair's summary of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics, which presents potential options for continued work for consideration by UNEA 5,

Further recognizing that each country is best positioned to understand its own national circumstances, including its stakeholder activities, related to addressing marine plastic pollution,

Underlining that in order to reduce additional marine plastic pollution to zero by 2050, further international action is needed by developing an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution, taking a comprehensive life-cycle approach and the promotion of resource efficiency and circular economy,

1. Requests the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument to address marine plastic pollution, commencing its work in 2022 with the goal of completing by the sixth session of the Environment Assembly;

2. Decides that the intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument based on comprehensive approach to address marine plastic pollution covering the whole life cycle and promoting resource efficiency and circular economy, including provisions:

- (a) To set a common objective to reduce marine plastic pollution;
- (b) To develop and report national action plans to contribute to the common objective, taking into account the respective national circumstances;
- (c) To periodically review global progress on reducing marine plastic pollution towards the common objective;
- (d) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange;
- (e) To promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates and avoiding duplication;
- (f) To encourage action by all stakeholders including the private sector and to promote cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels;
- (g) To specify arrangements for capacity building and technical and financial assistance, to developing countries most in need;
- (h) To promote research and development into innovative solution;
- (i) To address implementation and compliance issues;

3. Recognizes that the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee may be supplemented and updated by further decisions of the Environment Assembly;

4. Decides that participation in the intergovernmental negotiating committee should be open to all Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to regional economic integration organizations, as well as relevant stakeholders, consistent with applicable United Nations rules;

5. Requests the Executive Director, as a priority action, to provide the necessary support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to allow for effective participation in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee;

6. Requests the Executive Director to convene as soon as possible the first meeting of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in particular to discuss timetable and organization of its work;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support and advance the ongoing work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and its multi-stakeholder platform, while strengthening scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine plastic pollution, inter alia, on methodologies for monitoring, and sharing available scientific and other relevant data and information;

8. Calls upon all Member States to continue and enhance the following activities during the preparation of the international legally binding instrument, with a view to reducing additional marine plastic pollution to zero by 2050, taking into account their respective national circumstances;

(a) Developing, implementing, and updating their national action plans;

(b) Sharing and updating information on relevant policies, plans and measures including measurable indicators where applicable through the multi-stakeholder platform and other relevant frameworks;

(c) Reducing the discharge of plastic litter and microplastics into the marine environment, through prioritizing a whole-life-cycle approach and fostering innovation, in close collaboration with the private sector.
