

Preparatory Meeting for

The International meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all - our responsibility, our opportunity”

Statement by the Ministry of the Environment Japan

Monday, 28 March 2022, General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York

12:30-13:00 or 15:00-16:10

Interactive discussion on the background document to Leadership

Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

- **I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Chair, all the attendees, the UNEP Secretary-General, the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, and all those who have held this event in this difficult situation.**

- **As we stand at a major turning point in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, we need to realize a transformation to a sustainable and resilient social system, rather than returning to the society before the spread of infection. While confirming our determination to continue our efforts to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 °C, it is imperative to redesign the economy and society to realize the ‘New Normal’ in the world after the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- **In October 2020, Japan declared its goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the public and private sectors are working together to transition toward a decarbonized society. Among the economic measures aimed to achieve recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has been promoting integrated climate change countermeasures, including promotion of the use of renewable energy in data centers and EVs in transport sector, amidst the growing demand for e-commerce and delivery in order to achieve digital transformation and a decarbonized society at**

the same time.

- **Japan's GHG emissions in FY2020 (preliminary figures) decreased for seven consecutive years, falling 5.1% from the previous year and 18.4% from FY2013. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is thought to be part of the reason for this decrease, we will not stand idle and will continue to work together as the entire government to achieve the NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution: Reduction target for 2030 under the Paris Agreement).**

- **In September 2020, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan launched an online platform, “Platform for Redesign 2020,” on recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and climate change / environmental measures, and held a ministerial-level meeting. This online platform consolidates initial actions and knowledge on COVID-19 and climate change / environmental measures in each country, with the aim of building global momentum to ensure that climate change measures are not set back by the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that the information accumulated here should be useful for each country.**

- **In this way, Japan has been working on climate change countermeasures in an integrated manner even in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that countries around the world are aiming at the same direction, and we will continue to work on it while sharing good practices at this meeting. Let's work together to advance the post-COVID-19 green and inclusive recovery and aim for a sustainable and green economies and development.**

- **Thank you.**