

First informal substantive consultation meeting on UNGA Resolution 73/333
Statement of Japan

First, I would like to thank Co-facilitators for undertaking the task of facilitating the informal substantive consultation on the UNGA resolution 73/333. We appreciate this process which allows all Member States to exchange views on the scope and procedure regarding the political declaration within the constraint under the extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19 . We hope the result of the consultations will provide a solid base for future process of preparing a draft declaration after UNEA5.

Although it is premature to discuss the content of the political declaration at this stage, Japan would like to point out that the Resolution 73/333 provides us with clear guidance about the framework of the political declaration.

First, it is *"in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment"* The political declaration in this historical juncture should focus on what UNEP has achieved in the past 50 years and the critical role that UNEP will continue to play in addressing current and future challenges in global environment, *in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.*

Secondly, the political declaration is expected to be an opportunity for all Member States to demonstrate their strong political will to strengthen international environmental law and international environmental governance to address formidable and emerging environmental challenges, on the occasion of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human in Environment in Stockholm. All the recommendations endorsed by the Resolution 73/333 serve as a way forward to this end. In this context, the scope of the political declaration should strictly stick to the recommendations, which were carefully crafted and agreed by Member States after a long negotiation and endorsed by the UNGA Resolution

In terms of the procedure, Japan considers it as an appropriate step to discuss in this consultation how the recommendations can be taken forward for concrete actions as the Resolution 73/333 mandates to circulate the recommendations to Member States and UNEP for their consideration and action. However, we are cautious about prejudging the content of the declaration by taking a list of concrete actions possibly emerging from the

discussion as an essential part of the political declaration at this stage. How those concrete actions could be formulated into the political declaration should be left for the future negotiation process of preparing a draft declaration.