

166th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
13 June 2024

Japan's Statement on Agenda Item 5

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

Madam Executive Director, Mr. Chair, Excellences, colleagues. Good morning.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere condolences for the loss of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director of UNEP.

I would like to thank Madam ED for this comprehensive quarterly report, which provides us with well-structured, plentiful information on the implementation of UNEP's Programme of work, progress on implementation of resolutions.

I would like to comment on several matters in this report.

First, with regards to UNEA6 held earlier this year, I would like to once again thank all those involved, including our Nairobi-based colleagues who served as co-facilitators, the Presidency of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Secretariat for their tremendous efforts.

The large number of participants from all over the world reflects the growing global attention to environmental issues, and we welcome that a total of 15 resolutions and 3 decisions were adopted as a result.

Our delegation would like to emphasize that it is important that the resolutions are steadily implemented after adoption.

Regarding the "synergy" Resolution which Japan submitted as the main proponent, co-sponsored by several member states, we are planning to conduct research and analysis on the use of synergies, compile good practices, and then cooperate internationally both by working with synergy meetings organised by UNDESA and UNFCCC and by organizing capacity-building training for developing countries.

We hope that future UNEAs will be better based also on lessons and learned from UNEA6.

Second, we welcome the results of the preparatory Regional consultations and the INC-4 in Ottawa.

We believe that the objectives of the new international legally binding instrument should have a clear timeframe target and include an ambition to achieve zero additional pollution by 2040.

We also recognise that instead of uniform global restrictions on production, the plastics issue should be tackled ambitiously in terms of reducing single-use plastics, environmentally friendly product design, reuse/recycling and proper waste management.

Furthermore, it is important that national action plans are developed, reported and reviewed regularly to ensure progress in implementation.

We look forward to constructive discussions, including intersessional work, so that the intergovernmental

consultations can be concluded at the INC-5 in Busan in November this year.

Finally, please allow me to share some information on some projects supported by Japan.

The project on “Strengthening Plastic Pollution Management in Asia and the Pacific, Mekong River Basin” on p. 12 and the “Debris management in conflict-affected areas in Iraq” on p. 13 of the report were both implemented with the support of Japan, and we welcome the steady progress made.

As mentioned in the Earmarked Funds on p. 27, we have contributed 6.5 million USD so far this year. This will support the implementation of the following four projects.

- (i) The Plastics Support Project in Asia, which will be implemented by UNEP-IETC in Osaka, will conduct a recycling business feasibility study for Cambodia and Pakistan.
- (ii) In the African region, environmental monitoring of plastic run-off in Zimbabwe and Nigeria will be conducted, as well as policy support to African countries will be provided.
- (iii) Also we will provide support to the INC Secretariat.
- (iv) In Ukraine, we will support its long-term recovery through strengthening environmental monitoring capacity.

With these comments, Madam ED, I would like to thank you and your team for providing us with these regular comprehensive updates.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.