

**Japanese Government Statement on the Political Declaration of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,
19 April 2022**

In paragraph 5, the latest draft reads that “We emphasize the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken under the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact.” From a legal perspective, those commitments are not legally binding, and accordingly, the word “undertaken” should be deleted for accuracy.

In paragraph 6, we have two suggestions. As mentioned at the last meeting, with regard to the eighth line, we should change "protect" to "conserve or protect" because both of OECMs and MPA are listed in this sentence, and “protect” cannot cover OECMs in itself.

The second suggestion is to add a new sentence about sustainable management of oceans. As promoted by the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy, which is a unique initiative by serving world leaders, “we encourage Member States to manage 100% of their national waters sustainably by 2030,” and this phrase will fit in the ninth line after the sentence ends with “other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030.”

Japan supports para 7 on the UNEA decision. The message here should also encourage efforts toward a new instrument, and to stress the importance of inclusiveness, we request to add “with the widest possible and effective participation,” which is quoted from the UNEA decision, in the second line after “an intergovernmental negotiating committee.”

Regarding para 10, Japan believes that negotiations at the BBNJ intergovernmental conference should aim to be concluded in 2022, and requests to reflect this by saying “urge the Parties to conclude if possible by the end of 2022.”

While welcoming the para 12 (b) on IUU fishing, Japan would like to repeat our previous statement reflecting on the importance of measures taken by port states. As reflected in the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA),

it is widely recognized in the international community that the role of port states is crucial in promoting compliance, long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources. Therefore, Japan requests that “promoting the accession to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)” should be inserted in fifth line between “surveillance” and “and ending.”

In the same para, Japan suggests “ending harmful subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing,” to mirror the scope of target 14.6, which says “By 2020, ...eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.”

When it comes to para 12(e), it refers to an instrument on plastic pollution, and Japan would like to add ‘including in the marine environment’ after that phrase in line with the UNEA Resolution 5/14.

The same UNEA resolution also refers to the need for a coherent and coordinated long-term global vision. As we have been working and will strive for a common goal to address marine plastic litter including in the UNOC, Japan believes this important element should be reflected in the declaration as well. In this sense, we request to insert “sharing a long-term global vision” after “including through” in the second line of para 12 (e).

Thank you.