

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

Japan appreciates continued efforts by co-facilitators, member states and other stakeholders for the draft declaration. Taking this opportunity, we would like to make several specific comments to the text.

With regard to paragraph 3, as marine products has the potential to play an important role in the transition to sustainable food system, there should be reference to this idea. Accordingly, we suggest addition of following texts drawn from “Blue Food Coalition” in this paragraph.

- “Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are an integral part of our food systems transformation and have potential to expand their reach in a nature-friendly way.”(in the seventh line between “eradication.” and “We”)
- “Aquatic food is an important source of nutrition to over 3 billion people and will contribute greatly to our common goal of zero hunger for a growing human population.” (at the end of the paragraph)



Concerning paragraph 4, Japan would like to request some modification of the text as stated at the previous meeting. Now, the third sentence in paragraph 4 reads "half of all living coral has been lost," but this may cause misunderstanding about its timeframe, or since when it has been lost. Accordingly, it should reflect the language used in the IPBES Global Assessment Report, which reads “approximately half the live coral cover on coral reefs has been lost since 1870s.”

[Based on Summary for policymakers of the IPBES global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, p.11]

In paragraph 5, since the current measures to address climate change are taken in line with the Paris Agreement, we do not need to take the trouble to say “adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,” and request to delete that phrase.

In paragraph 6, we support the newly added language about Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, but would like to request to replace “protect” in the seventh line with “conserve or protect” in accordance with our approach to achieve the commitment.

The newly added paragraph 7 reads “We recognize the threat to ocean health caused by devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE), which has exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean.” We would appreciate if any study or research supporting this statement could be presented. If not, we suggest to replace “has exacerbated the problem” with “has a potential impact to the problem”

In addition, the essential problem lies in “inappropriate” disposal of PPE, but not in its disposal itself. The wording should reflect this recognition.

Thank you.

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

At the beginning of paragraph 11, it reads “Welcoming the outcomes of COP26 and COP15.” However, what conventions those COPs are referring to is not obvious from the text. Accordingly, it should mention the official name of those COPs. Moreover, since the second part of COP15 of Convention on Biological Diversity will be held later this year, its outcomes are not finalized. Considering these, Japan suggests to use the phrase appearing in the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA5.2, which is “welcoming the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and “welcoming the holding of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,” respectively.

Japan welcomes the reference to IUU fishing. In addition to the use of tools for monitoring, control and surveillance, mentioned in the current draft, it would be desirable to underscore 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, as already mentioned in its statement for the last meeting, Japan requests that “and through promoting the accession to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) ” should be inserted in paragraph 11 (b), for example, in the line 4 between “surveillance” and “as well as”.

When it comes to paragraph 11(d), upon the successful outcome of UNEA 5.2, this declaration should show our determination to engage in the work of the International Negotiating Committee which is slated to be launched this year based on the UNEA resolution. Accordingly, Japan suggests to add the

following text at the end of paragraph.

- “and notably by developing an international legally-binding instrument with the widest possible and effective participation.” [Based on UNEP/EA.5/L.23/Rev.1, para 3 and para 6]

Furthermore, since we understand that personal protective equipment (PPE) can be a cause of marine pollution if it is mismanaged, we suggest to add “inappropriate disposal” right before “personal protective equipment” in this paragraph.

Thank you.