

Remarks by Mr. Yuya Ota
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Preparatory Meeting for UNOC3
(Monday, 22 January 2024, 10:00am – 1:00pm, Trusteeship Council)

Dear Co-chairs,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Let me begin by expressing our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Gina Guillén-Grillo, Director General of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica, and H.E. Ambassador Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the President of France for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference, for convening today's Preparatory Meeting, and for your excellent work so far to prepare for UNOC3.

As a maritime nation, Japan has been making contributions to achieve SDG 14, and fully look forward to the Conference in 2025.

Regarding the proposed themes for the Ocean Action Panels, Japan is actively involved in the negotiations for the Plastic Treaty. The Member States participating in the negotiations aim to complete the negotiations by the end of this year, and 2025 will be an important year to strengthen the momentum for taking further actions against marine plastic pollution.

We therefore would like to propose to include the panel on the plastic pollution as one of the Ocean Action panels, or to have some focus on especially the plastic pollution in the proposed theme (d) Tackling marine pollution in all of its forms.

I thank you.