

Statement by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
H.E. Mr. MIYAKE Shingo
at the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of
Sustainable Development Goal 14
Lisbon, 28 June 2022

Co-Chairs,

I am honoured to have this opportunity to address the United Nations Conference to support the Implementation of SDG 14.

The oceans have played a vital role throughout history. However, as all of us bear witness to today, oceans are facing a global crisis.

The volume of fish catches worldwide has been levelling off. Even some varieties of popular food fishes in Portugal and Japan's cuisine have been decreasing.

Some reports raise an alert that, under a business as usual scenario, the weight of marine plastic litter could surpass the weight of fish in the oceans by 2050.

Ocean-related natural disasters have become more frequent and intense due to climate change.

All of those factors erode the ocean's sustainability, on which over 3 billion people rely for their livelihoods.

As a maritime nation, Japan has been making contributions to achieve SDG 14.

To promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources, Japan has been closely working with FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Japan has also provided assistance to developing countries including Africa, for instance, by providing vessel equipment and capacity building support. Ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is another priority. Japan established an act to prevent IUU fishing-origin products from entering into our market by requesting catch certificates.

Regarding marine plastic pollution, Japan took the initiative to share the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" at the 2019 G20 Summit. This vision aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. 87 countries and regions have shared this concept.

Under the Vision, Japan launched the “MARINE Initiative” to support developing countries, including small island developing states, for the improvement of their waste management capacity. Under the Initiative, Japan has put to use its advanced technologies, including in its projects in East Asia. Japan has also successfully trained over 6,000 people engaging in waste management worldwide.

Moreover, later this year, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a treaty on plastic pollution will be convened. Japan is ready to actively contribute to the negotiation to promote effective countermeasures with the participation of major emitting and consuming countries of plastics.

In addition, reflecting on its experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, Japan took the lead in adopting the UN General Assembly Resolution in 2015 to designate November 5th as World Tsunami Awareness Day. Japan has also assisted school education on tsunami risk reduction and evacuation drills for more than one-hundred thousand teachers and children in the Asia-Pacific since 2017.

Those are only part of Japan’s contributions. I am happy to announce that the Japanese government registered 18 voluntary commitments with at least 24 million USD to achieve SDG 14. To help other countries and all stakeholders to utilise Japan’s good practices and policies for SDG 14, Japan will showcase them as a Japanese Policy Model. This element will be reflected on Japan’s next Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, scheduled to be published in 2023.

Co-Chairs,

I am convinced that such a Japanese Policy Model will play a bigger role to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, sea and marine resources. I also would like to express our continuous readiness to cooperate with countries and stakeholders who are also ready to realize SDG 14.

Thank you for your attention.