

Intervention by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Mr. MATSUMOTO Hisashi
at the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of
Sustainable Development Goal 14 (United Nations Ocean Conference),
“Ocean Action Panel 4: Preventing and significantly reducing marine
pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities”
NICE, 10th June 2025

Thank you very much, Co-Chairs. I am MATSUMOTO Hisashi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Preventing marine pollution has attracted significant attention, but there is still much to be done for the international community. In particular, plastic pollution is undeniably one of the most imminent and serious forms of marine pollution, largely caused by human activities on the land.

Addressing this issue requires concrete actions taken by each country, collaboration between the public and private sectors as well as international cooperation. Japan would like to highlight three points in line with the guiding questions, with a particular focus on plastic pollution.

Firstly, on guiding question 6, Japan has enhanced governance and enforcement of domestic laws regarding plastic pollution.

In 2022, Japan has enacted the Plastic Resource Circulation Law. Under this new law, Japan has taken measures to promote the recycling of plastics involving all stakeholders

in the plastic lifecycle.

These measures include environmentally considerate design of plastic products, emissions reduction of plastic waste, facilitation of collection and recycling, and transition to environmentally friendly alternative materials.

Japan also formulated the Plastic Resource Circulation Strategy in 2019. This strategy outlines basic principles of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Renewable” and sets ambitious milestones, including a goal to reduce cumulative emissions of single-use plastics by 25% by 2030.

Secondly, on guiding question 2, Japan places great importance on the role of the private sector.

Private sector can produce a variety of creative solutions. One such example is highly biodegradable plastics. In Japan, private enterprises are actively engaged in research and development of biodegradable plastics and their commercialization.

This represents a good example of how technological innovation can provide effective solutions to plastic pollution. Japan will continue to support such initiatives from private sectors in collaboration with other countries.

Thirdly, on guiding question 7, Japan is strongly committed to the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

It is crucial to conclude the negotiation at the resumed Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meeting (INC 5.2) in August.

We must prevent plastic pollution through a comprehensive approach addressing the full lifecycle of plastics. Japan continues to actively participate in discussions, aiming for an effective and progressive instrument with the participation of as many countries as possible, including large consumers and emitters of plastics.

Let's use UNOC3 as an opportunity to build momentum for the conclusion of negotiation for this instrument.

Thank you.