

Submission by Japan on governance

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- As discussed at workshops and the plenary session, measures for marine litter and microplastics and their implementation vary and we should cover wide areas, from production stage to disposal stage, from global and regional level to national and local level. Various stakeholders from industry to citizens are expected to play relevant roles. Countries' situations also vary.

- Therefore, we Japan believe that, in order to develop effective measures, it is essential to collect scientific knowledge and information and analyze them as a basis of our future policy; however, on the other hand, because of the emergency of marine plastic issues and their wide scope, we believe that feasible and flexible measures by different bodies and sectors should be initiated in parallel, as immediate actions.

-In this context, it is very important to strengthen existing mechanisms, especially Basel Convention on waste management, and to identify the areas which have not been covered by existing mechanisms and therefore should be covered by additional or new activities.

- To promote practical measures, we suggest starting or reactivating international partnership programmes in order to promote various activities, e.g. development of source inventory, improvement of waste management, awareness raising, promotion of innovation. We experienced successful programme on mercury. Even such voluntary actions like partnership programme, governance structure should be clearly established, e.g. setting a clear scope of each programme, strong leading bodies, coordination framework and sharing of outcomes, to make good progress. From this viewpoint, we could reactivate the GPML, or develop a new or improved framework if necessary to supplement the current activities.