Japan Statement, 1st December 2022
The first session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment under agenda item 4

-Support to monitoring and evaluation of progress in, and effectiveness of implementation and national reporting;

National Action Plans will constitute the most essential part of the instrument particularly with regard to monitoring and evaluating implementation and progress.
National action plans and implementation of the plans shall be reviewed collectively under a robust and transparent PDCA mechanism, in light of the objectives and common goal of the instrument. Experts on plastic and the Conference of Parities will have a role in the peer review.
The mechanism should ensure the continued progressive strengthening of actions of all individual Parties and also collective achievement over time towards the global goal.

An instrument allowing the progressive strengthening of efforts is important taking into account the fact that science and technology is expected to make progress.

The implementation of fundamental measures to prevent leakage, including waste management should be monitored as a priority.

National Action Plans shall be updated regularly. The updated plans shall not be less ambitious than the previous plan.

In order to facilitate comparison of efforts, there should be a common format for the NAP. The format used in the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter may serve as a basis for the instrument. The G20 format was
agreed by G20, of course, a group which includes many countries where plastic is produced and from which there is plastic pollution into the ocean.

The format includes:

The periodic stocktake of global efforts should also take place regularly.

-Other aspects, including scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, research and awareness raising:

Japan recognize that science is important. However, we are not sure that all delegations here have a common basis of science. Scientific data and socio-economic knowledge of plastic pollution are still limited and therefore, it would be crucial to take advantage of data and knowledge possessed by international, regional and national research institutions in close cooperation.

We propose that comprehensive monitoring be conducted on the current situation of plastic pollution including where it takes place, how much is emitted, how it moves, what is the forecast. We should enrich scientific knowledge regarding the ecological impacts of plastic pollution. To establish common methodology, harmonizing the guidelines of monitoring would be necessary.

It is necessary to develop a continuous reporting mechanism. Parties will have to continuously report the volume of plastic litter emitted in their territory. Guidelines for a common inventory would be required to ensure comparability of data. It is necessary
to evaluate the progress of implementation of the instrument. For that, objective and regular comparison of plastic emissions by country and monitoring progress will be key.

Japan would prefer to have discussions on an eventual subsidiary body on science and technology further down the road, in a coordinated manner with provisions on scientific and technical cooperation and provisions on research.

-Stakeholder participation and action
Japan supports robust participation of stakeholders in the development and implementation of the instrument. In order for States to promote an essential and effective circular economy on plastic, taking into account national circumstances, involvement and efforts by the stakeholders are critical. We welcome engagement with the stakeholders including but not limited to the civil society, industry, academia, local communities and regional organizations, in the INC process in the form of multi-stakeholder forums or intersessional inputs. The multi-stakeholder forum in INC2 could be two days long within the available funds. In addition to expressions of opinions and positions, we look forward to factual and concrete written contributions in a timely manner, so that the richness of their knowledge and experience can be adequately taken into account in each delegation's preparation to the negotiations. Lessons learned, success stories, best practices, scientific findings, information on technological advances are welcome. It will be up to the delegations to translate the input into legal language. We support the holding of an intersessional online multi-stakeholder forum well in advance of INC2. In person discussions, written contributions and online exchanges will together create synergy. That is what post COVID-19 multi-stakeholder diplomacy is about. Japan is ready to discuss provisions on the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the instrument at the appropriate timing. There are useful precedents including
Minamata.

Japan is also ready to engage directly with stakeholders. We are doing so domestically, and internationally. Such contacts add reality to our negotiations. We will continue to engage with stakeholders until the instrument is adopted and, of course, beyond in the implementation phase.