

Japan's statement
Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19 Special Virtual session

We believe this virtual session is an important opportunity to show the world that, even under these difficult circumstances, we are addressing the biodiversity issues appropriately.

First of all, Japan would like to thank the COP Presidency, Egypt, all the Bureau members, and the Secretariat of CBD for organizing this important session.

This session reminded us that the 2050 Vision "Living in Harmony with Nature" exactly matches the world we are trying to achieve after COVID-19.

We must adopt the new framework as soon as possible and develop NSBAPs in order to build a resilient world against the unknown infectious diseases.

Based on these perspectives, Japan would like to emphasize that, we need to proceed with the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the four following elements.

First, in order to maintain healthy ecosystems, we need to make decent local communities through the conservation and sustainable use of local biodiversity. Japan has been promoting the Satoyama Initiative with many partners. This Initiative can contribute both to recovering from the COVID-19 and to preventing the new pandemics.

Second, we have to build healthy relationships between human and wildlife. In Japan, we are now facing wildlife encroachment into human settlement by wild animals with no sense of threat by humans due to population decline. In addition, invasive alien species are affecting biodiversity and also our society, for example by carrying pathogens with them.

It is important to be aware that infectious diseases can spread from humans to wildlife including endangered species. It is necessary to address the issues of our relationship with wildlife appropriately.

Third, we need to redesign our socio-economic system. It is important to make supply chains legal and sustainable, to set measurable targets to visualize them, and also to build decentralized society.

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Fourth, we recognize the importance of open science and the need to ensure easy access to genetic resources and requisite information, in order to facilitate sustainable and resilient recoveries as well as to mitigate the impact of future pandemics.

Thank you.