

Japan would like to mention five points on the monitoring and reviewing process.

First of all, regarding the National Commitments, we agree that it would serve as a quick response to the post 2020GBF. However, we should also put emphasis on the NBSAPs since it is clearly stipulated in the Convention. Thus, Japan proposes to define National Commitments as a component of NBSAPs by a COP decision.

Secondly, with regard to the Global Gap Report, we are of the view that the Gap Report can be included in the GBO or a SBI document. We believe it's simpler and more efficient than developing it as a completely new document.

Thirdly, with regard to the Global Stocktake, we are basically supportive of this idea since it would be a good opportunity to raise awareness and ambition, especially for political communication, and it would also be effective to assess whether additional efforts are needed or not at the middle phase of the GBF. However, there is still room for improvement in the efficiency. At first, we have to make sure that the national reporting is carried out in line with a common format and indicators, while taking into account national circumstances. Secondly, the scope of the Global Stocktake should focus on indicators that requires global efforts and ratcheting up. In addition, we should clearly mention “a principle of representing a progression” used in the Paris Agreement, which declares that the ambition for the commitment must go forward, not backward, when we update our NBSAPs or submit new national commitments.

Fourth, from a practical viewpoint, we support country-by-country peer reviews as a voluntary process, at least for the time being. Natural environments and social conditions vary from country to country. Thus, we think that obligatory peer review, where a specific party is reviewed by another party, may not be appropriate unless we take into account these differences in the process.

Lastly, as for the proposal on the biodiversity monitoring information system we do not have enough information on the details and thus we cannot judge the necessity at this moment. Therefore, we request the Secretariat to provide further explanation including the cost implications.

We will submit a comment for more detail information.