

Japan's proposal on elements for the draft recommendations of the OEWG  
in response to the invitation by the Co-Chairs of the OEWG

Strengthening coordination among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is one of the major challenges in the governance of the international environment law. Avoiding overlapping and promoting synergies and coordination among MEAs would improve governance and promote implementation of the MEAs as a whole.

Japan would like to propose to explore the following means to further strengthen coordination among MEAs while supporting on-going efforts for this purpose within and outside of UN system including the suggestions made in the UNSG report to the OEWG.

1. Promoting synergies among MEAs through cluster approach

Taking good examples of promoting synergies and coordination between the conventions in the area of chemical and waste and biological diversity, we suggest seeking to promote synergies between conventions in the other sectors and areas. Synergies can also be accelerated by sharing information and data such as through the scientific bodies of MEAs. As an initial step, a study could be needed to analyze why some examples are working well and others are not, what are the remaining issues for successful ones and how we can facilitate synergies in the other areas in light of the lessons learned so far from past experiences, as well.

2. Technical coordination among MEAs through EMG

As the primary coordination mechanism on environmental activities in the UN system, the Environmental Management Group (EMG) is mandated to make coordination of environmental activities in the UN system, among specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the UN system including the secretariats of MEAs. We should utilize this existing mechanism more for coordination among MEAs.

We suggest that UNEP as a chair of the EMG take a lead to do a mapping exercise to identify specific areas or issues where technical coordination is needed among relevant MEAs for avoiding duplications and conflicts and to organize consultations among the secretariats of the relevant MEAs within the EMG. Parties of the related MEAs should be informed and reported on the coordination exercise through the EMG and make decisions in the relevant fora of the respective MEA, if necessary.

3. Strategic and Policy coordination among MEAs through UNEA

Currently there is no forum where we can discuss the overall structure and governance

of MEAs as well as the coordination among them while the EMG functions as the coordination mechanism among UN bodies including the secretariats of MEAs.

We suggest that UNEA should be a central forum where Member States discuss and make decisions on overall strategy and specific matters related to the governance and coordination among MEAs. This forum would help achieving coherence among MEAs and it could also help addressing emerging issues in the protection of the environment through existing MEAs.

Japan considers these options to be a pragmatic approach to address gaps or challenges in the governance and the implementation of the International environmental law, which is in line with the paragraph 88 and 89 of the Rio + Declaration. We are also open to discussions on any other proposals to strengthen coordination among MEAs.

-END-