Japan’s proposal on G. Mechanism for taking stock of progress on 14 January, 2021

- Purpose of taking stock of progress is to assess progress against the Strategic Objectives and the agreed targets.
- With the current texts, the way to do it is based on reporting. At the VWG on 7th January, the secretariat has already expressed that the compilation of report was a hard work. We echo some of the concerns expressed in stakeholder inputs about duplicative reporting effort in relevant agreements and initiatives.
- Japan believes that it is definitely necessary to reduce burden for stakeholders when taking stock of progress while ensuring a concrete review process with all stakeholders’ data and information for the beyond 2020 instrument.
- Therefore, we would like to propose our idea on taking stock of progress. Our idea includes “process monitoring” and “impact assessment”.
- Process monitoring is to monitor the degree of achievement on process indicators. In monitoring them, instead of submission of reports by countries, Japan suggests conducting online survey for all stakeholders and presenting the result in the form of dashboard to be able to see the progress on process indicators promptly. Online survey could be a simple yes/no format to encourage broader participation and process indicators should be chosen accordingly. Some of you may know the target dashboard towards Aichi biodiversity target described below and we have this type of dashboard in our mind. By doing so, producing a traditional reporting by stakeholders and compilation work by the secretariat will not be necessary. We foresee regular updates of process monitoring such as annually as it is simple and does not add much burden. We suggest the secretariat to be the custodian of this process but all the secretariat has to do is to maintain the website to show the result in dashboard.
- Impact assessment is to assess the progress on impact indicators. Since we believe that impact tends to need longer term to be assessed, frequency of this assessment can be every 5 years or 10 years. We think that the way to do it to designate custodians per indicator (e.g., IOMC organizations) to assess the progress within their responsibility. It should be noted that SDGs indicators also have custodian agencies. IOMC may request periodic updates to stakeholders, when necessary.
- Finally, in order to evaluate the progress toward targets, strategic objectives and vision, Japan proposes International Conference requests a third party to undertake overall evaluation as it has been done so within the current SAICM (SAICM/IP.3/9) to minimize burden for the beyond 2020 instrument while ensuring the equitability of the evaluation. We would like to remind stakeholders of the Independent Evaluation report 2006-2015 was completed with literature review, online survey, focus group discussions and interviews and without periodic reporting by stakeholders. For the beyond 2020 instrument, we can include the outcome of taking stock of
progress for the evaluation as an additional information for evaluation.

- This way we think that we can achieve the effective taking stock of progress with all stakeholders involved and without adding as much burden as producing reports to all. Therefore, we believe that reporting and the establishment of a review committee as such are unnecessary.

- We are open for suggestions especially on following items;
  - Contents of online survey as designing an agreed and uniform format for all stakeholders is difficult task because there will be certain items that are stakeholder specific.
  - We would like IOMC’s inputs on Impact Assessment as we are not familiar with SDGs’ custodians’ roles.
  - We would like to discuss with VWG 1 co-facilitators and UK who is hosting workshops on indicators to discuss more about the area of cooperation.

---

### Overall evaluation (by third party)

**Process monitoring**
- Progress on each process indicator using online survey conducted by all stakeholders. Results shown in dashboard. (*i.e. Target dashboard to Aichi biodiversity target*)

**Impact assessment**
- Progress on each impact indicator administered by IOMC as custodians. (*i.e. SDGs*)
  - Using data provided through periodic update by stakeholders?

**Other information**
- Literature review, online survey, focus group discussions and interviews, led by same third party

---

**“Taking stock on progress”**

Japan’s idea for taking stock of progress

---

**Target dashboard towards Aichi biodiversity targets**