Japan’s intervention
Agenda item 3 Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through VNRs

Japan submitted our first VNR in 2017 and second VNR in 2021.
Since the achievement of the SDGs requires the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, the second VNR was prepared not only through discussions within the government, but through discussions at the “SDGs Promotion Roundtable”, which consists of representatives from various fields, discussions with civil society and the youth generation, and through public comments in order to incorporate the opinions of a wide range of people. In addition, in order to evaluate our progress, we have included evaluations from the private sector members of the “SDGs Promotion Roundtable”, considering that it would be desirable to include evaluations of progress from other perspectives other than the government’s.

The drafting process of the VNR provided us an opportunity to review the institutions for promoting the SDGs and major initiatives, and to consider how Japan should promote the SDGs in the future. Therefore, based on the opinions of experts and citizens, the VNR concludes with a description of how Japan will promote initiatives to achieve the SDGs henceforth.

In December, last year, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters which is led by Prime Minister, revised our national SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles after the first revision in 2019.
In the Guiding Principles we expressed that Japan will conduct our third Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2025. At that time, Japan will present internationally how Japan is promoting the SDGs and our intention to lead efforts to ensure the sustainability of the international community as a whole. While reviewing the progress of the SDGs in Japan, a cross-cutting review will also be conducted, as necessary, from the perspective that the SDGs as a whole are integral and indivisible.
In doing so, the Government will take full account of the need to manage progress towards and achieve the SDGs based on scientific evidence, to integrate such efforts into the efforts of the international community as a whole to achieve the SDGs, and to take the lead in the international community. Through
the efforts mentioned, Japan will also take the lead in international discussions with a view to beyond 2030.

In addition, Japan will strengthen cooperation with local governments and encourage them to actively conduct Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR).