

April 3, 2020

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP)

## **Position Statement on Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- *The unchanged carbon emissions reduction target poses great concern to the business community.*
- *We support the government's expression of intention to continue pursuing more ambitious figures.*
- *We urgently call for an early upward revision of the target.*

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) is a coalition of 141 corporations across various industries that recognize the grave threat that climate change poses to business as well as to social stability, and are committed to the zero-carbon transition.

Under the Paris Agreement, the international community is committed to keeping the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and to pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees, to avert widespread damage due to climate change. Furthermore, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that the damage at 2 degrees is greater than previously expected, and that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees would require reaching net-zero emissions globally by 2050. In this context, JCLP submitted a position statement in November 2019, calling on the Japanese government to strengthen its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in order to correspond to the 1.5 degrees target (see appendix).

The NDC that Japan has recently laid out for the re-submission to United Nations however, keeps its current reduction target unchanged (26% cut from 2013 levels and 25.4% cut from 2005 levels in 2030), failing to enhance its climate policy measures conducive to the achievement of the 2°C or 1.5 degrees target.

We see this unchanged target as insufficient to address the pressing climate crisis. Also, taking into account the growing impact of climate action on corporate competitiveness, we are strongly concerned about Japan's inaction as it could imply to overseas business partners and investors that Japanese businesses are facing increasing climate risks, especially the transition risks.

It should be noted at the same time, that not only does the reviewed NDC reiterate the existing target, but it also expresses Japan's intention to continue pursuing a higher target. Specifically, it includes commitments to carry out a review on the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures and submit the necessary information to the United Nations as well as to conduct the review of the emissions reduction target in the NDC consistently with the revision of the energy mix in the coming years. We strongly applaud the policy-makers who have pushed for these commitments despite various obstacles including Japan's post-



Fukushima energy policy, and we urgently call for an early upward revision of the targets.

JCLP is ready to help drive progress as a business community. Toward a more ambitious target, we will strengthen the ongoing initiatives such as RE100, policy proposals, and information dissemination to the society, and closely follow and support the critical policy processes including the revision of energy mix.

**Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP)** is a coalition of companies in Japan (141 as of Apr. 2019) that aims to create a zero-carbon society, seizing on the idea that decarbonized development is a prerequisite for economic activity. It was set up in 2009 to urge the business sector to develop a sense of urgency on climate actions. Recognizing the key challenge climate change poses to the society, its members are committed to integrate decarbonization measures into their core business models. The members share the common goal and communicate proactively with policy makers, peer businesses and the civil society. The coalition remains unique in that a key focus is policy engagement on decarbonization in the country. Since April 2017, JCLP has been The Climate Group's regional delivery partner on RE100, EP100 and EV100 initiatives in Japan.

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## **APPENDIX**

**Position Statement on Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)  
to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) is a coalition of 126 corporations across various industries that recognize the grave threat that climate change poses to business as well as to social stability, and are committed to the zero-carbon transition.

Under the Paris Agreement, the international community is committed to keeping the global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C as targets, to avert widespread damage due to climate change. Furthermore, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that the damage at 2°C is greater than expected, and that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require reaching net-zero emissions globally by 2050. In this context, the signatory states are drawing up long-term strategies, as well as reviewing their medium-term emissions targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 with a view to ratchet up their ambition, which is now the paramount issue in implementing the Paris Agreement.

Japan has also set its long-term growth strategy in June 2019, stating its aim to “reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as early as possible in the second half of this century”<sup>1</sup>. With its advanced technological capabilities and other strengths, Japan is indeed capable of leading the world in creating a decarbonized society, and doing so ahead of other countries will enhance its international competitiveness and provide business opportunities to Japanese companies.

For Japan’s early achievement of the net-zero emissions goal and to encourage its demonstration of leadership in ratcheting up NDCs, JCLP expresses its position on Japan's NDC as follows.

- Based on the latest scientific findings by the IPCC, Japan’s NDC should be ambitiously raised to correspond to the 1.5°C target<sup>2</sup> in order to avoid dangerous climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement was approved by Japan’s Cabinet on June 11, 2019. JCLP had issued two statements regarding this strategy.

- Recommendations for Japan’s Long-Term Growth Strategy under the Paris Agreement, released on November 30, 2018 (<https://japan-clp.jp/archives/3462>)
- **Position Statement on Japan’s Long-Term Growth Strategy Based on Recommendations of the High-Level Meetings for Developing the Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement, released on April 23, 2019** (<https://japan-clp.jp/archives/896> in Japanese)

<sup>2</sup> In May 2015, JCLP proposed a 36% cut from 2005 levels (37.3% cut from 2013 levels) as the recommended target for Japan, considering strategy continuity with the 2°C target, Japan's responsibility and economic capabilities, and feasibility. Japan’s current NDC is a 26% cut from 2013 levels in 2030.



- In light of the fact that climate change impacts are becoming more severe and the international community's growing recognition of a net-zero target in 2050 as the minimum requirement, Japan should also clearly declare its commitment to reach net-zero by 2050 and set NDC that corresponds to this target.
- Japan needs to demonstrate that it is making proactive efforts, including raising its NDCs, in order to maintain its respected status in the international community.

The global community warns of a 'climate crisis' to describe the urgency and magnitude of the climate change threat. The youth all over the world are conducting climate strikes, while many national and local governments have issued climate emergency declarations.

JCLP is acutely aware of the gravity of climate crisis and the importance of Japan's role in addressing it, and its corporate members are moving forward with more decarbonization efforts. We will strengthen the initiatives such as RE100, EV100, EP100 and RE Action in partnership with various stakeholders in the society and progress together with the Japanese government toward the achievement of net-zero emissions by 2050.

**Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP)** is a coalition of companies in Japan (126 as of Nov. 2019) that aims to create a zero-carbon society, seizing on the idea that decarbonized development is a prerequisite for economic activity. It was set up in 2009 to urge the business sector to develop a sense of urgency on climate actions. Recognizing the key challenge climate change poses to the society, its members are committed to integrate decarbonization measures into their core business models. The members share the common goal and communicate proactively with policy makers, peer businesses and the civil society. The coalition remains unique in that a key focus is policy engagement on decarbonization in the country. Since April 2017, JCLP has been The Climate Group's regional delivery partner on RE100, EP100 and EV100 initiatives in Japan.

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