

12

Ms. Eri MAEDA

UPR of Burundi– Statement of Japan
24 January 2013

Thank you, Mr/Madam President,

Japan appreciates Burundi's commitment to international human rights standards and to ratifying the major human rights instruments. In addition, we commend the measures to strengthen the rule of law, consolidate good governance, and promote gender equality, including the revision of the Criminal Code, the creation of a National Independent Human Rights Commission, and the establishment of the institution of the Ombudsman. Japan **recommends** that Burundi take further steps toward the improvement of its human rights situation.

Japan also appreciates the high percentage of women represented in the National Assembly and Cabinet posts. On the other hand, we are concerned by reports of reduced sentences for the perpetrators of gender-based violence.

Japan takes positive note of the steps taken through the revision of the Criminal Code in consideration of the rights of the child, including the increase in the age of criminal responsibility and the provision of free elementary education. At the same time, we are concerned by cases of violence against children, in particular violence against girls in schools. Japan **recommends** that the necessary mechanisms be established to put an end to violence against women and children.

Japan remains committed to aiding Burundi, through dialogue and socio-economic development assistance, in ameliorating its human rights situation.

I thank you.