

UPR of Serbia– Statement of Japan

30 January 2013

Japan welcomes the delegation of Serbia and expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Government of Serbia to prepare for this review.

Japan acknowledges the number of positive developments that have taken place to advance human rights in Serbia since the last UPR review. On the role of women in high-level decision-making processes, we welcome the increase in the number of female parliamentarians as a result of the election in May 2012 as well as the composition of the new Cabinet in which 5 out of 19 Ministers are women. We also commend the steps taken toward judicial reform, aiming to provide better and prompt protection of human rights throughout the judicial process and to improve conditions in prisons.

As in all countries, we also note areas that could be further improved. We note with concern the reports that violence against women, such as domestic violence, continues to remain a pressing concern. We also understand that public parades for the LGBT community scheduled in 2011 and 2012 were not permitted by the Serbian authorities for security reasons. We hope that the human rights of persons belonging to socially vulnerable groups and minorities, including their freedom of expression, will be

adequately protected and promoted.

Japan would like to make the following two **recommendations**:

1. Enhance its efforts to eradicate violence against women and to improve the status of women in society;
2. Continue to make efforts to improve the treatment of detainees in prisons.

To conclude, Japan would like to offer its best wishes to the Government and people of Serbia in their further endeavours towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you, Mr/ Madam President.