

## UPR of the Democratic Republic of the Congo– Statement of Japan

29 April 2014

Thank you, Mr. /Madam President,

Japan is deeply concerned by grave human rights violations including rape, arbitrary detention, and summary executions occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially the sexual violence which threatens women and children. We are also concerned by violations of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of human rights activists and journalists as well as the forced labor of children in mines and trafficking of women and children.

The eradication of impunity is indispensable to addressing such human rights violations. Japan appreciates that government measures for police, judicial, and military reform are seeing a certain degree of improvement and proactive efforts are being made to prevent gender-based violence in cooperation with Japan and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict. Further efforts are still needed to establish an independent and effective judicial system. In addition, we **recommend** that the DRC actively pursue its cooperation with the international community, including UN mechanisms, to restore security and establish the rule of law.

Finally, we are concerned by the protracted refugee situation in the DRC. Japan hopes that effective measures will be formulated to protect and provide relief for internally displaced persons.

I thank you.