

Mr. Kotaro Suzuki
Minister

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UPR of Ethiopia

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan appreciates Ethiopia's domestic efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights. Japan is, however, concerned that the activities of civic groups and media organizations are being restricted by legislation, as the High Commissioner noted in her recent press release. Japan **recommends** that Ethiopia take steps to guarantee the political rights of its people, including the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Japan commends Ethiopia's active policy measures for vulnerable groups including women and children. Still Japan **recommends** further efforts to address FGM, early marriage, and violence against women and girls which remain deeply rooted, according to reports.

In the area of international human rights, Japan encourages Ethiopia to ratify the CPED in a timely manner and issue a standing invitation to Special Procedures. Japan appreciates Ethiopia's proactive measures to accept recent refugees from neighboring countries as well as returnees, and we hope it will continue these efforts.

Thank you.