

UPR of Bulgaria– Statement of Japan

7 May 2015

Thank you, Mr. President,

(We would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Bulgaria to the 22nd session of the UPR Working Group and express our appreciation for its efforts in implementing the recommendations of the 1st UPR cycle.)

Japan welcomes that Bulgaria has entered into the main international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also appreciate its formulation of the strategy for judiciary reform. Still, there are reports of poor conditions caused by overcrowding in prisons and detention centers, unlawful detention and torture, and excessive delays in procedure. Japan calls on Bulgaria to ensure the protection of human rights in its criminal justice procedures, particularly to improve inmate treatment in its prisons and detention centers.

With respect to the high rates of domestic violence, especially against women, and the issue of impunity of the perpetrators, Japan **recommends** that Bulgaria better address the protection of victims' human rights as well as punishment for those responsible.

In response to reports of discriminatory statements against ethnic and religious minorities, specifically the Roma and Muslims, made by some politicians, Japan **recommends** that Bulgaria take further measures to prevent incitement to ethnic and religious hatred.

Thank you.