

Mr. Kotaro Suzuki
Minister
Permanent Mission of Japan

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UPR of Liberia

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Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Liberia to the 22nd session of the UPR Working Group.

Japan commends the proactive efforts Liberia has been making since the cessation of civil war to promote democratization and to promote and protect human rights. We encourage Liberia to ensure domestic implementation of the major international human rights instruments and to submit national reports to the relevant treaty bodies, including the CCPR and CESCR.

Japan applauds the progress made on the implementation of various measures to address sexual violence against women and the trafficking of women and children. On the other hand, Japan **recommends** that further effective measures be taken to address the continued high rates of these areas.

Regarding judicial procedure, Japan is concerned by issues such as corruption in law enforcement organizations and excessive trial delays. Japan **recommends** that Liberia's legal system be further enhanced to promote effective and smooth judicial procedure.

Finally, on freedom of expression, Japan expects that continuing discussion on freedom of the press will take place in a democratic manner.