

UPR of the Marshall Islands– Statement of Japan

11 May 2015

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to welcome the delegation of the Marshall Islands 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 appreciates that, the Marshall Islands became a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and recently, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On the other hand, as the Marshall Islands has not yet ratified the main international human rights treaties, including the ICCPR and ICESCR, Japan **recommends** that it continue its efforts toward early ratification of them.

Japan also welcomes that the Marshall Islands has formulated policies on the issues related to gender equality, domestic violence, and persons with disabilities, notably in its National Strategic Plan, and has taken measures in these domains to date. We encourage the Marshall Islands to enhance its efforts in promoting gender equality.

On the other hand, given reports of high incidence of violence against women, cases of child abuse, and high rates of underage pregnancy, Japan expects that the Marshall Islands will steadily implement relevant policies, including the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act.

Thank you.