

**UPR of Belgium – Statement of Japan**

**20 January 2016**

**Minister, Mr. Kansuke NAGAOKA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan warmly welcomes the Belgian delegation to this session.

Japan commends Belgium's efforts to actively address human rights issues through various means, particularly its ratification of the main human rights treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Japan also commends Belgium for the steps it has taken to protect the women and minors among the large numbers of migrants and refugees that it continues to take in. We are, however, concerned by reports of intolerance in Belgium, including those of violence by police officers against migrants, as well as discrimination in the areas of employment and housing, particularly against migrants with Muslim backgrounds. Japan **recommends** that Belgium fully respect the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in this regard.

We welcome the measures taken by the Government to improve the gender balance for government officials and private sector managers, as well as the achievements made in promoting gender equality in education. Japan **recommends** that Belgium increase its efforts to promote gender equality in the economic and political fields.

Thank you, Mr. President.