

**UPR of Somalia – Statement of Japan****22 January 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan commends Somalia for its cooperation with the Independent Expert, Mr. Bahame NYANDUGA, and the international community in the aim of improving its human rights situation. We also welcome Somalia's adoption of the Post-Transition Roadmap on Human Rights. However, we are concerned by reports of continuing serious human rights violations in Somalia, and stress the urgency of first establishing law and order to improve the situation. Japan **recommends** Somalia to strengthen its cooperation with the international community and accelerate the establishment of democracy and the rule of law.

We welcome Somalia's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2015. We note with concern, however, reports of recruitment and use of children by the national army and armed groups. Japan **recommends** Somalia to thoroughly prevent and halt the use and recruitment of child soldiers and to also ensure reintegration and access to education for former child soldiers. Japan also **recommends** that Somalia ratify the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CRC-AC).

Japan **recommends** Somalia to take measures to counteract serious violations and abuse of the human rights of women and girls, including gender-based violence, early forced marriages and female genital mutilation. Japan also **recommends** Somalia to carry out the necessary steps for the ratification of human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Thank you,