

UPR of Tajikistan – Statement of Japan

6 May 2016

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan to this session.

Japan welcomes Tajikistan's efforts to date toward improving its human rights situation based on the recommendations from the previous UPR session as well as those from the Human Rights Treaty Bodies. We also welcome the country's acceptance of visits by Special Rapporteurs. Japan **recommends** that Tajikistan proceed with the early conclusion of major international human rights treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In regard to freedom of expression, Japan is concerned that this right cannot be said to be fully ensured due to restrictions imposed on access to Internet websites and social networks. Japan **recommends** that Tajikistan remove undue restrictions on use of the Internet and ensure that journalists can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression.

Japan welcomes the Government of Tajikistan's policy and its establishment of legal structures for the protection of the rights of the socially vulnerable, including women, children and persons with disabilities. We express our concern, however, regarding reports of insufficient measures for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring access to education for children with disabilities. Japan **expects** Tajikistan to continue to implement effective measures to defend the rights of the socially vulnerable.

I thank you Mr. President.