**UPR of the Syrian Arab Republic - Statement of Japan**

**Check against delivery**

**Ambassador Mitsuko SHINO**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

**31 October 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan is extremely concerned by the grave situation in Syria resulting from various forms of human rights violations and abuses by all parties, in particular those committed by the government whose role should be to protect its citizens.

We express our concern at the expected further humanitarian crisis as winter approaches in besieged Eastern Aleppo where 250,000 to 300,000 citizens remain. Japan condemns the use of siege and starvation as means of warfare and the extreme limitations being imposed on access to daily necessities. We further condemn the repeated attacks on medical facilities that have been taking place. Japan **recommends** the Government of Syriato enable full and unimpeded humanitarian access to all besieged and hard to reach areas and urges all parties to the conflict to take the constructive action at the same time.

A political solution is necessary to comprehensively redress this critical situation. Japan **recommends** the Syrian government to fully cooperate with the UN and the international community to resume the political process as soon as possible. We hope confidence building measures will be implemented, including the release of all arbitrarily detained persons, to enable a Syrian-led political transition and the safe return of refugees and IDPs.

I thank you Mr. President.