**UPR of Slovak Republic – Statement of Japan**

**Check against delivery**

**TAKEUCHI Yasuaki, Human Rights Adviser**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

**29 April 2024**

Thank you, Mr. or Madam [Vice-] President.

Japan appreciates the positive steps taken by the Slovak Republic since the previous review cycle to improve its human rights situation.

We welcome the Slovak Republic’s recognition of the Vietnamese minority as the 14th official national minority in the country.

Japan also commends the Government of the Slovak Republic on its approval in 2022 of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2022–2027. We further commend the measures the Slovak Republic has been taking to strengthen press freedom and protection of journalists.

In this regard, we recommend that the Slovak Republic:

1) provide capacity-building to law enforcement officials on sex-based and gender-based discrimination; and

2) redouble its efforts to promote press freedom and protection of journalists.

We wish the delegation of the Slovak Republic every success in the review.

I thank you.